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Parent Information Packet for 2012 Appointees

**Class of 2016**

USAFA

Class Color: “Blue”

On behalf of the South Carolina USAFA Parents Club members we would like to begin by congratulating you, your family, and your appointee! You are about to begin a journey unlike any other you and your son/daughter have ever experienced. The roller coaster ride will soon begin. The experience is unique and challenging. Few have gone before and we are so proud that your appointee will soon be joining “The Long Blue Line” while representing South Carolina.

We are happy to provide you with our Parent Information Packet. Its primary purpose is to provide you, the parents, with useful information and tips for the first few months as you and your son/daughter make the transition into Academy life. While we made every effort to verify and confirm dates that are referenced in this booklet, they are subject to change.

Our parents club is here to assist you in any way we can. Our goal is to provide a network/link between one another, disseminate information, provide assistance, and to support one another and our cadets. Our club members meet in a central location several times throughout the year and hold a covered dish luncheon. This is a wonderful way to build new friendships with our South Carolina USAFA family.

We hope that you will consider becoming a part of our club. It’s families just like yours that make our club so special! A membership application is located on the back page of this packet. Feel free to contact us at anytime. We will be happy to answer any questions or be there for moral support.

Enjoy the remaining time you have with your son/daughter before they depart for USAFA.

Congratulations once again to you and your appointee!

***GO FALCONS!***

**2012/2013 SC USAFA Club Officers**

Co-Presidents: David and Michelle Bishop mnbishop04@yahoo.com

Co-Presidents Elect:

Secretary: Nanelyn Mitchell nanelyn@gmail.com

Treasurer: Irene Dunlap dunlappi@ftc-i.net

Historian: Red Anderson wonred@aol.com

**Graduation gift suggestions for incoming Basics:**

* SUBWAY cards - After school starts they can go to Subway right there in Arnold Hall (only on weekends) but it's a treat for them to have different food.
* A "gift certificate" for a monitor once they're allowed to have one
* For girls - Gift cards (Victoria's Secret) they can use to order from online - after BCT they want their own underclothes and REALLY appreciate the cute, feminine stuff.
* I-tunes cards – They can't use them until later in the year, but they don't expire and will be happy to have them later.
* Digital picture frames filled with family/friends photos – They can't have it until later in year, but you can send it to them once they're allowed.  If they get it as a graduation gift, they can load their pictures to it and then you can take it to them on Parents Weekend (if they are allowed to have it in their squadron).
* Amazon gift cards for purchasing things online

Check with your cadet before bringing anything out for Parents Weekend to see if they're allowed to have it. You will also have time to shop while they are with you, and they will enjoy going too!

Hopefully this will help the new appointee parents to answer the question many friends/family members will have:  What can I get them for graduation????

**Terms-Definitions**

Here are a few terms you may encounter today and over the next few months. For a more complete listing go to <http://usafapcid.org/Acronyms.aspx>

**Appointee:** a qualified candidate who has been offered an appointment to the Academy

**Basic:** the first 6 weeks of life at USAFA, or a person fortunate enough to be undergoing this period of “transition”

**BCT:** Basic Cadet Training; initial 6 week training session during the summer of fourth-class year

**Beast:** nickname for Basic Cadet Training (BCT)

**C1C:** Cadet First-Class (a senior)

**C2C:** Cadet Second-Class (a junior)

**C3C:** Cadet Third-Class (a sophomore)

**C4C:** Cadet Fourth-Class (a freshman)

**Cadet:** an appointee who has been admitted to the Academy and has taken the Oath of Allegiance

**Cadre:** Upperclassmen holding leadership positions

**Checkpoints:** a daily listing of “must-know” knowledge for fourth-classmen (consists of meal menus, days until graduation for each of the three upper classes and who is senior officer of the day); also the title of a magazine published quarterly by the Association of Graduates (AOG)

**CIC:** Cadet in Charge

**Contrails:** the “bible” of fourth-classmen knowledge (contains USAFA heritage information, quotes, and various details of USAFA life)

