

A large, irregular blue ink splatter or watercolor blotch serves as the background for the text. The splatter is centered and has a textured, painterly appearance with various shades of blue and some white highlights. The text is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, centered within the blue area.

Introducing  
USAFA Legacy Class of 1974

Appointees to USAFA  
Class of 2024

Prep School Appointee &  
Falcon Scholar



# USAFA Association of Graduates Legacy Class Program

- The Legacy Class program pairs the incoming class with the class that entered 50 years before them.
- The Legacy Class offers welcome and encouragement to the paired class as they journey to graduation and membership in the Long Blue Line.
- The USAFA Class of 1974 is honored to be the Legacy Class for 2024.



## Meet the Class of 1974

### '74 Forevermore!

- The Class of 1974 was the 16<sup>th</sup> graduating class from USAFA.
- The U.S. Air Force, founded in 1947, was only 23 years new.
- Our Academy, founded in 1954, was/is the newest of the Service Academies.
- We grew up in the changing times of the 60's and 70's with the Viet Nam War in progress and many challenges to the social norms.
- We started with 1,444 classmates (men only) on June 29, 1970 and graduated 813 on June 5, 1974.
- Class Motto – To Meet the Challenge (Se Opponere Ad Provocatem)

# Off We Went...

- As appointees, we had resumes much like the incoming Class of 2024.
  - Scholarship, athleticism, community service, leadership
- All of us were willing to serve.
  - Some knew they wanted to be pilots, astronauts, engineers, doctors.
  - Many were finding their way.
  - We knew USAFA was great opportunity, but many of us could not have imagined then how things would turn out.
- Hopefully, the following introductions will help you imagine the possibilities and offer encouragement as you start BCT.





## Gary S. Chag Lt. Col. (Ret.) USAF



- **Active Duty** – 1975 -1982 Instructor Pilot/Check Pilot – T-37, Aircraft Commander – C-141
- **USAF Reserve/ ANG** – 1982 – 1994 - Aircraft Commander – C-141, flew in Operation Desert Storm
- **Civilian career** – 1982 – 2017 – First Officer/Captain – DC-9, Captain - B737, Captain - AB319; total USAF & Civilian flying time -29,720 hours. MS – Aeronautical Science (Aviation/Aerospace Safety) – Embrey Riddle Aeronautical University
- **Thoughts on USAFA** – You are about to embark on an experience that you can barely imagine unless you grew up in a military family, which I did not. Just strive to do your best every day and soon you will have exceeded even your wildest expectations.



## Mark D. Halsor Lt. Col. (Ret.) USAF



- **Active Duty** – 1974 – 1980 – Pilot, Instructor Pilot, Flight Examiner – C-130E, Pope AFB, NC.
- **USAF Reserve** – 1980- 1986 – Instructor Pilot C-130B/E - Westover AFB, MA. Air Force Academy Liaison Officer 1986-2002
- **Civilian career** – 1980 – 2012 Flight Engineer, First Officer, Captain B727, Captain B737, Captain B747, First Officer, Captain B767 & B757; currently President of Aircraft Information Services, Inc. and Aviation Asset Management Inc.
- **Thoughts on USAFA** – I owe everything to the USAF, and you can see that my loyalty to USAFA has never wavered. My career, my wife & family and my closest friends all have links to my time at USAFA. You and your class of 2024 classmates are facing the toughest and most rewarding four years of your very young lives. Hang tough and you will be set for life.



## Raymond E. Jeffs



- **Active Duty** – USAF 1974 – 1982 Flight Instructor & Flight Examiner in T-37B; in 1979 was the second youngest pilot to be selected for the FB-111A program
- **Civilian career** - real estate broker & rental property manager, pay telephone company owner. Certified Public Accountant since 1990, in my own practice (still) since 1993.
- **Thoughts on USAFA** – For me to attend USAFA was a tremendous opportunity that is available to only a few. The qualities of character and leadership are essential life skills developed during my Academy time which have opened countless doors in the years since graduation. You will face many challenges during your Academy experience which will prepare you to graduate and take on important duties to protect America's future. Remember that others have gone before you, and we're here to encourage you and support you in your efforts. Focus on your successes and view every challenge as a chance to learn something new.





