

2019 AOG ELECTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please note: The candidates' bios may not appear in the same order as listed on the ballot.

BRIAN BISHOP CLASS OF 1983

Biography

Brian Bishop, Class of 1983, served as a T-37 and F-16/D evaluator/instructor pilot. He commanded the USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds," the 34th Operations Group at USAFA, the 8th FW at Kunsan Air Base and the 332rd Air Expeditionary Wing at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. He also served at HQ AF, The Joint Staff, U.S. Forces Korea and United Nations Command. Brian served as deputy director, legislative liaison and deputy director, Politico-Military Affairs Western Hemisphere and finished his career as commandant, Air War College and Command, Spaatz Center for Officer Education. Brian is currently president of Brian T. Bishop & Associates.

Candidacy Statement

My USAFA experience provided the foundation for what later became a 32-year Air Force career. I want to use my leadership and experience to help ensure that, as alumni, we help USAF maintain the highest levels of leadership and character development, academic standards and athletic achievement. As alumni, we have extraordinary skills and resources that, if coordinated, will assist the Academy to achieve these goals. In the same manner, our alumni network is able to assist USAFA graduates during their career or in their civilian transition. I will use my energy to best serve USAFA and the AOG.

DIANN (CHRISTIANSO) BOYLE CLASS OF 1983

Biography

Diann (Christianson) Boyle distinguished herself as a scholar athlete at the Air Force Academy through her high academic standards and athletic accomplishments. She remained on the Dean's List for four years while earning 20 All-American titles in swimming. Diann went on to serve 14 combined years in the Air Force and Air National Guard, as an Intelligence officer and then as a KC-135R pilot, including five deployments in support of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Just Cause during the Gulf War. She spent 25 years in commercial aviation, 17 as a captain with Southwest Airlines.

Candidacy Statement

I am honored to run for the AOG Board of Directors. I recently returned from my 35th Academy reunion with a renewed sense of gratitude to the AOG, and it is time to give back. I am an ordinary grad, willing to represent the membership on issues like character development, inclusion and retention. I am humbled by all the accomplishments of my fellow candidates; and although my own biography may pale in comparison, I assure you that my unique perspective as well as my passion to serve makes me a strong candidate to uphold the Academy's ideals and legacy.

JOHN BUCKLEY
CLASS OF 1977

Biography

John Buckley, Class of 1977, lives in Colorado Springs. He flew the F-106 and other fighters. He served at USAFA in all four mission elements, including as an AOC. He commanded the USAF's first space test and aggressor squadron before retiring as an O-5. He graduated from Harvard Law, and practiced law and did business in the Arab Gulf. Upon returning to Colorado Springs, he established a boutique law practice, working with his wife, Melinda. He volunteers in numerous capacities, serving his community and the Academy. John and Melinda have six children and 10 grandchildren between them.

Candidacy Statement

USAFA opened the world to this kid from Kentucky. I traveled, flew amazing aircraft (including the MIG-29), and did wonderful things in service to our Republic. I am grateful for the opportunities I received as a result of standing beside you then. Now I want to serve on the board of your AOG. I still serve at USAFA, including lecturing at character symposiums in years past. In my law practice, I aid graduates in giving back through charitable giving. I advise charities on planning and governance. I desire to make a difference for our AOG. I ask for your vote.

RAVI CHAUDHARY
CLASS OF 1993

Biography

Dr. Ravi Chaudhary, Class of 1993, is the director of Advanced Programs and Innovation, Office of Commercial Space Transportation, at the Federal Aviation Administration. He has completed 21 years of service in the Air Force, and also serves as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Dr. Chaudhary holds a doctorate from Georgetown University, an M.S. from St. Mary's University as a NASA graduate fellow, an M.A. from Air University, and a B.S. from USAFA. He has logged over 3,000 hours as a pilot and flight test engineer in the Air Force (760 combat hours).