**CW:** Cadet Wing

**Doolie:** fourth-classmen (comes from the Greek “duolos” meaning a subject)

**Element:** the basic unit of a squadron, about 12 cadets

**Fairchild Hall:** the Cadet Academic Building

**First-Class Cadet:** first-classman or a senior

**Firstie:** first-classman or 1-degree or senior

**Mitch’s:** Mitchell Hall (the Cadet Dining Hall)

**One Degree:** first-classman or senior

**SAMI:** a Saturday A.M. Inspection

**Second-Class Cadet:** second-classman or junior

**Sijan Hall:** one of the two cadet dormitories

**Sound Off:** to speak out loudly and clearly

**Square Corners:** one of the duties of every fourth-classman or “doolie” (they must always “square corners” when walking)

**Squadron:** consists of three flights, about 108 cadets

**Terrazzo:** the large flat area between the dormitories and other buildings in the cadet area

**Taps:** the mournful tune that signifies the end of the day for cadets

**Third-Class Cadet:** third-classman or sophomore

**Three Degree:** third-classman or sophomore

**Two Degree:** second-classman or junior

**Upperclassman:** members of the top three classes at USAFA (sophomores/juniors/seniors)

**Vandenburg Hall:** one of the two cadet dormitories (referred to as Vandy)

**Zoomie:** graduate or cadet at USAFA

**Zoo:** nickname for USAFA

**Things to do / review before reporting to USAFA**

**PACT: (Pre-Arrival Cadet Training):** [www.academyadmissions.com/#Page/pre\_arrival\_cadet\_training](http://www.academyadmissions.com/#Page/pre_arrival_cadet_training)

**Advice to adjust to altitude:** [www.usafa.af.mil/information/baseinfo/altitude.asp](http://www.usafa.af.mil/information/baseinfo/altitude.asp)

**Does your appointee have the correct boots?**

Your appointee will be issued boots. However, he/she may want to get a more comfortable pair to break in before they leave home. Make sure to read through the information sent in the Appointee Handbook to make sure the boot you choose is an approved type/style/color. Some stores/brands that have been popular in the past are: AF Sage Green Nike Boots (seem to run true to size with Nike running shoes), Altama, Rocky S2V Special Ops Boot Air Force ABU Sage, [www.bellevilleshoe.com](http://www.bellevilleshoe.com), US Patriots. Whether you purchase them before or wear the issued ones, it is very helpful to have gel sports inserts. Their feet will thank them!

**What does my appointee pack?**

In addition to what they are instructed to take/limit themselves to by the Academy, we suggest also sending a few self addressed (with home address) stamped envelopes. This will make things much easier for your appointee when they have a chance to write home. We strongly suggest using the American Flag stamps with plain white envelopes and a normal font or print. They do not want to draw any attention to themselves. They are allowed to bring a Bible with them as one of their items. We used a blank page in the back to write important addresses and phone numbers in.

**Should I plan to accompany my child to Inprocessing (I-Day)?**

Choosing to attend I-Day with your child is a personal decision. Some appointees prefer to go alone while others prefer to have a family member along. Some cadets have said having a family member along only draws out the long good-bye, while others enjoy the time with a family member. The only advice we can provide you is that you know your situation the best. Base your decision on that. The good-byes are always tough regardless of where you say them.

**For appointees traveling alone to I-Day:**

The Association of Graduates (AOG) provides complimentary “Bed & Breakfast Program” to appointees who will be traveling alone to the Academy for I-Day. The Bed & Breakfast Program provides appointees the opportunity to stay at the home of an Academy graduate, faculty, staff, or friend. Many appointees participate in this program. Bed & Breakfast hosts are familiar with the Academy and offer encouragement and support to appointees. Hosts will pick up their assigned appointees at the Colorado Springs Airport or at the AOG’s Doolittle Hall and provide a place to stay, dinner, breakfast, and transportation to Doolittle Hall for Inprocessing. Reference this link for more details and information and how to register [www.usafa.org/connect/Bed\_and\_Breakfast](http://www.usafa.org/connect/Bed_and_Breakfast). – **YOU MUST REGISTER AHEAD OF TIME!**

