

SMS 1441

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**COFFEE, RICHARD J., COL. U.S.A.F. (RET.)
1954-2001**

**LINEAR FT.: 4.0
APPROX. NO. PGS. 3000**

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in Indiana, Colonel Coffee earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Purdue University before working for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad. Called to active duty in 1941, he served in New Guinea, the Philippines, and the United Nations until he was discharged and returned to the railroad. Recalled to active duty in 1951, he served in Japan as chief of the construction division, Far East Air Forces, where he was responsible for the development of Okinawa as a B-29 base, and construction of the United Nations bases in Korea. On return to the United States, Colonel Coffee was a key member of the Air Force Academy Construction Agency, which supervised the design and construction of the Academy grounds and buildings. Colonel Coffee retired 30 July 1974. (Source: Biographical note from the introduction to Colonel Coffee's Oral History Interview with Colonel Jim Gaston)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of architectural and engineering plans and drawings, materials samples, printed materials, and photographs pertaining primarily to construction of the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) grounds and buildings in the 1950 – 1960s and early USAFA events. Also included are a few personal items documenting Colonel Coffee's life and career such as ribbons, medals, and officers' guides.

BOX ONE

Folder 1 Photographs of the United States Air Force Academy buildings and facilities
 under varying stages of construction (1 of 2)

Folder 2 Photographs of the United States Air Force Academy buildings and facilities
 under varying stages of construction (2 of 2)

Folder 3 Air Force Academy Construction Agency documents and photographs

Folder 4 Photographs of various personnel and events during the early years of the United
 States Air Force Academy

- Folder 5 Booklet of Construction photographs. Farnsworth & Chambers Co., Inc. Contractors & Engineers, Houston-New Orleans, 1957-1958
- Folder 6 Seventy-one 35mm color slides of the United States Air Force Academy buildings
- Folder 7 Photographs from early 1960s of United States Air Force Academy events and construction

BOX TWO

- Folder 1 Department of the Army Field Manuals: *Construction Inspector's Guide Volume 2*, 1960 and *Engineer Field Data*. Field Manual FM5-34. Department of the Army, June 1956
- Folder 2 Invitations for bids on construction of the United States Air Force Academy Chapel, 1959
- Folder 3 Correspondence between Colonel Coffee and construction agencies, 1955-57.
- Folder 4 United States Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, CO. Construction Drawings Academy Chapel, 30 December 1958
- Folder 5 "Goatcamp Breeze." Volume II, No. 1. *Air Force Corps of Engineers*, 1959 and Air Force Academy Construction Agency membership lists and updates, 1990s
- Folder 6 *Armed Forces Guide to Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak Region*. Air Force Academy, n.d.
- Folder 7 Ephemera: *Where Falcons Wear Air Force Blue*, National Geographic, 1959; Cadet Chapel stamps, 2003; Envelope with Academy and Superintendent Harmon pictured, 1959; *Report of the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy*, 1957; Falcon Favorite Recipes book, n.d.
- Folder 8 Area Map of Lowry Air Force Base
- Folder 9 Publications: *A Professional Reading Guide for Air Force Officers*, AFP 36-5-1, 1954-55; *A Guide for Officer Evaluation*, Department of the Air Force, 1954; *The Air Officers Guide*, 1951; *Staff Officers' Correspondence Guide*, Headquarters United States Air Force, 1954.
- Folder 10 Colonel Richard Coffee biographical documents and ephemera, 1939-74
- Folder 11 Ruptured Duck insignia history and pin, 2004

OVERSIZED BOX THREE

Maps Academy Chapel Construction Drawings, reduced size reproductions, 15 June 1959, Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill

OVERSIZED BOX FOUR

Scrapbook Colonel Richard Coffee and Mrs. Coffee's scrapbook called *Clips 'n Snips*, 1950s-1990s

BOX FIVE

Service Medals, digitized footage from Colonel Coffee's career and a trip around Colorado (1957-58), and loose mosaic tiles from around the academy in blue, yellow, red, and green

Medals and Ribbons in Box Five

- Package 1- United States Air Force Patch
 Expert Marksmanship Medals for Field Artillery and Pistol
- Package 2- Legion of Merit
- Package 3- Bronze Star
- Package 4- Military Merit Medal
- Package 5- 4th Air Force Unit Patch, Squadron Patch and Expert Marksmanship Award for Pistol and Carbine
- Package 6- Presidential Unit Citation
- Package 7- 3rd Award Outstanding Squadron, Valor Under Fire
- Package 8- American Defense Medal
- Package 9- American Campaign Medal
- Package 10- European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
- Package 11- Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal
- Package 12- World War II Victory Medal
- Package 13- Army of Occupation Medal (1945 Japan)
- Package 14- National Defense Medal
- Package 15- Korean Service Medal
- Package 16- Republic of Vietnam Service Medal
- Package 17- Air Force Longevity Service Award
- Package 18- Armed Forces Reserve Medal
- Package 19- Expert Marksmanship, Rifle and Pistol
- Package 20- Philippine Liberation Medal
- Package 21- 10th Air Force Patch, Unit Patch
- Package 22- Philippine Bar
- Package 23- United Nations Korean War Service Medal
- Package 24- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Package 25- 823rd Civil Engineering Squadron Patch

OVERSIZED BOX SIX

Sheets of mosaic tile samples in green, red, blue, and yellow (HANDLE WITH CAUTION)

OVERSIZED BOX SEVEN

Japanese navigation calculator tool, pre-World War II with instructions

OVERSIZED MAPS

Folder 1 Air Force Academy Construction Agency topographic map of USAFA planned area, July 1954

Location Plan for Buildings, n.d.

Chart showing actual construction progress, 27 January 1960

Chart showing actual construction progress revised, February 1960

Oversized maps located in Special Collections Map Storage #1, Drawer 12