



The Air Force Falcons defeat
BYU amid a sold-out stadium on
September 11.

From the Superintendent

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, '76

GREETINGS FROM YOUR AIR FORCE ACADEMY! BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS ARTICLE, THE CADETS WILL BE WINDING DOWN THE SEMESTER AND GETTING READY FOR FINALS AND A WELL-DESERVED WINTER BREAK. IN THE LAST ISSUE OF *CHECKPOINTS*, I WROTE ABOUT MY PHILOSOPHY FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR AND BEYOND—A FOCUS ON BUILDING FANATICAL INSTITUTIONAL PRIDE. I ASSERTED THAT “PRIDE IS ROOTED IN EXCELLENCE, AND EXCELLENCE IS ENHANCED THROUGH COMMON AND CHALLENGING EXPERIENCES.” AS I SHARE WITH YOU SOME EARLY SIGNS OF SUCCESS, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Our cadets continue to shine athletically. On October 30th, our men's gymnastics team received their USGA Championship rings for their first national title, which they won in March. Their accomplishment was recognized during the first quarter of the AF-Utah game, in front of a sell-out home crowd. Leading the team was C1C Nash Mills who collected the title for "best all-around." Men's head coach Kip Simmons earned "National Coach of the Year" honors and was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Continuing the trend of excellence, the Wings of Blue captured their first national title at the US Parachute Association National Skydiving Championships. Some of our fiercest competition came from our second team, who captured third place. The Wings of Blue continue to be fantastic ambassadors of our Air Force and its Academy.

Cadets are also excelling academically. At mid-semester, our 4-degrees (Class of 2014) had the highest percentage of cadets over a 3.0 out of all four classes. That is the first time this has happened in at least 25 years! Our Prep School cadet candidates have an average GPA of over 3.0.

Our cadets have some tremendous role models to emulate such as Coach Troy Calhoun. He has been selected as a semifinalist for the Joseph V. Paterno Award for Coach of the Year. The award is based on success on the football field, in the classroom and in the community. Coach Calhoun is in an elite group of semifinalists that includes Bob Stoops, Jim Tressel and Jim Harbaugh. If you've heard Coach Calhoun speak about our cadets, you would know why he has been selected to compete for this award. His passion for developing officers of character is unparalleled. Congratulations, Coach Calhoun!

Other Academy staff members continue to demonstrate our core values on and off duty. English instructor Capt



From Top: The Men's Gymnastics team receives their USGA championship rings. The Academy welcomes the Class of 1980 as Architects of Transformation at this year's Falcon Heritage Forum. Academy AOC for CS-02 Maj. Scott Poteet competes in the world famous Iron Man in Hawaii. The Wings of Blue take home a national title.



Brian Dumm, '05, won the USAF Marathon! As an officer representative to the Cross Country team, he serves as an outstanding example for the cadets he mentors. Congratulations are also in order for Capt Anne Marie Sibal, a USAFA JAG; she was the top active duty female in the same race (her first marathon). Finally, Maj Scott Poteet, AOC for CS-02, was the AF representative in the Ironman World Championship in Kona, HI. He placed 225th out of 1,778 participants and was the number two military finisher, after enduring over nine hours of grueling competition.

The fall semester is reunion time at USAFA. We welcomed eight reunions, including the Class of 1960, our second class to celebrate their 50th year reunion. We aligned the Class of 1980 reunion with our Fall Falcon Heritage Forum, themed "Architects of Transformation." Cadets benefit tremendously from interacting with our graduates and connecting with our heritage. It is a reminder that reunions aren't just about seeing the Academy and classmates, but also offer a chance to fertilize the next crop.

On 9/11, we paused to reflect on our nation's loss with a packed stadium here for the BYU game. On display was a six-foot twisted I-beam from the World Trade Center, a poignant reminder of the violence of that day. We honored a number of heroes, including 9/11 first-responders Detective Steve Hayden (NYPD) and Firefighter Ken Haskill (FDNY); and Army Capt. Mark Wise, a 2007 USAFA grad who was seriously injured in an attack in Afghanistan last year. It was an inspirational day for cadets, staff, alumni and community.

On October 1st, we celebrated two events that captured the generous spirit of our supporters. That morning, the Class of 1970 dedicated a stunning memorial to our fallen comrades in Southeast Asia. Next time you're in the area, I encourage all of you to visit the Southeast Asia Memorial Pavilion, just northwest of Doolittle Hall on the Heritage Trail—it is truly a touching and reflective place.

Also on October 1st, we broke ground on the Indoor Training Facility, soon to be named the Holaday Athletic Center. This was a great step forward for USAFA, as it will bring our athletic facilities on par with our Mountain West Conference and service academy competitors. As you know, this building was made possible by an extremely generous donation from Bart Holaday, '65, and his wife Lynn. Sadly, Lynn passed away that morning, but we were extremely proud to honor her memory with that groundbreaking. The Class of 1965, here for their class reunion, represented Bart and Lynn. Construction has begun and we are on target for a June 2011 completion date.

On November 1st, we broke ground on another great project, a six megawatt solar array (enough power to run 1400 households for a year). This is a huge step for the 10th Air Base Wing "Falcon Green" program and reflects a strong partnership with Colorado Springs Utilities. The array will be producing power in spring of 2011, and will meet around 11% of our electrical needs.

As we approach the holiday season and have the opportunity to enjoy family and friends, please think of our brothers and sisters in arms who are serving in harm's way, and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice already. If, while traveling, you run into some cadets, please give them a pat on the back to let them know how proud you are of them. Thanks for your continued support of our Academy. Go Falcons! ❏



The Class of 1970 proudly dedicates the Southeast Asia Memorial Pavilion. Cadets brandish their school pride on the terrazzo during the parade. The Holaday Athletic center officially commences construction.