

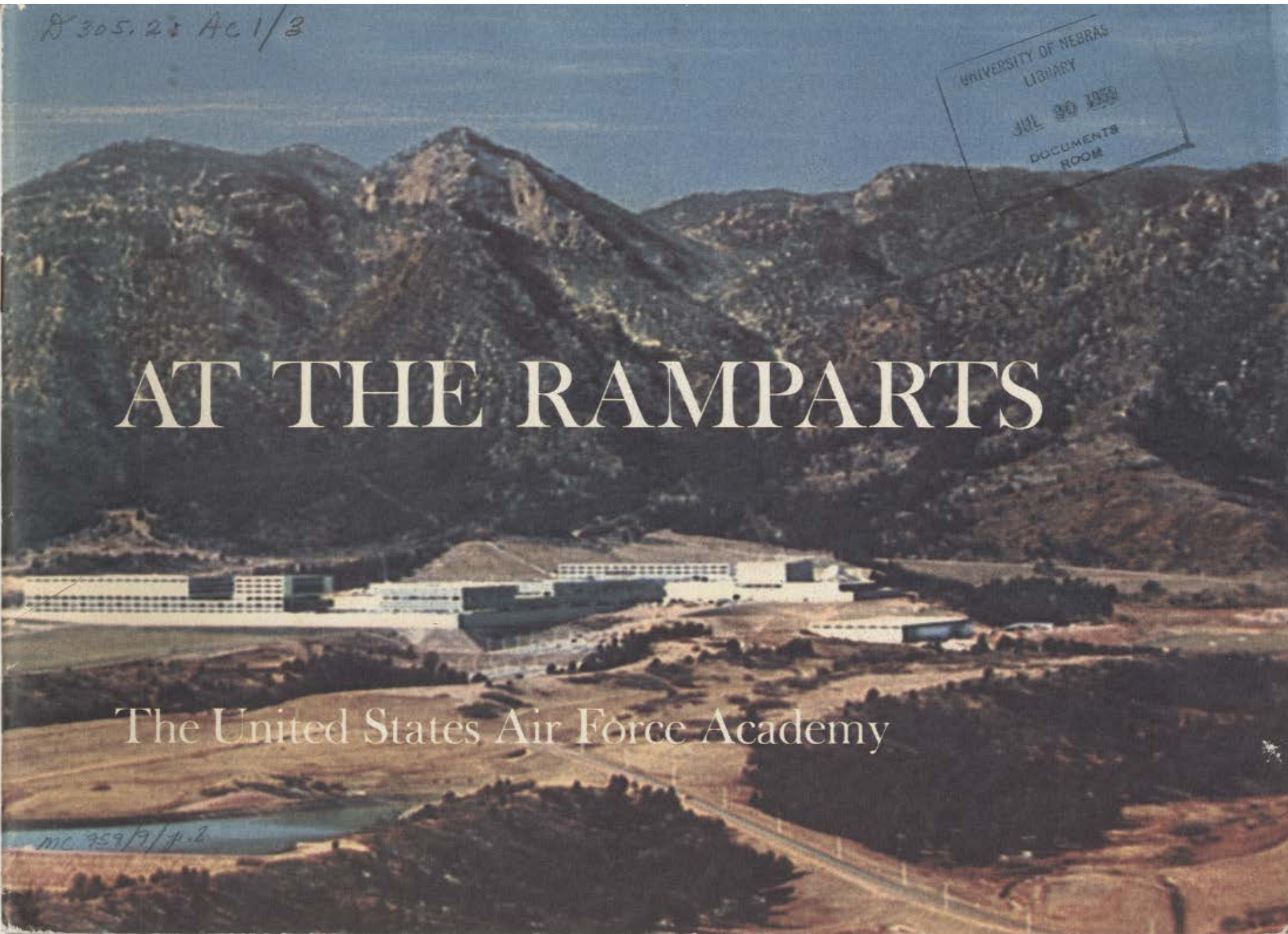
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AT THE RAMPARTS

The United States Air Force Academy

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COUNTDOWN

The First Four Years at the United States Air Force Academy

The personal record of Mr. Brad Beckstrom, member of the first class to graduate from the Air Force Academy.

Only a few more days and I'll be graduating from the Academy. Almost four years I've been a cadet... a member of the first class to enter the Academy, the Class of 1959.

These years haven't been easy. Study, discipline, physical effort have blended together, with each new day bringing a challenge. But I know the result is worth every minute of the effort. I've gained a broad education in the arts and sciences; obtained first-hand knowledge of the Armed Services through travel in the United States and abroad. I have become conditioned physically and have developed leadership qualities for a career as an Air Force officer.

There has been fun along with the hard work. And through it all a lot of fellowship has grown among the cadets. Our off-duty hours have been occupied with social events, hobbies, sports and organized cadet activities.

Soon I'll be leaving the Academy and going on to pilot training...then to an Air Force unit where I hope to begin making contributions to

the nation's security and to the progress of aviation in this aerospace age.

I'll miss the Academy and the Rampart Range which forms a magnificent background for the campus. There is an atmosphere of greatness here. Nestled against these high Ramparts are the modern Academy buildings, impressive in their design, construction and purpose.

Yes, the Air Force Academy will live in my memories. These pictures I've collected will help me to remember all the experiences I've had as an Air Force cadet. And they'll show others what cadet life is like.

It will never happen again this way. The names, the faces and the dates you see here are the unique record of our class, the first to pass this way. Those who follow will spend four full years at the new Academy, whereas we in the first class spent only one. They will have many advantages that we lacked. But whether the class is the ninth or the ninety-ninth, most things won't change. There'll be hard work and good times, lessons learned and a sense of accomplishment as they go through the great countdown as I did—through the Fourth, the Third, the Second, and the First Class to graduation.



countdown...



