U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY
Lt. Gen. Michael C. Gould is Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. He directs a four-year academic, military training, athletic and character development program leading to a bachelor’s degree and commission as an Air Force officer.

The general is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy’s Class of 1976. His career encompasses a wide range of assignments, ranging from head football coach of the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, to serving as Air Force aide to the President of the United States.

He has held numerous command positions at the group, wing and numbered air force level, and was commander of Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center during 9/11. Prior to his return to the Academy, he was Director of Operations and Plans, U.S. Transport on Command, Sco Air Force Base, Ill. General Gould is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in the T-38, T-41, KC-10, C-5, C-17, C-21, C-141 and KC-135R.

The general’s military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.
The U.S. Air Force Academy offers a four-year program of instruction and experience designed to educate, train and inspire men and women to become officers of character, motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation. Each cadet graduates with a bachelor of science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

COURSES OF STUDY

Cadets are exposed to a balanced curriculum that provides the knowledge, skills and responsibilities essential to a career Air Force officer. The entire USAFA experience is integrated and mapped to achieve a set of desired outcomes in every graduate.

The core academic curriculum includes courses in basic sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities. Cadets take elective courses to complete requirements for one of 32 major areas of study. About 50 percent of the cadets complete majors in science and engineering; the remainder graduate in the social sciences and humanities. Some of the most popular majors include management, aeronautical engineering, foreign area studies, history, behavioral science, civil engineering, astronautical engineering, electrical engineering and engineering mechanics.

FACULTY COMPOSITION

The majority of the Academy’s faculty members, more than 500 total, are Air Force officers. They are selected primarily from career-officer volunteers who have established outstanding records of performance and dedication. Each has at least a master’s degree and more than 55 percent have doctorates or other terminal degrees in their field of study.

About 30 percent of the faculty are civilians who bring great depth of disciplinary and educational expertise and provide academic stability and continuity.

Faculty members are intensely focused on cadet learning as an integral part of their officer development. The Air Force Academy has been ranked No. 1 in the nation for the most accessible and involved faculty for four years in a row.

To provide greater contributions by a diverse faculty, the Academy has several visiting professors and endowed professors who serve one or more years. Officers from other services, as well as officers from allied countries are also members of the faculty. Distinguished civilian and military lecturers also share their expertise with the cadets.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Academy’s athletic program is designed to improve physical fitness, teach athletic skills and develop leadership qualities. To achieve its goals, the Academy offers some of the most extensive physical education, intramural sports and intercollegiate athletic programs in the nation. Cadets take at least three different physical education courses each year.

MILITARY EDUCATION & TRAINING

An air, space and cyberspace-oriented military education, training and leadership program begins with basic cadet training and continues throughout the four years. Seniors are responsible for the organizational leadership of the cadet wing, while juniors and sophomores seek to develop team and interpersonal leadership and instructional skills.

Cadets are projected into as many active leadership roles as possible to prepare them to be effective Air Force officers.

Fundamental concepts of military organization -- drill, ethics, honor, Air Force heritage and physical training -- are emphasized the first summer during basic cadet training. Freshmen study the military role in United States society, as well as the mission and organization of the Air Force. Sophomores receive instruction in communication skills and juniors study combat and operational aspects of the Air Force.

The Academy offers courses in flying, navigation, soaring and parachuting, building from basic skills to instructor duties. Some cadets may fly light aircraft with the Cadet Flying Team.

Summer training for cadets is divided into three, three-week training periods. There are a variety of programs available and each cadet is required to complete two training periods each summer with leave during the other period. All new cadets take six weeks of basic cadet training in their first summer.

Combat survival training is a required three-week program during cadets’ second summer. For other second-summer training periods, cadets have options such as working with Airmen in an operational unit at an Air Force installation, airborne parachute training, soaring or basic free-fall parachute training.

During their last two summers, all cadets are offered leadership training as supervisors or instructors in the summer programs listed above.

Extracurricular activities also are an integral part of the education program. The cadet ski club, drum and bugle corps, cadet chorale and forensics are a few of the programs available to Academy cadets.

HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY

In 1948, a board of leading civilian and military educators was appointed to plan the curriculum for an academy that would meet the needs of the newly established Air Force. The board determined that Air Force requirements could not be met by expanding the other service academies and recommended an Air Force Academy be established without delay.

In 1949, then Secretary of the Air Force W. Stuart Symington appointed a commission to assist in selecting a site and on April 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized creation of the United States Air Force Academy. After considering 580 sites in 45 states, the commission narrowed the choice to three locations.

During the summer of 1954, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott selected a site near Colorado Springs, Colo. Colorado contributed $1 million toward purchase of the property.

In July 1955, the first Academy class entered interim facilities at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, while construction began. It was sufficiently completed for occupancy by the cadet wing in late August 1958. Initial construction cost was $142 million.

Women entered the Academy on June 28, 1976, as members of the class of 1980.

For information on admission procedures, write to: HQ USAFA/RRS 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200 USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025.
Dr. Hans J. Mueh is in his eighth year as the director of athletics at the Air Force Academy. A retired Air Force brigadier general, Mueh was vice dean of faculty for two years prior to his retirement from active duty in the summer of 2004. Mueh was heavily involved in Academy athletics before becoming director of athletics. He was the Academy’s faculty athletics representative from 1996-2004 and was a long-time member of the board of directors for the Air Force Academy Athletics Association.

Since becoming the director of athletics, Mueh has led the Academy to some remarkable feats. In 2007, the Academy was one of only three schools (Michigan State and Boston College) to reach post-season play in football (2007), men’s basketball and ice hockey (2006-07). It marked the first time a service academy has ever had a team compete in the post-season in all three sports.

In addition, under Mueh’s watch the men’s basketball team has played in an NCAA tournament and the National Invitational Tournament’s Final Four. The ice hockey team won three straight conference championships and made three straight appearances in the NCAA tournament. Mueh was on the selection committee that hired current head coach Frank Serratore and led the Academy’s move into the Athletic Hockey Association.

The football program, the Academy’s flagship sport, has gone through a major overhaul under Mueh. He led the transition from the retirement of the legendary Fisher DeBerry after 23 years at the helm to hiring current head coach Troy Calhoun, a 1989 Academy graduate. Calhoun’s impact was immediate, leading the Falcons to a 9-4 overall mark and a second-place finish in the Mountain West Conference in 2007. The Falcons qualified for their first bowl game in five years, playing in the Armed Forces Bowl in 2007. The program then posted back-to-back eight-win seasons and was 9-4 in 2010, while qualifying for bowl games every year. The school has averaged 9,000 bowl tickets sold during the four-year run.

Mueh has been just as successful behind the scenes with the administration of the department. Mueh restructured the department with an internal/external model that has streamlined resources and made the department more effective from top to bottom. In addition, he has the department on course to become a federally chartered non-profit organization which will lead to more fund-raising opportunities. Mueh was instrumental in the USAFA Endowment and the announcement of the Holaday Athletic Center, an indoor training facility. The $15 million facility was completed in 2011.

Mueh has also been active within the conference and the NCAA. He is a part of the NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet and has been active on the NCAA’s academics/eligibility compliance cabinet, the men’s golf committee and the Region 7 postgraduate scholarship committee. Mueh has been equally active within the conference on various leadership committees. He is currently on the awards and recognition committee and has previously served on the joint council executive committee, and committees on championships, television and sportsmanship.

Before assuming his duties as vice dean at the Academy, Mueh was permanent professor and head of the department of chemistry at the Academy, a position he held since October 1987 where he oversaw the annual design and instruction of 25 undergraduate courses for 1,500 cadets annually.

Mueh was born Jan. 8, 1944, in Celle, Germany, and emigrated to the U.S. in 1951. He entered the Air Force in 1962, as a member of the Academy’s eighth graduating class, and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry in 1966.

While at the Academy, Mueh was a two-year letterwinner in soccer as a goalie. He still holds the Academy record for saves in a game with 30, accomplishing it twice in 1965 against North Carolina and Benedictine. In his junior and senior years, Mueh helped the Falcons to the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Soccer League championship and quarterfinal berth in the NCAA tournament. He was a first-team all-league selection.

Following graduation, Mueh completed two assignments in intelligence before attending the University of Wisconsin where he earned his master’s degree in chemistry in 1970. He later earned a doctorate degree in chemistry from Wisconsin in 1976 as a distinguished graduate. Mueh also completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

Between earning the two degrees, Mueh returned to USAFA as an instructor in the department of chemistry from 1970-72. He also served as assistant soccer coach and played semi-pro soccer with the Aurora Internationals in Denver during those two years, leading the Internationals to the Colorado state title in 1971.


After earning his doctorate degree, Mueh returned to the Academy in 1976 as an associate professor of chemistry. He remained at the Academy except for a stint in 1985-86 as the special assistant for technical matters at the Defense Intelligence Agency at the Pentagon.

In 1986, he assumed the position of acting head, department of chemistry, before being selected for his position of permanent professor and head of the department of chemistry in 1987. As faculty athletics representative, he was active in both the Western Athletic Conference and Mountain West Conference, and was the Academy’s representative on the transition team to form the new MWC, the only faculty athletics representative on the team.

