

THE MIDDLE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE AIR FORCE ACADEMY PARENTS CLUB



4th QUARTER

APRIL 2023





CLUB OFFICERS – SCHOOL YEAR 2022 – 2023

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The Middle Tennessee Air Force Academy Parents Club is about encouraging and supporting our United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) cadets from Middle Tennessee and their families.

We do this by hosting a few opportunities during the year for parents to gather together and share and learn from each other. We work with the local Association of Graduates (AOG) Chapter on Football Game Watch Parties and their Founders Day Activity annually. This is to encourage the USAFA graduates in Middle Tennessee to get to know our Parents and Cadets. The AOG, in turn, supports our Send Off Picnic in which we celebrate the newest Appointees from Middle Tennessee before they head to Colorado for I-Day.

During the Academic Year we provide support of the current USAFA classes during their milestone events such as Recognition, Exemplar Dinner, Ring Dance, and 100s Night. We also do our best to support the Falcon Scholars and USAFA Preparatory School students as they work to gain their Appointments to USAFA.

Our funding comes from donations made by USAFA families as well as any donations local businesses or community members choose to make. It is important that we get the word out to our communities about the Club so that we can continue to support our Cadets and Families throughout the Academic Year.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

15 April 2023

Founders Day with AOG
3pm – 5pm
at Operation Stand Down

1 June 2023

Class of 2023 Graduation

3 June 2023

Summer Session 1

17 June 2023

Academy Send-Off 2027
1pm – 3pm
at Operation Stand Down

24 June 2023

Summer Session 2

28 June 2023

2027 I-Day

15 July 2023

Summer Session 3





VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

APR 2023

Features in this Issue

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An intro to what is ahead and what people can look forward to

5 Class of 2023 / Class of 2024

No official highlights yet of these classes, but with your support we will have something

6 Class of 2025 / Class of 2026

See above, same message and same strong belief in the parents coming through!

7 USAFA Prep/Falcon Scholars/2027

We have some 2027 Appointee names already, learn who they are!

8 Taste of Home Event

Learn about this event held 16 March 2023!

9 Glossary/Dictionary on Cadet Terms

A great resource for the new parents and a refresher for all of us!

10 Founders Day Event Invite

Learn more about the upcoming Founders Day event being held by the AOG Chapter

11 Calendar of Events

Look at the known events between now and the end of August

12 More to Come / Spirit Committees

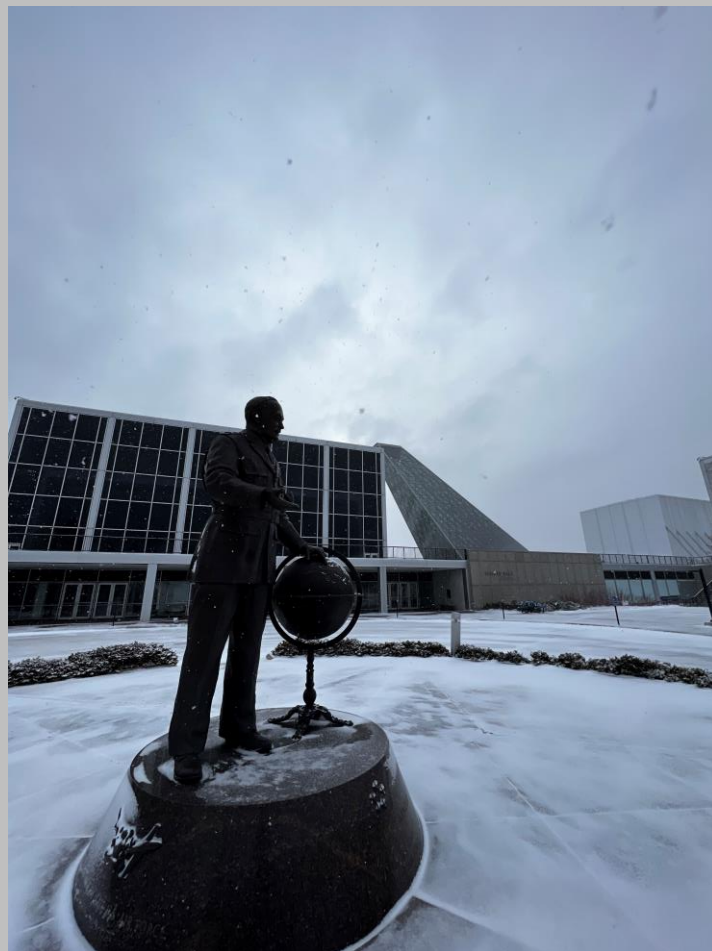
What more we are looking to do with the Newsletter and Spirit Committee Contacts

