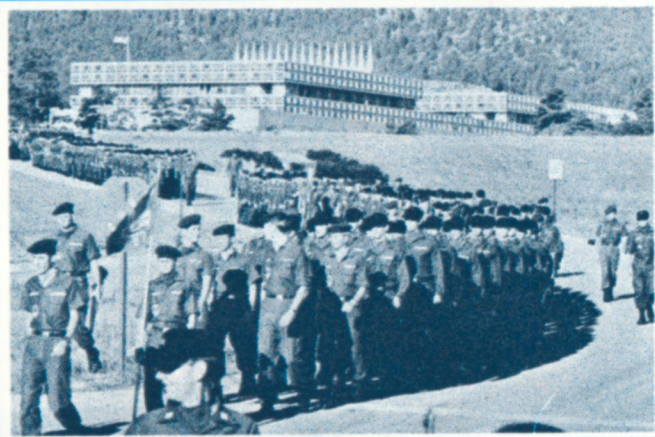


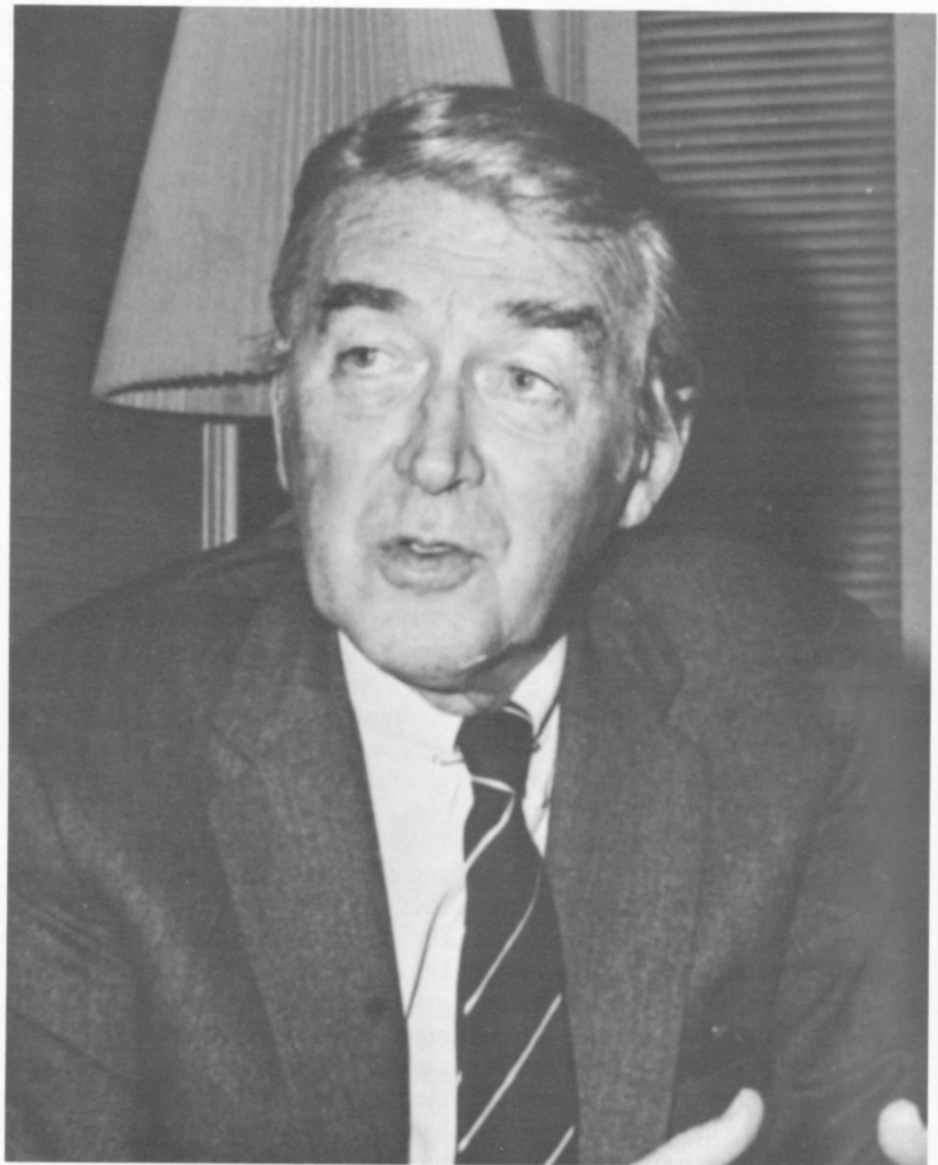
Talon

CADET MAGAZINE OF THE USAF ACADEMY
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JIMMY ★

by Tom Laurie '75
Rick Douglas '75



— RICK DOUGLAS



— BILL MADSEN

A pleading phone call, a hurried trip, an expected knock and then, a face you had seen hundreds of times and the soothing voice you knew so well - the actor, the military man (USAF Brigadier General), the person, James Stewart opened the door and invited you in.

TALON: Sir, having such a varied career, how did your military career affect your acting career or visa-versa?

STEWART: Oh, I don't think there really is much relationship between the two things. It took me awhile to sort of get into the military because I was an actor. I was known. I had been in the movies for quite awhile ... in those times everybody was in the same boat. I was drafted, and because of my prior experience in flying I got to take some

extension courses . . . after the first year or so I sort of forgot about the acting thing.

TALON: Sir, were there any movies that you particularly enjoyed starring in?

