

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011

(August letter not produced)



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CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 August 2011)

	Men	Women	Total
2012	865	241	1106
2013	865	224	1089
2014	881	259	1140
2015	835	236	1071
WING	3453	960	4413

THANKSGIVING AND WINTER BREAKS

LMD (last military duty) for Thanksgiving is noon on Tuesday, 22 November. Cadets should allow at least 2 hours travel time to the Colorado Springs airport and 3 hours to Denver. Keep in mind they won't set foot off the Academy at exactly noon!! Give them plenty of time to avoid rushing. Cadets must sign back in by 7:00 p.m. on MONDAY, 28 November.

Winter Break officially begins on 17 December; however, the cadets can depart after their last final (finals take place 12-16 December). The cadets should receive their finals schedules soon. They must sign back in by 7:00 p.m. on MONDAY, 2 January 2012.

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKS ACADEMY #1 IN NATION

The Air Force Academy is ranked top in the nation by high school guidance counselors, second in the nation in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, and came away with several more top-tier rankings in the U.S. News & World Report's Best College Rankings for 2012.

The magazine released its rankings late Monday night. A new category added this year was high school counselor rankings, and ranked the Air Force Academy number one among liberal arts colleges in this new category.

According to U.S. News and World Report, "In spring 2011, we asked guidance counselors from all the high schools in U.S. News' 2010 Best High Schools rankings, as well as from the largest private independent schools nationwide, to tell us which national universities and national liberal arts colleges they think offer the best undergraduate education to their students. They rated the universities on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being the top score) or marked 'don't know' if they were unfamiliar with that particular college."

The Academy ranked second-best in the nation in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering among undergraduate programs for the 11th consecutive year. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's main campus in Daytona Beach, FL, retained the top spot, while its Prescott, Arizona campus came in third this year.

The Air Force Academy tied for the #5 ranking of best undergraduate engineering programs, with Cal-Poly and the U.S. Naval Academy.

One of the Air Force Academy's other engineering programs, Electrical Engineering, also earned the #5 slot in this year's rankings of undergraduate electrical engineering programs.

The Academy also received several other rankings:

- The Academy is tied for #33 in the national liberal arts colleges rankings, and under that category, came in at #3 for Top Public Schools.
- The Academy also ranked #55 among best undergraduate business programs.

“The school has 74.0 percent of its classes with fewer than 20 students, and the student-faculty ratio at the United States Air Force Academy is 8:1,” according to the U.S. News & World Report rankings.

This is the third time this semester that the Air Force Academy has been ranked among the top universities in the nation. Forbes ranked the Air Force Academy #10 in the nation on its 2011 America’s Best Colleges List, which was released August 3.

Also, the Princeton Review released their The Best 376 Colleges book on August 2, which ranks the Air Force Academy #5 in the nation in professor availability, and ranks the Academy’s administration as #9 in the nation.

For more information on the U.S. News & World Report rankings, visit:
<http://www.usnews.com/education>

For the Forbes America’s Best Colleges rankings which were released August 3, visit:
<http://bestcollegerankings.org/popular-rankings/forbes-college-rankings/> and for more information on the Princeton Review rankings which were released August 2, visit:
<http://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings.aspx>

Synopsis of rankings:

U.S. News Best Colleges Rankings 2012

- #33 National Liberal Arts Colleges (tie)
- #55 Best Undergraduate Business Programs
- #5 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs
- #2 Aerospace / Aeronautical / Astronautical (undergrad)
- #5 Electrical / Electronic / Communications (undergrad)
- #3 Top Public Schools

Top Public Schools National Liberal Arts Colleges

These are the highest ranked public colleges and universities in the 2012 Best Colleges rankings, listed according to their ranking category.

#1 High School Counselor Rankings

High School Counselor Rankings National Liberal Arts Colleges

FORBES LISTS AIR FORCE ACADEMY AS #10 IN THE NATION

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – The Air Force Academy is ranked as one of the top 10 universities in the nation with the latest rankings coming from Forbes. Forbes released its annual best colleges rankings late Wednesday, ranking the Air Force Academy as the 10th-best university in the nation. The top-ranked university is Williams College in Massachusetts, followed next by Princeton, then the U.S. Military Academy, Amherst, Stanford, Harvard, Haverford College, the University of Chicago, and MIT.

