



THE SPOOKY TIMES

CLASS OF 2028 | ISSUE #1 | JANUARY 2026

Table of Contents

CLASS ACCOMPLISHMENTS - FALL 2025 2

JOB DIRECTORY & PREFERENCES 3

NEWS: T-7A ARRIVAL AT RANDOLPH AFB 4

CABINET NOTES & CLASS WEBSITE FEATURE 5

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES 6

CLASS ACCOMPLISHMENTS (FALL 2025)



OUR TEAM

- **Exemplar Dinner** (August): First Official Traditional Class Dinner! Well done on a positive representation of our spooky exemplar!
- **Class Crest Officiated** (November): Thank you to the creative visionary artists! We will have it revealed at our Commitment Dinner!
- **Class Website** (November): Our very own website showcasing our photos, shop, and exemplar!
- **Top-Tier SAMI/PAI/K-Test Performance**: #2 SAMI Average, PAI Average, and K-Test Average!
- **Class Patches**: Launched our class patch sales with all proceeds directly funding our Ring Dance!

OUR TEAMMATES

- **Football**: Liam Szarka & Roger Jones: Mountain West Honorable Mentions
- **Boxing**: Sela Panuve: National Champion; USAFA's first women's national title
- **Swimming**: Tanner Wilson: broke 37-year-old pool record in the 200 breast
- **Cross Country**: 3 '28ers competed at the NCAA National Championships in Missouri
- **Softball**: Madison Steel: Conference Player of the Week
- **Volleyball**: Alysa Walker: Mountain West Honorable Mention; Mia Loyd: 1000+ career assists
- **Rifle**: Lily Wytko: Perfect 600 in standing air; Colby Ting earned National EMR Certification
- **Lacrosse**: Aidan Chairs: All-Conference Freshman Team
- **Wrestling**: Brian Burburija: nationally ranked
- **Marathon**: Serenity Marek: Course Record & Age-Division Winner at Marine Corps Marathon
- **Flying Team**: Top-5 and Top-6 finishes in national events
- **Soaring**: Turner Guerard: First '28er Soaring IP
- **Cyber Team**: Neil Kumar: 3rd out of 600 in CSAW
- **Combat Shooting Team**: Luke Gilliam: 1st place at a recent local match
- **Honor Guard**: Brianna Conforto: Class Commander and Reveille/Retreat CIC
- **German Proficiency Badge**: Aiden Koops & Jacob Gribbin - leadership and program execution as cadre.

This list does not include all of our teammates who have accomplished something special this semester. The Class of '28 is simply exceptional all-around and we do not have space to include all of the extraordinary victories our teams/clubs took this past semester.

JOB DIRECTORY & PREFERENCES



OVERVIEW

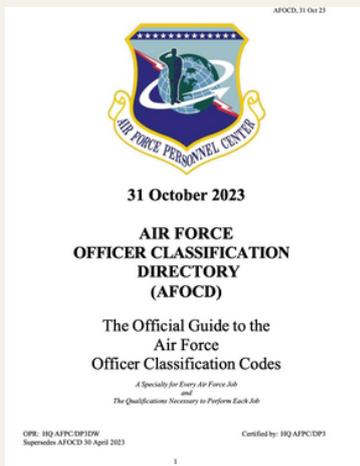
This past semester, the Class of 2027 completed their Job Preferences following Commitment and we can be expected to do the same around this time next Academic Year. To ensure we all can make the most educated decisions, we've placed the most recent Air Force Officer Classification Directory (AFOCD) at the top of our 2028 Class Teams page within the General Tab for easy reference.

As we head into the year of selecting job preferences, please take a moment to read the AFOCD for your knowledge and understanding.

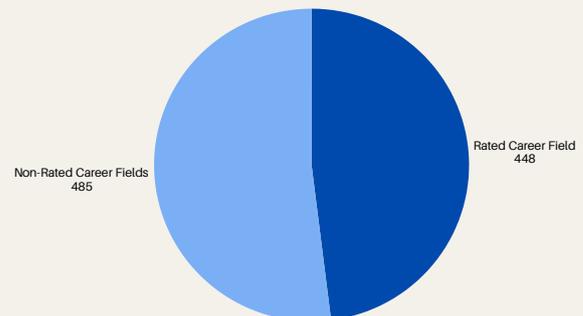
Helpful Tips

Officer AFSC and SFSC Explained:

- DAF Career Group:
 - 1 - Operations
 - 2 - Logistics
 - 3 - Support
 - 4 - Medical or Dental
 - 5 - Legal, Chaplain
 - 6 - Acquisition or Finance
 - 7 - Special Investigations
 - 8 - SDI
 - 9 - RI



Class of '25 Service Commitment



Class of '25 Service Commitment Statistics:

- Rated Career Fields:
 - Pilot: 410
 - RPA: 14
 - CSO: 18
 - ABM: 6

Good to Know:

Graduates incur a five-year service commitment and an additional concurrent service commitment, depending on training, schooling, or scholarships received.

