



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY DEDICATION CEREMONY

Denver, Colorado

July 11, 1955



Schedule of Events

All events will take place at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colo., temporary site of the United States Air Force Academy, where members of the academy's first class will report the morning of July 11, 1955.

The dedication ceremonies will begin at 4 p. m., Mountain Standard Time, July 11, not at 4:30 p. m., as previously stated.

Briefings and exhibits will be available at the academy for invited guests on July 9 and 10 as well as July 11. The schedule in detail:

Briefings

Place—USAF Academy Cadet Theater. Overall plans and concepts of the United States Air Force Academy.

July 9	July 10	July 11
10 to 11 a. m.	2 to 3 p. m.	10 to 11 a. m.
3 to 4 p. m.	4 to 5 p. m.	2 to 3 p. m.

Architectural Exhibit

Place—Building 905, Room 124, USAF Academy Site. Time—from 10 a. m. until 6 p. m. July 9 and 10, and from 10 a. m. until 3 p. m. July 11.

Inspection of Interim Site

All buildings of the United States Air Force Academy at the temporary site, including one cadet barracks, will be open for inspection by invited guests on July 9 and 10 from 10 a. m. until 6 p. m. and on July 11, with the exception of the cadet barracks, from 10 a. m. until 3 p. m.

Concerts—United States Air Force Band

Place—grounds of Administration Buildings, the Air Force Academy. The United States Air Force Band will play a series of concerts as follows:

July 9	July 10	July 11
10 a. m. to 12 noon	1:30 to 3 p. m.	10 a. m. to 12 noon
3 p. m. to 5 p. m.	4 to 6 p. m.	

ABOUT THE PICTURE ON THE FRONT COVER

Interim summer and winter uniforms, which will be worn by Air Force Academy cadets until the Air Force decides what their permanent uniform will be, are worn in this photograph by Lt. Kimbrough S. Bassett (left) and Lt. Richard A. Day. They are 2 of 70 Air Training Officers who will live in the cadet barracks and serve as upper classmen.

Cadet Mess

Place—Academy Site. The Cadet Mess will serve a buffet luncheon to invited guests from 12 a. m. until 2 p. m., July 9 and 10. There will be a nominal charge of \$1.00 per person.

Dedication Ceremonies, July 11

Place—Ceremonial area on the ramp south of Base Operations, Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colo. In case of inclement weather, the ceremonies will take place in Hangar Number 2 nearby. Seats will be provided for invited guests. The United States Air Force Band will play a concert, beginning at 3 p. m., while guests and Air Force Academy cadets arrive and are seated. Events of the dedication program, starting at 4 p. m., will be as follows:

United States Air Force Band and honor guards from the United States Military and Naval Academies pass in review, and USAF aircraft fly past in aerial salute.

Superintendent of the Air Force Academy calls upon Air Force Chaplain, Maj. Gen. Charles I. Carpenter, to pronounce invocation.

Invocation by the Chaplain.

Superintendent introduces Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott.

Secretary of the Air Force delivers dedication address.

Commandant of Cadets administers Oath of Allegiance to Air Force Academy cadets.

The Thunderbirds, United States Air Force demonstration team, welcome cadets with aerial demonstration.

Superintendent introduces Gen. N. F. Twining, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force.

Address by Chief of Staff.

Superintendent calls upon Chaplain to pronounce Benediction.

Benediction by Chaplain.

National Anthem.



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
President of the United States



HAROLD E. TALBOTT
Secretary of the Air Force



GEN. N. F. TWINING
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force



LT. GEN. HUBERT R. HARMON
Superintendent, the United States
Air Force Academy

History of the Air Force Academy

THE IDEA of an Air Force Academy was born a good many years ago. As far back as the early 1920's some far sighted airmen, such as Generals Mitchell, Arnold, Vandenberg and Spaatz, saw the need for a separate service academy to train young officers especially for air operations.

