

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
Office of the Superintendent
COLORADO

21 January 1960

Dear Parents:

Early this month, I presided for my first time at an Academy Board review of the cases of cadets with semester-end course failures. It was discouraging. Among these reports to parents are the grade records of those 66 cases. Among these reports also are satisfactory grade records of at least as many or more cadets who had no more ability or preparation upon arrival here than did the failures. Cadet appointment is not offered unless the Academy is sure that the candidate has the ability and preparation required for success here. There is no reason for failure except lack of industry or motivation, and the Academy cannot abide the lack of either.

There is some small consolation in reporting that only 27 of the 66 failures were recommended for discharge: 15 Fourth Classmen, 9 Third Classmen, and 3 Second Classmen. And some few who failed only one course have asked for the re-examination to which they are entitled. Any who accomplish the examination satisfactorily within 60 days will be readmitted next August to repeat the class year.

The academic failures have been discouraging, but the greatest disappointments of the past few months have been the 16 cadets who resigned after mid-term and with good records. Yes, they all had their reasons or excuses: usually a desire to study for some other vocation, sometimes simply a desire to get married, to often, I fear, a desire to escape the pressures of cadet life. Too often, I am convinced, they did not really examine the objective and the future for which they were working here.

The graduates of these early years of the Academy have opportunities for rapid promotion to huge responsibilities such as have never been known except in time of war. I need not go into a discussion of the part the Air Force will have in developing and using the amazing vehicles and instruments promised during the next ten years. I need only cite some rather obvious figures on the present manning of the Air Force.

The vast majority of the 55,000 regular officers in the Air Force today were World War II officers commissioned between 1941 and 1945. The next ten years will be the last ten years of service for most of them. The ranking officers of 1970 and later must come from the young officers entering the Air Force now and from the cadets here now. I earnestly believe that some graduates in the Class of 1960 will have high rank with critical command responsibilities by 1970. Any young officer with ability will be able to satisfy any desire he may have for an advanced education and a highly professional or technical assignment.

Young fellows would be other than typical if they did not compare starting salaries and conditions in various occupations. The young officer graduate of the Class of 1960 this year will find that his salary will compare quite favorably to that of the average college graduate going into industry as an engineer or accountant. The new Air Force second lieutenant graduating this June with an aircrew rating will receive a salary, rental allowance, and subsistence allowance totaling \$438.58 per month, that is over \$5200 per year. After two years of service, he will receive almost exactly \$6700 per year as a first lieutenant. And at the end of only three years after Academy graduation he will begin receiving an annual salary of over \$7800, more than \$650 per month.

A survey of starting salaries in 160 companies shows an average of less than \$400 per month for new engineers, accountants, and salesmen with college degrees. A follow-up of 1800 bachelor of science degrees in industry after three years on the job still showed an average salary of \$448 per month.

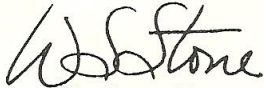
I have no intention of getting into a far ranging comparison of the challenges, the personal satisfactions, and the material benefits of commissioned service in the Air Force. I do claim that these young men here have a future second to none. Most seem to fully realize that. I regret that some do not.

Within a few weeks the members of the Class of 1960 will be advised of medical qualification or disqualification for flying status and pilot training. Although each cadet, when appointed, agreed in writing that he would enter into pilot training upon graduation, medically qualified members of the Class of 1960 will be designated for pilot training only if they again indicate that desire. A graduate who has not elected pilot training may, if medically qualified, be placed on flying status as a navigator.

Very nearly all of the graduates of last year who were medically qualified requested assignment directly into pilot training. Some who were initially disqualified were given medical waivers before graduation. We expect the same well-motivated response from the Class of 1960. This is still a flying Air Force, and I shall advise every graduate and every cadet that pilot training is essential to complete realization of all that an Air Force career has to offer.

Beginning with the present term, we plan to issue mid-term reports to parents and the congressional nominating authority only for cadets of the Fourth Class and for deficient cadets of the upper classes. The attached grade report is a final end-of-term report such as is recorded permanently. Of course, these will continue to be sent to you. Mid-term reports, however, are not final, and are useful only to warn of possible failure. We stand to realize a considerable saving of personnel and supplies by reducing the report workload. So, unless I find an unfavorable reaction to the plan from parents of upperclassmen, we will not be sending mid-term grade reports this spring for proficient cadets of the upper three classes.

Sincerely,



W. S. STONE
Major General, USAF
Superintendent

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Grade Report