## James B. Smith Brig. Gen. (Ret) USAF

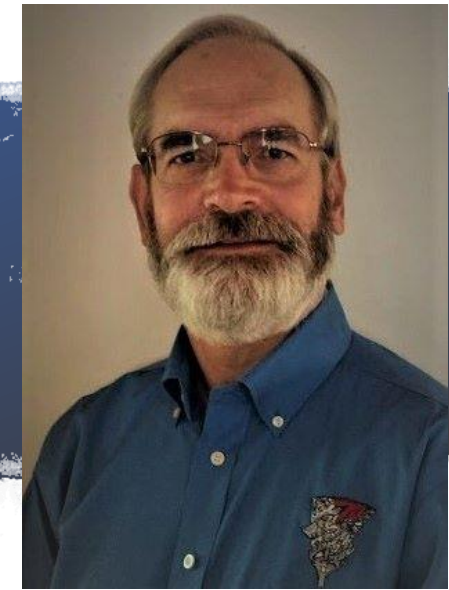


- **Active Duty** - USAF - Active Duty 1974-2002. F-15 pilot; squadron, group, and wing commander. Multiple assignments in Europe, Asia and Middle East. Flew combat missions during Gulf War.
- **Civilian/Government career** – Defense Industry Executive 2002-2009  
U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia 2009-2013  
Established College of Engineering at SNHU, 2016
- **Thoughts on USAFA** – I grew up on a dairy farm in Georgia, and the Academy gave me the opportunity of a lifetime...a chance to do things I had only dreamed about. Be the best at whatever task you undertake. Take care of yourself and your people and all the rest will work out.





## Paul K. Spendley, Lt. Col. (Ret.) USAF



- **Active Duty** - USAF 1974 – 1984 – C-130 Navigator, Instructor, Evaluator, MS Acquisition Management (AFIT), Contracting Officer, Contract Admin. Branch Chief.
- **USAF Reserve** - 1990 – 2002 – Air Force Academy Liaison Officer
- **Civilian career** – 1984 – 2015 – Contract Management & Program Management professional for defense industry manufacturers
- **Thoughts on USAFA** – Truly the opportunity of a life-time for a 17-year-old from small city VT. The many challenges will build character, leadership and strong friendships. Take each challenge as it comes, stay open to the lessons each will teach. Do your best even when days get hard (and they will). Keep a sense of humor, stay humble and be ready for the opportunities to expand your experience.

# Appointees – Class of 2024

- **USAFA Stats** – 66 years – 51,000 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. commissioned – 7,258 Ft Above Sea Level (Far, far above West Point or Annapolis)
- **Stats for a typical entering class**
  - Class size (2023) – 1,147
  - Leadership Data – (Class of 2022)
  - Athletic Award winners – 80%
  - National Honor Society members – 66%
  - Scouting – 20%
  - Class Presidents/Vice President – 17%
- **Meet the Class of 2024 from New Hampshire**



# Riley Deans

- High School: 2019 grad, attended Northwestern Preparatory School, CA
- Sports: Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Ice Hockey
- Other: Pease greeter, hospital and community volunteer
- I have wanted to serve our country by attending the United States Air Force Academy since I was young. The sense of community that the military lifestyle provides has always inspired and motivated me. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to challenge myself and develop my character. I am excited to begin a future with our military and will strive to make my country proud!



# Kaitlyn Dinndorf

- High School: Bedford High School
- Sports: Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field
- Other: Girl Scout Gold Award Winner, swim coach, band leader, active in church activities
- With both of my parents having served in the Air Force, military service has always been on my mind. From a young age, I have wanted to go to the Air Force Academy and have always been fascinated by flight. I am looking forward to the new challenges that I am going to face, proud to be able to serve my country, and excited about making life-long friends.





# Sierra Dinndorf

- High School: Bedford High School
- Sports: Soccer, Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field
- Other: Girl Scout Silver Award, swim coach and instructor, National Honor Society Secretary
- I chose to attend USAFA because I wanted to dedicate my life to some thing bigger than myself. When I was trying to decide what to do with my life, I realized the satisfaction and value of working towards a bigger goal and helping others. I believe USAFA will not only teach me academics, but also help me grow as a whole person. I am extremely excited and honored for this opportunity!