Several efforts to establish an academy were made while the Air Force was still a part of the Army, and on August 16, 1948, after the Air Force had become independent, it set up an Air Force Academy Planning Board.

The first major step toward creation of the Air Force Academy was taken in January 1949, when the late Secretary of Defense James Forrestal appointed a Service Academy Board to determine among other problems the need for a third service academy. The Board was headed by Dr. Robert L. Stearns, then president of the University of Colorado, with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, then president of Columbia University, as vice chairman. The Service Academy Board's task was to "recommend the manner in which officer candidates should receive their basic education for a career in the armed services . . . that general system of basic education which it believes is best adapted to provide all three Services with a sufficient number of young men qualified to meet the needs of the regular Armed Forces."

On February 17, 1949, Secretary Forrestal stated in a memorandum to the Joint Chiefs of Staff that he approved legislation for the establishment of an Air Force Academy as a part of the Department of Defense program for 1949 and, in addition, that he felt that the Air Force should receive an equitable share of Annapolis and West Point graduates until an Air Force Academy was established. Subsequent interservice negotiations between the respective Secretaries resulted in an agreement that the Air Force would receive 25 percent of each graduating class from the Naval and Military Academies.

On May 25, 1949, the Service Academy Board, known also as the Stearns Board, issued its first interim report, in which it recommended that an Air Force Academy be established without delay. In compliance with this recommendation, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson submitted proposed legislation for the new Academy to the Bureau of the Budget.

In 1950 a site selection board, headed by Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, narrowed some 350 proposed sites to 29, and then to 7.

Although a number of bills for an Academy were introduced during 1949 and 1950, it was not until 1951 that the Academy began to change from conjecture to reality.

The Bureau of the Budget cleared the proposed Air Force Academy bill on June 20, 1951. Since this bill was not acted upon by Congress during that year, the Spaatz Board was dissolved before making a final determination. However, the information this committee gathered proved to be of great value later in the selection of new air bases under the Air Force expansion program.

It was not until 1954 that the 83d Congress authorized establishment of the Academy and the expenditure of \$126,000,000 for this purpose, of which up to \$1,000,000 could be used to rehabilitate buildings at the temporary site.

On April 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed H. R. 5337, which became Public Law 325—the birth certificate of the United States Air Force Academy. Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott then began the steps described elsewhere in this booklet toward selection of the permanent site.

Academy Mission

The mission of the Air Force Academy is to provide instruction, experience, and motivation to each cadet so that he will graduate with the knowledge and the qualities of leadership required of an officer in the

United States Air Force, and with a basis for continued development throughout a lifetime of service to his country, leading to readiness for responsibilities as a future air commander.

Obligation to Serve

Upon entering the Air Force Academy, every cadet is required to sign a statement entitled "Obligation to Serve." He agrees thereby to complete the course of instruction and, if tendered a commission in the Regular Air Force, to accept the appointment and serve for a period of at least 3 consecutive years.

If the cadet should resign from commissioned status before the sixth anniversary of his graduation, or if he should not be tendered an appointment in the Regular

Air Force, the cadet agrees to accept a commission in the Reserve component of the Air Force, if tendered, and not to resign that commission prior to the sixth anniversary of his graduation.

The cadet further agrees to undertake, while a cadet, the flying training program leading to an observer's rating and, after graduation, to enter pilot training. If qualified, he agrees to accept observer and pilot ratings and to participate in frequent and regular aerial flights.

Oath of Allegiance

Following is the Oath of Allegiance which each cadet must take:

"I, (Name) , having been appointed an Air Force Cadet in the United States Air Force, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the

Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So HELP ME GOD."



President Eisenhower and Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott shake hands a moment after the President signs Public Law 325, 83d Congress on April 1, 1954, authorizing the Air Force Academy. Left to right: Senator Homer E. Capehart of Indiana, Secretary Talbott; Representative Carl Vinson of Georgia; Gen. N. F. Twining, Air Force Chief of Staff; the President; Representative Dewey Short of Missouri; James H. Douglas, Under Secretary of the Air Force, and Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, Superintendent of the Academy.