**Advice for appointees prior to I-Day**

* On I-Day Day wear comfortable and conservative style and colored clothing. Wear a good pair of comfortable tennis shoes. You’ll do a lot of walking and standing. Avoid loud or offensive logo shirts. It will only draw unwanted attention. The less attention you draw to yourself the better off you’ll be.
* Be prepared for waiting in lines at I-Day - and more lines and more lines…and waiting, and more waiting…
* The Colorado altitude WILL EFFECT YOU AND YOUR BODY! It is important that you drink plenty of water! It doesn’t take much to become dehydrated. Prepare yourself before you arrive!
* If you haven’t done so, begin by preparing yourself physically NOW. Running is one of the best ways to condition. You’ll be doing a lot of running once you are at the Academy. Don’t wait, start now! Get in the best shape you can and cut out caffeine about one week before I-Day.
* Most appointees find a book bag adequate to carry all their belongings to I-Day. Carry your paperwork in a clasp envelope. It’s a good idea to leave a duplicate copy of your information at home.
* If you haven’t done so, start breaking in your boots if you are going to bring them with you to I-Day. If you don’t want to bring them they can be sent to you later.
* You may choose to arrive at I-Day about mid-point. You probably don’t want to be the first one to arrive; however, you don’t want to be the last one either.

**Support and Mail during BCT**

Mail (US Postal) will be your only link to your son/daughter during BCT (except for Doolie Day In/Out). Most every cadet will tell you that receiving mail from family and friends during BCT made the tough days bearable and for many it helped them through it. Receiving a short note or a long letter is their connection to home. For many appointees, the military life style and rigors of the program are unlike anything they have ever experienced. There’s nothing more comforting knowing they have the full support from family and friends back home. Mail daily! Take turns with family members if every day is too much. Rotate days between one another so your cadet will receive something at each mail call. Remember, they are very busy so keep writing them even if they don’t write back! If you get an extra minute, send a generic encouraging letter for your cadet to give to another one that might not be receiving mail.

**What can be mailed?**

Only letters that can fit into a standard size envelope can be sent. Do not send PACKAGES or tuck candy, etc. into their envelopes. This will only create problems for your cadet if they are caught with these items. Use only plain white envelopes with patriotic stamps. Avoid colorful envelopes, stamps, etc. Tell girlfriends/boyfriends not to spray envelopes with perfume/cologne. This will only draw unwanted attention to your basic. They will prefer to operate in a “stealth” mode. Short funny jokes that they can remember are good to send. It gives them material to use when cadre ask for jokes to make them laugh. If it is their birthday during Basic, write your wishes in a letter. Do not send cards or anything written on the envelopes indicating it’s their birthday. Tell them you will celebrate after Basic, and then don’t forget to do something special for them.

**Where do I send mail?**

Your appointee will be issued his/her address in the Appointee Information Booklet. You will receive a letter from your basic with their information soon after I-Day. Things change each year and are different within each Squad, so these are all just guidelines. Your basic will tell you his/her specific Squad rules and regulations, can do’s, and can’t haves. Your cadets PO Box # will stay the same all 4 years.

**US Postal Service:** Basic Cadet (until after basic) then C4C John Doe, PO Box XXXX (your cadets PO Box), USAF Academy, CO  **80841**-XXXX (Cadet PO Box #) – insure your package and **ask for signature confirmation**

**Fed Ex and UPS:** Basic Cadet then C4C John Doe, 2360 Vandenberg Drive, PO BOX XXXX (your cadets PO Box), USAF Academy, CO **80840** – there is a **small pick up fee ($3.00)** when using these services. Some parents tape an envelope onto the box with the money in it.

**What do I say in my letters?**

Write often with words of encouragement. Avoid being negative or commenting that you’re worried about them. Let them know the hometown news. Keep it upbeat and positive. Update them on their favorite sports team or current events they like to follow. Give them short funny jokes they can remember to give to the Cadre. Don’t dwell on the fact that you miss them, or wish they were at home. If you have bad news to deliver, we suggest you contact one of the parent club officers first. They can assist you in determining the best method or put you in touch with the right person for delivering the news. Chaplains are also available to assist you.

