

SMS 987
20 September 2022
Schreck, Christopher J.

HENNRIKUS, GEORGE F., JR.

1953-1959

LINEAR FT.: 0.3

APPROX. NO. PGS.: 250

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George F. Hennrikus was an officer in the US Air Force and the Information Services Officer for the Air Force Academy Construction Agency (AFACA), a government agency formed in 1954 to supervise the design and construction of the Air Force Academy. In this position, Hennrikus facilitated communication between the AFACA and Air Force officials, members of the media, and local civic leaders. He also delivered presentations regarding the construction of the Academy, gave tours of the facilities, and performed other public affairs duties as needed. Details regarding the AFACA can be found within the collection in a letter from Col. Albert E. Stoltz to Col. Edgar A. Holt in Box 1, Folder 2.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

As Information Services Officer for the Air Force Academy Construction Agency, Hennrikus was responsible for distributing information and photographs to the Air Force, the media, and other interested parties. The items in this collection were assembled as a result of these activities, which his wife donated to the Academy following Hennrikus's death in 1992. This collection consists of six boxes divided into seven series, outlined below.

SERIES ONE: USAFA CONSTRUCTION AGENCY OFFICIAL RECORDS

Consists of Hennrikus's personal records including TDY orders, correspondence pertaining to the construction and planning for the Air Force Academy, and construction information for the various contracts involved in the construction of the Air Force Academy.

SERIES TWO: PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Consists of news releases, public announcements, and promotional materials, including press packets regarding the construction and opening of the Air Force Academy.

SERIES THREE: MAPS AND CHARTS

Consists of maps of the Air Force Academy grounds and Colorado Springs, along with two aeronautical charts covering different parts of Colorado.

SERIES FOUR: GRADUATION, 1959

Consists of memorabilia pertaining to the first graduation held at the Air Force Academy.

SERIES FIVE: PUBLISHED MATERIALS

Consists of various articles from local and national newspapers that provide a comprehensive overview of the details, controversies, and challenges associated with the construction of the

academy. Specific topics include congressional funding, water rights, land acquisition, housing projects, design controversy, and more.

SERIES SIX: PHOTOGRAPHS

Consists of photographs taken primarily of the Air Force Academy and the Academy grounds shortly before, during, and shortly after construction in the late 1950s. This series includes photos of dedication ceremonies, the class of 1959 graduation, conceptual photos of the Academy before construction, and people involved in the construction process.

SERIES SEVEN: AUDIOVISUAL

Consists of two 16mm reels of movie footage and two reel-to-reel audio tapes. The audio tapes are digitized to DVD and are included in the box.

Names: Hennrikus, George F.; Talbott, Harold E.

Keywords and terms: Air Force Academy Construction Agency; United States Air Force Academy (USafa); Academy Construction; Academy Architecture; Architectural Plans and Concepts; Academy Design; Academy Housing; Academy Funding; Water Resources; Land Acquisition; Contractors; Bids; Construction Timelines; Pine Valley; Douglass Valley; K-12 Schools; Cadet Dormitory Construction; Cadet Chapel Construction; Airfield Construction; Stadium Construction; Water Projects; Fryingpan-Arkansas Project; Colorado River Storage Project; Public Affairs; Class of 1959; Dedication Ceremonies; Graduation Ceremonies; Colorado Springs, Colorado; United States; 1950s

For information on how to cite the materials in this collection, see the Clark Special Collections Citation Guide at <https://usafa.libguides.com/spc>, or contact Clark Special Collections at (719) 333-4674.

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE: USAFA CONSTRUCTION AGENCY OFFICIAL RECORDS

BOX 1

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| Folder 1 | <p>Temporary Duty Travel (TDY) Orders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington, D.C. for AFACA Orientation with Washington office • Chicago, IL to confer with architect engineer on the public presentation of AFA design, 12 April 1955 (2 copies) • Fairplay, CO to tour water facilities, 27 May 1955 • Denver, CO, 5 Jul 1955 (3 copies) • New York, NY and Boston, MA to discuss AFACA with news media and joint Armed Forces PIO, 30 October 1956 • Hollywood, CA to approve first documentary film of the construction of the Air Force Academy, 7 November 1957 • Boulder, CO, 23 October 1957 |
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- Boston, MA to handle press presentation of the Air Force Academy Chapel at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2 November 1957.