Graduates attending pilot training will have an active-duty service commitment of 10 years after receiving their pilot's wings.

ARRIVAL OF T7-A: NEW ERA OF PILOT TRAINING



T-7A Red Hawk: A New Era for Pilot Training Begins at Randolph

Adopted from Air Education and Training Command, 02DEC25

The US Air Force has officially welcomed the T-7A Red Hawk to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, marking a major milestone in modernizing pilot training. The new aircraft, purpose-built for today and future's complex fight, will replace the six-decade old T-38 Talon and better prepare aviators for advanced fighters and future aircraft.

Assigned to the 99th Flying Training Squadron "Red Tails" and named in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, the T-7A introduces next generation training that emphasizes information management, sensor interpretation, and data-driven decision making from day one.

With its open architecture and fly-by-wire design, the T-7A is more adaptable and upgradeable than legacy trainers. It also works with ground based training systems and live virtual constructive environments that reduce the flights needed to achieve proficiency, helping students train smarter and more efficiently.

This transition reflects a broader shift towards preparing pilots not just to fly, but to thrive in data-rich, multi-domain operations. The program includes hundreds of aircraft and simulators, with initial operational capability expected in 2027 and a phased rollout to all training bases through the mid-2030s.

"We will forge tactical problem-solvers who are not just great aviators but are also comfortable multi-tasking as critical nodes in a data-rich environment by preparing students to manage sensor fusion, process large amounts of information, and make rapid, data-driven decisions...skills central to the future fight."

- Maj. General Gregory Kreuder, 19th Air Force Commander

CABINET NOTES



Joe Anderson
PRESIDENT

The work we are doing is good work, don't lose sight of that!



Mary Kathryn Olvera
EDITOR

I'm stoked to write this newsletter and give a glimpse into the growth of our class!



Rachel Vonderhaar

DIRECTOR OF CULTURE

This spring is all about growth and support. Especially through conversations like our fireside chats that will be continuing.



Michael Gauthier

CHIEF MWR

Looking forward to a productive Spring! Hopeful for a lot of involvement from the class and doing some cool stuff for us!

CLASS WEBSITE

Through the great work of C3C Woodhead and others, we have our very own class website — thank you for your work!

usafa28.com

USAFA
Class of 2028

Home | About | Gallery | Shop | Contact

USAFA 2028

ABOUT US

The United States Air Force Academy
Class of 2028

In the summer of 2024, nearly 1,200 young men and women arrived at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, stepping onto the hallowed grounds of the United States Air Force Academy as the Class of 2028. As the sound of the collective heartbeat of determination, they faced the grueling six-week journey of Basic Cadet Training—long days of physical exhaustion, mental resilience, and unwavering commitment to something greater than themselves. The echoes of "Be Bold, Be Great" rang through the cadet area as these future leaders took their first steps toward becoming officers in the world's most powerful Air and Space Force.

Sergeant John L. Levitow
Medal of Honor Recipient

US Air Force Sgt. John Levitow. Unb...
UNCOMMON VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES



As the new semester approaches, please take note of the key dates listed on the calendar. These milestones include important training events, academic deadlines, and scheduled activities that will help you plan and stay on track throughout the semester. Mark your calendars and ensure you're prepared for the weeks ahead. Semester #4 is here!

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." - Benjamin Franklin

JANUARY 2026

- 02JAN : CADET WING RETURNS
- 06JAN : M1
- 09-10JAN : SILVER TRAINING WEEKEND
- 23-24JAN : SILVER TRAINING WEEKEND, SAMI #1

FEBRUARY 2026

- 06-07FEB : SILVER TRAINING WEEKEND
- 20-21FEB : NATIONAL CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM
- 27FEB : AFT TESTING
- 27-28FEB : SILVER TRAINING WEEKEND, SAMI #2

MARCH 2026

- 03-04MAR : PFT TESTING
- 03-04MAR : PROG!
- 13-14MAR : SILVER TRAINING WEEKEND
- 20-29MAR : SPRING BREAK!

APRIL 2026

- 03-04APR : SILVER TRAINING WEEKEND
- 15-18APR : SPRING CRUCIBLE EVENT

MAY 2026

- 01-02MAY : PROMOTION/RECOGNITION/COMMITMENT TO SERVE EVENT