**Parent Handbooks**

The USAFA Association of Graduates should be sending a Parent Handbook to each appointee’s home address sometime after I-Day. The handbook contains a yearly cadet calendar, available services for cadets, contact numbers, etc. This is a valuable tool so keep it in a place where it can be easily referenced.

**Parent’s Weekend: always begins the Friday before Labor Day Weekend**

If at all possible, plan to attend Parents Weekend! Not only will you want to see your cadet, but also they will need to see you! Make a hotel reservation NOW if you haven’t already done so. Many parents fly out on Thursday and return on Tuesday, that way they are sure not to miss out on any time with their cadet. Plus, the doolies don’t want to go back any earlier than they have to. Most families fly into Colorado Springs or Denver airports, while some have driven. To view schedules go to <http://www.usafa.af.mil> look under events, then click on Parents Weekend. **Check the link often as changes are made right up to a week before** **the event.** Note: The events begin very early on Friday morning with you meeting your doolie to attend classes with them. Remember it is a military base and you will need to allow for time to go through security, park, and meet your doolie at the same time as all the other parents. Fourth-Class families get to join their doolies for lunch at Mitch’s. This is a great experience and is usually only for fourth-class families. Have your doolie purchase tickets prior to Parents Weekend to conserve time (this information will be online). Doolies will be released after the mandatory football game on Saturday and won’t need to be back to the Academy until Monday at 7:10 pm (remember to check schedule for changes and know that each squad may have different requirements). Allow time to visit your doolies Squad tailgates before the football game. This is a great time to meet the other Cadets in your child’s Squad, purchase Squad specific items, and meet other parents. It is a good idea to have cash on hand for this as donations are usually accepted and appreciated. Check the following site for information/rules on driving while on USAFA property: [www.usafa.af.mil/information/baseinfo/traffic/asp](http://www.usafa.af.mil/information/baseinfo/traffic/asp) . Plan to wear comfortable shoes, have plenty of water on hand, and dress in layers each day. For information regarding Parents Weekend go to [www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parents/weekend/PW11\_Handout.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parents/weekend/PW11_Handout.pdf). This is information from last year’s weekend, but will give you an idea until it’s updated. Remember to pre-register and print your parking passes before leaving to make things easier. We usually buy group tickets to the football game as a club; more information will follow as the time gets closer.

**IMPORTANT: BEFORE BOOKING ANY AIRLINE FLIGHTS FOR YOUR CADET CONFIRM THE SCHEDULE WITH YOUR CADET FIRST. SCHEDULES VARY FROM CADET TO CADET AND SQUADROM TO SQUADRON. JUST BECAUSE ONE CADET CAN LEAVE AT A CERTAIN TIME DOES NOT MEAN THEY ALL CAN!**

**Dates**

This is not a complete calendar for the school year. We are just providing you with some dates and comments that may be helpful to you within the next few months. While it might not be your sons or daughters specific schedule, it’s handy to have, as you will find your doolie will be living hour to hour day to day for the first few months. [www.usafa.af.mil/institutionalevents/academiccalendar.asp](http://www.usafa.af.mil/institutionalevents/academiccalendar.asp) **EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**

**Appointees arrive in Colorado: June 27, 2012**

**Appointees report to USAFA for Inprocessing: June 28, 2012**

Appointees arrive at Doolittle Hall (AOG Building) starting at 7 AM. The appointees and guests (parents/friends who accompany them) stand in line to receive their Welcome Message. After the message, appointees and guests enter the first floor of Doolittle Hall where they have the opportunity to ask question of Academy Staff Members representing a variety of USAFA agencies. After the appointee is ready, the appointee says “goodbye” to their guests and heads up to the second floor to begin formal Inprocessing. Once upstairs the appointee passes through a number of Inprocessing stations. Note: The time upstairs can last anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 hours. Guests often find this a long time to wait. After completing initial Inprocessing upstairs, the appointee comes back down to the first floor and departs through the back out of the building. Once outside, the appointees step on to the Heritage Trail; then cross over the Challenge Bridge. Appointees then take a short bus ride over to the Cadet Area. The Appointees are met by upperclassmen as they get off the bus in the Cadet Area. The appointees then head up the ramp and move through the rest of the I-Day stations. Many stations are included on this day - medical, haircuts, etc.