The Air Force Academy came in at number 10 in the best colleges rankings this year, up one slot from #11 in Forbes' 2010 rankings. Following the Air Force Academy to round out the top-20 colleges on the Forbes list are Northwestern, Notre Dame, Wellesley, Brown, Colby, Duke, Rice, Dartmouth, Boston College and the U.S. Naval Academy.

Forbes also ranked the colleges by region. The Air Force Academy was ranked as the second-best university in the west, behind Stanford. The rankings are calculated by Forbes and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity and are based on a numerical formula which assesses each school in the following categories: post-graduate success, student satisfaction, student debt, four-year graduation rates and competitive awards. For more information on the Forbes ranking, and its complete list of colleges, go to: <http://www.forbes.com/top-colleges/list/>.

This is the second set of colleges rankings released recently, which includes the Air Force Academy among its top-10 rankings. On Tuesday, The Princeton Review released the rankings from its latest Best 376 Colleges, 2012 edition book, which examines a broad range of academic, athletic, social and societal categories. The Princeton Review ranked the Academy faculty fifth in the nation in their "most accessible professors" category and ranked the Academy's administration as No. 9 in the nation in their "School Runs Like Butter" category.

PETALS AND BLOOMS

With fall upon us, we would like to let you know that Petals & Blooms has beautiful mixed autumn arrangements starting at just \$30.00. We are a full service flower shop specializing in floral arrangements. We deliver 6 days a week.

Thank you so much for your continued support!
Denise White/Owner Petals & Blooms (719)-472-8589 (719)-244-7455

POST OFFICE BOX, FEDERAL EXPRESS, UPS, and DHL INFORMATION

from the USAFA Postmaster

The correct mailing address for your cadet is crucial. Mail not deliverable due to the incorrect address or insufficient information will be returned to the sender or sent to the Dead Letter Office (if there is no return address).

In addition to regular mail (envelopes) you may also send packages to the post office box and the cadets will receive a note in their boxes instructing them to pick up their packages at the counter. The address must be complete and correct. (Note that the zip code for cadets is 80841 rather than 80840.) The correct address for all cadets is below:

John Doe
PO Box xxxx (post office box number)

USAFA CO 80841-xxxx (post office box number)

(If you wish, you can also put the cadet rank (C4C, C3C, etc. before the name or as a basic cadet it should be “Basic Cadet John Doe”).

If you choose to send a package via Federal Express, UPS or DHL, you need a street address. They will not deliver to a post office box. The pick up location, called Pak Mail, is in the Cadet Book Store in Vandenberg Hall. Below is the correct mailing address:

John Doe (add the rank before the name if you wish)
Pak Mail
2360 Vandenberg Drive
USAFA CO 80840-xxxx (*post office box number)

*The post office box number is added to this as a 4 digit zip+4 and a means of identification when the cadet picks up the package at Pak Mail.

ATHLETIC AWAY EVENTS

To view athletic team away events go to the Athletic Department’s web site www.goairforcefalcons.com. Click on each team to view their traveling schedule.

OFFICE OF CADET WING MEDIA, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

CLASS OF 2015 BASIC CADET TRAINING INFORMATION AND PRODUCT DETAILS ([CLICK AND FOLLOW LINKS](#))

INFORMATION ON [BCT DVD](#):

- ❖ See first-hand your cadet’s entire 2015 basic training experience in this HD professionally produced USAFA sanctioned video. Reserve your limited edition copy now at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>.
 1. Filming began Day 1 - In processing day, through 1st and 2nd Beast; concluded with Acceptance Parade and shoulder-board pin-on.
 2. Includes every basic during flight’s portrait day or squadron activity film day.

INFORMATION ON [BCT YEARBOOK](#):

- ❖ Preorder your own keepsake “Class of 2015 Basic Cadet Training” yearbook. Order forms available at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>.

INFORMATION ON [FREE BCT PHOTOS AND VIDEO](#):

- ❖ View dozens of free video clips and 1,000's of photos from "2015 BCT DVD" and "2015 BCT Yearbook" on [97.7 KAFA](#) FaceBook page.

