Our Distinguished Graduates for 2003

The USAF Academy and its Association of Graduates recently announced the winners of the Air Force Academy’s Distinguished Graduate Award. Lieutenant General Bradley C. Hosmer, ’59 and Mr. Richard T. Schlossberg, III, ’65 earned this prestigious honor for their singular and distinctive contributions to society and the nation. Honor, duty, loyalty and integrity capture the essence of these two distinguished graduates. Their accomplishments are testimony to the values the Academy instills in its graduates.

The awardees will be honored at ceremonies and events held in conjunction with the Academy’s Founders Day April 1. Both men will have the opportunity to interact with the cadets during their visit.

The Association of Graduates established the Distinguished Graduate Award as a way to identify to the public and the Cadet Wing the broad national impact that graduates of the United States Air Force Academy have on society. The individual achievements of our winners exemplify the qualities and characteristics that the Academy strives to imbue in its cadets — the future leaders of our Air Force and the country.

The accomplishments of these distinguished graduates are sketched in the following paragraphs. Their achievements are too numerous to account for all of them here, but these highlights illustrate their commitment and dedication to the nation and the Air Force Academy.
Lieutenant General Bradley C. Hosmer’s years of service to his country were marked by a series of historic “firsts” matched only by his exemplary record of leadership and professionalism in keeping with the highest ideals of the Air Force. He was the top graduate in the first Academy class. He was also the Academy’s first Rhodes Scholar and the first graduate to serve as Superintendent. General Hosmer was a command pilot and flew more than 4,000 hours principally in fighter aircraft. As a young officer, he served as an air liaison officer and forward air controller with the Army in Vietnam. His courage under fire earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross. While at Headquarters, 7th Air Force, he was instrumental in developing plans to provide integrated air support to the besieged Marine garrison at Khe Sanh. During his career, General Hosmer’s wisdom and foresight earned him a lasting reputation as a thinker, planner and innovator in a wide array of positions from Wing and Air Division Commander to Vice Director of the Joint Staff and President of the National Defense University. During his tenure as the Academy’s Superintendent, he made remarkable contributions in a number of critical areas. He spearheaded the development of the Academy’s core values — Integrity First — Service Before Self — Excellence.

(2) July 11, 1955, Cadet Bradley Hosmer, the Academy’s first Rhodes Scholar, takes the oath of office at the Air Force Academy, Lowry AFB, Colo. (3) Hosmer and his family at Christmas 2002. (4) General and Mrs. Hosmer while he was USAFA superintendent, 1991-94. (5) 1967, Hosmer with O-1 in Vietnam as an Air Liaison Officer assigned to the U.S. Army. (6) Hosmer receiving a briefing while visiting the Soviet Tank Academy May 1989.
in All We Do. The Air Force later adopted these strong principles as its core values. General Hosmer greatly strengthened the Academy’s character development and leadership programs. After retirement, he served as an adviser to senior Air Force leadership on a wide array of subjects to include counter terrorism, leadership development and the Academy’s character development program. General Hosmer’s lifetime contributions to the Academy, the Air Force, and the nation will serve as an inspiration to future generations of cadets.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Richard T. Schlosberg demonstrated principled leadership and selfless commitment to his institutions, community and country that exemplify the values of the United States Air Force Academy. As a young officer, Capt. Schlosberg was awarded the air medal with five oak leaf clusters after serving two tours of duty in Southeast Asia where he flew over 200 combat support missions as a KC-135 pilot. After graduating with honors from Harvard Business School, Mr. Schlosberg began a career in publishing that spanned 25 years. He served as President of The Corpus Christi Caller-Times; Publisher and CEO of The Denver Post; and President, Publisher and CEO of The Los Angeles Times. Under his
leadership, both The Denver Post and The Los Angeles Times won the Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor. In 1999, Mr. Schlosberg became President and CEO of The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, one of the nation’s largest philanthropic foundations, where he led efforts to improve early childhood education and health, support emerging scientists, protect the oceans, advance reproductive rights, and slow the rate of world population growth. During his five-year tenure, the Foundation made $2 billion in grants to non-profit organizations worldwide.

Equally important to Mr. Schlosberg was his steadfast commitment to community service and volunteerism. He served on the Board of Directors of National Junior Achievement, The Smithsonian Institution, the National Air and Space Museum and southern California’s public television station. He served as chairman of two United Way campaigns, first in Denver, where his leadership was instrumental in setting a record for contributions, and then in Los Angeles, where he mobilized the business and volunteer community, establishing record levels of participation. In every endeavor, Mr. Schlosberg left institutions stronger than when he arrived, was a mentor to emerging leaders and was revered by those who worked for him.

Throughout a lifetime of leadership and service, he exemplified the highest ideals and core values of the Air Force Academy.

The Academy and the Association of Graduates congratulate Lt. Gen. Hosmer and Mr. Schlosberg on this well-deserved recognition of their outstanding accomplishments and service to the nation.

According to a release issued by the U.S. Department of Defense Feb. 17, twenty U.S. Air Force Academy graduates have been nominated to the rank of brigadier general by President George W. Bush, including Colonel Janet Therianos, '80, the Academy’s first female graduate to be selected for promotion to the rank of brigadier general.

Class of 1978
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) C. D. Alston, ’78
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Herbert J. Carlisle, ’78
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Harold W. Moulton II, ’78
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Joseph F. Mudd Jr., ’78
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Joseph M. Reheiser, ’78
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Joseph Reynes Jr., ’78

Class of 1979
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Charles R. Davis, ’79
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Frank Gorenc, ’79
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Donald Lustig, ’79
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) William N. McCasland, ’79
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Mark H. Owen, ’79
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Robin Rand, ’79
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Stephen D. Schmidt, ’79

Class of 1980
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Robert R. Allardice, ’80
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Frank J. Kisner, ’80
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Christopher D. Miller, ’80
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Janet Anthea A. Therianos, ’80

Class of 1981
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Brooks L. Bash, ’81
Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Robert Yates, ’81