July 11, 1955—Dedication Day for the United States Air Force Academy. We were new cadets, the first Academy class, and we heard General Nathan F. Twining and Air Force Secretary Harold E. Talbott speak of the Academy mission and our future as Air Force officers. The place was Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, temporary Academy site.



The permanent Academy site, near Colorado Springs, is on 17,900 acres of former ranch land at the foot of the Rampart Range of the Rockies. Here's the picturesque site before construction began in 1955.

the long road from **FOUR**



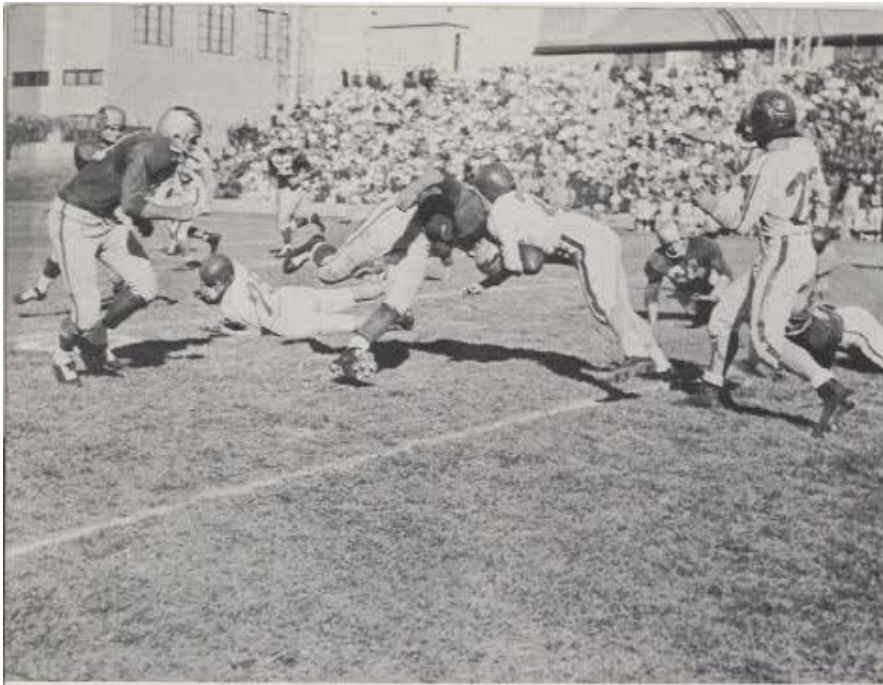
Academy life begins...first, two months of rigorous conditioning, a transition from civilian to military life. Air Training Officers, acting as our upperclassmen, introduced us to the oft-repeated order: "Shoulders back, chin in, chest out!"

Judo...strenuous but challenging. Physical conditioning during our first summer was rough, plenty rough. But we're not training for an ordinary career. We're preparing for Air Force leadership in the active aerospace age. Endurance and courage are musts!

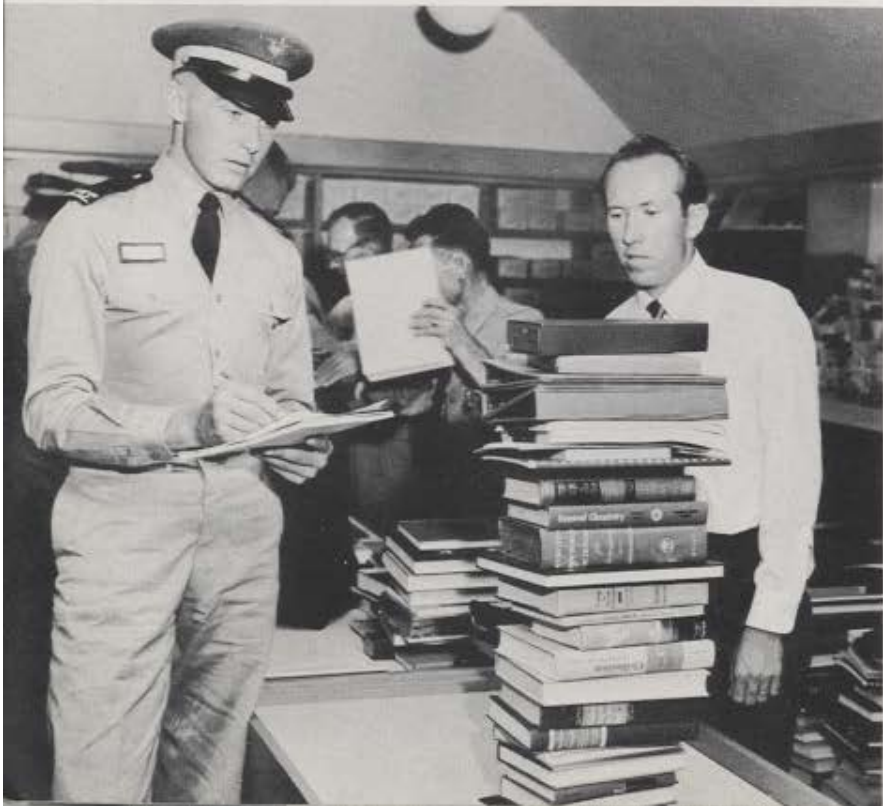


September, 1955—President Eisenhower visited the Academy, wished us success during four years of professional education. The year before, the President had signed the Congressional act authorizing an academy for the Air Force.





The first Air Force Academy football game, October 8, 1955, and a victory for the Air Force team. Academy Fourth Classmen (in dark jerseys) won over Denver University freshmen, 38-14. The game was played at Denver University stadium before a crowd of nearly 18,000...a record for a freshman game.



Books, books, more books... "All for me?" wondered this classmate. It was the beginning of our Fourth Class academic term. We were called "Fourth Classmen" in military academy tradition, instead of the civilian college title of "Freshmen."



