

The Brent Scowcroft Professorship in National Security Studies

A half-century ago, the Air Force Academy emerged as an intellectual leader in the field of defense policy, fulfilling the Academy's early mandate to produce officers who could "anticipate the dynamism of the nuclear age, providing direction to the profession based on an intellectual understanding of the future and an operational experience with the past."

Given our present-day security challenges of terrorism, cyber-warfare, vulnerabilities in the global commons of space and threats to the environment, it is more crucial than ever that the Academy produce leaders capable of effectively providing direction and guidance. Gaining an intellectual understanding of current and future challenges requires a special focus—one provided through the establishment of the Brent Scowcroft Professorship in National Security Studies, resident in the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies in the Department of Political Science.

The Center, through the work of the Scowcroft Professorship, aims to produce officers who are intellectually agile and alert to new domains and new threats. These young men and women will be able to adapt to rapidly changing environments and will be ready to lead an Air Force in facing not only foreseeable challenges and opportunities, but others that cannot now be imagined.

Named after Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft, USAF (retired), this professorship honors and commemorates his distinguished service to our country and provides a continuing reminder of his professionalism, integrity, and critical intellect—ideals that we seek to instill in our cadets as vital to their 21st century careers. General Scowcroft served as the National Security Advisor to both Presidents Gerald R. Ford and George H.W. Bush and has played a significant role in shaping our nation's defense policy for over four decades. He also served as Head of the Air Force Academy's Department of Political Science, where he emphasized the importance of intellectual achievement and an appreciation for the broader political and constitutional context in which the profession of arms exists.

The Scowcroft Professorship will be held by a scholar of national reputation, whose credentials combine academic achievement with practical experience. Specific responsibilities include:

- Guide the development of defense and national security studies within the Eisenhower Center; design new courses, publish a new textbook on American Defense Policy, and enhance internship and research opportunities for cadets.
- Mentor cadets preparing to compete for prestigious national scholarships, which would propel these young officers into important positions of influence.
- Provide two full semesters of teaching in political science each year.

At this critical juncture in our history, the Scowcroft Professorship advances the Air Force Academy as the leading undergraduate institution in the country, developing future leaders who understand not only the tactical requirements of their profession but the broader strategic and political-military context in which it functions.