

## 23<sup>rd</sup> USAF ACADEMY CADET SQUADRON



### **LINEAGE**

### **STATIONS**

USAF Academy, CO

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Robert E. Shafer, II, 1961

Cpt Ralph W. Stephenson, Jr.

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

The squadron's first emblem is a silver-bordered triangle with rounded corners. The top and bottom sections of the emblem contain a black field, while the left and right sections are red. A knight's head is in the top section. The beginning of a square knot and the words "23rd SQUADRON," in red, are on the bottom. The knight symbolizes the gentleman and soldier. The red and black represent valor, while the winged inset on the knight's helmet ties these attributes to the Air Force cadet. The square knot vividly portrays strength through unity.

The squadron's second emblem is a gold and black circle bordered in black. A World War I aviator known as "Captain Zig-Zag" appears in the center with the words "BARN STORMIN

23" to the aviator's right. The aviator signifies the qualities of courage, patriotism and daring. Emblem was used in 1976 and 1977.

The squadron's third emblem is a circular emblem with a World War I aviator soaring through white clouds in the middle of a sky blue background. The word "BARN STORMIN," written in blue, sits at the top of the emblem, and the reel numeral "23" is at the bottom. Red, white and blue symbolize the colors of the American flag. The barnstormer represents the spirit and daring of the men who pioneered American commercial and military aviation. Emblem was designed by Ron Lowe, class of 1979.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

Barnstormers

## **OPERATIONS**

The mission of the USAF Academy is to educate, train, and inspire men and women to become officers of character motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation.

The cadet student body is designated the Cadet Wing. The wing is composed of four groups consisting of 10 squadrons each, with about 110 cadets assigned to a squadron. Each squadron consists of members of all four classes.

The United States Air Force Academy offers a four-year program of instruction and experience designed to provide cadets the knowledge and character essential for leadership, and the motivation to serve as Air Force career officers. Each cadet graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

Cadets are exposed to a balanced curriculum that provides a general and professional foundation essential to a career Air Force officer. Special needs of future Air Force officers are met by professionally oriented courses, including human physiology, computer science, economics, military history, astronautics, law and political science.

The core curriculum includes courses in science, engineering, social sciences and humanities. Cadets take additional elective courses to complete requirements for one of 25 major areas of study. About 60 percent of the cadets complete majors in science and engineering; the other 40 percent graduate in the social sciences and humanities. Some of the most popular majors include management, astronautical engineering, international affairs and political science, history, behavioral science, civil engineering, aeronautical engineering, electrical engineering and engineering mechanics.



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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

*Squadron Insignia of the United States Air Force Academy*. P. Michael Sheridan. Sheridan Publications. Colorado Springs, CO. 1990.