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Personnel

USAF ACADEMY CADET PROGRAM
RECOGNIZING CADET ACHIEVEMENT



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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OPR: HQ USAFA/DFR (Lt Col Paula Britton)
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This instruction implements AFPD 36-20, *Accession of Air Force Military Personnel*, and establishes procedures and responsibilities to recognize cadet academic, military, and athletic achievements and to provide incentives to stimulate overall cadet performance. It applies to all US Air Force Academy activities involved in recognizing cadet achievements. See [Attachment 1](#) for Glossary of Abbreviations and Acronyms. An (I) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

Addition of quotation marks around the word “With Academic Distinction” para [3.2](#).

1. Achievement Lists. The Dean’s, Commandant’s, Athletic Director’s, and Superintendent’s Lists recognize and reward cadets who excel in academic, athletic, or military performance, stimulate cadets’ interest in improving their performance and are published at the end of each academic semester after publication of probation (academic, honor, aptitude, conduct, or athletic) lists.

2. Quality Points, Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA), Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA), and Cumulative Overall Performance Average (COPA). See *Curriculum Handbook* “Grading” chapter.

2.1. Cumulative Military Performance Average (CMPA). See applicable 34th Training Wing operating instruction.

2.2. Cumulative Physical Education Average (CPEA). See applicable Athletic operating instruction.

3. Graduation Recognition. The Academy Board will determine which cadets will receive recognition at graduation once final semester academic, military, and physical education grades are furnished by HQ USAFA/DFR.

3.1. Distinguished Graduate. The graduation cumulative overall performance average (COPA) is used to identify “Distinguished Graduates.” It establishes the graduation rank order and gives preference for graduate education to the selected graduates. No more than the upper 10 percent of the cadets on the graduation rank-ordered COPA listing will be identified as distinguished graduates. These cadets will be listed first on the graduation program as a group and in COPA rank order. Distinguished graduates will receive their diplomas in COPA order before the rest of the graduates.

3.2. “With Academic Distinction,” “With Military Distinction,” and “With Athletic Distinction.” If cadets have one of these honors, but not **all**, they will receive their diplomas alphabetically within their respective squadrons. See also *Curriculum Handbook* “Grading” chapter.

3.3. Preference for Graduate Education. See *Curriculum Handbook* index under Graduate School Opportunities.

3.4. Intercollegiate Athletic Achievement. Athletic achievement is recognized by letters, numerals, and other athletic awards, as determined by the Executive Committee of the Air Force Academy Athletic Association.

3.5. Cadet Awards Program. Awards for outstanding achievement in military, academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities are described in USAFAI 36-2809, *USAF Academy Cadet Awards Program*.

4. Determining the Dean’s, Commandant’s, Athletic Director’s, and Superintendent’s Lists:

4.1. Cadets may not be on any list at any time if they are also on probation (academic, honor, aptitude, conduct, or athletic).

4.1.1. 10th Communications Squadron (10 CS) computes the Dean’s, Commandant’s, and Athletic Director’s Lists at the end of each fall and spring semester.

4.1.2. Examinations and Records (HQ USAFA/DFRR) maintains these lists.

4.2. Dean’s List. Consists of cadets who have a minimum course load and whose current SGPA is at least 3.0, excluding Physical Education grades.

4.2.1. Fourth class cadets who do not successfully complete accelerated or advanced courses and who are awarded “W” or “WF” grades in those courses are not eligible for the Dean’s List.

4.2.2. Only grades for courses completed during the semester will count for the Dean’s List.

4.3. Commandant’s List. Consists of those cadets whose current semester MPA is 3.00 or above.

4.3.1. Cadets removed from probation at midsemester who meet all other established criteria will be placed on the Commandant’s List.

4.3.2. Fourth class cadets who received an AOC rating of A+ or A for basic cadet training (BCT) will be authorized to wear the Commandant’s pin for their fall academic year semester.

4.4. Athletic Director’s List. Consists of cadets whose current semester PEA is 3.00 or above and who meet all other established criteria.

4.4.1. A cadet must pass all Physical Education Courses, the Physical Fitness Test, and the Aerobic Fitness Test to be eligible for the Athletic Director’s List. See applicable Athletic operating instruction for special cases.

4.4.2. A cadet who is removed from probation at midsemester who meets all other established criteria will be placed on the Athletic Director's List.

4.5. Superintendent's List. Consists of cadets who are on the Dean's, Commandant's, and Athletic Director's Lists.

4.5.1. HQ USAFA/DFRR will compile the Superintendent's list at the end of each fall and spring semester.

5. Determining Achievement Lists for Returning Cadets. Cadets returning after a period of leave without pay (turnbacks) will be placed on any achievement list they were on before they left the Academy.