Candidacy Statement

It is with great pride that I submit my candidacy as a member of the Board of Directors for the AOG. Since my graduation from USAFA in 1993, I have dedicated myself to a career of service in the military and federal government. My experiences were made possible by my parents, and the promise of the American Dream when they immigrated to our nation in the 1960s. Our cadets continue to bring that same spirit of service and measure of devotion to our nation. I would be honored to support our cadets and our graduates as a member of the board.

DENNIS DABNEY
CLASS OF 1989

Biography

Dennis Dabney is the director of Strategic Planning for Northrop Grumman Corporation Technology Services. Dabney joined Northrop Grumman after 26 years in the U.S. Air Force and currently serves as an Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO) for underserved communities in the National Capital Region. Dabney earned a Master of Science degree in Management from Troy State University and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Candidacy Statement

I consider it an honor and privilege to submit my candidacy to serve on the AOG Board of Directors. The Air Force Academy has placed me on a life trajectory like no other institution. If selected, I plan to give back and continue my life’s mission since graduation in 1989: “To Whom Much is Given, Much is Expected.” I will work tirelessly to build on the legacy of the Long Blue Line by serving the Academy, our nation’s best young men and women and future Air Force leaders.

GARRY DUDLEY
CLASS OF 1968

Biography

Garry, a Class of 1968 Vietnam combat veteran, served 22 years flying five different aircraft and serving two tours in Security Police; one as a SQ/CC. The next 22 years were in civilian industry project management — the last 12 as president and CEO of Pocket PM, LLC, which he co-founded in 2001. Garry was elected president of AOG’s Class Advisory Senate, where he’s been ’68 Class Senator for 10 years. A former AOG board director, he also guest lectures in the Department of Management. Garry and Tina (bride of 50 years!) have two children and sponsor numerous cadets.

Candidacy Statement

As an officer, successful business owner, volunteer, CAS president and AOG board director, I have worked successfully with a wide range of people, including the AOG staff and USAFA leadership. I am a technology-adept team player/facilitator/leader with AOG Board experience and I bring needed context provided by my history of volunteering across multiple disciplines at USAFA. My availability and commitment to serve our graduate community enable me. Your vote will allow me to continue to serve. I have a perfect in-person attendance as CAS president and a board director. (My present term as a director expires January 2019.)

OMAR EBARB
CLASS OF 1999

Biography

Omar Ebarb, Class of 1999, serves as in-house counsel for USAA. As an attorney in Corporate Regulatory Counsel, he specializes in state insurance regulatory law, including tax and escheatment. After graduating from the Academy, Omar served six years on active duty as an aircraft maintenance officer before separating to attend law school. He later

became a judge advocate, and continues to serve as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Omar presently serves as the staff judge advocate for the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He resides in his hometown of San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Amy.

Candidacy Statement

As a lifetime member, I have always been impressed with the work of the Association of Graduates. However, I would like serve on the Board of Directors to help put greater focus on serving the needs of more recent graduates. In particular, I would like to see the AOG expand its career services, which I feel are particularly important to recent graduates who choose not to pursue a career on active duty. I also believe that we could do more to put graduates in contact with one another, and would propose better leveraging social media to keep graduates connected.

J. STUART FLEMING
CLASS OF 2000

Biography

Stuart graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 2000 and completed a graduate degree from the University of Cambridge in 2003. Stuart is a corporate strategy and operations executive having worked at The Coca-Cola Company, Booz and Co., and several Inc. 500 organizations. Stuart has twice been elected to public office. He served from 2009-2013 on the Marietta City School Board of Education and most recently from 2013-2017 as a member of Marietta City Council. In this role, he oversaw all local governmental functions for more than 58,000 citizens and a budget of \$250M annually.

Candidacy Statement

For many of us, the AOG acts as the vital link between graduates, the Academy, and a sense of collective pride that often goes unspoken, but nevertheless increases with time. I wish to serve on the AOG Board of Directors to foster a greater sense of engagement and action across all class years, including those who have left active duty and who may not be as connected as they wish to be. I would be honored to have your support and for the opportunity to serve in a capacity that can help our Academy and fellow graduates.