The Academy Site

The permanent site to which the United States Air Force Academy is scheduled to move in 1957 is a tract of approximately 17,500 acres, 7 miles north of Colorado Springs, Colo. It is bounded on the west by the Rampart Range of the Rocky Mountains, from which a number of mesas extend like giant fingers toward the Plain to the east. These mesas are clearly defined by five main valleys, which separate the useable areas of the site and, in certain cases, provide building sites in themselves.

The Colorado Springs area was 1 of 7 recommended by the original Board which considered proposed sites for an Air Force Academy. This board, headed by Gen. Carl Spaatz, former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, made no final decision and was dissolved in 1951.

In 1954, when President Eisenhower signed Public Law 325 authorizing the Academy, Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott appointed a Site Selection Committee to assist him. Its members were General Spaatz; Dr. Virgil M. Hancher, president of the University of Iowa; Mr. Merrill C. Meigs, vice president of the Hearst Corp., Chicago; Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, then Special Assistant to the Air Force Chief of Staff for Air Force Academy Matters; and Brig. Gen. Charles A. Lindbergh, of the United States Air Force Reserve.

This committee screened data concerning hundreds of proposed locations and visited 67 suggested sites in 27 States before narrowing the choice to 3 at Alton, Ill.; Lake Geneva, Wis., and Colorado Springs. Secretary Talbott

A general view of the permanent Air Force Academy site 7 miles north of Colorado Springs, Colo.





This architects' conception shows the general layout and architectural motif of the cadet academic area at the permanent site

personally inspected each of these three sites and, in addition, had an engineering survey of each made and a study conducted concerning their weather and available facilities. On June 22, 1954, Mr. Talbott announced his selection of the site north of Colorado Springs.

The Secretary also announced the selection of Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, as the temporary site of the Academy. Almost all of the buildings required for the Academy at the temporary site were already in existence, though some required modification.

The 17,500 acres of the permanent site extend from slightly north of Cathedral Rock, an outstanding landmark, to the southern ridge of Pine Valley. From the mountain boundary on the west they extend eastward several miles. U. S. Highway 85-87, the main automobile route north to Denver, runs some 500 feet inside the eastern boundary.

The valley lying close to the north boundary will be used as a maneuver area. Lehman Valley, the next

valley to the south, provides a broad bowl well suited to athletic activities.

The mesa lying directly south of Lehman Valley commands a magnificent view of the mountains to the west and of the eastern plain. There the main academic area and the cadets' living quarters will be erected. Farther south will be housing areas and a community center for the staff and support personnel.

One million dollars toward buying land for the site has been appropriated by the State of Colorado.

When construction at the permanent site is completed, the Academy will possess all the facilities required for a major university. In addition it will have available an airfield and other facilities required to train the cadets in navigation.

A perimeter roadway is being planned to accommodate the public, permitting tourists to see the Academy any day of the week without interfering with its everyday activities.

The Academic Program

The academic program of the Air Force Academy, directed by the Dean of Faculty, is similar in many respects to curricula of civilian colleges and universities. These similarities bear witness that certain knowledge and understanding is required by any well educated citizen of a democratic nation, whether he be teacher, airman, industrialist, diplomat, or businessman. Those aspects of the Air Force Academy curriculum which are unique will be found principally in the combination of courses offered, in methods of instruction, and in integration of subject matter.

The Air Force Academy curriculum was developed over a 7-year period by the Air Force's Academy Planning Group working in close cooperation with some 60 distinguished civilian educators and with the faculties of the United States Military and Naval Academies. Since all graduates of the Air Force Academy will enter the same profession, it was possible to define the mission and objectives of the Academy with considerable precision and to construct an educational program to meet those objectives.