5.1. Cadets returning after honor suspension, disenrollment, or resignation will not be placed automatically on an achievement list. However, they may earn placement on any list as early as the first reporting cycle after returning to the Cadet Wing.

6. Late Graduations:

6.1. All cadets who graduate late because of circumstances within their control, such as failing a required course, will be assigned a COPA rank order below all earlier graduates.

6.2. Cadets who graduate late through no fault of their own, such as a delay due to medical reasons, may be assigned a COPA rank order equal to comparable classmates who graduated on time.

6.3. All late graduates will be awarded any graduation recognition they would have earned had they graduated on time. Transcripts will note this recognition.

7. Administrative Actions:

7.1. When a cadet is listed on the Dean's, Commandant's, Athletic Director's, or Superintendent's List, the following administrative actions will be taken:

7.1.1. A notation will be made on the grade report to parents and on the permanent transcript. These transcript entries will not be changed if cadets are later removed from achievement lists because they were placed on probation.

7.1.2. Cadets on the Superintendent's List will be granted additional privileges under current Cadet Wing directives.

7.1.3. After a cadet has graduated, his or her permanent transcript will reflect the final CGPA rank order standing in the graduation class (for example, "137 of 992").

7.1.4. The Registrar and Director of Academic Affairs will notify a cadet, in writing, who qualifies for preference for graduate education.

8. COPA, CMPA, and CPEA Listings:

8.1. These will not be made available for public dissemination.

8.1.1. Not used.

8.1.2. The graduation COPA rank order will not be released to graduates before the graduation exercise. HQ USAFA/DFRR will forward the rank-ordered graduation COPA listing only to

Cadet Awards (HQ USAFA/XP) and Graduation Programs (HQ USAFA/DFRL), Media Relations Division (HQ USAFA/PAM), and the Academy Board.

8.1.3. After the graduation exercise, HQ USAFA/DFRR will forward the graduation rank-ordered COPA listing to the Air Force Military Personnel Center (AFPC).

8.1.4. Upon written request, HQ USAFA/DFRR will furnish the graduate with his or her individual COPA rank order.

9. Responsibilities:

9.1. Commandant of Cadets (34 TRW/CC):

9.1.1. Notifies HQ USAFA/DFRR when cadets are to be removed from or added to the Commandant's List due to an administrative error.

9.1.2. Notifies HQ USAFA/DFRR immediately to remove a cadet from the Commandant's, Dean's, Athletic Director's and Superintendent's Lists as a result of being placed on honor, conduct, or aptitude probation.

9.2. Dean of the Faculty (HQ USAFA/DF):

9.2.1. Notifies HQ USAFA/DFRR when cadets are to be removed from or added to the Dean's List due to an administrative error.

9.2.2. Notifies HQ USAFA/DFRR immediately when a cadet is to be removed from the Dean's, Commandant's, Athletic Director's, and Superintendent's Lists as a result of being placed on academic probation.

9.3. The Director of Athletics (HQ USAFA/AH), through Physical Education (HQ USAFA/AHP):

9.3.1. Notifies HQ USAFA/DFRR when cadets are to be removed from or added to the Athletic Director's List due to an administrative error.

9.3.2. Notifies 34 TRW/CC to remove a cadet from the Commandant's List when the Physical Education Review Committee places that cadet on athletic probation.

9.3.3. Notifies HQ USAFA/DFRR to remove a cadet from the Dean's, Commandant's, Athletic Director's, and Superintendent's Lists when the Physical Education Review Committee places that cadet on athletic probation.

9.4. HQ USAFA/DFRR:

9.4.1. Updates achievement lists as necessary.

9.4.2. Prepares the Graduation Program by annotating all records for each cadet graduating with distinction or honors.

9.4.3. Places Superintendent's letter notifying cadet of graduate education preference in diploma box, and forwards copies to AFIT and AFPC.

9.4.4. After each graduation ceremony, forwards rank-order listings of final COPA to AFPC.

DAVID A. WAGIE, Gen, USAF
Dean of the Faculty

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION***Abbreviations and Acronyms*

BCT—Basic Cadet Training

CGPA—Cumulative Grade Point Average

CMPA—Cumulative Military Performance Average

COPA—Cumulative Overall Performance Average (COPA)

CPEA—Cumulative Physical Education Average

SGPA—Quality Points, Semester Grade Point Average