

U. S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COLO-----*(Special to CARBIDE NEWS)*-----The United States Air Force Academy, the nation's newest of the service academies, is located in Central Colorado, sixty miles south of Denver and some ten miles north of Colorado Springs. Its campus encompasses some 17,900 acres of land at the foot of the Rampart Range, with majestic Pike's Peak in the background. It is an ultra-modern institution of higher learning devoted to the training of young men who will one day assume leadership of the U. S. Air Force.

The four-year Academy curriculum is designed to provide a foundation for further development in any of the numerous career fields open to Air Force officers. It is neither an engineering nor a liberal arts program but combines elements of both, balanced almost evenly between the basic and applied sciences and the humanities and social sciences.

The life of ^{A CADET} is not an easy one. It consists of a strenuous and challenging academic and military program punctuated by vigorous physical training and strict discipline. However strenuous his life may be, facilities at the Academy are designed so that he can get the maximum out of their four-year program.

The Academy's 231 classrooms are designed for small classes--not more than 16 students per instructor. The library, planned to hold 300,000 volumes, has periodicals from all over the world, including newspapers from each cadet's home state. It also has sound-proofed rooms for music appreciation and foreign language course studies.

The dining hall will seat 3,000 cadets at one sitting. All meals are served family style and are seasoned with the proper amount of military

discipline at each table.

Vandenberg Hall, the cadet dormitory, is a quarter of a mile long and contains 1320 rooms. Underclassmen are required to be in their rooms at 7:15 p.m. each weekday evening. Until 11:00 p.m. (taps) the time is used for study.

The required academic program at the Air Force Academy consists of $14\frac{3}{8}$ semester hours. Cadets with exceptional ability or previous college training, however, may add to this minimum by participating in the Curriculum Enrichment Program established at the Academy in 1957. Under this program cadets may broaden their knowledge or specialize in a particular area by either transferring college credits or validating courses previously taken; by taking over-load courses above the prescribed semester hour load. Thus, in accordance with their abilities, they are free to take extra courses offered in the Enrichment Program.

In the Enrichment Program cadets are given the opportunity to earn a major in any one of four areas: basic sciences, with options in mathematics, physics and chemistry; the engineering sciences with options in aeronautical and electrical engineering; military affairs; and international affairs.

The Air Force Academy also has proposed an extension of the Enrichment Program to include the granting of masters' degrees to qualified cadets who have completed the requirements for such degrees during their four calendar years at the Academy.

Along with their academic studies cadets receive four years of military training and participate in an intensive athletic and physical education program. During the summer a cadet goes on field trips, visits military installations and has a short leave. Military training totals $28\frac{1}{2}$ semester hours, the physical education program totals $14\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The intercollegiate athletic program includes football, cross country, soccer, basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, swimming, skiing, fencing, rifle, pistol, baseball, golf, track and tennis. To remain eligible for intercollegiate sports a cadet must maintain an average of 70 per cent in each academic subject. Unless a cadet is participating in intercollegiate athletics during the season, he practices or plays on squadron intramural teams two afternoons a week after classes. The other three afternoons a week he spends in study or organized cadet extracurricular activities.

The gymnasium, of course, is the central point of the physical education program. Its main pool is two-thirds the size of a football field, ranging in depth from four to 18 feet, holds 970,000 gallons of water, and has an eight-lane Olympic competition capability. Another pool, a smaller one, can accommodate four water polo games at one time.

Adjacent to the gymnasium, the Academy has a 125-acre athletic area where at any one given time 15 separate but simultaneous football games can be played. Also, at any given time, 13 lacrosse, 12 field hockey, three baseball, 12 rugby, 33 tennis and 18 squash games can be played. This large playing area is required to accommodate the 2500-man cadet wing.

The required curriculum--academics, physical education and military training--totals 186½ semester hours. The graduating cadet receives a fully accredited bachelor of science degree as well as a commission as an officer in the United States Air Force.

Contrary to common belief a cadet does not learn to fly while at the Academy. He does receive indoctrination in both flying and navigation training if he so desires and is physically qualified.

Major General Robert H. Warren, a 1940 graduate of the United States Military Academy, is superintendent of the Academy. He served as a Squadron

Commander, Wing Operations Officer and as Commander of the 376th Bombardment Group in Europe during World War II, and is credited with 38 combat missions in B-24 bombers. During the Korean War he was Director of Operations, and later, Assistant Deputy for Operations of the Far East Forces. Immediately prior to his appointment as Superintendent of the Academy, General Warren was Commander, Air Proving Ground Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.