The decade preceding planning of the Air Force Academy witnessed technological advances unequalled prior

to that period, and of tremendous impact on the Air Force. At the same time a drastically changed international situation had projected military leaders into wider areas of military policy planning. These factors, technical and nontechnical, dictated that military leaders be prepared to assume a wide range of responsibilities on far-flung geographical fronts, and that the education of young officers be built on the broadest possible base. Although this philosophy called for innovations in the education of future Air Force leaders, the personal attributes required of the military man—unimpeachable character, unflagging sense of duty, and devotion to the best interests of our country—continue to be the immutable cornerstone of military education. Around the central theme of character, knowledge, understanding, and professional skill, the Air Force Academy curriculum was constructed.

The educational program is roughly balanced between scientific and social-humanistic areas, and, wherever feasible, theory and principles taught in the classroom are related to Air Force application. This is particularly evident in the scientific subjects which relate directly to aeronautics. The curriculum has been so constructed that

BRIG. GEN. DON Z. ZIMMERMAN
Dean of Faculty



each subject studied will provide necessary background for those which follow. Courses which will be studied concurrently are carefully related to each other to provide a total curriculum integrated both horizontally and vertically. Academic subjects are also interrelated with instruction presented in the Airmanship Program.

In the scientific area, cadets will study mathematics, chemistry, physics, and graphics during their first 2 years; during the junior and senior years the science program includes courses in electricity and electronics, mechanics and materials, thermodynamics, aerodynamics, and aircraft design. The area of instruction in the humanities and social sciences includes 4 years of English, 3 years of history, and courses of varying length in geography, philosophy, psychology, economics and comparative economic systems, United States and foreign governments, business management, military history, and international relations. In their senior year, those cadets who have demonstrated marked aptitude for or interest in languages will follow an intensive course of study in a foreign language, in lieu of the course in aircraft design.

Cadets will attend classes in sections of approximately 12

men, and are to be arranged in each subject according to their academic standing in that subject. Consequently, the pace of instruction will be set for each group at the maximum absorption level of that group and the instructor may devote considerable attention to learning problems of individual cadets. Instruction will be largely of the seminar or demonstration-performance type with relatively few lectures to large groups.

An essential part of the Air Force Academy will be its library. Ultimately it will contain more than 200,000 volumes to support the educational program, and will include a specialized collection in the field of aeronautics.

The Air Force Academy faculty has been selected from among Air Force officers on active duty. Eighty percent of the instructional staff hold advanced degrees in their respective areas of instruction, and the faculty as a whole averages somewhat more than 5 years college level teaching experience. Among the initial faculty are officers who have taught at such institutions as Cornell University, Temple University, Iowa State College, the Universities of Missouri and Texas, Ohio State University, and the United States Military and Naval Academies.

The Athletic Program

Athletics will play an important part in the life of every Air Force Academy cadet. Intercollegiate athletics are under the Director of Athletics; intramural sports are part of the physical training program directed by the Commandant of Cadets. The approach to intercollegiate varsity competition will be gradual, participation growing with the Academy over the next few years. In 1955 the Academy will field a freshman football team which will play an eight-game schedule against regional freshman teams. Varsity competition will begin in 1956 against teams of the Rocky Mountain Conference, such as Colorado College and Colorado State. The following year will see the cadets' entry into Skyline Conference competition against Denver University, the University of Wyoming and other schools. In 1958, when members of the first class are seniors, the football team may experience its first intersectional competition.

In addition to football, the Academy expects to field intercollegiate teams in 16 other sports. Of these, baseball, tennis, golf, track, soccer, basketball, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, rifle, fencing, and pistol shooting probably

will materialize first, with cross-country, indoor track, hockey and skiing being added as soon as possible.

Each cadet who does not participate in a varsity sport will be required to take part twice weekly in intramural competition, which will include the major sports, eight-man football, volleyball, judo, handball, squash, softball and water polo. During the freshman year, each cadet will be given instruction in such subjects as boxing, judo, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball and water survival. In subsequent years they will be taught how to coach in the major sports as well as in softball, lacrosse, track and field. This training will prepare them to coach cadet intramural teams, and service teams after their graduation.

