

USAF ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL COMMANDANT

LINEAGE

1st USAF Academy Preparatory Group established and activated, 30 Aug 2003
Redesignated USAF Academy Preparatory School Commandant, 1 Aug 2010

STATIONS

USAF Academy, CO, 30 Aug 2003

ASSIGNMENTS

USAF Academy Preparatory School, 30 Aug 2003

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
1 Jan 2005-31 Dec 2006

EMBLEM

None

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

USAF Academy Preparatory Groups and Squadrons are part of the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School. The Preparatory School is designed to academically, physically and militarily prepare qualified young men and women to enter the USAF Academy. If an individual is not accepted into the Academy, he or she may receive an appointment to the

Preparatory School. Like the Academy, admission to the Preparatory School is competitive, with selections made by the Academy director of admissions.

The Preparatory School has a staff of 57 personnel and offers a 10-month program of intense academic preparation, military training, and athletic conditioning, designed to develop in cadet candidates the skills and character necessary to be successful at the Academy. The academic curriculum is focused on mathematics, English, and sciences. The Preparatory School's academic year is divided into quarters, each approximately nine weeks long. In addition to math, science and English courses, the Preparatory School offers a course in basic study skills to help students make the transition to the demanding requirements of college academics.

Approximately 240 cadet candidates enter the Preparatory School each summer. Civilian selectees are placed on active duty in the Air Force Reserves while attending the Preparatory School. Successful completion of the Preparatory School improves one's chance for an appointment to the Academy but it is not guaranteed. If not selected, prior enlisted are assigned to other duties, usually in their previous career field, while previous civilian cadet candidates are discharged from the Reserves with no further obligation to the Air Force. Between 75 and 80 percent of all entering students earn an appointment to the Academy. To qualify for an appointment, students must successfully complete the Preparatory School program in academics, military training, pass the Candidate Fitness Test, exhibit strong ethical character, receive a recommendation from a congressman or the Preparatory School commander and be approved by the Academy board.

Along with academics, athletics, and military training; character is one of the Preparatory School's four pillars of development. The Preparatory School wants students to focus on the positive ideals of the Honor Code: don't lie, don't cheat, don't steal, and don't tolerate those who do. These ideals encompass the theme of doing the right thing and living honorably. Preparatory School students are under tremendous pressure to succeed and face many obstacles both here and at the Academy. The character development pillar is designed to help cadet candidates make the right choice for every challenge.

Military training at the Preparatory School is focused on the Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. Military training is a part of a cadet candidate's everyday life. Upon arrival at the Preparatory School, cadet candidates enter a 18-day indoctrination program called Basic Military Training.

Basic Military Training is designed to orient cadet candidates to the military lifestyle and teach them about the organization of the Air Force, military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, military history, Core Values, the Honor Code and proper wear of the uniform. Cadet candidates receive detailed briefings on the standards of conduct and appearance they will be expected to maintain while at the Preparatory School. To ensure that they uphold these standards, candidates undergo regular inspections of their uniforms and personal appearance as well as their rooms and the overall dormitory. During Basic Military Training, students take tests to determine placement in regular or advanced courses.

The four top-tier sports at the Academy; football, men's and women's basketball and volleyball

are also priority sports at the Preparatory School, where students spend 10 months undergoing athletic development. Academy coaches use the Preparatory School as a place to build future athletes by engaging them in a competitive arena militarily, academically and athletically.

All Cadet Candidates are in the Group with their own cadet candidate group commander. They are then divided into 3 squadrons, each having their own Air Officer Commander and an Academy Military Training enlisted member. Air Officer Commanders are generally Majors and are in charge of cadet candidates training and discipline. The Academy Military Training enlisted member is a noncommissioned officer who supports the Air Officer Commanding and cadet candidates as well as mentoring over the 10 month program. Each squadron also has a cadet candidate squadron commander. Squadrons are further subdivided into 3 flights consisting of approximately 25 cadet candidates each with their own cadet candidate commander.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.