INFORMATION ON [BCT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES](#):

- ❖ This is your opportunity to congratulate your basic cadet and express how proud you are he/she completed Basic Cadet Training at the prestigious Air Force Academy. Honor your cadet with a lifetime memory; place a congratulatory message in the [Class of 2015 Basic Cadet Training Yearbook](#). Enter your message on-line [here](#) or at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>.

1. Parents have two options:

[Option One](#) - 1/8 page ad which includes a Headline and a 600 character message + one color image of their choice to upload. The cost of this ad is \$45.

[Option Two](#) - 1/32 page ad which includes a Headline and a 200 character message (no photo). The cost of this ad is \$30.

*Final deadline for ad submission is Oct 1, 2011.

**Each Fourth Class Cadet receives his/her own copy of BCT yearbook during Fall distribution.

CLASS OF 2011 INFORMATION AND PRODUCT DETAILS ([CLICK AND FOLLOW LINKS](#))

*You may forward this email to your friends and family so that they can see video clips too.

2011 Air Force Academy Graduation Video Intro - [USAFA](#)'s Office of Cadet Wing Media shared this video clip with you: <http://vimeo.com/27209810>

Intro segment of the 2011 Graduation DVD; CONGRATULATIONS 2011!

For information about the [Class of 2011 DVD](#), contact Cadet Wing Media at (719)333-4644 or email: cwmedia@usafa.edu. Graduation Order forms available at: <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>

Air Force Academy Thunderbirds flyover - [USAFA](#)'s Office of Cadet Wing Media shared this video clip with you: <http://vimeo.com/27211664>

Final segment of the 2011 Graduation DVD; Thunderbirds demonstrate their flying capabilities.

For information about the [Class of 2011 DVD](#), contact Cadet Wing Media at (719)333-

4644 or email: cwmedia@usafa.edu. Graduation Order forms available at:
<http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>

*Thunderbirds video clip is part of the 2011 Graduation DVD, not available separately. For Tbird info, go to www.thunderbirds.airforce.com.

INFORMATION ON [CLASS OF 2011 GRADUATION DVD](#):

- ❖ The Air Force Academy proudly announces the availability of a professionally produced [DVD from 2011's graduation day ceremony](#). This special limited edition 2011 DVD includes: Senior leadership and graduate's interviews; all graduates walking across stage receiving their diploma, handshake and first salute; high-lights from the 4-years; and other special bonus material. For information contact Cadet Wing Media at 719-333-4644 or email cwmedia@usafa.edu.
 1. Copies of this special limited edition DVD are still available for purchase.
 2. Order forms are available at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>.
 3. Thank you for considering Cadet Wing Media in commemorating your cadet's graduation. Product sales from cadet products help cadet programs and clubs.

INFORMATION ON [POLARIS YEARBOOKS](#):

- ❖ The Air Force Academy proudly announces the availability of POLARIS yearbooks for families, friends and supporters (graduates receive their own copy); produced annually by cadets for cadets, this yearbook is a past recipient of such prestigious awards as: Associated Collegiate Press, Best of Show Winners: 2010 Yearbook-300 or more; Walsworth Publishing Company's prestigious publication, POSSIBILITIES: 2010 edition inclusion.
 1. Copies of the [2011 Polaris Yearbook](#) are still available for purchase.
 2. Order forms are available at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>.
 3. Yearbooks are distributed annually in September.

INFORMATION ON GRADUATION DAY PORTRAITS:

- ❖ The Academy contracts a professional photographer to photograph your graduate as he/she receives the well deserved diploma and gives his/her first salute! Approximately three weeks after graduation a set of proof were sent to the graduate's primary home of record.

1. If you have any questions you may write to [Lifetouch](#), 1170 Pontiac Ave, Cranston, RI 02920, Attn: AFA Graduation 2011; or call 1-800-426-9533

INFORMATION ON CONTACTING US:

- ❖ Cadet Wing Media:
PO Box 6066
USAFA, CO 80841-6066
Commercial: (719) 333-4644
Fax: (719)333-6376
Contact Us: cwmedia@usafa.edu
- ❖ Thank you for considering Cadet Wing Media in commemorating your cadet's 2011 year. Product sales from cadet products help cadet programs and clubs.