Folder 2

Correspondence

- Letter from Col. Albert E. Stoltz to Col. Edgar A. Holt with attached copy of the history of the AFACA based on the Stoltz observations, 16 October 1958
- Letter of appreciation for a job well done on the Armed Forces Week from Gen. Harry A. Johnson to Gen. Benjamin W. Childlaw, Commander Ent AFB, 30 June 1953
- Letter from Maj. Gen. Lee Washbourne congratulating the AFACA and naming George Hennrikus for a job well done during the unveiling ceremony of the AFA model, 26 May 1955
- Letter from Russell D. Law to Hennrikus regarding a dinner meeting with Sec. Quarles, 5 October 1955
- Packet containing a letter from Brig. Gen. Robert L. Scott to Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon regarding reasons for a base Community Council as well as an outline and explanation about it, and a letter from Lt. Col. Thomas E. Corrigan to Capt. G.F. Hennrikus regarding sending him a copy, 20 February 1956
- Letter from Maj. Richard J. Coffee to Commander Ent Air Force Base government quarters on the AFA site for Hennrikus, 8 December 1956
- Letter from J. Roland Carr to George F. Hennrikus regarding an article on the AFA that was to appear in *Engineering News-Record*, 17 January 1957
- Correspondence between Mr. R. Hill Carruth and George F. Hennrikus regarding information about bids for the Academy's construction, 7 April 1957
- Favorable communication from Stephen D. McElroy to Capt. G.F. Hennrikus, 2 December 1957; attached is a communication from Albert Stoltz concurring the favorable communication, 7 January 1958 (2 copies)
- Letter from the Colorado House of Representatives to Hennrikus thanking him for the tour of the Academy site, 20 January 1958
- Invitation to Maj. Hennrikus to attend the presentation of the Distinguished Service Medal, 9 December 1958
- Farewell letter from Russel D. Law to George Hennrikus, 18 July 1959
- Letter concerning commemorative coins from G. Hennrikus to all divisions

Folder 3

Contractor Information Book. Notebook containing information pertaining to area under construction, name of vender, dollar amount of contract, date contract awarded, and date project completed

Folder 4

Committee Meetings

- Copy of agenda for panel meeting on design and construction of AFA, 26 April 1956

- List of members of the Congressional group committees
- Colorado Assessors Association list
- Advisory Committee to the U.S. Air Force Academy
- Copy of Colorado Springs meeting with the Secretary of the Air Force and his consultants, 16 April 1956

SERIES TWO: PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BOX 1

Folder 5 Public Affairs

- Publicity packet, "United States Air Force Academy Design Features," includes press and photograph of the Academy model, Saturday, 14 May 1955
- Publicity packet, "United States Air Force Academy," includes fact sheets on the Academy and a street map
- News release that the first contract was awarded for work at the Air Force Academy, and a list of bids.
- Announcement that bids will open for the building of the Cadet Chapel, 22 May 1959
- Office of Information of the Academy Construction Agency will be abolished, 14 January 1960
- Termination of the Government Quarters, 10 June 1958
- Government Quarters Clearance Certificate, 9 June 1958
- Notification of unsafe drinking water from Richard J. Coff, Chief, Maintenance Divisions, AFACA, to Hennrikus
- Copy of Orders from Burl K. Bush to 1020th USAF Special Activities Wing regarding flying status, 4 April 1957
- Fact Sheets: Six documents labelled "Fact Sheet" that provide background information regarding the history and background of the Air Force Academy and the events leading up to its construction. Each is a little different, and they date from 1955 to 1957
- Copy of the script from a video about AFA
- Silk screen with design
- Four decals

SERIES THREE: MAPS AND CHARTS

BOX 1

Folder 6 Maps and Charts

- Site and plot plan for AFA
- Map of the city of Colorado Springs and surroundings
- General locator maps of the Academy site (11 copies)
- USAF Academy site maps, (5 copies)
- 23½" x 45" Denver Aeronautical Chart

