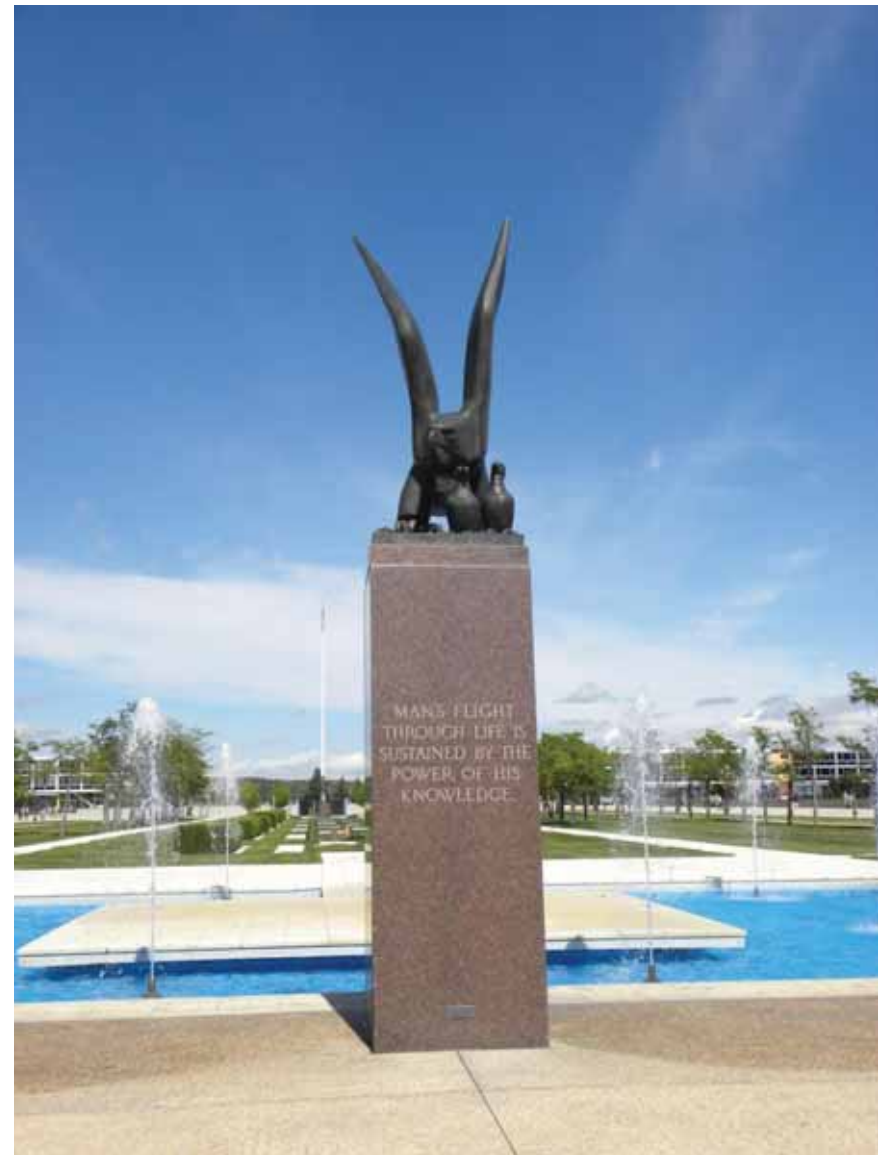


# A Cadet and Graduate Leadership and Character Atlas

*by the Board of Directors and Membership  
of your U.S. Air Force Academy Blue Alliance  
- 2012 -*





Man's flight through life is sustained by the power of his knowledge.

*The Eagle and Fledglings, USAFA Terrazzo*

The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance  
United States Air Force Academy  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

# A Cadet and Graduate Leadership and Character Atlas

*This booklet is dedicated to the countless LGBT cadets  
and graduates who served in silence, nobly placing  
“Service Before Self.”*

*May we never forget their sacrifice and may we always  
seek to heed their example.*



*First Edition: Presented at the Blue Alliance  
2012 Graduation and Recognition Celebration  
Windsor, Colorado on May 12, 2012*



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## PERSPECTIVE

**M**y love for the Academy runs deep. I am proud of what I have accomplished in my life and the ALL of the experiences that I have had. Fortunately for me, I was able look beyond the senselessness of Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT), but I realize others have faced traumatic life changing events as a result of the policy. Having witnessed my father's success and overcoming the many challenges of integration in the military gives me faith that same will be true with the acceptance of gays in the military. My father told me of the difficult times he faced as a black man in the first integrated unit. There were many who told him he didn't belong and he was harassed because of the color of his skin. I know graduates have faced hard times because of their sexuality or their "presumed" sexuality. With the repeal of DADT I hope that those who have had hurtful experiences based on this law can now heal and carry the pride of their heritage and be anything they chose to be.

