

AOG Board Selects

PHIL ERDLE

for Honorary Membership



For over 40 years, Brigadier General (Ret.) Phil Erdle has devoted a large portion of his life to supporting the Academy, its programs, and cadets. From 1960 until 1979, he served on the Academy faculty. His exceptional teaching skills and commitment to the Academy mission resulted in his selection in 1964, to be the

Permanent Professor and Head of the Department of Engineering and Mechanics. He was also the Vice Dean of Faculty for five years and the officer representative for the Falcon baseball team. In 1973, he co-founded and directed the International Science and Engineering Exchange, Inc., a non-profit corporation to promote and facilitate technology transfer among seventeen U.S. and six foreign universities.

Since his retirement from active duty in 1979, Brigadier General Erdle has continued to contribute to the morale and well-being of the Academy in many significant ways. He was a key proponent for the creation of a foundation to support continued academic excellence at USAFA. His efforts were rewarded with the creation of the Academy Research and Development Institute. Once the institute was established, General Erdle immediately began to successfully solicit gifts to endow chairs in the academic departments to be occupied by distinguished visiting professors.

Today, the value of the donations solicited by General Erdle and the retained income from their prudent investment exceed \$17 million. Distinguished Visiting Professors selected by the dean and academy department heads have taught cadets and collaborated with military faculty colleagues in the Major General William Lyon Chair in Philosophy, the Brigadier General Robert F. McDermott Chair in Academic Excellence, the William A. Anders Chair in Defense Economics, the Wesley W. Posvar Chair in Political Science, the Philip J. Erdle Chair in Engineering Science, the Coleman/Richardson Chair in Computer Science, and the Bernard Schriever Chair in Astronautics. Investment funds from the William E. Simon Center for Strategic Studies, and from the Ambassador Walter H. Annenburg Chair in Social Sciences, both "chairs in waiting", as well as the annual John M. Olin Professorship in National Security and Defense Studies gift, have brought distinguished military, government, and business leaders to deliver cadet lectures and lead faculty discussions. General Erdle is also an active member of the Sabre Society and a major proponent of an expanded AOG presence at the Academy.

For these good works and many others in his continuing and unpaid support of the Academy and its cadets, Brigadier General Phil Erdle is the newest Honorary Member of the United States Air Force Academy Association of Graduates.