The freshman football team will play the following schedule this year: On October 8, Denver University in Denver; October 15, Colorado A&M at Colorado Springs; October 22, University of Colorado at Pueblo; October 29, University of Kansas in Denver; November 5, University of Utah at Colorado Springs; November 12, University of Wyoming at Pueblo; November 19, University of New Mexico at Albuquerque; and November 26, University of Oklahoma at Denver.

The Airmanship Program



The purpose of the airmanship program is to train and condition the Air Force cadet for his role as a commissioned officer and leader in the field of military aviation. This program, directed by the Commandant of Cadets, includes 4 years of military, flying, and physical training. Intramural athletics are also a continuing part of the airmanship program.

In order most effectively to conduct the airmanship program, the cadets will be organized initially into a Wing of four squadrons. Eventually, when the Academy reaches its full authorized strength, this Wing will consist of 6 groups of 4 squadrons each. The Wing will be staffed by cadets, in order to provide experience in responsibility and command, and will be supervised by the staff of the Commandant of Cadets and the three training departments which will conduct the military, flying, and physical training programs.

The objective of the military training program is to provide the basic and advanced military training which will serve as a foundation for the Cadet's continued growth into positions of high command and also to provide leadership training to build a high sense of individual patriotism, duty, loyalty, and honor throughout a lifetime of service to his country. The cadet will be instructed in subjects such as drills and ceremonies, military courtesy and discipline, weapons and equipment, and guard duty. His military education will include the basic concepts of airpower and air tactics and will acquaint him with the equipment and techniques of all the armed forces. His military training commences the day he enters the Academy and, in an intangible manner, is in effect 24 hours a day throughout his cadet career.

During the period of initial organization, prior to the move to the permanent site and before there are complete

upper classes, the objectives of the military training program will be achieved in part through the efforts of 70 specially selected young officers of the Air Force. These officers are rated pilots or aircraft observers who have volunteered for the assignment and who are specially qualified to act in the capacity of upper classmen and cadet officers during the formative stages of the Academy. They will live in cadet barracks, eat with the cadets, be their officers for drill and ceremonies, and coach the cadets in their intramural sports and physical training periods. They may also provide individual tutoring for cadets encountering difficulty in academics. These air training officers include graduates of the Military and Naval Academies, the Air Reserve Officer Training Corps, and Aviation Cadet Training.

The objective of the flying training program is to give each cadet a full course in the theoretical and practical aspects of aerial navigation which will serve as a basis for his training as an Air Force pilot after graduation from the Air Force Academy. This instruction will parallel the basic navigation course given by the Air Training Command of the Air Force. It will provide valuable background for future work with pilotless as well as piloted aircraft. The many facets of cadet training which must be completed during his cadet days preclude a complete course of pilot training at the Academy; however, an indoctrination phase of pilot training will be given in order to insure that each cadet has a fundamental appreciation of the elements of an Air Force pilot's training and responsibilities. During his 4 years the cadet will spend approximately 200 hours in the air, the bulk of this in navigational trainers which are flying classrooms.

During the freshman summer—the cadet's first 9 weeks at the Academy—he is given basic military training and indoctrination in the military values of duty and honor.

The sophomore summer is introduced by a 2-week trip by air to installations of the Strategic, Tactical, and Continental Air Defense Commands, where the cadet sees the Air Force at work, correlates his instruction of the previous winter and sees the results of the teamwork for which he is being prepared. Upon completion of this trip the cadet is eligible for a 4-week leave, when he may return home for the first time as an Air Force Academy Cadet. The cadet also receives his first pilot indoctrination training during his sophomore summer.

The junior summer opens with a 2-week trip to major support element bases of the Air Force, such as the Air Materiel Command, the Air University, and the Air Proving Ground Command. He is again eligible for a 4-week leave, followed by 2 weeks of survival training at Stead Air Force Base, Reno, Nev.

