

Brig. Gen. Armacost Awarded Honorary AOG Membership

By Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Simon '77

As his tenure as the Air Force Academy's dean of the faculty neared its end, the Association of Graduates presented Brig. Gen. Andrew Armacost a fitting going-away present: honorary membership.

The AOG recognized Armacost for his long and faithful service to the Air Force, the Academy and the AOG.

An ROTC Distinguished Graduate from Northwestern University in 1989, he has been a key player in the Air Force Academy faculty since his arrival in 1995. Upon completion of his master's degree in operations research, he joined the Department of Management as an instructor. After completing his Ph.D. in operations research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2000, he returned to USAFA as a professor.

In 2008, he was appointed permanent professor and head of the Department of Management. In 2013, he became the 10th officer to become dean of the faculty. He is the first non-graduate to hold that position since Brig. Gen. Erlind Royer retired in 1991.

Brig. Gen. Armacost has led the 700-member faculty during a challenging six-year period, with budget and staffing issues, a comprehensive review of the academic program, and the once-a-decade reaccreditation. He and his team came up with innovative solutions, to include increasing the civilian representation on the faculty.

Under his leadership, the Academy's research programs reached new heights, establishing the first-ever tech transfer program, expanding the Cadet Summer Research Program and standing up the Air Force's Cyber Innovation Center. In addition, the National Science Foundation has recognized the Academy research program as the No. 1 funded undergraduate research program among U.S. colleges and universities.

Brig. Gen. Armacost also received a number of prestigious awards, which reflect favorably on the Academy. The Institute for Operations Research and the Management

Brig. Gen. Andrew Armacost, USAFA's dean of faculty, is the Association of Graduates' newest honorary member. He's been a supporter of AOG efforts during his tenure, including serving as emcee of the Founders Day banquet the past two years. (Photo by Karina Ross)



Sciences (INFORMS) gave him an honorary fellowship in 2018 for "outstanding lifetime achievement in operations research and the management sciences." A year later, he received the Dr. Jacqueline R. Henningsen Analyst Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes Air Force researchers who demonstrate excellence in the science, technology, engineering and math career fields, and have a long-lasting effect on the Air Force.

Brig. Gen. Armacost has been a great friend and supporter of the Association of Graduates. Most visibly, he served as master of ceremonies for the 2018 and 2019 Founders Day Dinners in Arnold Hall. Beyond that, he has always been willing to meet with, advise and support the AOG on any project that arose.

The AOG Bylaws govern the honorary member program: "Honorary membership may be awarded to non-graduates who have rendered outstanding and conspicuous service to the Air Force, the Academy and/or the AOG. Honorary members must be recommended by a member of the Board and

receive unanimous acceptance by all members present at a quorum of the Board. Honorary membership is limited to 25 living persons."

Brig. Gen. Armacost is the 36th person so honored. The first honorary membership was awarded on Oct. 3, 1981, to Mrs. Gail McComas, the Academy's first Cadet Wing Hostess, who served from 1955 until 1977. Other selectees are former Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater, World War II aviation hero (and AOG headquarters building namesake) Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and former Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Robert McDermott. The most recent honoree before Brig. Gen. Armacost's membership was in May 2014 — Maj. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, a former commandant of cadets.

The honorary membership program allows the AOG to visibly and publicly honor non-graduates who support the AOG's mission to "serve and support the United States of America, the United States Air Force, the United States Air Force Academy, and the graduate community." 