WILL GUNN
CLASS OF 1980

Biography

Will Gunn, Class of 1980, lives to serve others. A Harvard Law grad and former White House Fellow, Will served as a JAG on active duty, and protected our nation's values while serving as the first-ever chief defense counsel for the GTMO detainees. He later served as CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and then served as general counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Will's been on several nonprofit boards and has been a leader nationally through the American Bar Association and locally through his church. He's currently on the AOG Board and wants to continue to serve.

Candidacy Statement

I have served on the AOG Board since 2015 and want to continue to serve our USAFA grad community on the Board. I have a range of experiences that make me well-suited to this service. First, I'm a collegial problem-solver who has a heart to serve. Second, I'm an attorney and entrepreneur who has gained valuable executive and financial experience by leading as former CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, by serving as a presidential appointee as general counsel for the Department of Veteran Affairs, by running my own businesses, and by serving on other nonprofit boards.

CRAIG HANCOCK
CLASS OF 1996

Biography

Craig Hancock, Class of 1996, is an experienced executive with 22 years of experience leading teams and companies in the data and technology space. He has served on both for-profit and non-profit boards and built his career leveraging a strong strategic mindset coupled with a customer-focused philosophy. His extensive sales and finance background includes 11 years as a trusted advisor to the nation's leading institutional investors. He served as program manager for the GPS program, helping design and fund the original GPS III system. Craig played wide receiver for the Falcons from 1993-1995. He resides in Austin, Texas with his wife and three children.

Candidacy Statement

I am seeking a seat on the AOG's Board of Directors to help strengthen connections between the AOG and the graduate community. A lifetime AOG member since graduation, I look forward to giving back to the institution and community that has given me so much. The executive experience I've gained in the corporate sectors of finance and technology, my service on both for-profit and non-profit boards, and the passion I have for the Academy will be leveraged to help strengthen the partnership between the Academy, the AOG and alumni. There is much to be done! Go Falcons!

ANDREW HENDEL
CLASS OF 2009

Biography

Andrew Hendel graduated from CS-17 with USAFA Class of 2009. On active duty, he served as a combat rescue officer leading Air Force pararescue and SERE specialists on personnel recovery missions with deployments to Kuwait and the Horn of Africa. He also led testing and evaluation of equipment and tactics for the Guardian Angel Weapon System. Andrew left active duty in 2017 to pursue a career in finance. He is currently a financial advisor in Castle Pines, Colorado, and a Reservist drilling with the 26th Space Aggressor Squadron. He lives in Castle Pines with his wife, Chelsea, and sons, Talon and Jett.

Candidacy Statement

I am a very proud graduate of the Air Force Academy. While there, I built lifelong friendships, fostered my first lessons in leadership, received an outstanding education, and

met my wife, Chelsea, USAFA Class of 2010. The Academy shaped me to be an Air Force officer and father. Plus it taught me how to run a small business and be a leader in my community. My desire to serve on the AOG Board of Directors is my opportunity to give back to the Academy. I want to ensure that the Academy's legacy is maintained so that future cadets can have the opportunities that the Academy has offered me.

STUART HIXON
CLASS OF 1983

Biography

My five years in the USAF were about defense contractor fraud investigations and obtaining my CPA. Upon separation, I held positions as an internal auditor, a controller, and a manager with Ford Credit. I was able to purchase two companies 25 years ago and continue to run them today. I have had opportunities to hold various volunteer positions in not-for-profits. As Treasurer of USA Swimming between September 2012 and 2016, with a \$60 million annual budget, I was able to save Swimming \$6 million in insurance and sell a captive reinsurance company for \$19.7 million, a \$14.6 million profit.

Candidacy Statement

Being lucky enough to spend time giving back to organizations that have benefited me, my desire is to volunteer for the AOG Board. Bringing with me a strong background in board service in the not-for-profit area, I understand board governance for these organizations. My background in finance and accounting, as well as insurance and other financial areas, allows me to be multifaceted in my board service. I can never repay the Academy but feel by volunteering to serve on the AOG Board, I can best utilize my expertise to give back to the institution that provided me so much.

