

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
Office of the Superintendent
COLORADO

21 June 1960

Dear Parents of Cadets:

Cadet achievement honors have been considerably extended for this reporting period. In addition to the Superintendent's Merit List there is a Dean's List and a Commandant's List. The Dean's List identifies all cadets who rank in the top 25 percent on grade averages or who have no academic grades lower than 81, or none lower than 80 if taking additional elective courses. The Commandant's List recognizes all cadets who rank in the top 25 percent on Cadet Effectiveness, a combination of the ratings of each cadet by other cadets and by supervising officers. The Superintendent's Merit List distinguishes those cadets who merit both the academic achievement and the leadership achievement honors. The Merit Lists and the associated cadet privileges will be announced and explained in a letter to be sent with the May and Summer term grade reports.

I will not go into detail regarding the 52 cadets of the lower three classes who ended the year in difficulty. Most have been given opportunity to prove that their problems can be corrected by repeating the year as a turnback to a lower class, or in many cases, by repeating a failed course. Only 24 were in such difficulty that a recommendation for discharge was justified.

The remaining cadets in the Classes of 1961, 1962, and 1963 total 1144. But the Cadet Wing will become 1932 strong on 27 June when a new Fourth Class of 772 cadets enters and 16 cadets return who were turned back from the Class of 1963.

A total of 222 members of the Class of 1960 graduated on 8 June with commissions in the regular services: 214 in the Air Force, 6 in the Marine Corps, and 2 in the Navy. One cadet graduated but was not medically qualified for a commission. You undoubtedly have adequate information from your son about the graduation and the June Week program in general. There are two items of note which may not have been mentioned, at least not in the context that I have in mind.

In an attempt to accommodate all cadet guests and visitors, we held the graduation exercises on the parade ground. A thunderstorm dampened the proceedings but proved rather dramatically our great need for a field house.

Nowhere can we assemble more than 3000 together under cover. Indoor drill practice is not possible. Our spring athletic programs are handicapped measurably by the frequent and highly localized snow and rain occurring all spring against the Rampart Range. A field house will meet those problems. I am encouraged to report that the Board of Visitors this year has strongly endorsed our need for a field house. With that support we may have it for a graduation ceremony which you will attend.

Graduation of the Class of 1960 also dramatized the progress which has been made in capitalizing on the abilities and previous preparation of many cadets through what we have termed "the enrichment program." There were 66 cadets who received a Bachelor of Science degree with credit for a major field of study. The mandatory program of 185 semester hours of study provides a broad sequence of courses without the concentration which would merit credit for a major. By taking additional elective courses totaling 17-1/2 semester hours a cadet can work deep enough into an area of subject matter to warrant a major. Seven of the 66 graduates credited with a degree in a major field actually accumulated more than 35 semester hours of extra credit and have recorded two major fields of study.

The Board of Visitors Report to the President states that "the enrichment program, begun in 1957, has proved its value." That is most gratifying, of course; but the Board has also supported the next step -- a program of graduate level courses. The Report continues: "The Academy is giving serious thought to the expansion of the curriculum for superior students at the Masters Degree level. The Board is definitely in favor of this step."

We have every reason to expect that some cadets of present classes with previous college credit, your son perhaps, will be able to go beyond the requirements of the Bachelor's Degree within his four years of study here and complete most if not all of the requirements for a graduate degree. As we plan the program and secure accreditation and legislation for the award of an advanced degree, I shall keep you informed.

You may be interested in these other comments of the Board of Visitors.

"Library: The Board was impressed by the select and growing library . . . Evidence of the library's continued growth is its receipt of the 102,000th volume during April 1960.

"Fiscal Affairs: The Board took cognizance of the steps that have been taken to reduce Academy operating costs, and the plans that have been made for further reductions. The Board commends the Academy for its progress in this regard and was gratified to learn

that it is expected that the cost of educating an Air Force Cadet will be comparable to the cost of educating a West Point Cadet when the Air Force Academy reaches its full strength of approximately 2500 Cadets in Fiscal Year 1963.

"Religious Activities: Full consideration is constantly given to the religious needs of the Cadets. A religious program of services for Cadets of the Protestant, Jewish and Catholic faiths is participated in by the entire Wing on both a voluntary and mandatory basis, depending on the class year of the student. A high degree of voluntary participation was also noted in other religious activities such as the Choir, Sunday School and religious instruction classes. The Chaplains are an integral part of the Cadet counseling program. The Board was happy to learn from the Chaplains that the Cadets' participation in religious activities exceeded that of any comparable group with which they had associated.

"Morale: The Board observed that the morale of the entire Cadet Wing is at an exceptionally high level. Each member of the Board was most favorably impressed with the spirit and attitude of the Cadets.

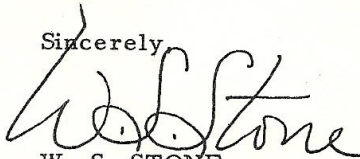
"Airmanship Training: The Board was briefed on the recently inaugurated plan under which military training is confined to an intensive period of instruction in the May and Summer terms, rather than being spread throughout the entire academic year. Since this program has not been in effect long enough to be evaluated at this time, it is felt that it should be examined by the Board at its next meeting. The Board endorses the recently adopted concept which envisages only indoctrinational flying for Academy Cadets. Under the new program all Cadets will receive 10 hours of light plane flying. The Cadets who are physically qualified for pilot training, and who desire pilot training, will receive an additional 30 hours of pilot training. All other Cadets who volunteer will receive 30 hours of Navigation Flying Training in T-29 aircraft. The remainder of the Cadets must participate in 2-1/2 additional semester hours of elective academic subjects. Cadets who choose Astronautics as an additional elective will have completed at least 12-1/2 semester hours of Astronautics upon graduation. All other Cadets will have completed at least 10 semester hours of Astronautics. It is recognized that the complete flying training program initially envisioned at the Academy's inception is not compatible with the increased requirements for officers in the technical career fields. However, the Board feels that indoctrinational flying is essential

to the full development and motivation of the Cadets toward a life-time career of military service. The Board regrets that the previous recommendations for the construction of an airfield at the Academy have not been adopted. The Board again urges that the Air Staff take immediate action to request Congressional approval of an Academy airfield in the Fiscal Year 1961 Military Construction Program."

The change in the flying training program applies to all classes other than the Class of 1961. The graduates of next year will be the last to complete a full program of navigation training and receive the rating and wings of a navigator at the Academy. The pilot screening and indoctrination program actually must wait until we have an airfield at or reasonably near the Academy. Until then, we will offer only the program of navigation indoctrination.

Again, I shall keep you informed regularly on these developments. If you have questions at any time, however, please do not hesitate to ask them of me. These letters cannot possibly anticipate all that you wish to know of Academy and Air Force plans for your son. Your son will know of them, but if he is typical of most busy young men away from home, his letters may not cover the details you like to know. I welcome your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. S. Stone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

W. S. STONE

Major General, USAF
Superintendent