

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY GRADUATION WEEK 2011



USAFA's 53rd Graduating Class
Class Color: Gold
Exemplar: Brigadier General Robin Olds
Motto: Infiniti Orbis Finientes
"Endless Horizons"



Welcome to your United States Air Force Academy! Graduation Week activities for the USAFA Class of 2011 will commence on Thursday, 19 May, and end Wednesday afternoon, 25 May 2011. The following information is provided to assist you in planning your trip and coordinating with your cadet.

NOTE: If events are cancelled or postponed for any reason, local radio and television stations will broadcast the news. Also, message boards at both the north and south gates of the Academy will notify you of any event changes. You may also call the Graduation Hotline, (719) 333-GRAD (4723), or visit our website at <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation> for the latest Graduation Week information.

GRAD WEEK VISITOR INFORMATION

Graduation guests may register via the Grad registration site located on the USAFA Graduation homepage (link will be active on 1 Feb 2011). Information on Grad Week will be emailed to you, including a Grad Week handout, schedule of events, Superintendent letter and parking pass. All items may be printed at home. The parking pass should be printed in color or on gold or yellow paper. If you are not able to print the items or do not have access to the internet, please ask your cadet or another family member to print the documents and send them to you or provide them upon your arrival. Please make sure to coordinate your visit with your cadet, as he/she will need to pick up your graduation ceremony and reception tickets.

SECURITY, TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

The base is open to visitors from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; you may enter the base during these hours by showing a valid driver's license or military ID. You may be asked to show proof of insurance and a valid vehicle registration. Outside of visitor hours, please show your Grad Week pass. All vehicles entering the base may be subject to inspection by security personnel. Guests should refrain from bringing large bags, coolers, backpacks or other items that will require additional scrutiny or searches from security personnel. If you are driving a rental car, please keep the rental agreement and current proof of insurance in the vehicle at all times.

We ask that you park in designated parking areas only. Shuttle buses will be available in the Cadet Area on Monday and Tuesday prior to Graduation. If you have a handicapped placard from your state, please bring it with you to access the handicapped parking area (immediately north of Stillman Parade Field) and the handicapped parking at the stadium on Grad day.

When driving on base, please make sure to follow all posted speed limits and wear your seatbelts. Drivers may not use hand-held cellular phones while the vehicle is in motion. If you need to make or take a call, please use a hands-free device or pull to the side of the road. Also, be aware that radar detectors are not permitted on base. Finally, keep in mind that wildlife such as deer, elk and wild turkeys can be a hazard while driving on the Academy. Please be alert for them and drive carefully. Remember, they have the right-of-way!

If Force Protection Conditions (FPCONs) change due to world events or events closer to home, some scheduled events may change or require additional security precautions for the safety of all our guests. Any event changes will be advertised in local media and on the message boards at both entry gates.

GRADUATION WEEK WEATHER

Due to our location on the Front Range of the Rockies and our high elevation, weather at the Academy can be highly unpredictable and change rapidly. It can be sunny and warm one day and rainy, foggy and cold the next day. Although the average high temperature at this time of year is in the 60's, and the evening low in the 40's, some Academy graduations have been held in very cold, wet weather, and that could happen this year. It may also be sunny and very warm. We recommend visitors be prepared with sunscreen, unopened clear water bottles and hats for sunny weather and rain coats/hats for bad weather. In the event of severe weather or security response to a high-threat world situation, the ceremony could be moved into the Cadet Field House. Because of the limited seating capacity, this

would restrict attendance to the graduating cadets and four of their guests (family or friends). For this reason, we make every attempt to hold the graduation ceremony outdoors in Falcon Stadium, even in less than ideal weather conditions.

SEVERE WEATHER. Colorado has more thunderstorm days than any other state except Florida, and flash floods can become a major weather hazard. The state's mountains and high elevation increase the likelihood that hail will form in a thunderstorm, making Colorado one of the hail capitals of the world. Lightning is Colorado's most dangerous weather hazard and more people have been killed or injured by lightning than by any other weather-related phenomena in Colorado.

