



AMERICA'S AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY

A

NATIONAL TREASURE

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

APRIL 1, 1954 - APRIL 1, 2004

“EXPECT GREAT THINGS”

# Eighty-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Began and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday, the sixth day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four

## An Act

To provide for the establishment of a United States Air Force Academy, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Air Force Academy Act".

SEC. 2. There is hereby established in the Department of the Air Force a United States Air Force Academy, hereinafter referred to as the "Academy", for the instruction and preparation for military service of selected persons who shall be known as Air Force cadets.

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Air Force shall determine the location of the Academy within the United States in the following manner:

(1) The Secretary of the Air Force shall establish immediately a commission, and appoint five members thereof, to advise him in connection with the selection of a permanent location for the Academy. The commission shall make its report to the Secretary as soon as practicable.

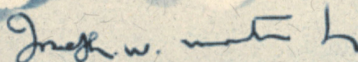
(2) The Secretary shall accept the unanimous decision for a permanent location by such commission. In the event such recommendation is not unanimous, the commission by a majority vote shall submit to the Secretary three sites from which the Secretary shall select one as the permanent location.

(b) Following the selection of a location for the Academy, the Secretary of the Air Force is authorized—

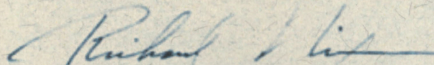
(1) to acquire land from other Government agencies without reimbursement, with the consent of such agencies;

(2) to acquire lands and rights pertaining thereto and interests therein, including the temporary use thereof, by purchase, exchange of Government owned lands, or otherwise, without regard to section 601, Act of September 16, 1917 (40 U. S. C. 551);

(3) to prepare plans, specifications, and to do all other things necessary, wise, as he deems proper, for the construction of the Academy.



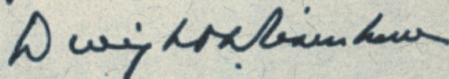
Speaker of the House of Representatives.



Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.

approved:

1 April 1954.



*1 April 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Act of Congress authorizing the United States Air Force Academy*

*24 June 1954, Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott designated Colorado Springs as the permanent site for the Air Force Academy*

*11 July 1955, the first class of 306 cadets entered the Air Force Academy at its temporary location, Lowry AFB, Denver, Colorado*

*3 June 1959, the first class graduated 207 cadets at the Academy's permanent Colorado Springs location*

"Expect Great Things," the DVD history of the Academy being released tonight, culminates a two-year project sponsored by The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library and the Academy's Association of Graduates. Produced by Word One Associates, Inc., the DVD includes interviews with key figures who shaped the Academy's history from its founding to today.

The production also features film footage from the Library's Special Collections Branch of construction at the Academy site, graduation visits by five U. S. Presidents, the release of graduates from captivity in Vietnam, and the distinctive achievements of other Academy graduates.

The DVD's title, "Expect Great Things," comes from a speech by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Nathan F. Twining at the Academy's dedication in 1955. On that occasion, General Twining told the cadets that Americans were looking over their shoulders and expecting great things from them.