Many cadets have stated “I-Day was the longest day of my life.”

**Class of 2016 Swearing in Ceremony/Oath: June 29, 2012**

One of the more solemn occasions is taking the oath that makes them become a member to the Armed Forces of the United States.

This is the Pledge of Loyalty: I, (name), having been appointed an Air Force Cadet in the United States Air Force, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies; foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

 **Tentative Schedule**

 **0730: Briefing in Arnold Hall**

 **0800: Transit to Terrazzo**

 **0830: Swearing In Ceremony**

 **(Arnold Hall is the planned Inclement Weather Backup)**

**Class of 2016 Field Day Sunday: July 12, 2012**

On Field Day, BCT squadrons test their abilities to work as a team by competing against other BCT squadrons in events such as distance races, log relays and tug-of-war. Points earned, added to those awarded throughout BCT for marching, knowledge tests and performance in various other activities, determine which squadron will be named the “Honor Squadron.”

**Doolie Day In** (if they have it): **July 13, 2012**

**2016 Basics go to Pikes Peak Rodeo:**

We are not able to confirm this activity.

**Doolie Day Out: July 15, 2012 (tentative) (Approximately half way through basic)**

Basic cadets are invited into the home of a sponsor family for the day. It’s their first real break away from the Academy. They normally spend the day sleeping, eating, and talking to friends and family back home. It is always a highlight for the basic cadets! No cadre to watch over them!

**March to Jack’s Valley: July 16, 2012**

Following the military and physical preparation of BCT in the Cadet Area, training continues in Jack’s Valley - a dusty, wooded area on the Academy grounds. Jack’s Valley will involve many activities that push physical limits and builds confidence. Cadets become familiar with small-unit tactics and firearms. After a challenging and rewarding experience in Jack’s Valley, BCT training will conclude back in the Cadet Area.

**March back from Jack’s Valley: July 28, 2012**

This time is known as “Blues Week.” It’s a little more laid back than the BCT they have been experiencing the past few weeks. The cadets move into their academic squadrons, meet their new upper class squadron members and begin getting ready for the school year. Computers will also be issued.

**Cadet Wing Returns: August 4, 2012**

For 2015 parents: USAFA will not have buses running to the airports for start/end of Summer Sessions, like they did for Thanksgiving/Christmas/Spring breaks.  Kids find rides with cadets with cars, taxis, or services like the Colorado Springs Shuttle [http://www.coloradoshuttle.com/prices- n-schedules.php](http://www.coloradoshuttle.com/prices-%09n-schedules.php) which runs between Denver Airport and COS (with various stops).

**Class of 2016 Acceptance Parade: August 7, 2012**

The Acceptance Parade marks the end of BCT and the transition into the academic year. The basic cadets will receive their fourth class shoulder boards for their successful completion of BCT and to signify their acceptance into the cadet wing. In a ceremony associated with the parade, new Fourth Class Cadets culminate the intensive BCT ethics and human relations training by taking the Academy Honor Code Oath and pledging to live by its principles. It’s the end of one test but the beginning of another – meeting the new and different challenges that each succeeding year at the Academy will bring.

 **The USAFA Honor Code:** “We will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.”

The cadets are now able to receive packages! Many parents will mail one a few days before Acceptance so it’s there waiting! They can now wear any type/color of underclothes they want to! Take this opportunity to remember those cadets that might not be receiving a package. Most cadets want food: snacks, candy, cookies, and the kinds of things they’ve not had over the last few months. School supplies might also be helpful and included.