– Regina J. Brown, MD '85

**A**t my 10-year USAFA reunion, I had the honor of introducing Jenny as my wife to my classmates, most of whom were still active duty. What a beautiful day it was to feel the love, support, respect and inclusiveness my USAFA family extended to us, long before the consideration of repealing DADT. But, now that DADT has been repealed, I am so grateful that active duty personnel will no longer have to wait to feel that same acceptance that I think is inherent in the network of colleagues, friends, and family with whom we all have the honor of serving in our United States Air Force.

– Tara L. Sweeney '95

**A**s a proud American that happens to be gay, let me promise you, flat out, one thing - Gay and Lesbian men and women will serve with dignity and honor, and will be as competent, decorated, brave and as highly respected as any other category or demographic of soldier. – Jeff Breininger '87

## INTRODUCTION

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Tricia Heller '87, Executive Director  
Windsor, Colorado 12 May 2012

A Proposed Cadet Hymn, by Clinton Williams in 1965, states:

From the ramparts we will go into the sky,  
Far away from comrades here,  
To whatever fate may bring: fame, or glory, even death.  
But no matter what may come,  
Life is better, purpose more, honor bright  
Because 'twas here we first beheld,  
What greater thing could be.

Those of us who have walked this path know that each of you is infinitely prepared for every challenge you will face in the coming years. Your education does not end here. You will continue to learn in the great wide world and will become valued members of the greatest Air Force in the history of the world.

Our cherished Alma Mater has helped you develop the needed values, skills, and leadership to ensure your continued success within the Air Force and beyond. This booklet is the first edition of what I hope will become an annual declaration of the valuable lessons learned in transitioning from USAFA to the big, blue world outside.

You are unique. You represent the first cadre of openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning graduates. You will be the focus of much attention – not all positive – and must be prepared to outpace your subordinates, peers, and superiors as a mechanism to weather this focus. We hope our efforts here will place you on the path to success.

Fly Safe!



### Lesson 1:

**B**e true to yourself and the professional you are, always. Live life, take actions and make decisions with the mindset of ‘no regrets’; and have faith that the rest will fall into place as it should.

*-- Tricia Heller '87*

## YOUR IDENTITY AS A USAFA GRADUATE

By the mere fact of your graduation from USAFA, you will be viewed differently within the Air Force. You will often be attributed with smarts, skills, arrogance, and attitude that you don't personally possess, but are elements of people's perceptions of Academy graduates. Take this all in stride. Be proud of your accomplishments but recognize that your success will hinge on your unique focus on achieving your next great success.

**H**old your head up high! You made it through, and you should own that accomplishment along with the insight it brings: dignity undergirds a life worth living. Never be the one to deny it; always be the first to extend it. Pursue what you love; love what you do; imbue others with the same. You'll get better at living if you remember it's only just the beginning. Take exotic vacations; appreciate fine foods. If you ever catch yourself thinking how grateful you are for the people in your life or the things you do, tell them so, right then and right there. You're in the first wave of officers who can live up to that without fear. And then give yourself a moment just to capture the feeling. Blue skies!  
*-- Blue Alliance Member*

Your time at USAFA was focused on forming, within you, a commitment to "Service Before Self." As you graduate, you will have the opportunity to balance service to yourself as you build your life as an Air Force Officer.

Consider that:   The Past is History  
                          The Future is a Mystery  
                          and Today is a Gift  
                          That is why it is called 'The Present!'  
                          - Anonymous

**F**or the past almost four years you've been immersed in a system that asked you not to 'be yourself', to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' I'm sure for most of you that has been a difficult journey, but has also provided great opportunity. You are now embarked on the next leg of your journey with a different set of rules. You now have a choice, you can carry the 'old stuff' with you or let it go and enjoy the Present! You have the power to 'let it go.'  
*--Blue Alliance Board Member*

You are at unique cross-roads. You are the last of us who served under Don't Ask, Don't Tell and recognize, like few others, the importance of open service. While many will focus on you because you graduated from USAFA, you must recognize that you are subtly different from your classmates and fellow grads. Use this difference to positively change the perceptions of USAFA in the 'real world.'