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A listing of great agencies to help our cadets when the need is there

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Learn about the Pegasus Monument outside of Doolittle Hall (Association of Graduates)



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As you can see we have some exciting new things ahead for our Club and the biggest change seen in a while is the transition to a new set of Presidents. At our Academy Send Off celebration on 17 June you will see Jane and Rob Johnson (son, David is Class of 2025) take the helm as Presidents. They have great energy and a very welcome motivation to reinvigorate the Club. We also have Jennifer Shepard taking on the role of Secretary/Treasurer and thank Melonie Terry for all of her years spent as the Club Treasurer. When taking on the Vice Presidents role during Academic Year 2018 – 2019 we had no idea what was ahead other than a single year as Presidents for 2019 – 2020. Going out to the Academy to lead our third State Night for Tennessee in February 2020 went well, but the very next month the Pandemic hit and with that a lot of change in how we operate. We could not compete with the Squadron Clubs that parents rallied to organize to support their cadets. We could not meet face-to-face for the Send Off that June and the Zoom version of it brought only seven of us online. The next send off was thankfully in person, but still a different tone and our send off for the Class of 2026 found us still reeling from the death of Cadet Fourth Class Adams.

It has been an experience these last 5 years in an Officer role for us and we do hope we were able to provide something to the parents of the Classes of 2019 thru 2027 that brought them closer to their cadets and feeling a part of the family that I joined 25 years ago when I threw my hat up on 27 May **1998** celebrating a hard 5 years (I was a Preppie) in Colorado.

This family continues long after your cadet graduates and so I do encourage those of you reading this that will still be in Middle Tennessee to support the Parents Club however you see fit. Whether it be as a mentor or class advisor and other great roles of support being discussed by our new Presidents and Secretary/Treasurer.

Lauren and I have been honored to serve you all and we hope to do one more bit of service as we work to reinvigorate the All Academy Ball in which our cadets with ROTC and other Service Academy Cadets and Midshipmen are given a Formal Military Ball over Holiday Break. Keep a watch on details.

Sincerely,

Lauren and Kevin Divers ('98)
 Outgoing Presidents, parents of Zach ('21)



Class of 2020/Prep School Class of 2017 Send Off Picnic



First Tennessee State Night 2018



Last Tennessee State Night 2020





CLASS OF 2023 – THOR!

5 Middle TN Cadets

This month's Class Spotlight is on Cadet First Class German Schwartz of Squadron 22 - Raptors. In addition to his prowess at tracking down Mount Rushmore mascots, German's been a soaring instructor pilot for the past two years and is ready for something new to fly. After graduation, he's headed for Vance AFB in Enid, OK to begin Undergraduate Pilot Training. Vance Air Force Base is the northernmost Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training base in the Air Education and Training Command where students learn to fly the T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan II and T-38C Talon. Vance is responsible for training Air Force and allied student pilots for worldwide deployment and Aerospace Expeditionary Force support. We wish German the best of luck!



C1C German T. Schwartz

Major:
Cadet Squadron 22

Career Field Assigned:
*9270 – Pilot Trainee
Vance AFB, Oklahoma*



We want to know about where your Firstie is going! Send an e-mail to mtnafapc@gmail.com with your Firstie's name, major, current Cadet Squadron, and what base they were assigned as well as the Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) they are going to be training for. An example of what we want to do in the end is to the right.



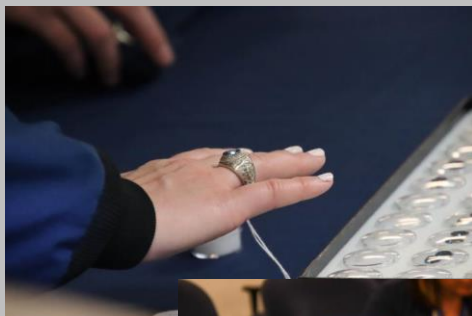
CLASS OF 2024 – ROY!

5 Middle TN Cadets

As exemplified above we want to know about what your Cadet Second Class is up to. This can be their Summer Schedule, Awards and Jobs assigned in the Cadet Wing as well as what AFSC they received on their AFSC Drop. Send an e-mail to mtnafapc@gmail.com with pictures and information so we can share it with our fellow Members.

