

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
COLORADO

13 July 1959

Dear Friends:

The arrival of each new class of cadets is an unforgettable experience for all of us here at the Air Force Academy who have special responsibility for their well-being. This holds particularly true of me as the Catholic Cadet Chaplain.

Among other things, I welcome the opportunity of contacting the families of new cadets for the first time. It is always a privilege to give the assurance that everything possible is being done for their spiritual and physical well-being.

As a parent or guardian, it is but natural to miss your lad and worry about him a wee bit, all the while hoping for some tangible evidence that all goes well with him. Your reaction is most understandable.

Perhaps the enclosed bulletin, a copy of which was given to your son at Mass on Sunday, will give you a comforting insight into the kind of solicitude with which we surround him here. It is a great challenge for us at the Academy to mold each new cadet's character along the lines of finest young manhood.


The present phase of summer training is a formidable hurdle for your son. You can be certain of one thing! He is really on the go! The transition from civilian to cadet life is no snap! It may well be that he becomes a bit discouraged once in a while and reflects it in his correspondence. No need to worry! It is a natural reaction.

However, just as I do all within my power to encourage the new cadets to rise to the challenge of each day, I trust that you will cooperate with me by encouraging and cheering up your son in each letter. Whenever you write, I suggest that you include as many little things as possible about home, the family and the local community. Such letters really are a tonic for him.

As I observe the members of this new class, I often think of others who came before them. Initially, most of them found the going hard. Later on, however, they became enthusiastic about Academy life and the career for which the Academy prepares them. With your encouragement it will be no different for your son.

Should I ever be able to be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me. God bless and keep you and yours.

Sincerely in Christ,


CONSTANTINE E. ZIELINSKI
Chaplain (Colonel) USAF
Catholic Cadet Chaplain