## THE MEANING OF YOUR COMMISSION

The 1950 edition of the Department of Defense's The Armed Forces Officer contained the following charge:

“Upon being commissioned in the Armed Services of the United States, a man incurs a lasting obligation to cherish and protect his country and to develop within himself that capacity and reserve strength which will enable him to serve its arms and the welfare of his fellow Americans with increasing wisdom, diligence, and patriotic conviction. ...Having been specially chosen by the United States to sustain the dignity and integrity of its sovereign power, an officer is expected so to maintain himself, and so to exert his influence for so long as he may live, that he will be recognized as a worthy symbol of all that is best in the national character.”

These pretty heady words speak, albeit in unnecessarily gender-specific language, to the core of your commission. The words “Sacred Trust” are often ascribed to the piece of paper that will hang in your home or office until you’re old.

**B**e proud of who you are and what you have accomplished. Continue to serve with honor and make the most of every day!

*-- Blue Alliance Member*

Again, you are a new breed of openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning graduates of the Air Force Academy. The focus of the Air Force and the American public will be on you and your service. Maintain a healthy pride in who you are, what you bring to the table, and what you have achieved. You will weather the additional scrutiny through the sheer strength of your character and your successes every day.

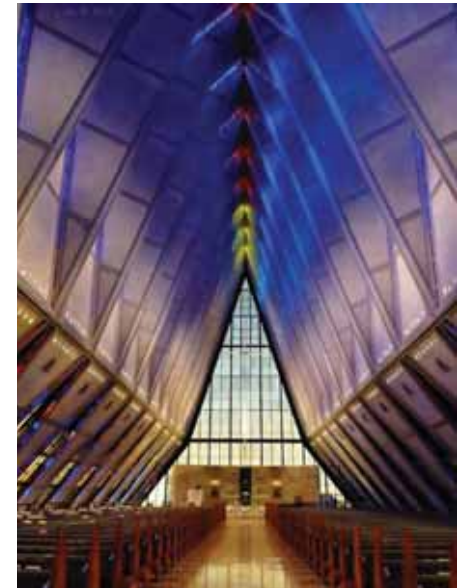
**R**emember you are an officer first, not a LGB officer first. I was a member of the Class of 1980 and remember thinking I needed to be the best representative of a female officer. I realized shortly into my first duty assignment, that I graduated from USAFA as a leader first and foremost. Congratulations to you all!

*-- Blue Alliance Member*

So, as you enter Active Duty service, remember to be yourself. Remember to represent yourself, your Academy, and your leadership and character in a way that demonstrates to the most casual observer that you deserve the great trust America has placed in you.

**R**ealize that you are a personal example of behavior, trust and character and give no one any reason to be able to doubt that. Your career will flourish.

*-- Blue Alliance Member*



## BUILDING LEADERSHIP FROM EXPERIENCE

In The Armed Forces Officer, in discussing General Ulysses S. Grant, they posit:

“...in the military services, though there are niches for the pedant, character is at all times at least as vital as intellect, and the main rewards go to him who can make other men feel toughened as well as elevated.

*Quiet resolution.*

*The hardihood to take risks.*

*The will to take full responsibility for decision.*

*The readiness to share its rewards with subordinates.*

*An equal readiness to take the blame when things go adversely.*

*The nerve to survive storm and disappointment and to face toward each new day with the scoresheet wiped clean, neither dwelling on one's successes nor accepting discouragement from one's failures.*

In these things lie a great part of the essence of leadership, for they are the constituents of that kind of moral courage which has enabled one man to draw many others to him in any age.”

I would give the same advice to any graduating cadet: Work hard, listen twice as much as you speak, and respect the advice of the experienced NCOs around you.

*– Blue Alliance Board Member*

As a young officer, we are all called upon to exert leadership over people and situations that may not comport with our individual experience. Seeing great leadership around you and learning the vital lessons will be the bellwether of a great career.

Listen and learn from everyone you meet.

