

# Eastern MA Families Club, Inc.

Appointee Send-Off

12 Jun 2021

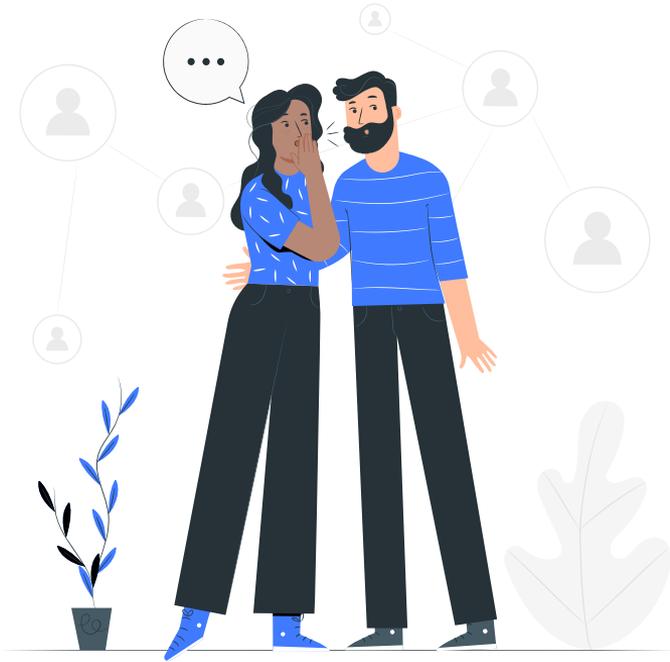


# Parenting A Cadet

Ultimately soldiers, marines, airmen, and sailors are warriors and must learn to function in war time in a stressful environment, while making good decisions and leading others.



**That training starts Day 1 on The Bus and at Footprints.**



# Initially...

**There will be limited exposure to home, family & friends**

# The AFA wants cadets to learn to be dependent on only themselves and on their classmates.

They are the ones with whom they will eat, live, train, and eventually face combat. Family and friends are important, but their new friends will take on the #1 role in their lives.

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**Stressful ~ Purposeful**

# PURPOSE!

By the end of Day 2, they will have a grasp of just how important their classmates will be to their success.

**No “individual” can succeed at the AFA.  
Success depends on teamwork.**

# The Emotional Roller Coaster



**Today**

One day they will  
love it



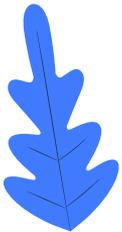
**Tomorrow**

The next they  
may hate it



**Next Day**

By the next day  
they are over it.



Meanwhile, you will be sick to your stomach after each call!



# Words of Wisdom from a General

“You did a great job getting them here. They are here because they measure up in every way for what we want in an officer and leader. Now it’s our job to teach them to transition to the role of officer and leader in our Air Force.”

“Your job now is to be a supporter and their biggest cheerleader.”

## General Mark Welsh III

Former Chief of Staff of the US Air Force

*AFA Graduate ~ Class of 1976 • AFA Commandant 1999 ~ 2001 • AFA Cadet Parent*

*Click [here](#) to watch Welsh's 2011 speech from at USAFA*

# Words of Wisdom from a General

“When they tell you they’re going to jump out of a perfectly good airplane and parachute to earth, you need to say, “Man that’s great!””

“When they tell you that after a lot of thought, they’ve decided to change their major and tell you why, that’s your cue for, “I can understand why you would make that choice.”

“If they tell you they’re going to fly a plane with no motor and do loops and spins over the Front Range of the Rockies, your response should be, “I wish I could be there to watch.”

# What to Do and What Not to Do



**Do**

Listen, support and encourage.



**Do**

Focus on the short-term vs. the long-term.



**Do**

Remind them they were chosen, and why they chose USAFA.



**Don't**

Ask too many questions.  
Let them steer the conversation.



**Don't**

Be a 'helicopter' or a 'snow plow' parent.



**Don't**

Question their decisions.

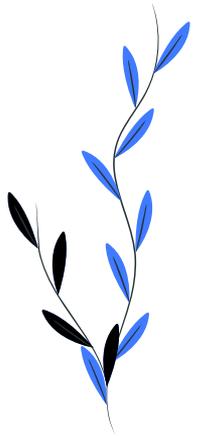


# **DO NOT** call the Academy!

This is not high school.  
The AFA wants cadets to learn to be leaders which is why it is called a “Leadership Laboratory.”

Leadership comes from learning to take the initiative. The AFA will present your cadet with all the tools necessary to succeed – academically, militarily, physically, etc. They have to learn to take advantage of those tools to survive and to be successful.

**It is their job** to take the initiative, not yours.



• **BCT:**

# **Basic Cadet Training**

Expect **VERY** little  
communication.

Their letters will be brief!  
They will be busy from sun-up  
to lights-out, and they **WILL**  
need their rest.



# WebGuy

Another way to stay connected to your cadet, both during BCT as well as their time at the Academy, is through WebGuy.



# Your Role During BCT: Write Often

Write as often as possible. Letters don't have to be long – include newspaper articles of interest, funny stuff found online, printed and sent, etc.... anything that brings a smile.

