

To the Long Blue Line:

Recently, your United States Air Force Academy has become part of a nationwide conversation on Critical Race Theory (CRT). I recognize there are voices and opinions from graduates on both sides of this topic. As the Superintendent, I want to make our stance clear.

As a service academy, we are uniquely positioned as both a university and a critical component of the military. Even more unique is our top priority – to commission leaders of character as officers in the Air Force and Space Force. Our foundation is solidly anchored in the apolitical support and defense of our Constitution. We deeply respect our country and our commitment to defend it. The United States military is the most powerful and lethal force in human history, and with this power comes great responsibility. We take this responsibility seriously.

In our pursuit of integrity, service, and excellence, we stand on the side of education. We teach to understand, not indoctrinate. We teach *how* to think, not *what* to think. Part of higher education involves exposure to many ideas, philosophies and theories. As leaders and educators, our role is to enable and guide our cadets through the structure and rigor of a broad education – one that achieves our institutional outcomes and builds their capacity to both think critically and communicate clearly.

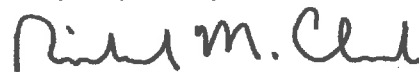
Our next generation of leaders are strong, inquisitive, and innovative. They need to be challenged and pushed to think deeply and boldly. They also need to develop the skill of listening, even when the topic is something they may disagree with. Hence, we encourage our cadets to dissect assumptions, skillfully articulate views and thoughtfully express opinions. They must understand the value of differing perspectives and collaboration while promoting teamwork and mutual respect as the core of everything we do.

Rather than fostering a fear of tough conversations, we are developing and fine-tuning their ability to engage in professional discourse on controversial ideas. The weight of our nation's lethal power will soon be on their shoulders. To bear that weight, they must be courageous, fair-minded, honest, and embody a warrior ethos.

As future leaders of a diverse force, as future warfighters in an ambiguous environment, and as servants of this nation, such skills are not simply niceties – they are strategic imperatives. To succeed when the stakes are at their highest, our graduates must be able to lead across cultural differences both domestically and with international partners.

I am proud of our institution and confident in the next generation of leaders we are developing. Our graduates are a testament that the Long Blue Line has always inspired others, and our cadets today will continue to do so. Rest assured our prime directive will always be to instill in our cadets the desire to live honorably as leaders of character and be the warriors who will support and defend our Constitution now and in the future.

Very Respectfully,



21st SUPERINTENDENT

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY