



UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

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POSTAL NEWS

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U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY STAMPS PREPARE FOR FLIGHT

Postage Stamp Honoring 50th Anniversary to Be Issued on USAFA Founders' Day

WASHINGTON — A new commemorative postage stamp saluting the establishment of the United States Air Force Academy will be issued by the U.S. Postal Service at a dedication ceremony on April 1, during the Academy's Founders' Day celebration.

The 37-cent self-adhesive stamp will be unveiled at 1 p.m. at an official first-day-of-issue ceremony, in the Honor Court, 2304 Cadet Drive on the U.S. Air Force Academy campus, Colorado Springs, Colo.

The U.S. Air Force Academy stamp will be available on April 1 at the ceremony and at Colorado Springs Post Offices; and starting April 2, at Post Offices and Philatelic Centers nationwide, by toll-free telephone order at 1 800 STAMP-24 and online at www.usps.com/shop.

"As an Air Force veteran and a citizen of this great nation, I am honored to represent the United States Postal Service as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United States Air Force Academy," said William T. Johnstone, Secretary of the presidentially appointed Postal Service Board of Governors and the dedicating official. "This stamp pays tribute to the generations of men and women who have dedicated their careers, and sometimes their lives, to preserving the freedom of all Americans and promoting peace throughout the world."

Joining Johnstone at the ceremony will be Duane Boyle, Chief, Program Development and Command Architect. "It is fitting that the United States Postal Service will unveil its new commemorative stamp featuring the U.S. Air Force Academy's Cadet Chapel. The Chapel is the primary image most people carry with them when they visit the Academy," said Boyle.

On April 1, 1954—seven years after the National Security Act made the U.S. Air Force independent of the Army, and six years after a board of civilian and military educators determined that Air Force needs could not be met by expanding other service academies—President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation authorizing establishment of the academy. Construction got underway the next year at an 18,000-acre site near Colorado Springs, Colo. In July of 1955, the first class entered temporary facilities set up at Lowry Air Force Base near



Denver. Cadets moved to the academy's permanent home in 1958, and the first class graduated from there in June 1959. Women were admitted in June 1976. Under current federal law, total annual enrollment at the Air Force Academy is limited to 4,000 men and women; the same restriction applies to enrollments at the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy.

More than 34,000 men and women have graduated from the Academy since its establishment, and over half of those who received Air Force commissions remain on active duty. The academy has produced a Medal of Honor recipient—Capt. Lance P. Sijan, who died in North Vietnam in 1968; more than 325 general officers; 32 astronauts; 54 USAF Thunderbirds pilots; 2 combat aces; and numerous Rhodes Scholars, Guggenheim Fellows, and National Science Foundation Fellows. Thirty-six graduates were prisoners of war and 162 gave their lives in combat.

Each year, thousands of people visit the Air Force Academy. Many come to see the Cadet Chapel, the 1996 recipient of the 25-Year Award from the American Institute of Architects. It is Colorado's number one man-made tourist attraction.

The stamp was designed and art directed by Phil Jordan using a photograph by Philip Handleman of Birmingham, Mich. Its focal point is the Cadet Chapel, the most visually compelling structure on the grounds of the Academy. From the base of the chapel to the tips of its 17 silvery spires, this soaring, wedge-shaped edifice reaches 150 feet toward the sky. It is, in the words of the Academy Web site, "the crowning architectural feature of the Air Force Academy campus."

To see the U.S. Air Force Academy stamp and other images from the 2004 Commemorative Stamp Program, visit the Postal Service Web site and open this press release at www.usps.com/shop. Click on "Release Schedule" in the Collector's Corner.

Current U.S. stamps and stationery, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by toll-free telephone order at 1 800 STAMP-24. A wide selection of stamps and other philatelic items are also available at the Postal Store www.usps.com/shop, and www.postalartgallery.com offers beautifully framed prints of original stamp art for delivery straight to the home or office.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to about 141 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue: *United States Air Force Academy*
Item Number: 455600
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Commemorative
Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)
Series: N/A
Issue Date & City: April 1, 2004, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Designer: Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA
Engraver: Armotek Industries
Photographer: Philip Handleman, Birmingham, MI
Art Director: Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA
Typographer: Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA
Modeler: Donald Woo
Manufacturing Process: Gravure
Printer: Sennett Security Products (SSP)
Printed at: American Packaging Corporation, Columbus, WI
Press Type: Rotomec 4
Stamps per pane: 20
Print Quantity: 60 million stamps
Paper Type: Prephospored, Type II
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive
Processed at: Unique Binders, Fredericksburg, VA
Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, PMS 273 (Dark blue),
PMS 135 (Orange), PMS 272 (Purple)
Stamp Orientation: Horizontal
Image Area (w x h): 1.41 x 0.84 in./35.81 x 21.33 mm
Overall Size (w x h): 1.56 x 0.99 in./39.21 x 24.14.83 mm
Full Pane Size (w x h): 7.25 x 5.94 in./184.15 x 150.87 mm
Plate Size: 360 stamps per revolution
Plate Numbers: "S" followed by six (6) single digits
Marginal Markings: © 2003 USPS • Price • Plate numbers in four corners • Plate
position diagram • four barcodes on back of pane
Catalog item Numbers (s) 455620 Block of 4 — \$1.48
455630 Block of 10 — \$3.70
455640 Full Pane of 20 — \$7.40
455661 First Day Cover — \$0.75
455693 Full Pane w/FDC — \$8.15

HOW TO ORDER THE FIRST DAY POSTMARK

Customers have **30** days to obtain the first day of issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local post office, by telephone at 1 800 STAMP-24, and at the Postal Store Web site at www.usps.com/shop. They should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others) and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP
POSTMASTER
201 E PIKES PEAK AVE
COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80903-9998

After applying the first day of issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the stamped cards through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark. All orders must be postmarked by May 1, 2004.

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