RICHARD LESAN
CLASS OF 1991

Biography

A 1991 graduate from CS-33, Rick went to pilot training at Williams AFB and flew C-5s at Travis AFB. He got his masters from Columbia University on his way back to USAFA to teach political science and fly the motorglider. He separated from the Air Force in 2001 and made a career as an investment analyst and portfolio manager. In 2009, Rick started his own firm, Frontier Advisors, LLC, to better serve investors. He has a wife and two kids, lives in McLean, Virginia, and spends his leisure time running trails, mountain biking, golfing and skiing.

Candidacy Statement

I want to join the AOG Board of Directors to advocate for all graduates, both those on active duty as well as those who have made the transition to the civilian world. The AOG does a great job, but we can always do more to help our fellow graduates. I want to do what I can to close the gap between our graduate network and that of Navy and West Point. Go Air Force!

BOB LOWE
CLASS OF 1971

Biography

Col. (Retired) Bob Lowe (USAFA '71) served 26 years in command and staff positions at squadron, wing, USTRANSCOM, Air Staff and OSD levels. A command pilot, Bob logged almost 4,000 hours, primarily in the C-130. Bob was an Academy AOC/Group AOC/94th commander 1983-1987. From 1997-2016, he worked for Lockheed Martin marketing the AC/HC/MC-130J to ACC and AFSOC. Bob and Marybeth live in Woodland Park, Colorado, and Kennesaw, Georgia. Sons, Matt '95 and Patrick '01, graduated from USAFA and served as career Air Force officers. Their daughter, Kate, is a communications director in Atlanta.

Candidacy Statement

I have been a strong, life long advocate of the Academy. My priority is to make sure the AOG provides world-class support to cadets and graduates. I served a 26-year Air Force career, which included an Academy tour as AOC/Group AOC/94th ATS commander from 1983-87. My second career was with Lockheed Martin in C-130J Business Development from 1997-2016. We have two sons (Matt '95 and Patrick '01) and a daughter-in-law (Kendra Marks Lowe '01) who are USAFA graduates. I would be honored to serve on the AOG Board of Directors.

ALLEN MYERS
CLASS OF 1978

Biography

Al Myers, Class of 1978, retired as deputy CNO, N8 after 35 years of service. Al has 3,600 flying hours in F-4s, F-14s and F/A-18s; commanded an F-14 Squadron, the Aircraft Carrier USS KITTY HAWK, the EISENHOWER Carrier Strike Group during combat operations in Iraq & Afghanistan, and Naval Air Forces. Pentagon Flag assignments include director Air Warfare, and senior military assistant to SECNAV. Currently, Al is a vice president with Lockheed Martin, responsible for coordinating Naval Aviation Program government activities. Al is a Top Gun (Navy Fighter Weapons School) graduate, and holds master's degrees from Naval War College and Salve Regina University.

Candidacy Statement

I am volunteering to serve on the Association of Graduates Board of Directors so that I can give back to the institution a small fraction of what the Academy gave me, a fascinating 35-plus-year career serving our nation. I believe that, as a member of this board, I can significantly contribute to their mission of supporting the Academy, cadets and graduates; specifically I believe my unique perspectives of working for more than 35 years with my Navy peers can help improve our service academy standing in Washington, D.C., and build upon the progress of the AOG and Endowment over the past years, including increasingly close cooperation between the AOG and Endowment leadership.

DEREK OAKS

CLASS OF 1991

Biography

Derek Oaks is a member of the Class of 1991. Born into an Air Force family, I spent the first 48 years of my life around the Air Force mission. For me, USAFA was the only choice for college, and not a day goes by where I am not grateful for the opportunities, challenges, friendships and lessons that I received from the Academy. In the Air Force, I flew C-130s, C-17s and A-10s, and commanded at the flight, squadron and operations group levels. Since the Air Force, I've consulted, flown, managed projects, and looked to pass on some of the skills and leadership traits that USAFA taught me.