With the transition to Firstie on 1 June, you too will be impacted as this is the time to start working out those graduation plans. Hotels booked? Renting a house or two? Who all is being invited? What do you need to provide them with? These questions and more can be asked to our group and we will get you the information you need!

Please do not hesitate to use our forum to make your Parent of a Firstie Year as painless as possible, because we know it comes at you fast. Let us help you get the most out of it!



CLASS OF 2025 – PSYCHO!

11 Middle TN Cadets



We are sure your Three Degree cadet is feeling all the Academics they have gone through these last two semesters. This year is mostly considered the hardest year for cadets, making it through the year is a major accomplishment! That being said, send some great pictures from their year, let us know about their Summer Schedule, Awards and Jobs assigned in the Cadet Wing as well as what they may be up to with athletics or clubs. Send an e-mail to mtnafapc@gmail.com with pictures and information so we can share it with our fellow Members. Especially let us know what your Cadet is taking on in leadership roles for 2023-2024. Lean on us to find how to best support your newly minted two degree and their new mobility with cars allowed!



CLASS OF 2026 – NO QUIT! ALL GRIT!

7 Middle TN Cadets



As stated with the other classes we want to know what your Cadet Fourth Class is up to. Recognition just around the corner is huge! Send some great recognition pictures, let us know about their Summer Schedule, Awards and Jobs assigned in the Cadet Wing as well as what they may be up to with athletics or clubs. Send an e-mail to mtnafapc@gmail.com with pictures and information so we can share it with our fellow Members. Especially let us know what Squadron your Cadet is moving to for 2023-2024.

With the transition to Three Degree on 1 June, you too will be exposed to all sorts of new terms and your cadets will be in new squadrons meeting new folks and leadership. Please do not hesitate to use our forum to make your Parent of a Three Smoke Year as painless as possible, this is usually the most trying on our cadets due to Academic load. Let us help you with what challenges are ahead and how to help your cadet!



USAFA PREP CLASS OF 2023

0 Middle TN Cadet Candidates



We do not have any Preppies/Cadet Candidates at the USAFA Prep School. This school is located on the grounds of USAFA and is a mix of recruited athletes, prior enlisted Airmen, and close call candidates who did not receive an appointment with the current Fourth Class Cadets. They spend the year fully involved in academics, athletics, and military training competing for a limited amount of appointments ready at the end of the year. Preppies usually take around 150 to 180 slots for the incoming class and are great resources for the “Directs” who come straight from High School.



FALCON SCHOLARS

1 Middle TN Scholar

Not to be confused with Preppies, these “Prepsters” were all selected by the Falcon Foundation to go to one of five Prep Schools where they look to improve on their candidate record to be selected for appointment to the Air Force Academy. There are up to 100 scholarships in a given year. The Northwestern Preparatory School appointees are the festive ones in Hawaiian shirts that you see during I-day. This year the one Falcon Scholar we knew of made the mark and is one of the Class of 2027 Appointees!



CLASS OF 2027 APPOINTEES

6 Middle TN Appointees

Below is our list of Middle Tennessee appointees as of 30 March 2023. This information comes at us through the Academy Parent Liaison who adds the appointees that have filled out their Privacy Release Statements in the Portal. We will not share the details outside of names with anyone outside of the club and even in the club we will obtain permission to share e-mails or phone info.

Grace Buettner – Brentwood, TN (Bill and Mimi)

Anna Lindsley – Nashville, TN (Paul and Andrea)

Sean McVey – Nolensville, TN (Richard and Jennifer)

Jethro Steinke – Nolensville, TN (Tim and Chloe) FALCON SCHOLAR

Christian Taylor – Mt. Juliet, TN (Eric and Amanda)

Garrett Warner – Brentwood, TN (Chris and Tami)



TASTE OF HOME EVENT AT USAFA

FROM WEBGUY BLOG

USAFA Taste of Home is a parent-led and parent-funded morale event that explores the different regions of the country that the cadets call home. The purpose of this event is to give the cadets a morale boost and a break from their rigorous schedule of classes and military training. This event provides an evening of fun and laughter with familiar foods and other treats from their home states.

The event divides the United States into six regions. The regions are the Southeast, West, Southwest, Northeast, Mountain West and Midwest. Each region brings their signature dishes and cultural traditions. Games and other entertainment were provided. If cadets visited each region, they were eligible to win prizes worth up to \$200.

As a grand finale to this event, an award-winning Colorado Springs band, SofaKillers, closed out USAFA Taste of Home 2023.

