

From the Congressional Record, July 12, 1955

Air Force Academy Opens-Secretary
Talbot Stresses Peace Aims-Valmore
William Bourque, of South Hadley
Falls, Mass., First Cadet To Enroll

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

of

HON. EDWARD P. BOLAND

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 1955

Mr. BOLAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an account printed in this morning's New York Times by Hanson W. Baldwin, detailing the opening of the United States Air Force Academy, be printed in the RECORD.

The first cadet to be enrolled at the new service Academy was Valmore William Bourque, of South Hadley Falls, Mass. Mr. Speaker, Cadet Bourque is a resident of my congressional district and it was my honor to nominate him, after competitive examination, for admission to the Academy. He was selected by the Air Force Academy appointment branch as 1 of the 8 successful nominees from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The article follows:

AIR FORCE ACADEMY OPENS; TALBOT STRESSES PEACE AIM

(By Hanson W. Baldwin)

DENVER, July 11.-The past looked to the future today as a dream of three decades was realized. Three hundred and six young men, awkwardly earnest in their new khaki uniforms with blue caps and blue shoulder-boards, swore to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic," and became the first cadets at the new Air Force Academy.

The dedication ceremonies for the Nation's third service academy centered on the new cadets, lads between 17 and 22 years of age from all walks of life from all parts of the country.

But the cadets' civilian chief. Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott, took the opportunity to tell the audience and the world that the United States still possessed "air supremacy," and "we not only want peace," but that "we mean to have it." Mr. Talbott declared that "the United States Air Force is ready this minute, this hour, this day, and every hour of every day to destroy its enemies should they take the part of aggression."

AIR LEADERS ATTEND

Leaders in aviation's brief but dramatic past gathered for the simple ceremonies this afternoon at the Air Force Academy's temporary site at Lowry Air Force Base, near Denver. They heard Secretary Talbott, and Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chief of staff, commit the new academy to the mission of creating a hard core of leaders dedicated to serving their country.

Mrs. H. H. Arnold, widow of the wartime leader of the Army Air Forces, "Hap" Arnold; Gen. Cary Spatz; Maj. Gen. Ralph Royce, and many others famed in war or peace, whose memories reach back to the birth of flight, were among the honored guests. In person, or in ghostly assemblage, were Air Force leaders of yesterday, who had long held dear the vision of an Air Force Academy. They joined with Air Force chiefs of today, with the Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens, with the superintendent of the United States Military Academy, Lt. Gen. B. M. Bryan, and with the United States Naval Academy's commandant, Capt. Robert T. S. Keith, in tribute to the new chapter now opening in American military history and in the history of flight.

Flanking the new cadets were honor guards from the older sister academies-60 cadets from West Point and 40 midshipmen from Annapolis.

But the nostalgic link with the past of today's ceremonies did not obscure the future. The United States Air Force-a young service is dynamic in its hopes and aspirations, its plans and programs. Today its present leaders spoke of tomorrow to the leaders of tomorrow.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Talbott, surrounded by high Air Force officers, by numerous civilian and military leaders from the Pentagon, by a congressional delegation and State and city officials from Colorado and Denver, read the following letter from President Eisenhower:

"In taking its place beside West Point and Annapolis the Air Force Academy joins a proud company. The honored histories of the two older institutions provide a standard against which, in future years, the excellence of the new academy will be measured. I know it will be found worthy.

"In behalf of the American people, I wish the Air Force Academy brilliant success."

Dwight D. Eisenhower was a member of the class of 1915 at West Point with Hubert P. Harmon, who is known to the President as "doodles." Lieutenant General Harmon is the first superintendent of the academy. Mr. Talbott spoke today of the debt owed to the older service academies and of the links of tradition that tied the new to the old.

"Graduates of West Point and Annapolis," he said, "have been leaders of our Armed Forces for 150 years. What calamities might have befallen our country had we not been able to call upon them in time of need."

The Secretary recalled great air battles of World War II, the Berlin airlift and triumphs in Korea. Then he said:

"We salute all these airmen who made Air Force history. Let no man imagine that the United States Air Force lacks tradition. We have a tradition of triumph, a custom of Victory."

"Today, we stand on one of the crests of our upward climb. The struggle for recognition has given way to success. The Air Force has come of age." Mr. Talbott noted that today 1 jet bomber manned by 3 men carries more destructive power than a fleet of 10,000 World War II bombers, manned by 110,000 airmen."