WARNING SYSTEM. Here at the Air Force Academy, an outdoor loud-speaker system will activate when a thunderstorm or lightning threatens the area, directing personnel to seek shelter or limit exposure to the outdoors. Guests should remain in an indoor location until it has been determined that lightning is out of the area or no longer a threat.

HIGH ALTITUDE HEALTH CONCERNS

The Air Force Academy Cadet Area is approximately 7,300 feet above sea level. At this altitude, it is possible to contract an illness known as acute mountain or high-altitude sickness. Common symptoms include headache, malaise, nausea, vomiting and shortness of breath. Although most cases are mild and resolve within a few days, the altitude can exacerbate other existing medical conditions. The best way to avoid illness is to allow yourself to acclimatize: try not to over-exert yourself in the first days after your arrival and make sure to drink sufficient fluids to avoid dehydration. Don't go sightseeing at higher elevations (i.e., up in the mountains) until after you have been in the area for a few days. Alcohol consumption may worsen these symptoms; if you must drink, make sure to do so in moderation.

HANDICAPPED ASSISTANCE

Disabled guests should bring or rent any walkers, wheelchairs, breathing support or other special-needs or medical equipment they require (go to <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/hcinfo.pdf> for info on equipment rentals). Handicapped individuals should bring their state-issued 'handicapped' placard or other documentation to park in designated lots which will be serviced by specially equipped shuttle vans. Hearing-impaired guests may ask their cadet to work through their squadron's graduation representative to request sign language interpreters for the cadet parades or the graduation ceremony, if required. Guests with serious medical conditions such as anemia, heart disease or pulmonary disease should consult their doctor about the need for portable oxygen or preventive medication and the advisability of traveling to the Academy.

LODGING

There are numerous motels and hotels in the Colorado Springs area; however, the Pikes Peak Region is a nationally known resort area, and holiday weekends are particularly popular, with many special events taking place in the city and surrounding areas. For lodging information, you may contact any of the below listed organizations:

Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau, (877) 745-3773
<http://www.VisitCOS.com>

Colorado R&R, toll-free (877) 517-3381 or (719) 333-7367
<http://www.coloradorandr.com>.

Rampart Lodge, USAFA's military lodging facility, (719) 333-4910
<http://www.usafaservices.com/lodging/rampart.htm>

GRADUATION PHOTOS, VIDEO AND YEARBOOK

You may order the 2011 USAFA Graduation DVD, photographs of your cadet receiving his/her diploma and the 2011 POLARIS Yearbook from Cadet Wing Media by calling (719) 333-4644, e-mailing cwmedia@usafa.edu or writing to 10

FSS/FSLAM, P.O. Box 6066, USAFA CO 80841-6066. Visit their web page at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>. The DVD includes every graduate, Graduation Week activities excerpts and Class of 2011 bonus material. Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch has been contracted to provide professional photographs of your cadet at the Graduation Ball and at the Graduation Ceremony. Information for ordering photographs is available by calling (800) 426-9533 or writing to Lifetouch, 1170 Pontiac Ave, Cranston, RI 02920, Attn: AFA Grad.

GRAD WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

(Below are just a few highlights of the week. See Schedule of Events or visit Grad home page at <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation> for more info)

Please note: Information on recommended dress is provided for each event. We ask your cooperation in ensuring your guests wear appropriate attire throughout their stay at the Academy. Parking for all events is at the Field House unless otherwise specified below. You may walk to your destination or use shuttle buses provided on Monday and Tuesday prior to Graduation.

BACCALAUREATE SERVICES

Cadet Chapel

Sunday, 22 May, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

No tickets are required for Baccalaureate services and transportation is not provided. Graduates and their guests are encouraged to attend the service specified for their squadron. Parking for all services will be in the Harmon Hall parking lots.