During the senior summer the cadet may visit installations of the other services to observe the Army and Navy in action. After his 4-week leave, he receives instruction in overall personnel administration and management of the Air Force.

All academic and other duties for all cadets are suspended for approximately 10 days during the Christmas holiday period, and during certain national holidays. The sophomore, junior and senior classes will be permitted to go home during the Christmas holidays. Except in extreme emergencies, freshmen will not receive leaves of absence.

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT M. STILLMAN
Commandant of Cadets



How Cadets Are Selected

Air Force Academy cadets are selected at present under a system whereby each United States Senator and Representative nominates 10 candidates, each of whom competes against the others for the vacancies allotted to their State. A State which has 3 Representatives in addition to its 2 Senators, for example, could have 50 candidates competing for perhaps 2 vacancies. The two candidates passing the physical examinations and making the highest total competitive scores receive the appointments to the Air Force Academy, and the next two ranking candidates become alternates. If either of the principals declines or otherwise becomes ineligible, the first alternate becomes a principal.

Initially, the size of Academy classes is limited sharply by the facilities available. Vacancies for Congressional nominees are allocated to each State according to representation in Congress. For the first class there were 58 separate competitions. This included 48 State competitions, plus other competitions among candidates from other sources. The latter included nominees of the President and Vice President, members of the Regular and Reserve Components of the Army and Air Force, and sons of veterans who died in or because of military service.

The President nominates an unlimited number of sons of members of the Regular components of the Armed Forces to compete for a fixed number of vacancies, while the Vice President nominates 10 candidates at large to compete for a single vacancy.

The number of members of the Regular and Reserve components of the Air Force and Army who may compete for vacancies allotted those categories is unlimited. So is the number of deceased veterans' sons who may take part in another competition. Sons of Medal of Honor winners may apply without regard to number, on a noncompetitive basis, provided they are otherwise qualified and pass the entrance examination.

It is possible for a young man to enter more than one competition, thereby increasing his chances for an appointment. He could receive a Congressional nomination, be the son of a deceased veteran or a member of a Regular component, and also be a member of Regular or Reserve components of the Air Force or Army. This would give him a better all-around chance since the field of competition might be smaller in one category than the other.

Applicants must be at least 17 years of age and must not have reached their 22d birthday by July 1 of the year for which they seek admission to the Air Force Academy. They must be United States citizens, natural born or naturalized (with proof thereof), of good moral character, unmarried, must never have been married, and must be within weight limits for their height.

Every applicant is urged to take a preliminary physical examination for his own information and guidance. It may save him the time and expense of taking other examinations if a permanently disqualifying defect is discovered; or a disqualifying defect which may be remedied may be discovered in time for correction before the Air Force Academy physical examination is taken.

Preliminary examinations may be taken at any Air Force, Navy or Army installation having adequate facilities, or they may be conducted by a civilian physician at the candidates expense. All candidates are required to take the Air Force Medical Examination for Flying Training, the Air Force Pilot Aptitude and Officer Quality Test, and the College Entrance Examination Board Tests. The results of each candidate's achievements in the tests are considered along with other factors gathered from the individual's high school principal and from the individual, the total of which determines the relative standing of each as compared to all others who qualify in a particular competition.

Rosters of all qualified candidates are prepared for each competition by order of merit and an Admissions Board of 11 officers, including the Air Force Academy Superintendent, the Dean of Faculty and heads of the various academic departments, reviews each individual record and selects those most qualified as principal appointees. A list of alternates, according to merit and equal in number to the principals appointed in each competition, is selected

at the same time. This procedure guarantees, in case of declinations or subsequent disqualification, that all vacancies can be filled without the necessity of reconvening the Admissions Board.

The present selection system is to be used during the Academy's first four years. After that, it is scheduled to be supplanted by the system provided by law for the United States Military Academy.

Cathedral Rock, one of the outstanding landmarks on the permanent site of the Academy.