*– Blue Alliance Board Member*

Asking for help from those around does not diminish who you are or your position within an organization. Call upon others you respect to provide perspective – and oft-needed emotional support – to your development.

There were guardian angels who helped me when I could no longer help myself. There was a General who looked out for me from on high; there was a substantial LGBT group of cadets, instructors, and COS area NCOs linked together that provided a much needed helping hand to restore me whenever possible. Perhaps the most important person in my life was my “unofficial sponsor” John Prentice '82. He guided my neglected character and leadership development, as well as introduced me to the beginnings of my adult LGBT life. In this life I have now found serenity, love, self-respect, kindness, professional success, and above all the truest meaning of service before self.

*– Paul Sanders '95*





## FOCUSING YOUR SERVICE ON INTEGRITY

While your LGBT forbearers wish that each of you could be fully out and loudly proud from day-one of your Air Force careers, we recognize that the Air Force still has some growing to do in transitioning to fully open service. To navigate this transition, we recommend that you “check your moral compass” during every day you are in uniform.

Develop strong values and live them each day. Don't neglect these values when seeking a proper course of action in your daily work. Speak to these values in explaining your decisions. Don't, however, feel compelled to accept organizational values that don't allow you to be yourself.

**R**emain vigilantly aware that the attitudes of senior officers are heavily skewed with a conservative, heterosexual bias rooted in religious beliefs. Although the law has changed and the culture you will enter is, for the most part, inclusive, those who run the show are from a different generation. Live the life you want to live, but just be aware that you are still being judged by your superiors all the time. Although your sexual identity should be an irrelevant factor in this judgment, the latent reality is that in some cases, it isn't. Twenty years hence, when you are where I am now, I think the military will have moved to where we hope. That movement will be largely because of the work you do over the course in your careers to prove that being gay is as irrelevant as skin color and gender. In the words of Theodore Parker: "Look at the facts of the world. You see a continual and progressive triumph of the right. I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice. Things refuse to be mismanaged long." We are now at an epic point of history in the evolution of social justice, but your work is just beginning, and I wish you all the best of luck.

– *Blue Alliance Member*

The Armed Forces Officer states “[Our] military system was founded on the dignity of man, just as was its Constitution. The system has sought ever since to advance itself by appealing to the higher nature of the individual . . . To call forth great loyalty in other people and to harness it to any noble undertaking, one must first be sensible of their finer instincts and feelings.” As you mature in life and in the Air Force, your values will develop. When you universally behave based on those core values, you will build a reputation for integrity, nobility, and valor.

**P**erformance excellence is the best politics. As a Squadron Commander, of a squadron whose prior commander was fired due to poor operations performance of the squadron, I was astounded by how many young officers confused every issue by taking into account "the politics" before making a decision. I had to engrain in them that the best "politics" is excellent operational performance. – *Blue Alliance Board Member*

The ‘old school’ attitude toward integrating into the Air Force was simply to keep your head down and do your job. In some cases, openness about your sexuality may preclude your ability to accomplish this. Working hard and demonstrating unparalleled skills in your work will likely give you the reputation needed to speak positively for you when you're not even in the room.

**B**e a consummate professional first!!! Do not flaunt your sexuality; it is not becoming of anyone, gay or straight. Share your personal life with people only after developing a relationship of trust and equal admiration.

– *Blue Alliance Member*



## MAINTAIN YOUR CONNECTIONS TO USAFA, EACH OTHER, AND YOUR COMMUNITY

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General Ronald R. Fogleman's commencement address to the Air Force Academy Class of 1996, contained the following charge:

"...later in this ceremony as you throw your hats in the sky, and the Thunderbirds fly over, I ask that you take one last opportunity to embrace one another as classmates, to savor the moment of your success, and to celebrate the richness of your futures. And remember that while the defense of the Nation is a serious undertaking, you need not be serious all the time. Take the time to enjoy life and all the blessings that come from being an American."

Your success as an officer will hinge on connections on base and in your community. You, again, are unique in that you are among the first USAFA graduates to serve openly. You will lead the charge to teach Air Force subordinates, peers, and superiors that open service is vital and diversity is paramount to unit success. You will also represent to your civilian community the best, or the worst, that gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning service members are in the post-DADT Air Force.