97.7FM KAFA CADET RADIO STATION “VOICE OF USAFA”

- ❖ Listen online at <http://www.usafa.org/KAFA.aspx>.
- ❖ Download for FREE from the USAFA apps for Android© or iPhone© click the “Radio” button for mobile streaming.
- ❖ ATTENTION [FACEBOOK](#) USERS: View video excerpts and photos from “[2015 BCT DVD](#)” and “[2015 BCT Yearbook](#)” on [97.7 KAFA](#).
 1. Take moment to click “Like” at top of page.
 2. Not a Facebook user? Now’s the time to join free and view 1,000’s of photos and video excerpts.
- ❖ Station contact info:
 1. (719) 333-KAFA (5232)
 2. kafafm@gmail.com

PEREGRINE PINES FAMCAMP RESERVATIONS FOR GRADUATION 2012

We will try to accommodate your requests but our goal is to fill the campground to its maximum capacity. Therefore we do not promise to reserve certain sites. We will try to honor your requests to the best of our ability with the intention of making your guests’ stay an enjoyable one.

Rates April 1 to September 30:

Eligible Users (Staying in the site, ID card holders)

\$20 Per Night Full Hook-ups

\$10 Per Night Tent Sites

Guest Non-Military (Who are staying in the site, No Mil. ID)

\$25 Per Night Full Hook-ups

\$13 Per Night Tent Sites

Reg. 2.2.3. A sponsored guest is limited to 14 days only. (per summer)

A2.11. There is a limit of 8 people per site, 2 vehicles, and 1 tent (in RV site) or 2 tents (tent sites) limit of 2 weeks in tents. No horse trailers allowed.

Some RV sites can hold a tent, but not all.

8 people max is the rule, so advise us if you might want your tent in an RV site.

Be advised that the day of Thunderbird practice and the day of Graduation, all people must evacuate from the campground. No exceptions. People that have problems need to make advance arrangements. This is for approximately 4-5 hours and enforced by the USAFA Security Forces.

- For Non-Military, No Govt. ID, the sponsor must contact the Pass and Registration Center (PRC) outside the South Gate between the hours of 0730-1630, Monday - Friday at 333-0443. The visitor must arrive at the PRC between these same hours to receive their pass. Outside of PRC duty hours, the sponsor must be present at the south gate to sponsor visitors on to the installation.

2.1.2. The USAFA cadets (for their immediate families) can make reservations for two sites up to one year in advance for Graduation and for one site up to one year in advance for Parents' Weekend, for a total of two weeks per year. At all other times of the year, cadets will retain eligibility of other active duty personnel. The USAFA Class Reunion participants may also make reservations one year in advance, one site for one week.

//Signed//

John Rodrigues

Assistant Director, Outdoor Rec

Peregrine Pines FamCamp Manager

US Air Force Academy, CO 80840

719-333-4977/4523

john.rodrigues@usafa.af.mil

INFLUENZA SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

What is influenza?

Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by [influenza viruses](#). It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with [certain health conditions](#), are at high risk for serious flu complications. In 2009-2010, a new and very different flu virus (called [2009 H1N1](#)) spread worldwide causing the first flu pandemic in more than 40 years. CDC expects the 2009 H1N1 virus to cause illness again this upcoming season along with other seasonal flu viruses. Flu season can begin as early as September and last as late as May.

What are flu symptoms?

People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- fever or feeling feverish/chills
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue (very tired)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults

How does influenza spread?

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day **before** symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days **after** becoming sick.

How can you protect yourself?

The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each season! All active duty and cadets at USAFA will receive the nasal spray flu vaccine, unless contradictory health conditions exist. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the three influenza viruses that research suggests will be most common. The [2011-2012 flu vaccine](#) will protect against 2009 H1N1, and two other influenza viruses (an H3N2 virus and an influenza B virus).

Public Health flight members are dedicated to ensuring your cadet has the most current preventive health information available. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or cadet public health concerns- Maj Brigitte French at 719-333-5186.