**Academic Classes Begin: August 9, 2012**

**Parents Weekend: August 31, 2012 at LMD (Last Military Duty)**

For a complete schedule visit the Academy website at <http://www.usafa.af.mil> look under events, and then click on Parents Weekend. Our Parent’s Club will distribute more information on this weekend as the time gets closer. [www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/index.cfm?catname=Parents’%20weekend](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/index.cfm?catname=Parents'%20weekend)

**Thanksgiving Break:** (Cadets released LMD): **November 20, 2012**

**Return to Academy: November 26, 2012 by 1900**

**Final Exams: December 15th – 20th 2012**

**Christmas Break: December 21, 2012**

**SC All Academies Ball:** **December 22, 2012** – Officers Club at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, SC

Invitations to the ball will be mailed to the cadets home address in the late fall. Cadets, their dates (optional) and their family members are welcome to attend. It’s a lot of fun and a great way to meet others from different service academies – West Point, Annapolis, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines. Mark your calendars now and watch for your invitation to come in the mail.

**Return to Academy: January 3, 2013 by 1900**

**Recognition of Class of 2016: March 9, 2013**

**Spring Break: March 22, 2013 (LMD)**

**Return to Academy: March 31, 2013 by 1900**

**Finals: May 1th – 17th 2013**

**Pictures/Photos**

The Academy in the past years has done a great job posting various pictures on their website [www.usafa.af.mil](http://www.usafa.af.mil) of the appointees/basic journey from Inprocessing to the Acceptance Parade. We encourage you to visit the site often. As early as the evening of Inprocessing there have been pictures posted. Even if you don’t see your child, seeing what they went through is helpful. You might even been lucky enough to see some of our fellow SC basics. Don’t be disappointed if you don’t see your child. Remember there are over 1000 cadets and they are all dressed alike! The pictures will provide you with the feeling like you have some sort of link to them. It’s not easy to find them, and before you know it you will know what other cadets to look for to find your cadet.

The USAFA AOG website also posts cadet pictures [www.usafa.org](http://www.usafa.org) through Web Guy [www.usafawebguy.com](http://www.usafawebguy.com) – however, there is a membership fee for this site. [www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media) and [www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm](http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm)

**Web Resources**

You’ll likely want to bookmark these sites among your favorites. You’ll reference some of them often.

**The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA):** [www.usafa.af.mil](http://www.usafa.af.mil) official Air Force Academy site

**Air Force Sports:** <http://www.goairforcefalcons.com> site for intercollegiate sports teams at the Academy

**Association of Graduates:** [www.usafa.org](http://www.usafa.org) (719) 472-0300 ext 148 The Association of Graduates is the alumni association for USAFA. They post a number of articles, cadet photos, cadet calendar, parent forums, etc. Note: Some access requires membership. They also have a great search engine for past articles, etc. that don’t require a membership.

**Air Force Print News:** [www.af.mil/news](http://www.af.mil/news) Latest headlines from the Air Force

**Academy Spirit:** [www.usafa.af.mil/news/academyspirit.asp](http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/academyspirit.asp) the base newspaper for USAFA

**Rick Broome:** [www.rickbroome.com](http://www.rickbroome.com) Rick Broome is the Academy’s official artist who does the graduating class painting each year. His artwork is spectacular and his love of flight is shown in his artwork.

[www.cadetcarepackages.com](http://www.cadetcarepackages.com)

creativecakesbycarol@yahoo.com

<http://www.patriotsurplus.com>

**Vandenberg Outdoor Recreation**, Vandenberg Hall-lower level room 1C15 (719)333-4602

This is the holiday bus transportation to and from Denver International Airport (DIA) and Colorado Springs Airport (COS). There is a fee and watch reservation deadlines.

**Colorado Springs Shuttle:** <http://www.coloradoshuttle.com/prices-n-schedules.php>

**Colorado R and R:** [www.coloradorandr.com](http://www.coloradorandr.com) travel agency that is located on base at USAFA. They provide discounted airfares, hotels, car rentals, sightseeing trips, etc. You may contact them at 719-333-7367 and let them know you have a cadet. This will qualify you for discounts if you or your spouse isn’t already military members. Make sure to check other sources to make sure you are getting the best rates.

**Famnet (Falcon Pride**) [www.falconpride.com](http://www.falconpride.com) Famnet is a list server which links you to other USAFA cadet parents throughout the country. A brief description of the Famnet server is below. The Falcon Pride site also contains links to other useful information.