**S**urround yourself with good friends, and not just folks from work, but civilian friends as well. Your world is bigger than the base and your unit. Get out there and meet interesting people who have no ties to the military. You can pick a cool neighborhood to live in, meet (and date) folks who don't know what "PCS," "TDY," or "USAFA" mean, and you can see that while the military is a huge part of your life, it's not the only thing. DADT, at times, defined us and put us in the box. There is no more box. Just be yourself, be safe, and enjoy your new found freedom.  
*– Blue Alliance Member*

Your predecessors in the long Blue Line each hope that your career will be strife-free. A sure-fire mechanism to ensure that you are fully prepared to weather any storm is available in the friends and

allies you have made during your years at the Zoo. Cherish these friendships and nurture them despite distance and schedules.

Your experience at USAFA is unique in many ways. The friendships you've made can stand the test of time and changing fortunes only if you strive to maintain them. Your LGBT forbearers have, in many cases, re-energized their relationships with the Academy after periods of absence. You needn't allow the fact that you're different to impact your relationship with USAFA.

Commit early in your first assignment to maintain contact with your friends and allies from USAFA. Also, determine the needs within your community which to which you can contribute your time. Reach out, beyond your unit or base, to the larger community. Seek to build relationships that support all aspects of who you are: young, gay or bi, military, etc.



## USING YOUR VALUES TO WEATHER ADVERSITY

The late Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the great communicators of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, offered the following insights:

“We can treat others with the respect due human beings and we will receive respect in return, regardless of race, color, or creed.”

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”

“It is the ideas stirred in your own mind, the ideas which are a reflection of your own thinking, which make you an interesting person.”

“Not to arrive at a clear understanding of one’s own values is a tragic waste. You have missed the whole point of what life is for.”

**S**trive to authentically know and be yourself. This may not always be the best career advice, but it will always be THE best LIFE advice. The deepest meaning of integrity is to respect and honor all of the parts of one’s self: the good, the bad and the ugly. Integrating all of our parts into our whole self is among THE most important of our life’s efforts. Work to discover and honor what is sacred and divine in a way that honors your Truth. While some things are universal, only you can know your Truth. Never forget how to play with childish enthusiasm. This skill will help sustain you through the inevitable dark days of suffering that we all endure at one time or another. Savor all of your moments of goodness. They are a priceless gift.

– *Blue Alliance Member*

As the membership of Blue Alliance conceived this book, we found a common theme through our advice: Be true to yourself. The Desiderata reminds us, “Beyond a reasonable discipline, be gentle to yourself.” Despite strong training and self-awareness, you’ll each hit patches that aren’t as positive as you’d like. That’s the moment you should turn inward and wrestle with what direction your values are directing you to go. Values, fortunately,

don’t come in a ‘one size fits all’ fashion. So, check your gut before you make a move and don’t feel that you have to move on everything at the same time. Give yourself the space to successfully be yourself, while asking for help from others.

**Y**ou have to find people that you can trust that will support you in the unique challenges that we face on a daily basis. Also, coming out during pilot training is quite a bit more of added stress, which is what I happened to do.

You can’t always choose the easiest time though. – *Blue Alliance Member*

Your time at USAFA, while challenging, was protective of you in many ways. The Academy leadership sought to keep each of you out of harm’s way. That may not be the case in the Air Force or in the world. You’ll also be observed and judged – rightly or wrongly – by subordinates, peers, and superiors who may not understand you, your values, or the whole ‘gay thing.’ We hope that you’ll approach each such situation as a ‘teaching moment’ making your unit, your base, and the Air Force a safer place for those who follow you.

**C**autious is advised! It was some 20 years after the integration of Female Cadets to the USAFA that issues of sexual assault, harassment and rape came forth. The polarized positions of DADT’s repeal may well have a simmering effect similar to that, which eventually brought major negative publicity on USAFA. I would advise the LGB graduate that the polarization still exists at all levels of command. Stay focused on your job and enjoy your freedom when off the job!

– *Blue Alliance Member*





## BEING A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN ANY UNIT

Dr Martin Luther King Jr. was more than just a positive influence, as he was the central figure in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. His quotes inspire young officer's to rise to the occasion:

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

Consider yourselves lucky. Your lives will be marked by openness and balance where many of those who walked before you were marred by hatred and fear. We wish for each of you to ‘use your powers for good.’ Contribute to your unit and base in substantive and positive ways.

