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## **Air Force Academy Association of Graduates and Foundation Take Next Big Step in Advancing Joint Operations and Shared Mission and Purpose**

*Organizations Announce Single President*

Colorado Springs, Colorado (Nov. 17, 2021) – To even better support the United States Air Force Academy and its more than 53,000 graduates, the Air Force Academy Foundation and Association of Graduates today announced a new president to lead both organizations.

Mark Hille, a 1997 graduate of the Air Force Academy, assumed his new and expanded responsibilities Sept. 1. He previously served as president and chief operating officer of the Air Force Academy Foundation, leading the recent launch of Defining Our Future, a comprehensive fundraising and engagement campaign in support of the Academy.

Hille now oversees efforts in the AOG and Foundation to implement a combined operating plan and strategy, unify missions, enhance alignment between graduate engagement and development, share services and staff, and coalesce communications.

The naming of a single president of the AOG and Foundation comes at a historic time for both organizations. The Association of Graduates board in July approved the expansion of membership in the AOG to all graduates at no cost to them—an effort that will launch in January 2022. Additionally, the Foundation and AOG in September launched the largest comprehensive campaign in Academy history.

The single president is the latest step by the AOG and Foundation to combine their complementary efforts under a shared purpose. In April of 2020, the AOG and Foundation boards installed a new single CEO to oversee both organizations, with retired Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, a 1976 graduate and the 18<sup>th</sup> superintendent of the Academy, serving in that capacity. Though the two organizations are unifying, they will continue to maintain separate boards.

“These are defining times for the Air Force Academy,” Gould said. “The work we do is more essential than ever, and so the Academy must be better than ever. The Association of Graduates and Air Force Academy Foundation are moving forward together as one united organization with a common purpose: to support the Academy by fostering lifelong engagement, participation, service and giving, and to celebrate our history and heritage.”

Gould added: “As a graduate himself, Mark Hille is deeply passionate about serving our Long Blue Line and supporting the Academy in its mission of developing leaders of character.”

Graduates will play a crucial role in the Defining Our Future campaign. The campaign will impact nearly every area of the Academy with its goals of raising \$270 million for Academy priorities

and strategic needs for supporting organizations; increasing awareness, engagement and participation among graduates, parents and friends; deepening institutional pride among all stakeholders; and imbuing faculty, staff, graduates and supporters with information highlighting philanthropy's role and impact at the Academy.

"I'm honored by this opportunity to serve my fellow graduates and help advance the mission of the United States Air Force Academy," Hille said. "Through tighter mission alignment, deeper integration of operations, and robust resource sharing, we can and will better live the time honored Air Force value of Excellence in All We Do."

Upon completion of his active duty in the U.S. Air Force in 2003, Hille spent over two years at the Association of Graduates before joining the United States Air Force Academy Endowment, where he was principal gift officer for the Holaday Athletic Center and the Center for Character and Leadership Development. He was the first employee of the Endowment, which changed its name to the Air Force Academy Foundation in 2020.

Hille served from 2013-2020 in the advancement office at Colorado College, finally as the vice president of the division. At Colorado College, he led efforts for its successful \$465 million campaign, with responsibility for alumni relations and development functions across the institution.

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