STEWART: Well, I enjoyed them all. I've just enjoyed the whole idea of the movies.

TALON: Sir, how would you compare working on a movie versus a television series?

STEWART: Well, they're pretty much the same except that in television the pressure is a lot greater . . . not that it is more work, but it is concentrated work.

TALON: Sir, you received an Oscar for "The Philadelphia Story," could you relate to us on this achievement of yours?

STEWART: Oscars have sort of gotten out of hand. It is still a very popular television program, but as an event it has really gotten out of hand. It used to be more of a testimonial dinner. A group of your fellow workers got together and decided that you did a good job, and they patted you on the back. Lot's of times you would have too much booze, and the awards would get mixed up, but it was all ours. Now it's cold - it doesn't have the heart.

TALON: Sir, what would you think of a Hollywood movie on the Air Force Academy?

STEWART: I think that it is a very good idea. I made a movie about Annapolis (United States Naval Academy) once, "Navy Blue and Gold," where I played a football player - the center . . . I weighed 137 pounds!

TALON: Sir, in your career you have been to many parts of the world. Is there any one place that you found more interesting than the others?

STEWART: Africa, East Africa - a fascinating place! My wife and my children have been there many times, mostly because of the wildlife. It is an amazing part of the world.

TALON: Sir, could you give us your impressions of the Air Force Academy?

STEWART: Well, of course, I have been all in favor of the academy and a booster of the academy ever since it's inception. It was perfectly logical after World War Two that the Air Force develop an Air Force Academy. A third

service academy was not only desirable, but necessary.

TALON: Sir, would you recommend the military as a career?

STEWART: I would highly recommend a career in the military.

TALON: Sir, seemingly many Americans have lost faith in the military as of late - Would you care to comment on this?

STEWART: Well, I don't know whether your statement is correct. You say "many Americans?" I don't know what you mean by many Americans. I think most Americans have great faith in the military and believe in the military, and believe that it is an important part of the structure of this country.

TALON: Sir, the military is going through many changes right now. What do you think the relationship should be between the military and society?

STEWART: I don't think it is a question of the Air Force being sort of an isolated thing waiting on civilians. This sort of thing has decreased since WWII, and I think it's a good thing. Before then the military establishment was a unit unto itself. They had very little contact with civilians. But after the war, the Air Force had more to do with developing their relationship with society. I think that this is a good thing.

TALON: Sir, could you relate to us some of your wartime experiences?

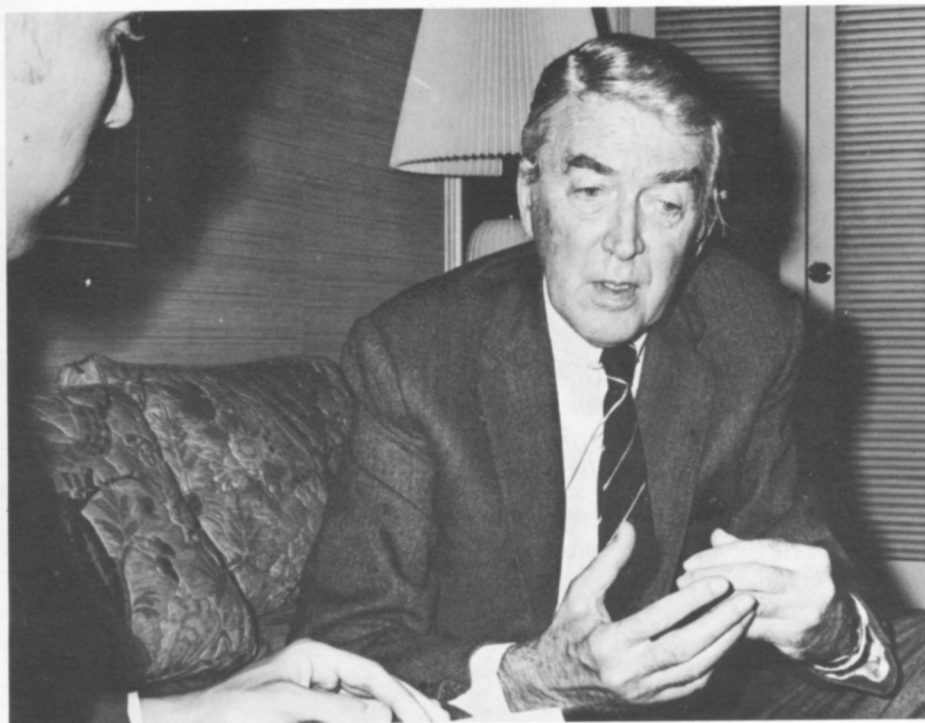
STEWART: It all was an amazing operation to me. I was in one theater of operation, the 8th Air Force (passed from private to bomber pilot and squadron commander with +20 missions over Bremen, Frankfurt, and Berlin), for all of the combat time that I had, but it never ceases to amaze me how you could get a thousand four-engined airplanes, especially in terrible weather, which we had our share of, assembled in what we called the "bomber stream," complete your mission successfully, and return - all in close formation!

TALON: Sir, what is your opinion of the admission of female cadets to the United States Air Force Academy?

STEWART: NO COMMENT

TALON: Sir, do you have any final message for the Cadet Wing?

STEWART: I have a feeling that the military establishment, especially the Air Force, is going to have more of a vital part in the well-being and operation of this country than ever before. I think that the members of all the services who are trained to be career officers, and who are trained to take the responsibilities of running those services, have good years ahead of them.



— RICK DOUGLAS