The Armed Forces Officers offers us that “It is easy enough to chart the course of the individual who is wise enough to make human relationships his main concern.” It goes on further to note, “However adverse the general situation, men will stick to the one man who knows what he wants to do and welcomes them to a full share in the enterprise.”

**B**e patient and do your best at your job. People will judge you on your work so make it the best you can.  
– Blue Alliance Member

**B**e authentic every moment. Live with compassion and enjoy.  
– Blue Alliance Member

Again, you are a member of the first cadre of USAFA graduates who will be able to serve openly. You should dedicate some thought to how you choose to handle this great responsibility. Keeping your sexuality on the positive side of your discussions

with members of your unit is vital. Being true to yourself is equally important, if not more so. We can't advise you on this journey; you'll simply need to walk it alone based on your values, integrity, and conscience.

**B**e respectfully out and confidently proud. Now that I am in a work environment that don't have to hide, I have found that when the subject came up or the opportunity to clarify my relationships or my orientation, I have found that in almost every case where I did, it has built an immediate bridge of trust and respect. As if the other person was thinking "Wow, he really trusts me to tell me this" This with the obvious professionalism and skills required has created some of the most open communication environments I have even had the pleasure of working in. In comparison if my coworkers felt I was hiding something, stressed or uneasy it took a lot longer to build effective communication.  
– Blue Alliance Board Member

**B**e yourself, but be mindful that you are a professional first, and I would suggest not defining yourself by your sexual orientation, but by the content of your character.  
– Blue Alliance Member

**D**on't think of yourself as a homosexual; view yourself as an officer. Make sure others also view you as an officer first, a homosexual second.  
– Blue Alliance Member



## “DIFFERENT” WHERE UNIFORMITY IS VALUED

Eleanor Roosevelt again reminds us that we must be true to ourselves as we serve and evolve in the blue uniform:

“It is a brave thing to have courage to be an individual; it is also, perhaps, a lonely thing. But it is better than not being an individual, which is to be nobody at all.”

**B**e yourself! The Air Force transacts from a position of uniformity and conformity. Driven, and often tired, you may find it easier to conform. Avoid this temptation. Your greatest asset is your personality and your character. Don't allow yourself to diminish any aspect of who you are! The Air Force is better when we all show our true colors.

– *Blue Alliance Board Member*

**R**emember that since you're among the initial group of openly gay grads the straight military will be looking at you with a magnifying glass, judging whether or not it was right to loosen the ties that bound you. Every action you take, on base and off, will be subject to scrutiny, such that if you care about those who come behind you, you'll conduct your military career with honor.

– *Blue Alliance Member*

A common theme in this dialogue is the fact that you will be an anomaly within organizations that remove or diminish anomalies. In this rapidly evolving ‘perfect world,’ however, you will not be alone within the subject organization. In addition to educating and protecting yourself through this process, it is vital that you protect and defend the most vulnerable among us. Use your intelligence and your strength to keep others safe.

**H**elp out those who are scared to come out. Let them know that if they decide to come out that there are people supporting them.

– *Blue Alliance Member*

Each of us will handle these deeply personal issues differently; as pressed by our values, our God, and our training. If you choose to come out, remember that you do this for yourself. If you recognize that someone else within the unit or at your base has chosen not to come out, respect that choice. We never fully know what is going on in someone else's life and relationships, so we should cease any judgment. Additionally, we should be supporting our LGBTQ family, not tearing them down because they have not behaved in the way or ways we expect.





## SURVIVING THE MAGNIFYING GLASS OF LEADERSHIP AND FOLLOWERSHIP

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In a graduation address, the Honorable Harold Brown, Secretary of the Air Force, reminds us of the challenges we face as a young officer and leader:

“The true measure of a professional lies is his ability to adapt to new situations.”

**A**s young officers you will be called upon to lead and to take charge, often in situations where you have little or no experience. It will be important to seek the advice of your senior NCOs, but you must do it in a way so you do not appear pompous, but at the same time avoiding the pitfall of being too "friendly" and giving up your authority.

– *Blue Alliance Board Member*

As members of a rigid hierarchy, you will not always be called upon to lead. Within your leadership training at USAFA, the seeds of great followership were sown. Don't think yourself above any task. Never shy away from contributing to a team effort because you won't realize the direct benefits and rewards. Be the strongest team member you can; it will serve you well when called upon to lead.

