

Graduation Day Congratulatory Letters

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

13 May 1963

To the Class of 1963 United States Air Force Academy:

Congratulations for your successful completion of four demanding years of training and preparation for a lifetime of service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

I know that the high ideals of service, honor and duty instilled in you at the Air Force Academy will guide and sustain you in the challenging days ahead as you assume responsibilities of far-reaching importance to our nation.

Best wishes for the years to come.

Robert S. McNamara
Robert S. McNamara



Secretary McNamara



Secretary Zuckert

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

To the Members of the Class of 1963
United States Air Force Academy

Congratulations on this graduation day. Your four years at the Air Force Academy have given you the best foundation on which to build a military career. Much will be demanded of you. The challenges of an Air Force career are complex in the aerospace age, and I have every confidence that you will always reflect the spirit of this great Academy and bring honor to the United States Air Force.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

Gentlemen of the Class of 1963:

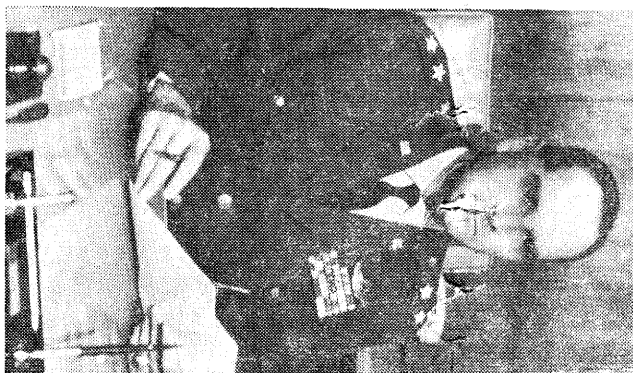
My personal congratulations to each of you on the occasion of your graduation. This is a day of gratification for all of us as you are commissioned in the United States Air Force.

As you take your place with your fellow officers, the Nation's wishes go with you. There is no greater need today than for young men like you who are willing to devote themselves to the task of maintaining freedom throughout the world.

Eugene M. Zuckert
Eugene M. Zuckert



General Lemay



Maj. Gen. Warren

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
COLORADO

To the 1963 Graduates
United States Air Force Academy

As you step forward today into your Air Force career, be assured that you are doing so with the best preparation that your nation can give you. In the coming years there will be many occasions to reflect on and draw from your experiences and teachings here at the Academy. At this commencement time, I extend to each of you my congratulations and sincerest wish for success.

Robert H. Warren
Major General, USAF
ROBERT H. WARREN

5 June 1963

Military Training

Professional Development A Pre-Graduation Must

The military training program, which qualifies graduates to be commissioned as officers today, distinguishes the Academy from civilian universities through its uniqueness. In addition to the 14 1/2 semester hours of professional subjects taught in the classrooms, portions of each day were devoted to a program of practical leadership and command.

The professional program was designed to equip a cadet for a career as an officer, not to train him for a specific job. Subsequently, the program combined professional orientation and military education in an environment planned to provide a lifetime of career motivation.

IT HAS BEEN the specific charge of the Commandant of Cadets to provide each cadet with training experiences and a climate of character development from which he could derive the qualities of leadership and motivation to produce a valuable junior officer. The second is the program of classroom and field studies.

Although the two are separate divisions with distinct training responsibilities, their work is interrelated toward the same mission goals.

The Cadet Wing is organized into 24 cadet squadrons of approximately 100 men each. This squadron organization is both the command and training structure of the practical leadership training program. Officer and cadet chains of command within the Wing are parallel. The Wing AOC, through his four Group AOC's, supervises the squadron AOC's.

The Mission

The United States Air Force Academy will provide instruction, experience and motivation to each cadet so that he will graduate with the knowledge, character and qualities of leadership essential to his progressive development as a career officer in the United States Air Force.