"This unusual concentration of destructive power requires unusual men to handle it successfully * * *"

CITES PEACE AIR

The Secretary declared that peace-the prevention of war-was the great purpose of the United States. He told the cadets that "it is to the maintenance of peace that you are dedicating your lives. * * *"

General Twining echoed Mr. Talbott's emphasis upon the human element. He told the new cadets that a special responsibility, which requires a special discipline, rests upon each of them. For one mistake in the modern Air Force could easily cost millions of lives.

The Chief of Staff looked to the new Air Force Academy, he said, "to produce that solid center section of dedicated, devoted, duty-conscious officers that the whole Air Force needs if it is going to be able to do its job."

The dedication ceremonies were held under a hot Colorado sun at Lowry, a training base-near the 62 buildings that have been renovated at a cost of about \$1 million into the temporary home for the academy. The Air Force Academy expects to remain here, at least until 1957, pending completion of its permanent buildings near Colorado Springs.

The ceremonies had the distinctive trappings of the new and dynamic third service, tempered by the ties of tradition. The 306 new cadets, who reported to the academy only this morning and had 2 to 4 hours of intensive close-order drill before the ceremony, did a minimum of marching. The Air Force band and the West Point cadet contingent and Annapolis midshipmen who formed the honor guards for the ceremony passed in review as the Air Force cadets watched.

Then, for 4 minutes, 51 aircraft-planes such as the late "Hap" Arnold probably never dreamed of-flew over the stands. There were 9 giant Convair B-36's, with jets and propellers; 18 Boeing B-47 medium jet bombers, and 24 Republic F-84 Thunderjets.

A LONG HARD DAY

The noise of their passage had scarcely died when General Harmon called upon the Air Force chaplain-Maj. Gen. Charles I. Carpenter, to pronounce the invocation. Then, after Mr. Talbott's talk, the Air Force cadets rose, and as a group again took the oath of allegiance that they had taken individually or in small groups when they reported in the morning. An aerial demonstration by an Air Force stunt team flying F-84's followed; General Twining

spoke, the chaplain delivered the benediction, and the strains of the national anthem rang out as the sun caught the distant snow-tipped peaks of the Rockies.

When the Air Force cadets marched off after the ceremony, it was for them, the end of a hard day and the start of a harder summer.

Most of them reported today between 6 and 9:30 a. m. Most wore civilian clothes, but brought with them 2 pairs of khaki trousers and 2 khaki shirts, which had been sent to them by the Air Force Academy. Upon reporting, the cadets passed through six stations, where their orders were checked and recorded. They stood in line for the first of many times in their military career; emptied their pockets of money and valuables; got back from the Academy \$3 spending money for the month of July, signed a certificate stating they were unmarried and undertook to serve a minimum 3 years after completion of their 4-year Academy course. They took the oath of allegiance and were assigned serial numbers, squadrons, barracks, and rooms. Then, as relatives watched, they were marched off, wearing their "civies" for the last time.

They were issued uniforms, many different kinds of footgear, white and blue and khaki shirts and other military equipment. Both the summer and winter uniforms they were issued are temporary; the design for the permanent uniform of the Air Force Academy has not yet been completed by Cecil B. De-Mille, the movie director, and his designers.

Drill, with a break for luncheon, occupied most of the rest of the long, hot day, for the new cadets, who are to be known officially as fourth classmen, or freshmen.

The new cadets come from a catholic background with more than a score from the armed services. In the group, too, are lads who never before had been away from home and whose mothers worried audibly about the kind of soap their sons would have to use.

This summer their entire schedule will be military training, including a field bivouac and physical conditioning. The academic year does not start until September. The new cadets are being trained as leaders-not merely as plane jockeys, and some long, hard weeks lie ahead.

They realized this tonight, as they were cloistered in their barracks while the visiting West Point cadets and Annapolis midshipmen were entertained by General Harmon.

This was, perhaps, their first lesson in military protocol, that the entering cadets were merely the "lowest form of flying life." For their associates from the older Academies, "rank has its privileges."

The first to enroll was Valmore William Bourque, South Hadley Falls, Mass. He said he wants to be a fighter pilot and acknowledged he was pretty nervous about registering as the first cadet in the Academy. He was followed by Lee Roy Dorey, route 6, Henrico County, Va., and Zachary Anderson Coles, Jr., Nashville, Tenn.