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass, Squadrons 28-40
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Protestant Service, Squadrons 21-40
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass, Squadrons 14-27
11:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Jewish Service, Squadrons 1-40.
11:00 – 12:15 p.m.	Protestant Service, Squadrons 1-20
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Catholic Mass, Squadrons 1-13

Dress: Ladies: Dress or Jacket with Skirt or Slacks
Gentlemen: Coat or Suit and Tie
Military: Service Dress

RECEPTION FOR THE CLASS OF 2011 AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Carlton House

Sunday, 22 May, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

An opportunity for the Class of 2011 and their families to meet the Academy's senior staff and tour the historic Carlton House. Parking is in the grass lot northeast of the house. No shuttle service will be provided.

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	- 3rd Cadet Group (Squadrons 21-30)
2:05 – 3:05 p.m.	- 4th Cadet Group (Squadrons 31-40)
3:10 – 4:10 p.m.	- 1st Cadet Group (Squadrons 1-10)
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	- 2nd Cadet Group (Squadrons 11-20)

Dress: Same as Baccalaureate Services above

ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS PARADE

Stillman Parade Field

Monday, 23 May, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Mandatory for cadets and open to their guests and the public. Seating is first-come, first-served. Pre-parade performances will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m. All guests will be screened by security personnel and may have purses or personal items searched. Please do not bring large bags/backpacks to the parade. Cameras, video cameras and binoculars are permitted - please be prepared to remove lenses for security inspection. **NOTE:** If the parade is cancelled due to inclement weather, the Organizational Awards will be presented at the Individual Awards Ceremony in the Cadet Field House at 1:30 p.m.

Dress: Ladies: Skirt or Slacks and Open Collar or Dress
Gentlemen: Slacks and Open Collar
Military: Service Dress

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Cadet Field House, Clune Arena

Monday, 23 May, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Mandatory for cadets; open to their families and guests. At this ceremony, the individual cadet awards will be presented and nationally competitive

scholarships announced. Seating is first-come, first-served. The Cadet Sabre Drill Team will perform prior to the start of the ceremony.

Dress: Same as Organizational Awards Parade above

GRADUATION PARADE

Stillman Parade Field

Tuesday, 24 May, 9:20 – 11:00 a.m.

Mandatory for cadets and open to their guests and the public. Seating is first-come, first-served. Pre-parade performances will begin at approximately 9:20 a.m. All guests will be screened by security personnel and may have purses or personal items searched. Please do not bring large bags/backpacks to the parade. Cameras, video cameras and binoculars are permitted - please be prepared to remove lenses for security inspection. **NOTE:** In the event of inclement weather or poor field conditions, this parade may be cancelled.

Dress: Same as Organizational Awards Parade above

GRADUATION FORMAL RECEPTION

Mitchell Hall

Tuesday, 24 May, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

For graduating cadets, their families and guests. Tickets are required; cadets may purchase tickets from the Mitchell Hall Administration Office in early May. There is no limit to the number of guests per cadet; however, due to the popularity of this event, we recommend your cadet purchase tickets as soon as they go on sale.

Dress: Ladies: Evening Dress
Gentlemen: Black Tie or Suit and Tie
Military: Mess Dress