He competes in golf, racquetball, handball and tennis, and has promoted Air Force Academy intercollegiate sports throughout his tenure, beginning with work as chairman of the hockey eligibility committee, officer representative to the men’s golf team and five years as the officer representative to the football team.

Mueh is married to the former Sally Flax of Cincinnati, Ohio. They have three children: Kristine, Kurt and Deborah.

At halftime of the Utah football game on Oct. 30, 2010, Dr. Mueh congratulated the men’s gymnastics team for winning the program’s first-ever USAG National Championship title.
Few schools in the country have an athletic program as extensive as the Air Force Academy’s.

The goals of the athletic program are to enhance the physical conditioning of all cadets, to develop the physical skills necessary for officership, to teach leadership in a competitive environment and to build character. There are three subdivisions of the athletic program: intercollegiate athletics, intramurals and physical education.

The intercollegiate program has 17 men’s and 10 women’s NCAA-sanctioned teams, facing some of the top competition in the nation. Men’s teams are football, baseball, basketball, ice hockey, cross-country, fencing, golf, gymnastics, indoor and outdoor track, lacrosse, rifle, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, water polo and wrestling. The Academy fields women’s teams in basketball, cross-country, fencing, gymnastics, rifle, indoor and outdoor track, swimming and diving, soccer, tennis and volleyball. In addition, the Academy sponsors two non-NCAA programs; boxing and cheerleading.

The majority of the Academy’s men’s and women’s programs compete at the NCAA Division I level in the Mountain West Conference. The Falcons compete in this conference against teams from Boise State, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State, TCU, UNLV and Wyoming. All sports also compete against non-conference opponents, including many nationally-ranked teams.

The football team competes annually for the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy, which is emblematic of service academy football supremacy. The Falcons have won the trophy 17 times, which is more than any other academy. The winner of the annual rivalry visits the White House to have the trophy presented by the President of the United States.

The USAFA Cadet Field House is one of the most impressive buildings in the country. It’s a modern, versatile structure with seemingly endless uses. The $5.6 million building is five stories high and 396 feet by 426 feet, the size of three football fields laid side by side. The structure is divided into three areas—basketball arena, ice hockey arena and multipurpose area. The three sections have a combined seating capacity of more than 9,000.

Clune Arena seats 5,858. The Cadet Ice Rink has a seating capacity of 2,470, while the multipurpose area seats 1,000 fans for track and field competitions.

The department’s newest facility, the Holaday Athletic Center, was completed in July 2011.
CADET FIELD HOUSE INDOOR TRACK

The Cadet Field House is considered one of the top athletic facilities in the country. This multi-purpose facility, built in 1968, houses the indoor track, basketball arena, and ice hockey rink for intercollegiate sports. The indoor track area, which can seat 1,000 fans, is at the second-highest elevation of any track in the nation.

The track is a full-pour polyurethane surface of 268-meters (six laps/mile), with eight lanes on the straight-away and six lanes on the oval. Inside the oval is a FieldTurf surface that includes polyurethane runways for the pole vault, horizontal and high jumps, along with a throwing cage. The field house is equipped with a full-size Daktronics scoreboard and message center along with event-specific AAE field event scoreboards, and a FinishLynx computerized timing system.

In July 1997, the Academy's Class of 1976 commissioned regional artist Michael Esch to paint an eight panel canvas representing the life of an Academy cadet over four years. Each canvas is a 40-foot by 40-foot panel, painted in acrylic enamel that portrays the realism of Academy life since 1976. The panels hang on the north wall of the Field House indoor track and are a gift to the Athletic Department.

MEET ANNOUNCER TOM WESTEN

Tom Weston is entering his 15th year as the meet announcer for the Air Force track and field team. Weston, who retired in 2010 after seven years as the principal at Liberty High School in Colorado Springs, also works with the athletic department as the public address announcer for Falcon football and basketball games.

Aside from announcing all Air Force track and field meets, Weston has been the announcer for the last 14 conference indoor championship meets, as well as the last 11 outdoor championship meets. He has also announced the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) 4A and 5A Track and Field Championships and the 4A and 5A Cross Country Championships.

In addition, Weston is the announcer for the Mountain West Conference Basketball Tournament. He has held that position for the past nine years. He was the announcer at the 2004 and 2008 NCAA Men’s Basketball First Round games in Denver and will serve as the announcer for the NCAA Women’s Basketball Final Four in March 2012.