We began formal education in sciences, social sciences and humanities. This was History 101, a typical academic class...small, informal, taught by an Air Force officer with advanced education and professional teaching experience.



It wasn't all classroom. In addition to academic studies, our airmanship instruction included military, physical and navigation training. Here members of a navigation class experience sluggish physical reactions as the oxygen supply is cut off briefly in the altitude chamber.



Study, lots of it...about 1½ hours for every academic class. Here a classmate prepares his geography lesson at the Academy Library.





The Cadet Wing in review. Precision marching, a part of Cadet Wing command training, develops discipline and leadership qualities.

Yuletide and a tree trimming party. We were not permitted to go home during our first Christmas at the Academy...but home came to us! Parents and girl friends visited; the social schedule was full.



Skiing at Rocky Mountain resorts...popular with our class, and a novelty to many southern cadets. Skiing is one of many sports in the physical education program, available on an intramural or intercollegiate basis.



A formal dance...the first of a number we were to enjoy at the Academy...was the holiday highlight at the Cadet Social Center. Dating, dancing...it was a great feeling after six hard months of discipline with few social privileges.



Every Sunday...worship. The Academy teaches religious and moral values, which are essential to Air Force officers who will lead others. Each cadet must attend Sunday services in the faith of his choice... Protestant, Catholic or Jewish.



A track meet with West Point in the spring of 1956 ... a big event for our team, as this marked the first athletic contest with the Military Academy.

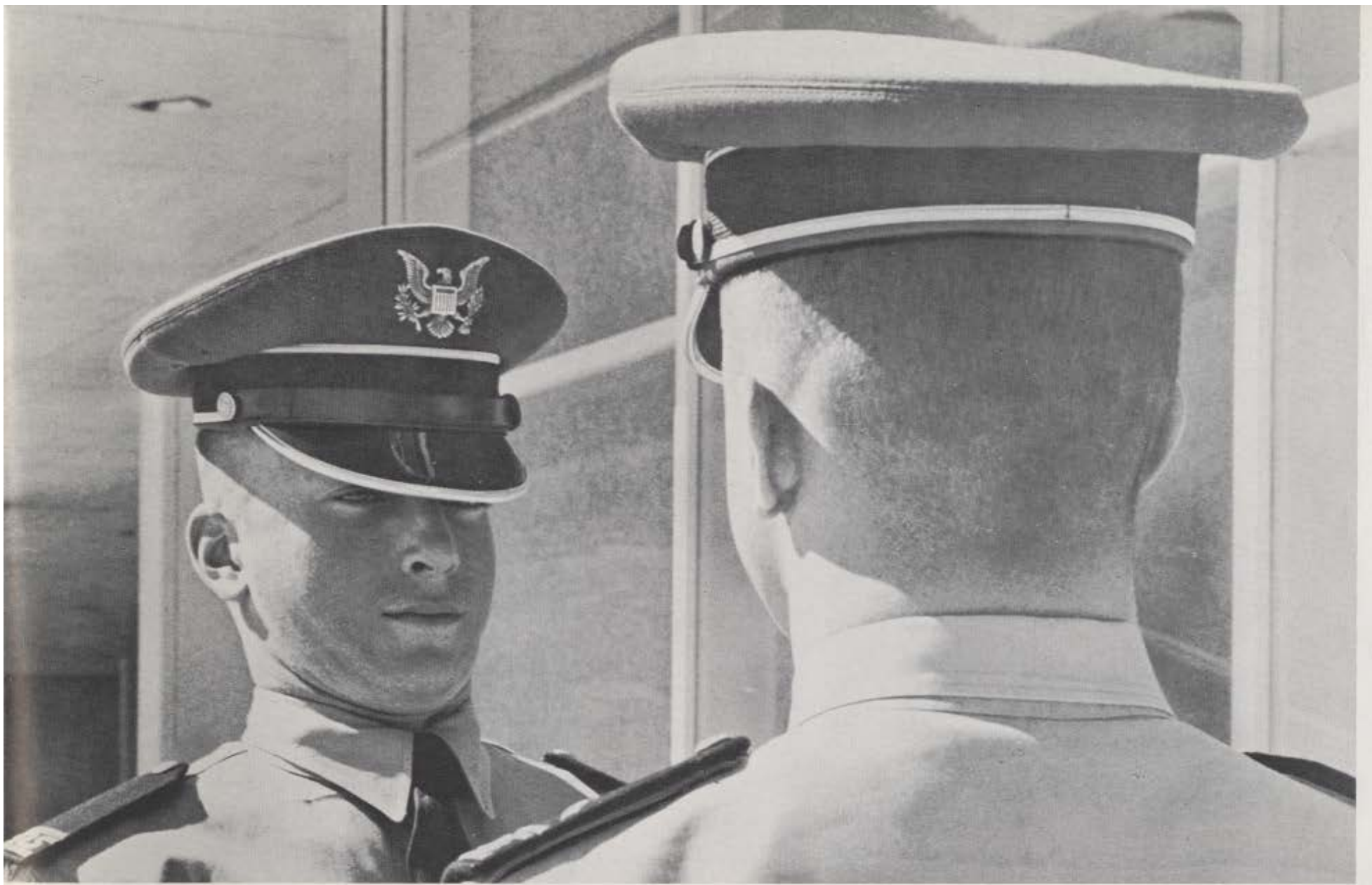
Basketball games... as spectators or players... brought respite from spring term studies. This was a familiar scene; Cadet Bob Beckel, star of our AFA team, leaping in the air to score.





One year from the beginning of countdown... Recognition Day, the day we became upperclassmen. Propeller and wings collar insignia, pinned on by Air Training Officers, signified our advancement to Third Classmen.

countdown...



the welcome view from **THREE**



July, 1956—the Class of 1960 was admitted. As upperclassmen, we assisted in the military supervision of new cadets. Upper-class status brings new responsibilities, increased privileges... already a sense of achievement as the countdown continues.

His own cake...a Cadet Dining Hall custom on a cadet's first birthday at the Academy. This classmate mirrored the pleasure of others so honored as he accepted his cake.



First field trip... a tour of operational bases of Air Force combat commands. Here at Langley AFB, Virginia, a fighter pilot explains the cockpit instruments of an F-84 jet to members of our class. Following the field trip, the summer brought two weeks of pilot indoctrination at an Air Training Command base... and a month of home leave!



Back to the Academy for the beginning of the Third Class academic year. Colonel Robert F. McDermott, Dean of Faculty, briefed members of our class on the curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science degree.



Another type of air training. To develop competence in public speaking, our class organized the Forensic Association, one of several special cadet activities. Here debaters are shown practicing for an intercollegiate debate tournament.



The Soaring Club...an extremely popular cadet activity. On weekends, Academy officers instruct club members in the art of flying gliders and sailplanes.





Ham radio hobbyists enjoy operating their receiver and transmitter as another extracurricular activity. Here two members of the Cadet Radio Club answer to their call letters...WOSGC.



Fall of 1956—With construction of the permanent Academy in full swing, Major General James E. Briggs, Academy Superintendent, explained to staff members of the cadet magazine, "The Talon," the design of cadet area buildings.



The falcon... a bird with the strength and speed of a plane, the keen eye and courage of a pilot... was adopted as the Academy mascot. Cadets of our class volunteered to train the Academy falcons as hunters.

Football season, 1956—first public performances of the flying falcons and their cadet handlers. This falcon put on a beautifully executed flying demonstration before seizing the lure proffered by his handler.



Thanksgiving dinner, 1956, in the Cadet Dining Hall...a feast expertly prepared and served in style. And the meals are good all year through, three times a day, with "seconds" always available to satisfy hearty appetites.

Enjoying the increased freedom and privileges of upperclassmen, we entertained dates on Saturday nights at the Cadet Social Center. The result: many memories of happy times.





Washington, January, 1957—The Cadet Wing attended a reception given by Air Force Secretary Donald Quarles (standing by the U.S. flag). An honored guest was General Nathan F. Twining, Air Force Chief of Staff (later to become Chairman, Joint

Chiefs of Staff), shown shaking hands with a cadet. We were invited to Washington to march in the Presidential inauguration parade. We were growing in stature as cadets, and as an academy, as we prepared for advancement to the Second Class.

countdown...



the big challenge of TWO



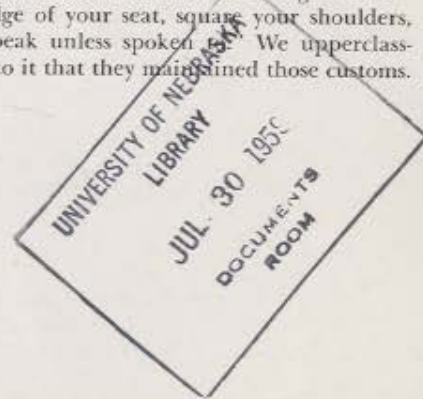


The Class of 1961 was sworn in as cadets in July, 1957. To be eligible for appointment as a cadet, a young man must be at least 17 and not yet 22 years of age on July 1 of the year admitted; must be nominated by a Member of Congress or other authorized source; must meet certain high standards in academic and physical examinations.



Perfect rear echelon! These new cadets follow Fourth Class customs in the Cadet Dining Hall: "Sit on the edge of your seat, square your shoulders, do not speak unless spoken to." We upperclassmen saw to it that they maintained those customs.

Distinctive cadet uniforms...designed by Cecil B. deMille and his staff...were introduced at the Academy in the spring of 1957. Modeled by cadets, from left, are the summer parade dress, winter dress, and winter parade dress. Other uniforms are the lightweight summer dress and evening dress for formal wear.

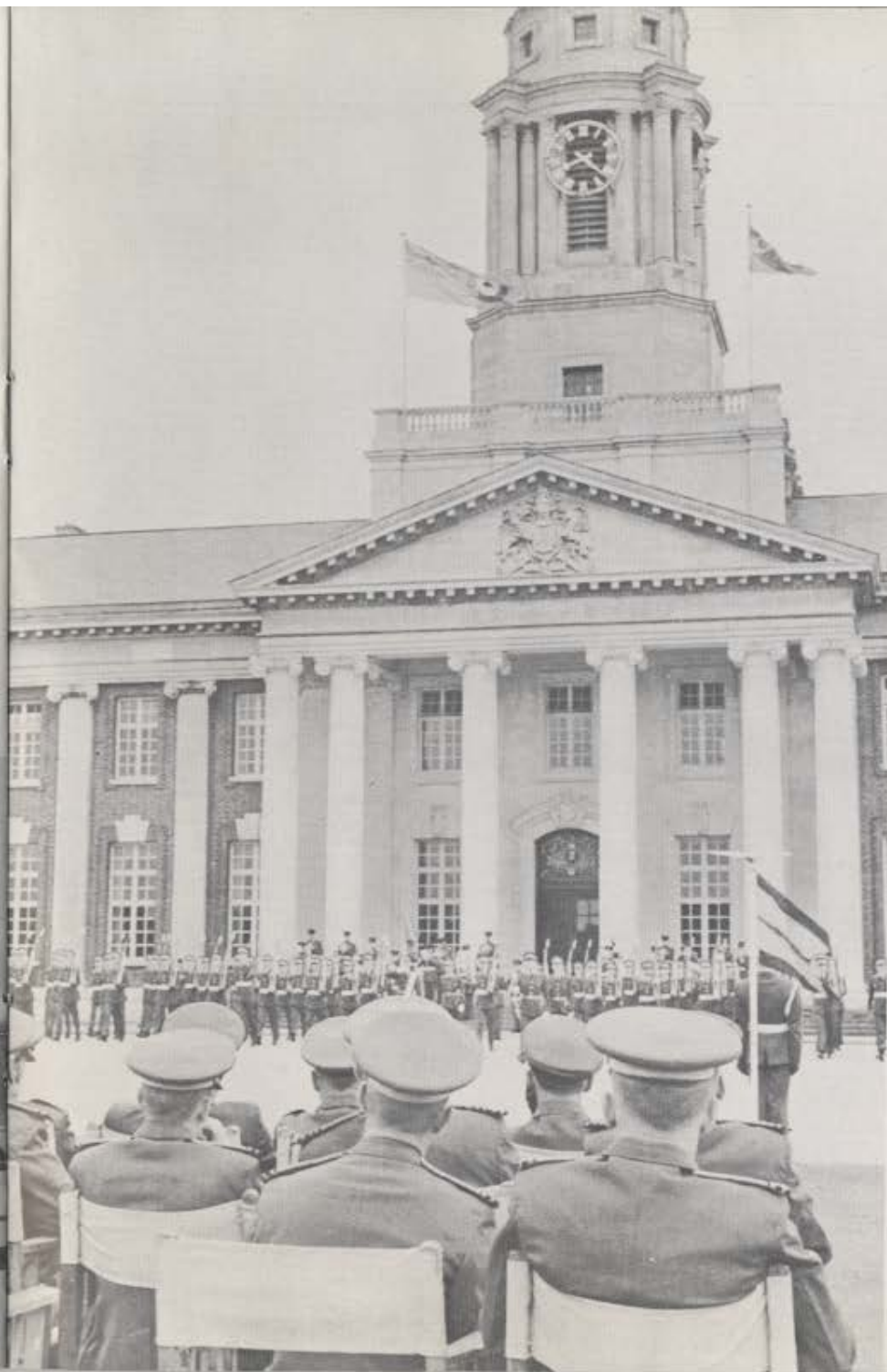




New cadets complete their summer airmanship indoctrination with a one-week forward airstrip encampment ...where they take their first jet aircraft ride and become acquainted with the airplane. Here Fourth Classmen inspect aircraft armament at the encampment.

The Class of 1960, on their tour of combat commands in the summer of 1957, inspected this mighty B-52 of the Strategic Air Command at March AFB, California. Several cadets were taken for an indoctrination flight in one of SAC's giant bombers.





The unforgettable European tour! Members of the Class of 1959...utilizing summer leave time...visited several U. S. and Allied military installations and historic cities in Europe, following a tour of support commands in the United States. This was a parade of RAF cadets witnessed by our group at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, England.

Practical knowledge of Allied air forces...an objective of the European tour ... was gained at such bases as this one at Furstenfeldbruck, near Munich. An officer of the German Air Force, standing beside his U. S. built jet, told us about his country's training program.

A French Air Force cadet and one of our AFA classmates posed for a sidewalk photographer in Marseilles, after a tour of the nearby French Air Force Academy. Other valuable stops in France were SHAPE and NATO Headquarters near Paris.



Back to the Academy to face the challenging Second Class academic year...the beginning of concentrated study in the applied sciences pertaining to Air Force careers in manned aircraft or guided missiles. Here two cadets use a slide rule to check a problem assigned in electrical engineering class.



The scope of thought is not limited...A curriculum enrichment program was established to enable qualified cadets to take elective courses and, by concentrating on certain groups of electives, to major in subject areas such as English, Basic Sciences, Engineering Sciences and Public Affairs. Two cadets are shown consulting with their instructor in creative writing, an elective subject offered by the Department of English.



With outer space assuming greater significance with each new satellite launching, the Academy is keeping pace with increased emphasis upon the study of space flight. Here our navigation class takes a close look at a celestial display in the planetarium of the Denver Museum. The Academy now has its own planetarium at the permanent site.



Classrooms take to the air, too. Aboard the Academy's T-29 "flying classroom," we chart the aircraft's course on a training flight. During four years at the Academy, we spend a total of 170 hours in the air to qualify for a navigator's rating upon graduation. Navigation provides a foundation for future specialization in many phases of aviation.



The Second Class year brings added responsibilities to the advancing cadet...including administrative duties and assistance with the military training of succeeding classes. As upperclassmen gained the experience necessary for these responsibilities, Air Training Officers were released from the Academy to duties elsewhere.

April, 1958—Construction of the permanent Academy continued rapidly. Here a workman at the site points out the various buildings to a cadet. The long building at left is the Cadet Quarters, designed to accommodate the entire Cadet Wing with a strength of 2,520 men.

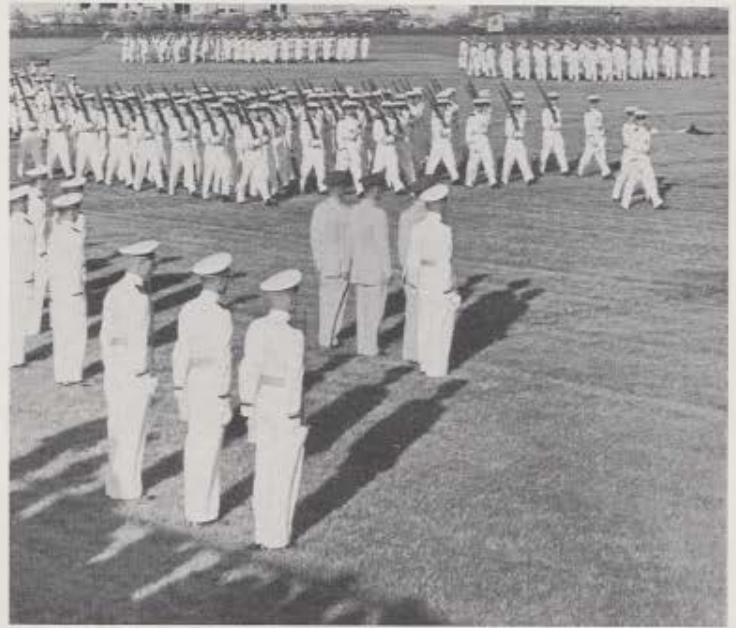
Cadet Wing Review, June, 1958—Intramural athletic awards were presented to individuals and teams by the Commandant of Cadets. The 5th Cadet Squadron won the intramural championship trophy for the year.



Soccer...with the Air Force Academy team undefeated during the 1957 season. The game shown was with nearby Colorado College at Colorado Springs.

Baseball...“You’re out!” shouts the umpire in this game against Colorado State College. The Academy lost a close game to this team, which went on to represent its district in the 1958 Collegiate World Series.

Lacrosse...shown here in an intramural contest between two cadet squadrons. Athletics aid in the development of courage, self-control, esprit de corps...and each cadet is required to participate in intramural or intercollegiate athletics during his four years at the Academy.





Cadet Robert H. Siteman... first All-America athlete from the Air Force Academy. He was chosen for the 1957-58 All-America Rifle Team by the National Rifle Association. Here at the Academy intercollegiate awards banquet, June 1, 1958, Cadet Siteman receives a plaque for his achievement. It was presented by Brigadier General Robert M. Stillman, Commandant of Cadets, left, and Colonel George B. Simler, Director of Athletics.

The Protestant Cadet Choir... Under the direction of Mr. Roger Boyd, 100 voices join in excellent harmony to sing at Protestant Chapel services and special events.



Ring Blessing Ceremony...for Catholic cadets who are engaged to be married after graduation. Accompanied by their fiancées, they received the blessing from Father (Chaplain) C. E. Zielinski.



Cadet Ring Dance...a big event for the Class of 1959. Just before advancement to First Classmen, cadets receive their class rings...which serve as a symbol of the Air Force Academy. As the first class to receive the ring, we wear it with uncommon pride.





First Classmen at last!...and we rate salutes from new cadets of the Class of 1962. With the distinction came the full responsibility of instructing new cadets in basic military training, giving us practical experience in Air Force leadership.

countdown...



the bright promise of ONE



The Class of 1960 toured military establishments in Europe during the summer of 1958. Here a group of cadets and Colonel Benjamin Cassiday, Deputy Commandant of Cadets, talk with Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Pike of the Royal Air Force in England. The British World War II "Spitfire" in the background was presented to the Air Force Academy.



A new example of Air Force hardware...the Snark intercontinental guided missile was seen by cadets of the Class of 1961 at March AFB, California, during their summer tour of combat command bases.



Back at the Academy, the Class of 1962 continued their basic airmanship instruction under the guidance of First Classmen. In their final phase of summer training, new cadets serviced and armed F-100 jet fighters at a one-week encampment on the Lowry Bombing Range.



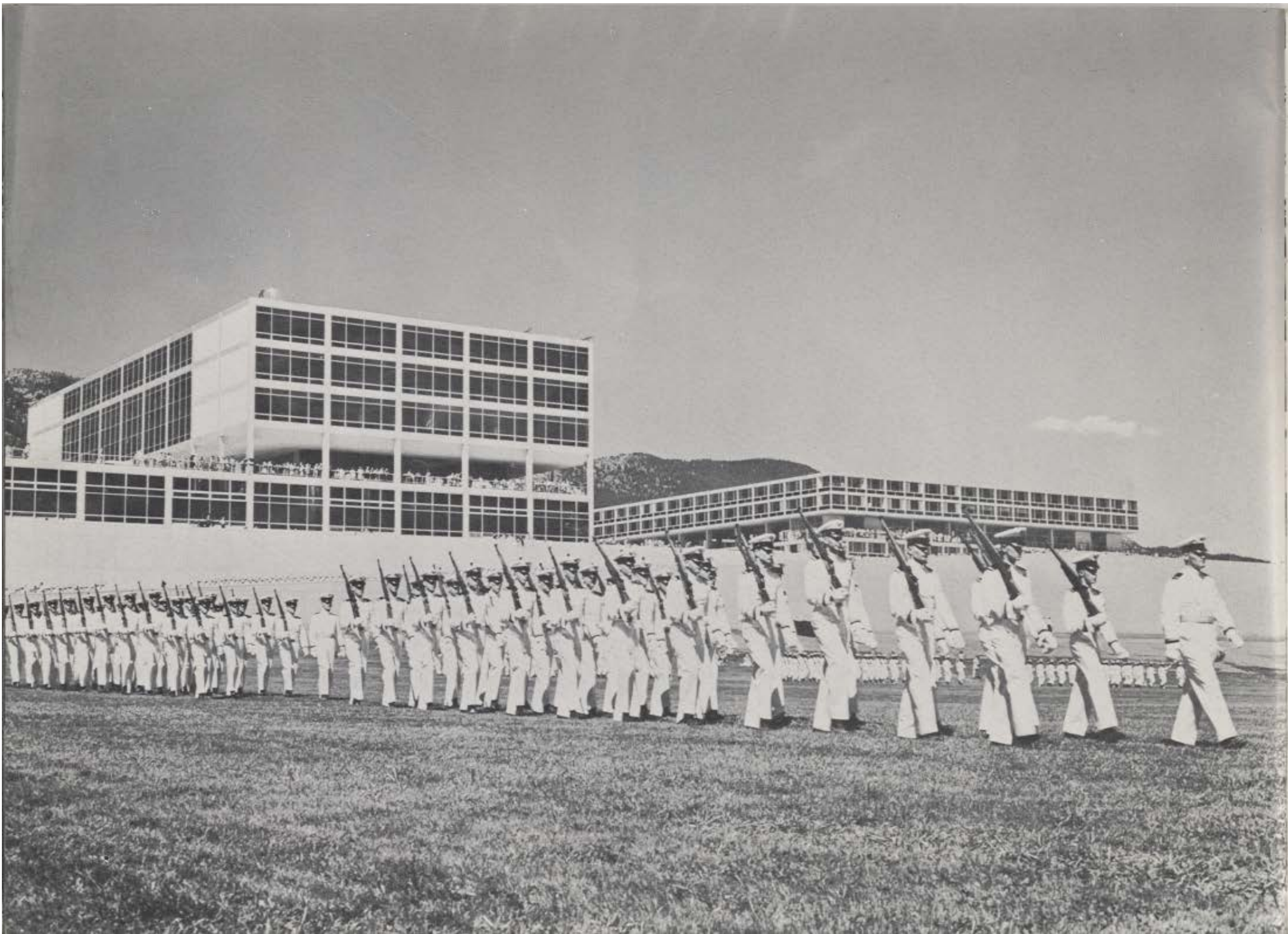
The world premier of "The Hunters," a film featuring jet air battles over Korea, was held at the Cadet Theater in August, 1958. Producer Dick Powell and his wife, June Allyson, came to the Academy for the event.

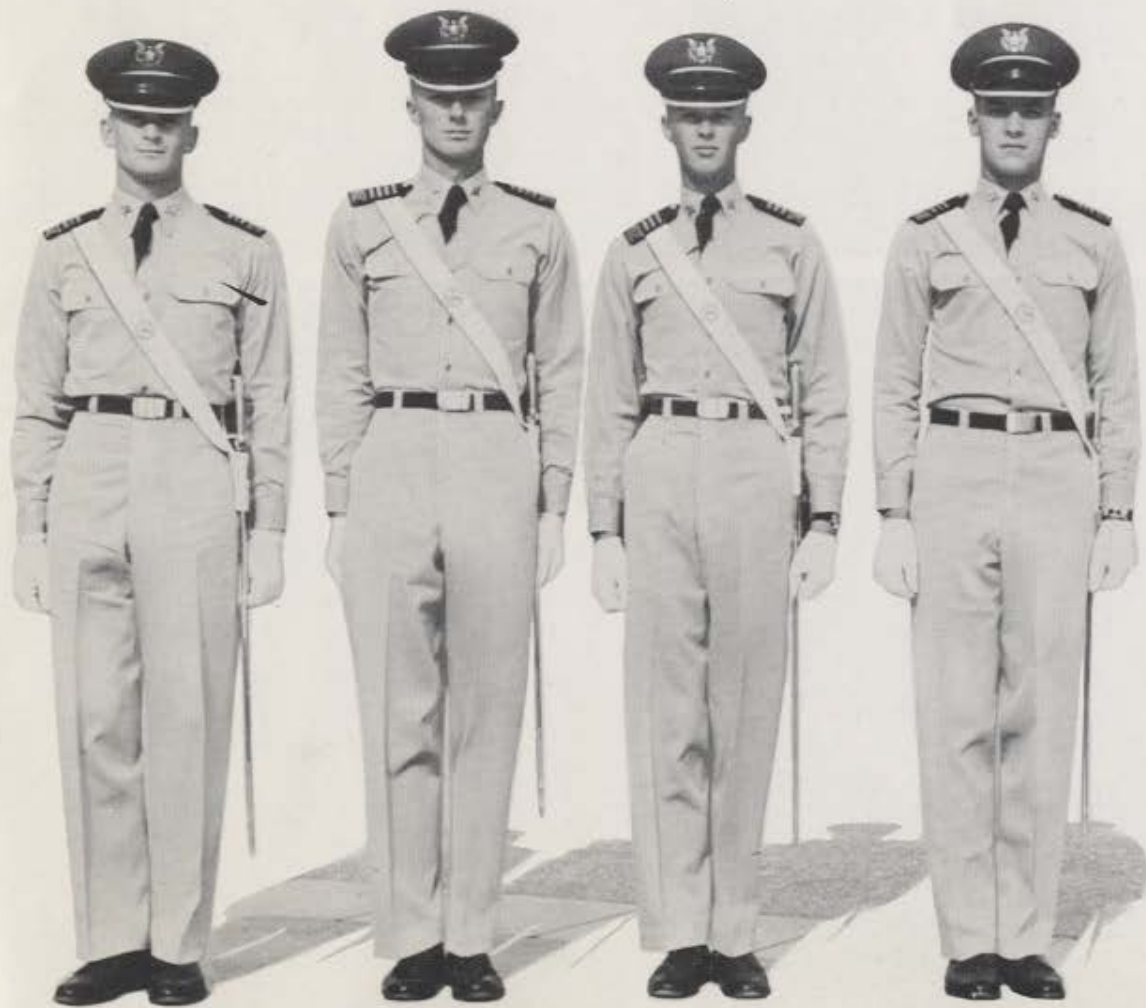
August 31, 1958—Moving Day. The Cadet Wing, now grown to 1,145 members, moved from Lowry into new buildings at the Academy's permanent site. Laden with personal belongings, upperclassmen are shown coming up the ramp leading to the Cadet Quarters.





Proving once again it's a long road from Four... these Fourth Classmen marched with full field packs from the Academy's north gate to their new home in the cadet area, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. The march concluded their summer of physical conditioning and basic airmanship training.





Our first parade at the new Academy site... With more than 5,000 visitors watching, the Cadet Wing march onto the parade ground. Shown at left is the north portion of the Academic Building, and at right is a portion of the Cadet Quarters.

Typical top officers of the Cadet Wing... appointed from the Class of 1959 to serve during the fall term, 1958. Left to right, they are: Cadet Major Edwin J. Montgomery, Jr., Wing Adjutant; Cadet Colonel Robert D. Beckel, Wing Commander; Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Gerald J. Garvey, Wing Operations Officer; and Cadet Major Wayne O. Jefferson, Wing Materiel Officer.