GRADUATION CEREMONY

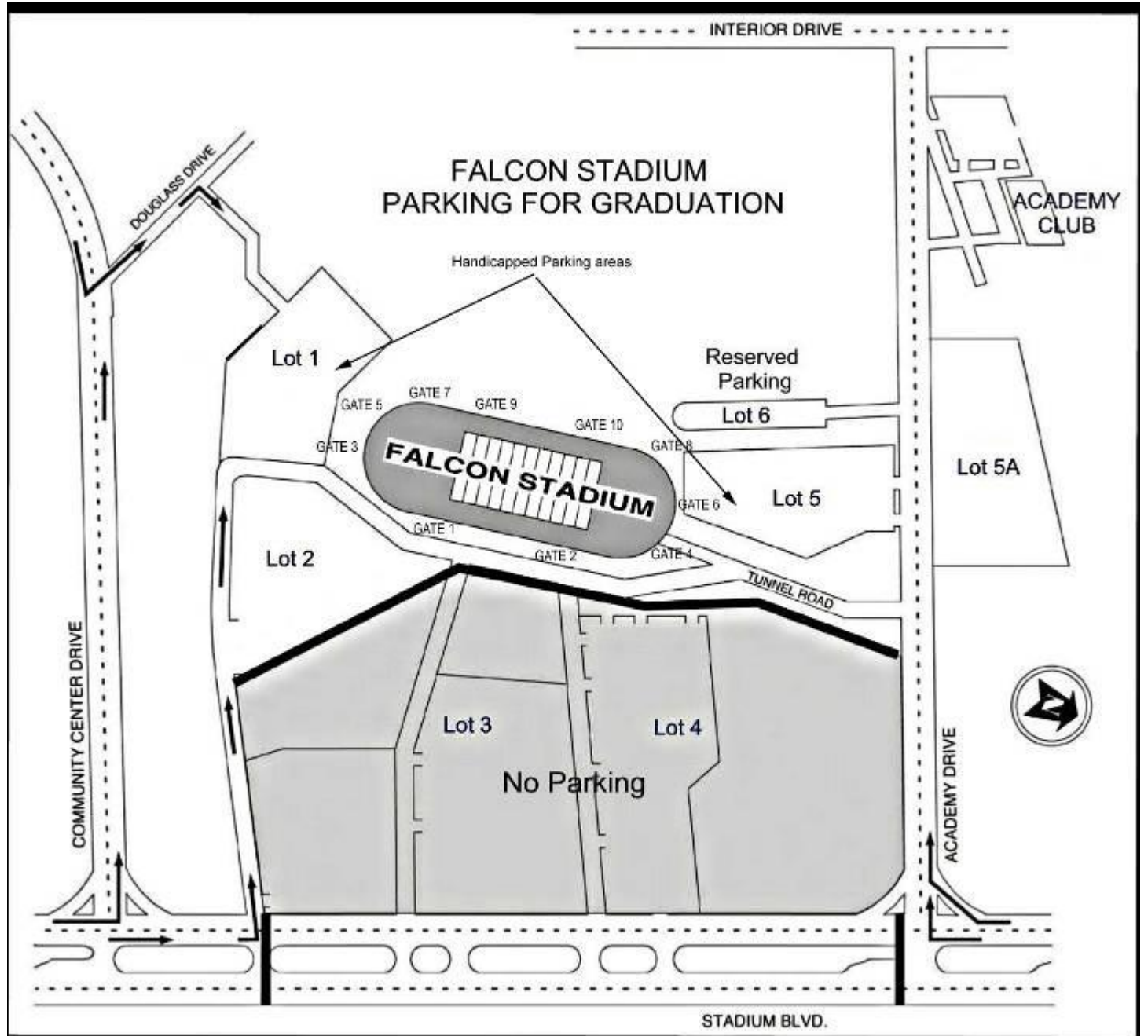
Wednesday, 25 May, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Tickets are required. Graduating cadets will receive as many tickets as they need for their family and guests through their squadrons; contact your cadet to make arrangements to get the tickets from him/her upon your arrival at USAFA. Parking is in the stadium lots; handicapped parking is in Lot 5. Stadium gates open at 8:00 a.m. The USAF Thunderbirds performance immediately follows the ceremony. **Note that once the ceremony has begun, no one will be permitted to leave the stadium until after the Thunderbirds performance ends. Please make your travel arrangements accordingly.**

Dress: Ladies: Dress or Jacket with Skirt or Slacks
Gentlemen: Coat or Suit and Tie
Military: Service Dress

FALCON STADIUM RESTRICTIONS: Due to security requirements, guests may be asked to go through metal detectors and have purses or personal items searched. **No boxes, alcohol, weapons, firecrackers, beverage containers, strollers, backpacks, large handbags, coolers, thermoses or similar items will be allowed.** Food/drink are prohibited with the exception of clear, unopened water bottles and medically required items with a doctor's order. Refreshments will be available from vendors in the stadium. Cameras/ video cameras are permitted; please be prepared to remove lenses for security inspection. Diaper bags will be allowed when a child is present. Note that there are no elevators in the stadium, and handicapped seating is limited and first-come, first-served.

FALCON STADIUM PARKING



FALCON STADIUM SEATING