# Elizabeth Flynn

- High School: Bedford High School
- Sports: Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field (Captain of all teams as a senior)
- Other: Bulldog “Top Athlete” Award, CCD teacher, youth soccer referee
- I chose the United States Air Force Academy knowing that it would be an experience like no other. The academy presents the most unique opportunities and challenges that will allow me to grow as a person. I also love that whilst getting a college education, I can give back to my community and do something greater than myself. I am so excited to see where USAFA takes me!



## Evan Haskins

- High School: Pelham High School
- Sports: Football, Wrestling (Captain of both teams as a senior), Lacrosse
- Other: Youth Football and Wrestling instructor, Class President, All-State Honors for wrestling and lacrosse
- Motivation: It has been my dream to serve my country for as long as I can remember. More recently, flying has become a passion I have been striving to develop, and the Air Force Academy will hopefully allow me the opportunity to train as a pilot. That, combined with the best college education possible and the privilege of being commissioned as an officer upon graduation makes USAFA my perfect future.



# Madison Kirker

- High School: Tilton High School
- Sports: Soccer (Captain Senior Year), Basketball, Softball
- Other: Basketball coach and youth league commissioner, Student Body President
- From an early age, I knew that I wanted to serve. My father and grandfather were both members of the New Hampshire Air National Guard and involved in Law Enforcement. I recall being amazed with the great efforts they took to shine boots and prepare their uniforms. In my early teens, I watched my sister's husband progress through and graduate from The United States Naval Academy. Attending his graduation solidified my desire to serve. I applied to all four service academies and chose Air Force because of my heritage and the vast opportunities ahead in Air and Space.





# Chad Teresky

- High School: Berkshire School, MA
- Sports: Football and Lacrosse (recruited athlete for lacrosse)
- Other: All-State lacrosse player, youth coach, Boys and Girls Camp Counselor
- I chose the US Air Force Academy because of a truly unique combination of factors: an opportunity to pursue an outstanding technological education, the daily challenges to help develop my full potential, while one day serving my country as an Air Force officer (& hopefully an Air Force pilot) and fulfilling a dream to play for a Top 25 Division 1 lacrosse program.



# USAFA Prep School

## Ethan Howell

- High School: Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH
- Sports: Football, Basketball, Lacrosse (recruited athlete for lacrosse)
- Other: Youth lacrosse coach, 802 Lacrosse Club and Travel team member
- At a very young age, I watched a family friend--Jay--leave his family, home and community to serve his country overseas. Upon his return, I did everything possible to hear Jay's stories of his service in Afghanistan and Iraq. I was fascinated by everything in his home that depicted his time in the military and his commitment to service. My college dream has always been to play Division 1 lacrosse. I picked up my first stick at three years old. Lacrosse requires hard work, teamwork and competition. I never shied away from the amount of work required to succeed. At the Air Force Academy, I can realize two dreams--learn from the world's best on how to serve my country and play lacrosse among the nation's elite teams. I welcome the work ahead and am honored to have this opportunity.



## Falcon Scholar Northwest Prep School, CA Mitchel Francoeur

- High School: Academy for Science and Design, Nashua
- Sports: Track
- Other: Middle School Assistant Track coach, Boys' State Delegate, Mentor – Nashua Police Athletic League, Owner/Operator Landscape company, NH STEM Scholar
- Ever since I attended my brother's graduation from USAFA in 2018, it has been my goal to attend there. During my journey to the Academy, I attended Boys State and created a Peer Mentoring program for my school. I also served as the Vice President of my school's Red Cross club and coached a cross country and track team. As I prepare to attend preparatory school and eventually the Academy, I look forward to serving my nation's call.

## Off you go...

- As you get ready to enter the Academy and the USAFA Prep School, the Legacy class has some final recommendations.
  - Ask parents, brothers, sisters, friends to write letters or send cards.
    - It may be old fashioned in this day of texting and Instagram, but mail call can be a high point of the day.
  - Take some post cards and stamps – write back when you can.



# Congratulations

- On behalf of the Class of '74, and the members of the Granite State AOG Chapter, congratulations on your appointments to our Academy and selection for the USAFA Prep School and the Falcon Scholar Program.
- We also extend the offer of a listening ear or word of encouragement to you and your parents, if needed.
  - '74 can share how we made it through, how we approached cadet life and our AF careers.
  - For specific admissions or Academy related issues, please contact your ALO or the appropriate Academy staff.

## Contact Info for '74

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***KEEP FLYING HIGH –  
GO AIR FORCE !***