Get friends and family to write as well.

Try to avoid the “We miss you” letters. Use “Looking forward to seeing you at “Parents’ Weekend” instead.

# A Word of Caution: DO NOT Send...



- Colorful envelopes
- Hearts and kisses
- Scented envelopes
- Pictures
- Anything embarrassing

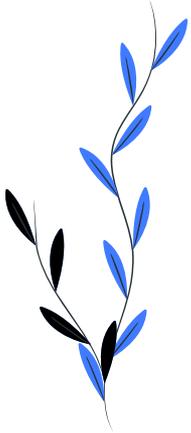
# After BCT

## What They Know

Familiar faces:  
Summer squadron  
classmates and the  
Cadre

## What They Don't Know

3,000  
Upperclassmen,  
a/k/a the entire  
cadet wing



# Your Role After BCT: Encourage and Support

The basics will return to AFA and have just a few days before the entire wing returns. This is when they will move into their new squadron and meet their roommates for the year.

Your cadets will adjust, adapt and move on – and so will you.

# The First Year: C4C

In addition to wearing a uniform and marching to lunch, “doolies” will:



Take weekly quizzes that tests their military knowledge



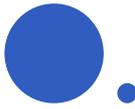
Undergo room inspections



Take upwards of 6-7 courses per semester



Participate in mandatory intramurals; Pass required aptitude tests (the AFT and PFT)



# Not Your Normal College Experience

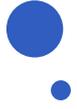
This is unlike ANYTHING their friends are going through at college, THEY WILL COMPLAIN about the constant memorization and why they need to do it.

*Because in the AF, it is a necessary skill.*

*When a pilot is making a landing and an engine flames out, there's no time to pull out the manual and look in the index for "Steps to follow for Engine Flameout while on approach."*

*It has to be a reaction that is all by the numbers, or survivability is almost zero.*

**The C4C year is all about constant adjustments. They will need to be on their toes constantly until Recognition in the Spring, never, ever truly feeling completely comfortable. This is done purposefully!**



# Not Your Normal College Experience

This is unlike ANYTHING their friends are going through at college,

Their friends will not get to fly a glider, parachute out of an airplane, spend 3 weeks in the summer in Japan at a fighter base, work an internship at the Pentagon, or teach other cadets how to fly or to jump....



# **The Eastern MA USAFA Families Club, Inc.**

Our parents' club is one of the oldest USAFA parents' clubs in the country, comprised of parents of current cadets or graduates of USAFA.

# Our Club Has FOUR Simple Objectives:

**1**

**Support  
Each Other**

**2**

**Support  
Our Cadets  
and  
Graduates**

**3**

**Support  
the  
Academy**

**4**

**Support  
the USAF**

# How We Operate

While we cooperate with other parents' groups nationwide, our main focus is to provide support within our own club with three meetings during the academic year (October, January & April) as well as events and activities such as:

- Summer ~ Appointee Send-Off and Annual BBQ
- Fall ~ Parents' Weekend Football Game (at USAFA); State of the Wing Dinner (with the NEAOG) and the Cookie Wrap
- Winter ~ All-Service Academies Holly Ball
- Spring ~ Eastern MA State Night (at USAFA) and Academy Night (with the NEAOG)

*\*NEAOG = New England Association of Graduates*

# Parents' Weekend



# Parents' Weekend



# Eastern MA Night at USAFA



# Join Us!

We invite you to become members and participate along with us.

The Academy HIGHLY recommends participation and has an office dedicated to USAFA parents' associations across the country.

We guarantee you will enjoy the AFA experience more if you can share it with friends who relate to what you are experiencing.

- Be part of the tradition.
- Develop close bonds with others sharing this unique experience.
- Learn from current members and pay it forward to future families.

# Important Upcoming Dates

<i>EMA Club Appointee Send-Off at Hanscom AFB</i>	12 June 2021
In-Processing Day ~ 1 <sup>st</sup> BCT begins	24 June 2021
Swearing-In Ceremony/Phone Call Home	02 July 2021
Jacks Valley ~ 2 <sup>nd</sup> BCT begins	
• March Out: Squadrons A-D	12 July 2021
• March Back: Squadrons A-D	17 July 2021
• March Out: Squadrons E-H	19 July 2021
• March Back: Squadrons E-H	24 July 2021
Phone Call Home	24 July 2021
<i>EMA Annual Club Cookout</i>	<i>TBD July 2021</i>
BCT Ends	30 August 2021
Cadet Wing Transition to Academic Squadrons	01 August 2021
BCT Makeup/Onboarding	02-06 August 2021
Doolie Day Out ( <u>Sponsor Families ONLY</u> )	07 August 2021
Acceptance Day Parade*	6 Aug 2021
Cadet Classes Begin	09 Aug 2021
Parents' Weekend*	03-06 Sept 2021

- ★ The Club Officers:  
*Past and Present*
- ★ Our USAFA Cadet  
speakers
- ★ All of you, for  
making this  
parents' club  
grow!

**Thank you!**