Sunday is our day to teach. We volunteer to instruct Sunday School classes for children of Academy personnel. Here's an upperclassman with his group of youngsters.



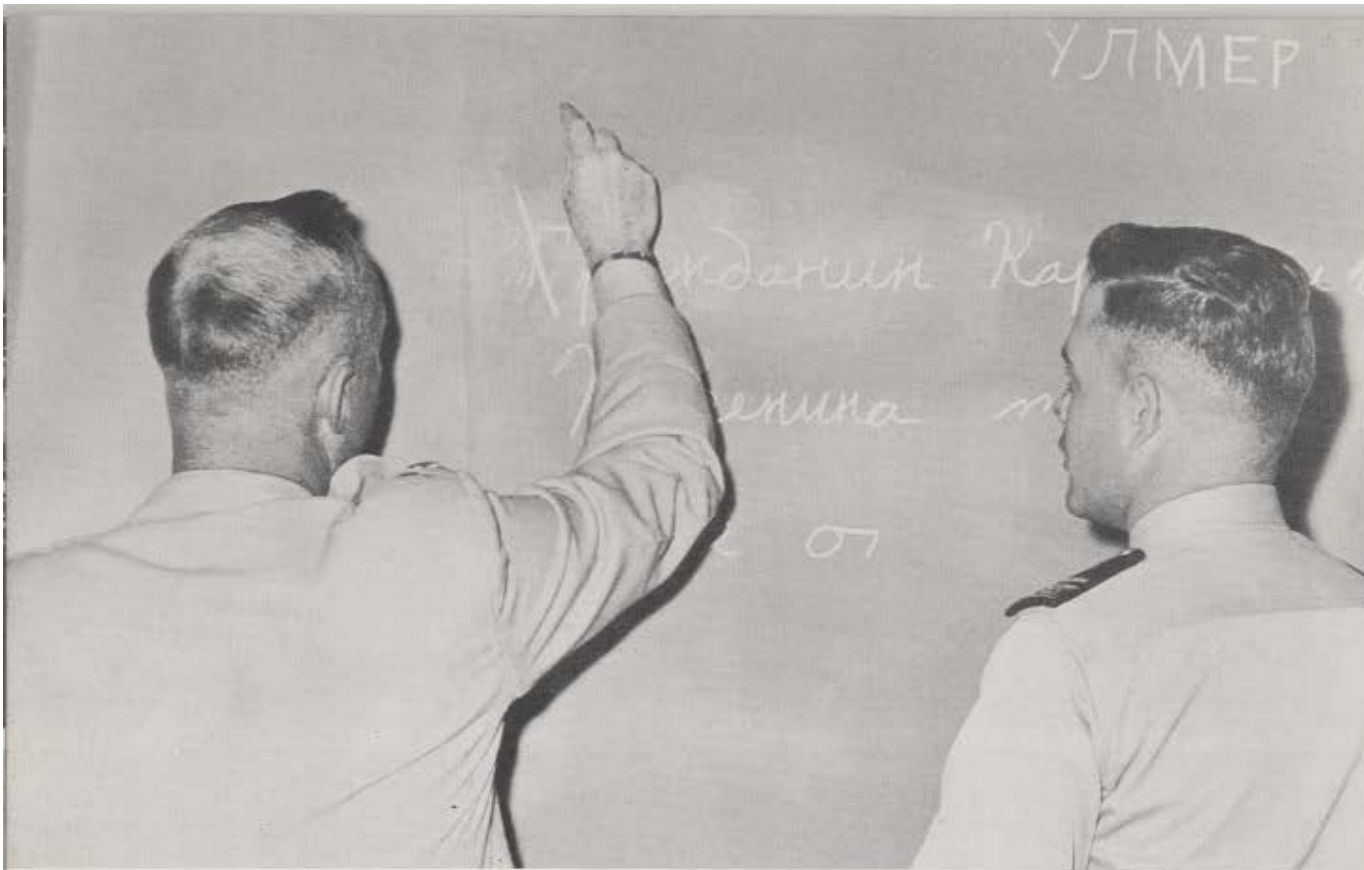
A perfect classroom arrangement... providing small student groups with close personal contact between student and instructor. Excellent lighting and comfortable seating are also design features of the new classrooms.



Power in Iowa. On October 4, 1958, the Cadet Wing journeyed by bus to Iowa City to watch the Air Force Academy Falcons battle the University of Iowa Big Ten football team to a 13-13 tie. At the time, Iowa was the 8th ranking team in the nation and after the game Air Force Coach Ben Martin was elected Coach of the Week by United Press International. Already, the new Falcon team was being called the "upstart" of big-time collegiate football.



Cotton Bowl! A series of brilliant gridiron performances carried the undefeated Falcons into the Cotton Bowl against Texas Christian University on New Year's Day. They fought it out to a scoreless tie. Iowa, which earlier had been held 13-13 by the Falcons, went on to beat California 38-12 in the Rose Bowl.



Learning Russian...this classmate receives help from an instructor in writing the language. During his First Class year at the Academy, each cadet must take 10 hours of foreign language...either French, German, Spanish or Russian.

A bull session in the Cadet Quarters. Yes, this is the bright promise of One...advancement to greater privileges of First Classmen, looking forward to graduation and responsibilities that will follow as officers in the United States Air Force.



Typical Cadet Day

Weekday, Fall and Spring Terms

MORNING

5:55 Reveille
6:20- 7:00 Breakfast
7:30-11:45 Classes

AFTERNOON

12:20-12:45 Lunch
1:15- 3:10 Classes
3:40- 5:10 Drill, intramural sports or free time

EVENING

6:15- 6:50 Dinner
7:15-10:00 Study
10:15 Taps

INFORMATION

...about the Academy curriculum and admissions procedures are included in the Air Force Academy catalog. To obtain a copy of the catalog, write to:

Registrar
United States Air Force Academy
Colorado