NOTE: TASTE OF HOME WILL BE AN EVENT THAT OCCURS EVERY OTHER YEAR. IT IS NOT AN ANNUAL EVENT

The Taste of Home was a huge success! Reportedly, over 3,000 cadets were in attendance. To add to the fun, we challenged Middle Tennessee cadets to locate and take a selfie with our own Kevin Divers, President, Middle TN Air Force Academy Parents Club. The challenging part - Kevin was disguised as one of the Mount Rushmore mascots. Four cadets (one from each class) were successful in tracking Teddy "Dumpster" Roosevelt down and submitting their photos: C4C Harrison Diles (Sq 19 Wolverines); C3C David Johnson (Sq 1 Mighty Mach One); C2C Haily Kim (Sq 15 War Eagles) and C1C German Schwartz (SQ 22 Raptors). Each cadet received a Dunkin' Donuts gift card for their effort. More photo contests to come!



C1C German Schwartz, '23



C2C Hailey Kim, '24



C3C David Johnson, '25



C4C Harrison Diles, '26





GLOSSARY/DICTIONARY FOR APPOINTEE PARENTS

To our Class of 2027 Appointees as well as maybe a refresher for the other Parents...there are many terms, acronyms, and phrases that will be coming your way. Below is a best attempt at capturing some of these terms and phrases to assist you in USAFA speak!

A Hall – Arnold Hall (cadet recreation center and theatre)

AFT – Aerobic Fitness Test (1.5-mile run)

AOC – Air Officer Commanding, an officer in charge of a cadet squadron

AMT – Academy Military Trainer, One of usually two Non-Commissioned Officers in a cadet Squadron

BCT or “Beast” – Basic Cadet Training (the acronym BEAST was a Lackland AFB program; not USAFA)

C1C – Cadet First Class (a senior) / Firstie

C2C – Cadet Second Class (a junior) / Two Smoke / Two Dig / Two Degree

C3C – Cadet Third Class (a sophomore) / Three Smoke / Three Dig / Three Degree

C4C – Cadet Fourth Class (a freshman) / Doolie

Contrails – A book each class is given to memorize as part of their Knowledge Requirements as a Doolie

DI – Dormitory Inspection, night check for accountability

DD or DS – Darling Daughter or Darling Son (term of endearment some parents post with)

Fairchild Hall – Cadet Academic Building

Form 10 – A form to report cadet conduct, good or bad

IC – Inter-collegiate (recruited athlete)

I-Day – In-processing Day, first day of Basic Cadet Training (BCT)

Jack's Valley – Site of encampment training during BCT

LMD – Last military duty

Mitch's – Mitchell Hall, the cadet dining hall

PFT – Physical Fitness Test

SAMI – Saturday A.M. Inspection

Sijan Hall – The newest but most run down of the dorms, referred to as Sijanistan by cadets

UOD – Uniform of the Day

Upper class – Cadets in the third-, second- and first-classes

Vandenberg Hall – The oldest but most maintained of the dorms, referred to as Club Vandy



If you have any questions or more to add to the above e-mail kevindivers@gmail.com



MENTORING COFFEE

A group of appointee moms for the Class of 2027 met with moms from the Class of 2025 to ask questions, share ideas, and get to know each other. No, you don't have to bring only white underwear! Pictured L to R: Andrea Lindsley (Anna Bray - 2027), Mimi Buettner (Grace - 2027), Jane Johnson (David - 2025), Megan Evans (Parker - 2025), Jenn McVey (Sean - 2027), and Mandy Taylor (Christian - 2027).



FOUNDERS DAY

Founders Day Celebration

On the first of April in 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law the bill authorizing an Air Force Academy.

Every year, on or about **April 1st**, the USAFA and AOG celebrate Founders Day with the presentation of the Distinguished Graduate Awards and Formal dinner.



The Tennessee Association of Graduates Chapter welcomes the Parents Club membership to join us on 15 April at Operation Stand Down to celebrate Founders Day at 3 – 5 pm. We will have a mix of parents and graduates at the event to celebrate and socialize.