Candidacy Statement

USAFA has always been a part of my life. As a youth when my dad was an AOC in the 1960s, to watching the basic cadets of '83 stand in honor of the Class of '59 during their first reunion, followed by my years as a cadet and nearly 30 years since, I have loved the thrill, challenges and friendships of the Air Force and this group. I always planned to return to give back, but the Air Force had other plans. Now that I have the chance, I would be honored to serve for, with and around each of you.

MICHAEL PUGH

CLASS OF 1995

Biography

After graduating with the Class of 1995, I served as an aircraft maintenance officer at Fairchild AFB and Travis AFB. These assignments sent me around the world on several deployments. While stationed in Spokane, Washington, I met my wife of 15 years and we have two very active boys who are 11 and 12 years old. I separated from the USAF in October 2000 and worked initially in telecommunications and then as general manager for Inflow Inc. in Minneapolis. For 12+ years, I have been a clinical sales representative for Medtronic Spine in Minneapolis, working with surgeons to help patients suffering from spinal deformities.

Candidacy Statement

USAFA has been a cornerstone in my life since 1983 when my dad took an assignment in the Athletic Department as a baseball coach. As I look back now, the Academy has played an important role in my development as a child, cadet and more recently as an alumnus. I am excited for the opportunity to serve on the AOG Board of Directors and represent fellow alumni and again be part of something much larger than myself. The Academy is a very special place, and I hope to play a role in it continuing to be that for others.

NANCY TAYLOR

CLASS OF 2001

Biography

Lt. Col. Nancy Taylor '01 is the commander, 714th Training Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. The 714 TRS is responsible for 1,300 C-130 formal training students across

all Department of Defense services and 46 worldwide partners annually. After graduating in 2001, Lt. Col. Taylor completed pilot training and held a variety of key leadership positions at the squadron and group level. She served on the Joint Staff, J7 as Deputy Desk Officer, Pacific Command and attended U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS. Her father, younger brother, two uncles and a cousin are also USAFA graduates and AOG members.

Candidacy Statement

I am a 2001 graduate with a long family history of Air Force and Academy service. My grandfather served more than 30 years and my father, brother, two uncles and a cousin are proud members of the AOG. My time working on the Joint Staff and attending Command and Staff College allowed me to build on my operational experience through exposure to the execution of strategy in pursuit of national objectives. I believe my membership on the AOG Board of Directors would provide a graduate perspective of those still serving on active duty, which benefits our cadet and graduate populations.

MARK TOBIN
CLASS OF 1996

Biography

Mark Tobin, Class of 1996, is a C-level executive with more than 20 years' experience as a finance and strategy leader, specializing in business transformation and growth acceleration. He is currently CFO of Printronix, a private-equity-owned manufacturer with more than 300 employees worldwide, responsible for global finance, accounting, human resources, IT, and mergers & acquisitions. He also serves as a board member and Audit Committee chairman at a publicly-listed bio-pharmaceutical company. Mark's prior experience includes serving as CFO of a publicly-listed solar technology company and a decade in investment banking. He served on active and Reserve duty as a systems acquisition professional at Los Angeles AFB.

Candidacy Statement

The AOG lacks relevance. The numbers speak for themselves: 40% of graduates opt out of membership. Only 25% of members vote. This means that only 15% of graduates are engaged with the AOG. The numbers are even worse for classes graduating after 1990, presenting risk to the AOG's future. As a board member, I can help craft a strategic vision and put the resources in place to restore relevance to the AOG by better serving graduates. I have successfully executed similar transformative strategies in the corporate sector and recruited by professional investors to transform their portfolio companies. Let's get started!

DAN VICIAN
CLASS OF 1972

Biography

Grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Public schools, Student Council, Class Officer. Jobs growing up led to my '60 Chevy Impala. Efforts to get into the Zoo started with my first visit to my Congressman — as an 8th grader. Later, a Doolie, Jack's Valley in formation, wondering

what I got myself into, I told myself that I was living my dream — and sucked it up. My life: personal drive, being responsible, volunteering, being in leadership positions. Military: Squadron Executive Officer; Chief Pilot; Commander. Civilian: Commercial pilot. Involved/engaged; working with and for people; achieving goals. Ready for the BOD!