**B**e yourself. The most influential leaders are given their authority by the people they lead. People want to know you so they can trust you. AND follow the rules and regulations to the letter of the law. It's not about protest, it's about followership.

– *Blue Alliance Member*

The novel “Lords of Discipline” began with the unfortunate words “I wear the ring” as an excuse for arrogant behavior from an Academy graduate. Many have been called ‘ring knockers’ and attributed arrogance where none necessarily existed. We recommend that while proud of your success at the Academy, you

never be the first person to reference it in any conversation, military or personal. Seek to be a contributing member to your unit and allow the realities of your pride-worthy education be a surprising afterthought.

**D**on't burn any bridges! DO the master's degree...DO the PME, DO the undesirable tdy's...plan for 20+ years in the service, even if you know you're getting out in 5. It's good for the resume, and you NEVER know what twists in the road lie ahead!

– *Blue Alliance Member*

Some service members you will encounter will hold back and observe you to determine if you fit the stereotype of the Academy they have in their heads. In correcting junior enlisted members, NCOs will often chide them by saying “don't call me ‘sir,’ I work for a living.” Be the officer that gets his hands dirty in meeting the unit's mission. Understand that you have more to contribute than your leadership skills. You will be watched and judged by many. Don't leave them with the impression of arrogance, distance, or self-promotion.

## FOMENTING LEADERSHIP EVERYDAY

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President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in an undelivered address in April 1945, reminds us that we hold the key to our future success:

“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith”

Further, Brigadier General Malham M. Wakin solidifies our past and future heritage when he remarks, “there is a special place, east of the cadet area and across the road from the golf course, where many members of the Academy family rest forever. We lose our graduates earlier than most institutions, because of the mission which justifies our existence. This commitment binds our community together as no Greek letter fraternity or other academic tradition ever could. The buildings and monuments of the Air Force Academy in their beautiful setting continue to reassure us that our commitment to country and to principle remains rock solid.”

The graduates that precede you as leaders in the Air Force and in the country are another source that binds our unique community together. The words of Captain Lance Sijan serve as the simplest statements of strength in the worst of situations: “My name is Lance Peter Sijan!” The quietly noble actions of Captain Chesley Burnett “Sully” Sullenberger on the Hudson River give us hope that our training will support us through impossible situations.

Will yourself to continue your leadership training every day. Don't allow decisions and values to become run-of-the-mill or pass you by without notice. Study them and study yourself.

The Armed Forces Officer offers: “Said Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, Chief of Naval Operations: ...I believe [leadership] qualities are present in the average man...whether or not he becomes a great leader depends upon whether or not he possesses that extra initiative, magnetism, moral courage, and force which

makes the difference between the average man and the above-average man.”

**S**tand tall. Be proud of who you are. Take Care of your people like it's your religion. Don't break promises. Be a team player. Want to learn. Represent well. Follow the commander's intent. But, more than anything, be safe.  
– Blue Alliance Member

You will not learn the best lessons life has to offer by talking about them. However, if you develop a strong ability to listen, and to truly hear what is being said to you, you may learn life's most important leadership lessons.

**L**isten and learn from everyone you meet.  
– Blue Alliance Member

Finally, as we've said to you many times before:

**B**e proud of who you are and what you have accomplished. Continue to serve with honor and make the most of every day!  
– Blue Alliance Member



# Bring Me Men!

Bring me men to match my mountains,  
Bring me men to match my plains,  
Men with empires in their purpose,  
And new eras in their brains.

Bring me men to match my mountains,  
Bring me men to match my plains;  
Men to chart a starry empire,  
Men to make celestial claims.

Bring me men to match my prairies,  
Men to match my inland seas;  
Men to sail beyond my oceans,  
Reaching for the galaxies.

These are men to build a nation,  
Join the mountains to the sky;  
Men of faith and inspiration,  
Bring me men, bring me men, bring me men!

Bring me men to match my forests,  
Bring me men to match my shore;  
Men to guard the mighty ramparts,  
Men to stand at freedom's door.

Bring me men to match my mountains,  
Men to match their majesty;  
Men to climb beyond their summits,  
Searching for their destiny.

-- Sam Walter Foss





...Blue Alliance: *A Continuing Mission!*