FACILITY FACTS & FIGURES

- Polyurethane surface with 5/8-inch thickness
- 268-meters (6 laps/mile)
- Eight 42” lanes on the straight
- Six 38” lanes on the oval
- Inside the oval, FieldTurf surface with polyurethane runways
- Two horizontal jump runways
- One pole vault runway
- One high jump approach and take-off area
- One throwing cage
- 1,000 permanent bleacher seats
- Full-size Daktronics scoreboard and message center
- Event-specific AAE field event scoreboards
- FinishLynx computerized timing system
- Elevation is 7,048 feet
After a year of renovation and construction, the $4.1-million Cadet Outdoor Track and Field Complex was completed in August 2011. The project included a complete renovation of the facility and a relocation of the track's radius points, shifting the oval slightly to the north and west, while abutting up against the hillside terrace on the west side. The common finish line was moved to the northeast corner in an effort to take advantage of the predominantly south and southwest winds in April-June. The move of the finish line also allows the 3,500 bleachers on the east side of the track to have a spectacular views of the Front Range.

The Falcons’ new facility features 100,000-square feet of surface installation. The track oval, D-zones and jump aprons are a brilliant combination of “Berlin Blue” and Grey colored surface. The synthetic surface is a “full-pour” polyurethane synthetic, with a light encapsulation top spraycoat of polyurethane to help resist weathering and discoloring due to high UV penetration at this altitude. The oval features eight 48-inch lanes and the widest single radius allowable by the IAAF (36.50 meters, 119’6”). There is an inside steeplechase water jump on the southwest curve and a secondary finish line in the southeast corner for the 100- and 200-meter dashes, as well as the 100- and 110-meter hurdles to take advantage of alternate winds from the north.

For the field events, there are two complete D-zones at each end of the infield. The facility boasts dual parallel long jump/triple jump runways on the homestretch side of the complex, with pits at each end, allowing for competition capability from either the north-south or south-north directions. There are full-length javelin runways in each D-zone so that the throwers may work with the prevailing winds. There is a discus throw ring and cage on the north side, as well as a combination discus throw/hammer throw cage and rings on the south end to provide the best advantage with wind.

There are also dual pole vault runways on the backstretch, allowing for boxes and pits in both the north-south and south-north directions. In addition, there are two additional runways on the north D-zone, allowing vaulters to jump in a west-east direction. The prominent pole vault area abuts against a hillside terrace, allowing spectators to sit on the grassy slope in a casual, picnic-style atmosphere. The high jump will be located in the north D-zone, with the capability of an approach of more than 80 feet in any of four directions.

The renovation cost included $225,000 of in-ground equipment, including cages, rings, toeboards, sand pit forms, vault boxes, pit platforms, communication boxes and curbing. It also included $175,000 of external equipment, including landing pads, standards, hurdles, starting blocks, timing and measuring equipment, covered competitor benches, performance display boards, lane markers and implement carts.

In addition to the improvements to the track itself, several additional amenities were added to the complex. A new “Meet Operations” building was built along the northeast corner of the track, even with the finish line, that will be used exclusively for computerized photo-timing and scoring. The former meet operations building was remodeled to include a press area with data ports and viewing windows on the second level, along with a new team lounge with multi-media capabilities. The lower level will remain designated for storage. An area for sports medicine will be located outside the multi-purpose building during meets.
MISSION PARTNER INITIATIVE | WING OPEN MEET

TRACK AND FIELD MISSION PARTNER INITIATIVE

In the fall of 2011, the Air Force track and field team participated in two Mission Partner Initiative events, as the three elements of the Academy life — military, academics and athletics — came together for dinners hosted by Brig Gen Richard Clark, the Academy’s Commandant of Cadets, and his family.

The men’s track and field team (athletics) was joined at Otts House on Oct. 12 by members of Cadet Squadron 15 (military) and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, while the women’s team (athletics), CS-14 (military) and the Department of Philosophy (academics) held their Mission Partner Initiative event on Nov. 9. Both Initiative events included an “Autumn Celebration”-themed dinner, followed socializing and team-building activities, such as video games and pool.

“This is one of the finest initiatives that has come down from the Commandant in my 23 years at USAFA,” head coach Ralph Lindeman said. “Everyone has embraced the ‘Mission Partner’ concept and thoroughly enjoyed connecting with our partner squadrons and academic majors.”

CADET WING OPEN INTRAMURAL TRACK AND FIELD MEET

To celebrate the completion of the new Cadet Outdoor Track and Field Complex, the Falcons hosted the first annual Cadet Wing Open Intramural Track and Field Meet in late August. The cadet-only competition featured sprints, hurdles, relays, throws and jumps. Cadet Squadron 31 (the Grim Reapers) won the inaugural Wing Open Cup.

MW OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Air Force track and field team will host the 2012 Mountain West Outdoor Track and Field Championships on Wednesday-Saturday (May 9-12) at the Cadet Outdoor Track and Field Complex.

Ticket information and a complete meet schedule will be released on the conference website (www.TheMWC.com), as well as www.GoAirForceFalcons.com.