Candidacy Statement

Hello, Dan Vician here, '72. Hopefully everything with you and yours is outstanding! I'm writing this statement of candidacy with a keen sense of excitement, mixed with an earnest commitment to serve both the AOG as an institution; and also you, the membership who are the institution. I will attend the meetings of the AOG over this four-year period. I will work through issues with the other Board members. I will support continued efforts to improve and enhance the AOG. Be a participant and vote; and please give me your thoughtful consideration.

MARK VOLCHEFF
CLASS OF 1975

Biography

Mark A. Volcheff, Class of 1975, is president and owner of an aerospace and defense consulting business and former president and CEO of the U.S Air Force Academy Endowment. He has provided organizational and fiduciary leadership overseeing three non-profits, supported many private sector boards, worked on the Colorado Governor's Homeland Security staff and served 32+ years in the USAF, commanding four times and in key staff positions. Mark is a USAF Character Development coach, served on Congressman Doug Lamborn's Academy selection committee, has sponsored 17 USAF cadets and is currently assistant to his USAFA AOG class senator on the Class Advisory Senate.

Candidacy Statement

During the last 13 year, I have had direct engagement with USAFA working some of the very issues board directors face. As former president/CEO of the USAFA Endowment, along with my experiences developing relationships with other foundations, working mission needs with the superintendent and staff, sponsoring 17 cadets as a family, or assisting a congressman's Academy Candidate Selection Board, I know I can be a valuable part of supporting the AOG, USAFA and graduate interests. I will serve as your board director with open communications, transparency, creativity and with a vision of promoting heritage and innovation as the foundation to mold our future Air Force leaders.

JOHNNY WHITAKER
CLASS OF 1973

Biography

Johnny Whitaker, Class of 1973, has nearly 43 years' expertise in USAF and corporate aerospace public affairs and communications. With nearly 30 active duty years, he served in PA/communications leadership positions at the wing, MAJCOM and SECAF levels, including as deputy director of all Air Force PA. He was a support group commander. For five years, he served as the Academy's first civilian director of communications during sexual assault,

honor and religious respect scandals; his organization also was liaison between the Academy and AOG. He was also a director of communications for Lockheed Martin from 2008 until his retirement in 2016.

Candidacy Statement

I am honored to be a candidate to serve on our AOG’s Board of Directors. I will bring a different perspective to the board based on my extensive leadership expertise in USAF and corporate communications, and as commander of a major organization. My service included being USAFA’s communications director during the highly visible sexual assault, honor and religious respect scandals of 2003-08. In this role, I also served as liaison between the Academy, the AOG and alumni community. I began and ended my Air Force career at USAFA; now, I seek your vote to continue it with the AOG.

PATRICK YANKE
CLASS OF 1993

Biography

Patrick, Class of 1993, is a speaker, author and certified financial planning practitioner with a passion for helping people and organizations identify primary motivations and align goals. He is a teacher who has presented acclaimed programs coast to coast in diverse settings to a wide range of audiences. He explores the reasons behind thoughts, words and actions to uncover the “why” that motivates people and organizations. Not bound by the limits of geography in an age of technology, he has clients in every American time zone. He sits on the Industry Advisory Panel for the American Public University System.

Candidacy Statement

So many times we encounter those who don’t know there is an Air Force Academy equal in stature to West Point and Annapolis. Our roots aren’t as deep as theirs — our Long Blue Line is in front of us, not behind. We are forward-looking. Our heritage is unique — even among service academies. The opportunities to learn and serve are key in order to achieve new heights in aviation, new territories in business, and new frontiers in cyberspace. I am a USAFA ambassador in all I do. I hope to serve the interests of the graduates and the institution that has been foundational to my success.