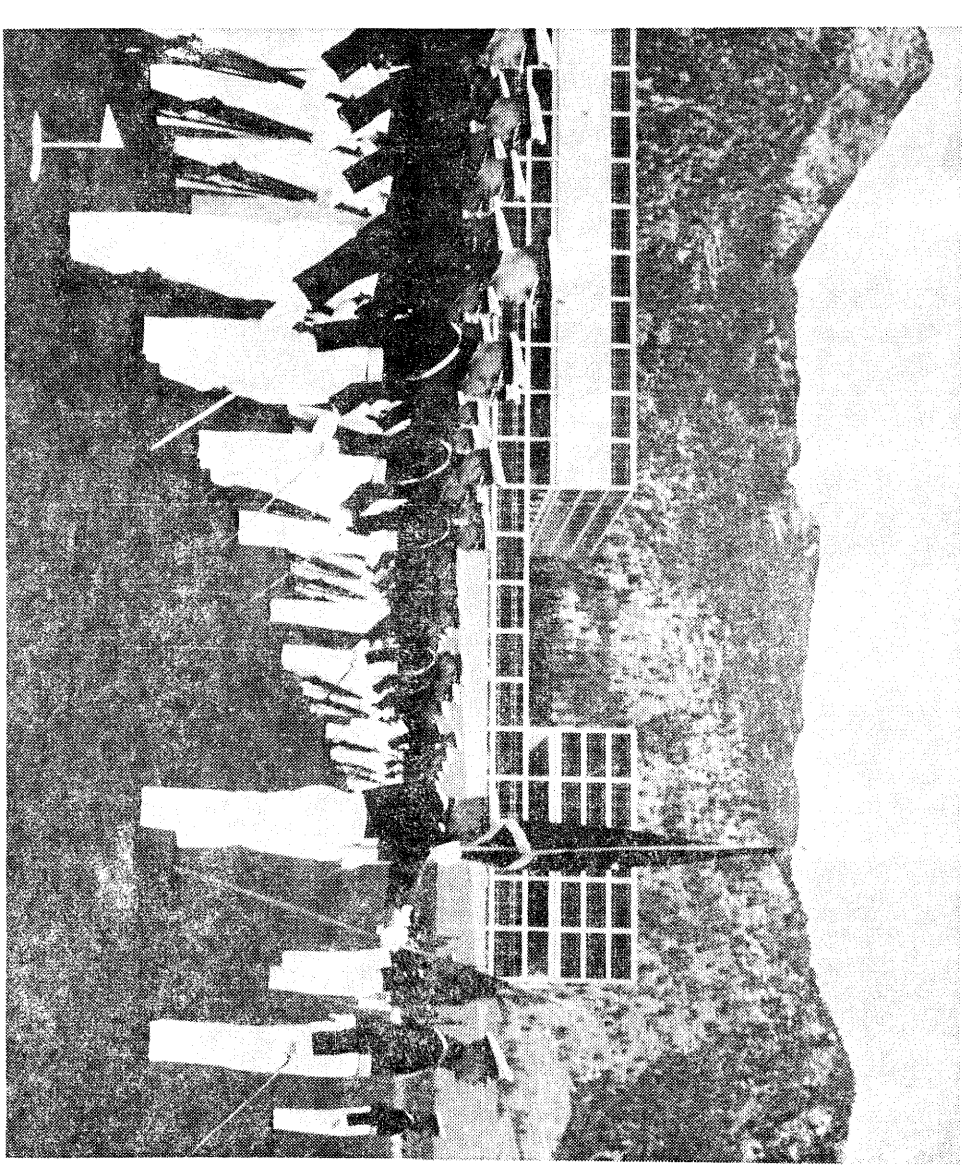
man, only cadet full colonel, exercises his command through four group commanders and 24 squadron commanders.

THE DUAL chain of command provides the cadet a structure for practical experience. At the lowest level of organization a cadet holds the position of responsibility and does the work—under the supervision of an officer whose experience and education qualify him to pass on "trade secrets" of the military profession. At this point, experience starts to be converted into a concept of leadership which the cadet can put into practice.

ACADEMY MILITARY training does not seek to train a cadet for a specific job but rather to educate and motivate him toward a career as an officer. Just as the cadet progresses from the lowest to the highest level of command and staff experience in the squadron, so in the classroom does the progress from basic Air Force history to a knowledge and understanding of aerospace power employment.

This progress can be traced through the four years of military instruction. Fourth year military instruction serves two purposes: as a transition from the inflexibility of basic cadet training to a more sophisticated level of learning and understanding and to complete indoctrination into the Wing and the Air Force.