- 29" x 24" World Aeronautical Chart

SERIES FOUR: GRADUATION, 1959

BOX 1

Folder 7 Graduation, 1959

- News release, "Remarks by James A. Douglas before the Graduating Class of the Air Force Academy, 1959," Wednesday, 3 June 1959
- Remarks from Dwight D. Eisenhower for the first AFA graduation, 3 June 1959
- Remarks from Gen. Nathan F. Twining for the first AFA graduation 3 June 1959 (2 copies)
- News release, "Remarks by James A. Douglas before the Graduating Class of the Air Force Academy, 1959," 3 June 1959
- Copy of Graduation Exercises program, 1959
- Copy of press release regarding weddings planned to take place after graduation, June 1959
- Program of events for June Week 1959 (29 May-3 June)
- Copy of Protestant Baccalaureate Service at the Arnold Hall auditorium during June Week, 31 May 1959

SERIES FIVE: PUBLISHED MATERIALS

BOX 1

Folder 8 Academy Publications

- "Armed Forces Guide to Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region" (2 copies)
- "At the Ramparts, United States Air Force Academy: A Countdown of the Four Years" (2 copies)
- "United States Air Force Academy Guide and Directory"
- "The Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel"

Folder 9 Magazines

- *Life*. June 1959.
- "Where Falcons Wear Air Force Blue." *National Geographic*. June 1959. Reprint

Folder 10 Children's Book

- Musick, A.L. *Jigger Flies First*. Denver: Sage Books, 1957.

Folder 11 Newspapers

- "Capt. Hennrikus Becomes Academy Information Aide," *Gazette Telegraph*, 26 November 1954.

- *Washington Post*, 13 February 1958.
- *Falconews*, 15 May 1959.
- *Denver Post* editorial, 17 May 1959. (3 copies)
- *Cathedral Rock News* regarding the transfer of Maj. Hennrikus, 17 Jul 1959.
- *Falconews*, 7 August 1959.
- *Rocky Mountain News* first issue copy, reprinted 23 April 1959.
- “Denver and the West,” *The Denver Post*, 9 November 1994.
- Copy of political cartoon regarding moneys for Air Force Academy

BOX 2

Un-foldered USAFA Construction Articles. Copies of local newspaper articles describing the construction of the Air Force Academy between 1954 and 1956. Articles are divided into four large booklets titled *General*, *Architecture*, *Construction*, and *Water*. These articles cover various topics, and do not necessarily conform to the titles assigned to the booklets.

Topics include: Contractors; Bids; Timelines; Natural Gas; Electricity; Zoning; Land Acquisition; Pine Valley; Douglass Valley; Housing; K-12 Schools; Cadet Dormitories; Cadet Chapel; Airfields; Stadium; Water Projects; Fryingpan-Arkansas Project; Colorado River Storage Project; Architecture; Architectural Plans and Concepts; Design Controversy; Funding; Secretary Harold E. Talbott

SERIES SIX: PHOTOGRAPHS

BOX 3

Folder 1	US Air Force Academy Construction
Folder 2	Construction-Aerial
Folder 3	Construction Site Visit
Folder 4	Construction-Housing Development
Folder 5	Post Construction-Exterior
Folder 6	Post Construction-Interior
Folder 7	Construction-Conception
Folder 8	Photos-People
Folder 9	Academy Grounds: Non-construction
Folder 10	Academy Grounds: Non-construction Aerial
Folder 11	Airplanes
Folder 12	Duplicates

BOX 4

- Folder 1 Booklet 1
- Folder 2 Booklet 2
- Folder 3 Class of 1959-Award Ceremonies
- Folder 4 Class of 1959-Graduation
- Folder 5 USAFA Building Dedication Ceremonies
- Folder 6 Undeveloped

BOX 5 OVERSIZED PHOTOS

- Folder 1 Construction and Post-construction
- Folder 2 US Air Force Academy Aerial Photos. Three black and white photographs taken during construction
- Folder 3 US Air Force Academy Promotional Photos. Color photographs, some dated 1969
- Folder 4 United States Air Force Photos. Includes photos of airplanes (interior and exterior) and airmen
- Folder 5 Pre-construction Academy Grounds. Four large black and white photos on hard pressed cardboard. Future sites of certain Academy features are labelled

SERIES SEVEN: AUDIOVISUAL

BOX 6

- Reel 1 *Capt. George A.F. Academy Construction*. N.d. 16mm film
- Reel 2 Unidentified 16mm Film
- Reel 3 *What the Captain Means*. 1966. 7" reel to reel audio tape. Live audio recording parody from Vietnam. Digital recording on DVD included
- Reel 4 *Board of Visitors (KVOR)*. KVOR broadcast, 1957. 7" reel to reel audio tape. Digital recording on DVD included