69th ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY -- THE LONG BLUE LINE

FOUNDERS DAY 2023

COME JOIN US
Founders Day Celebration
 3-5 pm | 15 Apr 23 | Operation Stand Down
 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203
 Business Casual – Drinks and Lite hors d'oeuvres provided
 RSVP tnafacademyaog@gmail.com by 12 April 2023
tnafacademyaog@gmail.com





CALENDAR

APRIL 2023

- 2 April – Cadet Wing return from Spring Break
- 15 April – Tennessee AOG Founders Day Event
- 22 April – Cadet Recognition (4 degrees – no parents)

MAY 2023

- 15 – 19 May – Academic Finals
- 22 May – USAFA Prep School Graduation
- 30 – 31 May – Graduation Week Begins

JUNE 2023

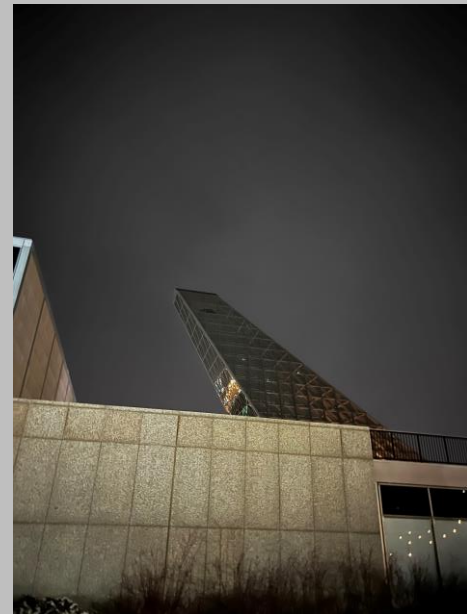
- 1 June – Graduation for Class of 2023
- 3 June – Summer Session #1 Begins
- 17 June – Class of 2027 Send-Off
- 24 June – Summer Session #2 Begins
- 28 June – I-Day for Class of 2027

JULY 2023

- 15 July – Summer Session #3 Begins

AUGUST 2023

- 3 August – End of BCT
- 5 August – End of Summer Sessions
- 31 August – Parents Weekend Eve



MORE TO COME

Our hope with this newsletter is to be a resource for information, a showcase of our cadets, and in general a positive and welcome publication to your inbox. That being said we need to be up to date on your contact info, e-mail the Club e-mail with any changes.

As for how often this publishes, we are first going to go Quarterly with the below expectations:

Quarter 1: April

- News on appointees, First Class Graduation News, Focus on Summer Sessions

Quarter 2: July

- News on Basics, Summer Session Updates, Getting ready A-Day

Quarter 3: October

- News on Holiday Bus Schedules, Fall Semester Jobs/Activities/Sports

Quarter 4: January

- News on Next Semester, AFSC Drops, Recognition, and USAFA Leadership

If the news keeps coming in and there is enough to work into every other month newsletters we may just do that. Monthly will probably remain a tough challenge, but our hope is all members feel heard, supported, and most of all we see what our cadets are doing as they continue through the challenge of the United States Air Force Academy!

SPIRIT COMMITTEE PAGES FOR THE CURRENT CLASSES

- [2023 Parents Spirit Committee](#)
- [2024 Parents Spirit Committee](#)
- [2025 Parents Spirit Committee](#)
- [2026 Parents Spirit Committee](#)
- [2027 Parents Spirit Committee](#)





HELPING AGENCIES FOR OUR CADETS

If you feel your cadet can use any of the below resources feel free to share with them these links. Do your best to let them do the work, as supporting them by providing them their options is a great way to connect and continue to build that trust as your cadet becomes more independent.

- [Area Defense Counsel](#)
- [Behavioral Health Optimization](#)
- [Cadet Nutrition](#)
- [Cadet Fitness Center/ Human Performance Lab](#)
- [Cadet Wing Chaplains](#)
- [Combating Trafficking in Persons](#)
- [Community Center Chaplains](#)
- [Equal Opportunity Office](#)
- [Family Advocacy](#)
- [First Sergeants](#)
- [Health Promotions](#)
- [Inspector General Complaints Resolution](#)
- [Key Spouse Program](#)
- [Mental Health Clinic](#)
- [Military Family Life Counselors](#)
- [Military & Family Readiness Center](#)
- [Military OneSource](#)
- [Peak Performance Center](#)
- [Sexual Assault Prevention](#)
- [Suicide Prevention](#)





Pegasus

Located in the traffic circle in front of the building is the white marble statue of Pegasus, the flying horse of Greek mythology. In 1959 this 8-½ ton statue was gifted to the Academy from the Italian government in commemoration of the institution's inception. Pegasus was located on the north patio of Arnold Hall for 35 years. It was relocated to its present site at Doolittle Hall in 1994.

The Middle is a quarterly publication for the Middle Tennessee Air Force Academy Parents Club. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to write to mtnafapc@gmail.com