**Famnet – What is it?**

Famnet is a list server run by Tom and Doni Harding whose son is a USAFA graduate. FAMNET evolved as a way to link USAFA families together across the country. The information is basically an e-mail post, which is sent to the list server. In turn every member on the server receives a copy of the email post. Many folks use the server to pose questions and happenings at the Academy. In turn, folks respond with answers or expand on the topic. A general overview of what’s happening on the hill (meaning USAFA) is generally discussed. Many of the FAMNET members are just lurkers. They rarely make posts but just read the email posts to stay informed. Before you decide to join you may want to consider creating a separate email account just for FAMNET. Some days the traffic is higher than others. You may receive 30-40 posts a day. Other days it may only be a few. Some days you might not receive any. You only have the option of joining FAMNET if you are the parents of a cadet who attends the Air Force Academy. (Friendnet is for girlfriends/boyfriends and friends; there is also a Gradnet which is for USAFA graduates/families).

There are 2 options in subscribing to the Family Net:

1. Deluge Method: sends messages as they are received

Address an email to info@falconpride.com

Subject: subscribe

Message: name, appointees name, year of graduation, city, deluge method

1. Digest Method: saves 20 messages and then sends them as one email

Address an email to info@falconpride.com

Subject: subscribe

Message: name, appointees name, year of graduation, city, digest method

Once you have subscribed, messages intended for the Family Net are addressed to famnet@falconpride.com .

A $25 yearly fee applies to join the list server. However, the next billing cycle does not begin until September so you can get set up and try it out for a few weeks before having to commit to the yearly fee.

The Air Force Academy (AFA) puts out a **Falcon Family News** pdf every month.  The first page always contains the enrollment data for the month just ending.  The rest is some nice to know information.
 <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/cma/newsletters.cfm> \*\*\*\*Please note that they do not release the Newsletter until around the 15-18th of the next month.\*\*\*\*

**Some quick history for the confusing way USAFA creates the squadrons, flights, etc. during BCT.**

There are 40 squadrons during the school year (1-40).

During BCT, they are broken down into 10 summer squadrons (Aggressors, Barbarians, Cobras, etc.).

In each of those 10 summer squadrons there are four flights (A, B, C, D).

Each of those designations will then go into one of the 40 squadrons during the year (Mighty Mach 1, Delta Tau Deuce 2, etc. etc.).

So while your basic will be part of a summer squadron that is comprised of 4 sets of basics, during the school year those flights each join one squadron.

Believe it or not, at one point their summer squadron will escape your memory as they go through the academy -- though it's a big part of their first summer, after that there is no association with that name (though as juniors and seniors they could be working BCT and then will be part of that summer squadron name but as a cadre). You will always remember what color cap they were wearing and what color lanyard you were constantly looking for in the pictures.

I hope that explanation was clearer than mud......... and never feel dumb for not understanding or asking questions -- we have all been there at one point and we were mentored at that time by the upper class parents, too!

**Here are the BT squadrons and their lanyard colors.**  It will help you find your cadet much easier.

Aggressors - Light Blue
Barbarians - Orange
Cobras - Purple
Demons - Green
Executioners - Navy Blue
Flying Tigers - Red
Guts - Maroon
Hellcats - Yellow
Interceptors - Black
Jaguars - Blue

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT JUST BECAUSE ANOTHER SQUAD IS OR IS NOT DOING SOMETHING DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOUR APPOINTEES SQUAD IS OR IS NOT DOING THE SAME THING! THIS WILL SAVE YOU A LOT OF FRUSTRATION IF YOU REALIZE THIS FROM THE START!**

**SC USAFA Parent Club Membership Form**

\*\*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY\*\*

**Appointee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 First Middle Last

**Preferred Name/Nick Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Birthday:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Mom Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Dad Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send membership dues made payable to: SC USAFA Parents Club**

Irene Dunlap, Treasurer

2835 Joyce St
     Sumter, SC  29154

**Membership Dues:** $50.00 per year and upon payment **include (1) SC USAFA Parents Club Polo Shirt**

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_