The Fourth Classman is also introduced, through WF-111, National Security and the Armed Forces, to the Army, Navy, and the combat and support commands of the Air Force.



DRESS PARADE — Along with the demanding academic load each cadet takes during his four-year stay at the Academy, a large amount of his time is spent developing proficiency in military training. Long after a graduate leaves the Rampart Range, he'll remember the many Saturday mornings he paraded in full-dress uniform.

Honor Code Is 'Way of Life' for Cadets

"We will not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate among us those who do," this is the honor code of the Air Force Academy. This tradition of honor among men of the Cadet Wing is the primary means of developing character and integrity in these future Air Force officers. To a cadet, honor becomes a way of life that will follow throughout his career.

500 Graduate, Baldachi Stays

In the summer of 1959, the Air Academy was invaded by a single, rollicking, mythical cadet — Nino Baldachi. Much in the same manner of "Kilroy," whose name has appeared everywhere, Nino Baldachi has the habit of appearing at even the most formal situation. The mere mention of his name is sufficient to cause officers assigned to the Academy to shudder in apprehension and simultaneously cause unbridled laughter among cadets. It has become almost a standard, when anything goes awry in the Wing, to blame it on Nino Baldachi.

As with purely fictitious characters, it is almost impossible to trace his origin. Yet, in the Cadet Wing, Nino Baldachi has his own "origin." According to the cadets, he made his entrance to the Academy in 1959 when he was mistaken for a member of the Class of 1960. Originally his home was in Italy; however, he designed the best flight gear trouble and Nino was forced to leave the United States, more exactly the Air Force Academy, than did the other graduates.

Only the Best Make the Lists

Air Force Academy cadets who excel in academic or military performance are placed on one or more of the Academy's honor lists — deans', commandant's, superintendent's—at the end of each fall and spring semester. To make the dean's list, cadets must attain an academic grade-point average for the semester of at least 3.0, or "B."

Commandant of Cadets, Former B-29 Squadron CO

Brig. Gen. Robert W. Strong, Jr., became Academy Commandant of Cadets in March of this year. General Strong, an active military flier for more than 20 years, was assigned to the Air Force Academy and appointed Commandant of Cadets (COC) after having commanded the 825th Strategic Aerospace Division at Little Rock AFB. He graduated from West Point in 1940 and entered flight training at Randolph Field, Texas. He completed advanced flight training at Kelly Field, Texas in 1941.



Brig. Gen. Strong

MSgt. Coltrin Wing NCOIC

This complete embodiment of the spirit of the Academy's mission causes us to admire him — the personification of the many unnamed service people who make the Air Force Academy a success. Thus was the 1962 POLARIS Academy yearbook — dedicated to MSgt. William H. Coltrin, Cadet Wing NCOIC.

The firm policy of the Academy is that the honor code "belongs" to the Cadet Wing. They keep it alive by their desire to live and practice it daily.

The administrative procedures and practices for insuring understanding and practice of the honor code are known as the honor system. All academic and military procedures are dependent upon cadet honesty, and demonstrate faith of the Academy in cadet acceptance of their code.

Any cadet who is guilty of an honor violation, resigns from the Academy. As former Secretary of War Newton Baker once said, "Men may be inexact or even untruthful in ordinary matters and suffer as a consequence only the disesteem of their associates. . . but the inexact or untruthful soldier trifles with the lives of his fellow men and with the honor of his government. . ."

The falcons, official mascots of the U. S. Air Force Academy, are captured, trained, and cared for by cadets who volunteer to learn the ancient art of falconry during their spare time. The stocky, crested master sergeant began his Academy tour five years ago—the same time that last year's graduating class first donned cadet blue.

Strong served in the Pacific as a B-29 pilot and squadron commander and is the holder of the World War II Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. He served as Assistant Air Attache to Canada from May 1949 to August 1952, having graduated in 1949 from the Air Command and Staff School. Since then the general has been graduated from the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island and advanced B-47 training at McConnell AFB, Kansas. He served at McConnell, Barksdale and McCoy AFBs and at Goose Bay Labrador before his duty at Little Rock AFB. General Strong is married to the former Virginia Dent of Marion, Virginia. They have a son, David B., 13.