USAFA/Cadet Wing
Colorado Springs, CO
26 January 2024

OPORD: NATIONAL CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM '24

References:
(a) USAFA PLAN 10-46, 31 January 2019, *NCLS*
(b) USAFA NCLS 2024 PLANORD
(c) USAFAI 36-3536, *Allocation of Cadet Time*, 18 Nov 19

Time Zone Used Throughout the Order: **Mountain Time**

Task Organization: 10 ABW
306 FTG
USAFA/AD
USAFA/CW
USAFA/DF
HQ USAFA Staff

1. **SITUATION**: This year's NCLS theme is *Valuing Human Conditions, Cultures, and Societies* with the tagline "Embrace Culture. Empower People." The NCLS program capstone event is an institutional symposium scheduled for 21-23 Feb 2024. A confirmed complete speaker list is located at WWW.USAFA.EDU/NCLS.

   a) Enemy Forces: N/A
   b) Friendly Forces: All USAFA cadets and personnel
   c) Attachments and Detachments: N/A

2. **MISSION**
   a) Execute world-class institutional experiences that inspire the development of habits consistent with the Air Force core values through purposeful character and leadership development engagements throughout the Academic year.
   b) NCLS capstone event conducted 21-23 February 2024.

3. **EXECUTION**
   a. **Commander's Intent:**
      i) Execute purposeful engagement and leadership development through understanding and focused application of the annual NCLS Theme.
   b. **Concept of Operations:**
      i) The USAFA Superintendent is the supported commander. USAFA/CCLD is the supported command organization. CW is a supporting command. NCLS is an institutional event, fully supported by all USAFA commanders, MEs, functional directorates, and organizations in coordination with USAFA/CCLD.

        ii) NCLS serves as a Leader of Character development experience for cadets and permanent party. All cadets are expected to attend IAW Para 3.c.v) of this order.

        iii) All USAFA organizations will leverage NCLS opportunities for their respective education/training/experience efforts and reinforce USAFA's reputation as a world-class institution and Leader of Character developmental institution.

  c. **Coordinating Instructions:**

        i) The primary audience is the Cadet Wing.

        ii) Cadet development occurs through participation during speaker sessions; small group discussions; workshops; interaction with other participants, particularly USAFA staff and faculty; and engaging in reflections and actions consistent with developing as a Leader of Character.

        iii) The secondary audience includes the faculty/staff and cadet candidates.

        iv) Tertiary audiences include community members, businesses, Government members, students, alumni, military members, donors to the academy, and the speakers themselves. All participants relate to powerful speakers and discussion sessions in a way that encourages reflection and action toward the leader of character development.

        v) Each cadet will register and attend five NCLS sessions, at a minimum, including three mandatory events with their class (ref: Attachment 1: Mandatory Events) and two additional sessions of their choice. **All cadets are required to register for NCLS sessions NLT <u>08 Feb 24</u>.** Cadets are encouraged to register for additional events beyond the five if they choose.

        vi) Cadets will register for NCLS here: https://cvent.me/yKmyEw. Consult Attachment 1: Mandatory Events.

        vii) Prior to NCLS, cadets will consult the NCLS schedule link for information on locations, times, and any updates/changes to session schedules. A current Schedule of Events is available in Attachment 2 and here: https://www.usafa.edu/character/national-character-leadership-symposium-ncls/schedule-of-events/

        viii) Cadets who are hosting NCLS guests overnight in Vandenberg Hall or Sijan Hall are approved for closed door no AMI from Wednesday, 21 February through Friday, 23 February. Cadets who do not receive an AMI grade that week are responsible for ensuring their room gets graded during the AMI make up week.

4. **SERVICE AND SUPPORT**

  a. **General**

        i) **Frontline Supervisors (Flt/CCs, Element Leaders, Supervisors)**

           a) Track squadron's sign-up progress

           b) Report completion through the Chain of Command to Flt/CCs

           c) Flt/CCs report completion to Sq/CC

           d) Encourage and verify cadet attendance of NCLS events

    ii) Cadet Squadron Commanders
- **a)** Report unit sign-up completion status to AOCs/AMTs **NLT 09 Feb 24**
- **b)** Encourage and verify squadron's attendance of NCLS events

    iii) AOCs/AMTs
- **a)** Guide squadron leadership to successful OPORD requirement adherence, to include completion of registration and mandatory event attendance.
- **b)** Verify squadron's attendance of NCLS events and take appropriate action for unauthorized absences

    iv) Uniform of the Day (UOD)
- **a)** 21-23 Feb: UOD for cadets and permanent party will be OCPs.
- **b)** UOD for cadets and permanent party serving as escorts is service dress.

    v) Cadet-in-Charge of Quarters (CCQ). CCQ hours will be adjusted during NCLS week in the following manner, in order to maximize cadet participation in the lectures.
- **a)** <u>Wed, 21 Feb</u>: CCQ duties will be conducted during normal hours (1600 until TAPS or until Squadron DI results are reported by SDO, whichever is later).
- **b)** <u>Thu, 22 Feb</u>: CCQ duties will be conducted from 1830 until TAPS or until Squadron DI results are reported by SDO, whichever is later.
- **c)** <u>Fri, 22 Feb</u>: CCQ duties will be conducted from 1700 until TAPS or until Squadron DI results are reported by SDO, whichever is later.

b. **Services**

    i) Meals
- **a)** Mitchell Hall will operate within a special schedule of calls (SSOC) on Friday, 23 February 2024, with lunch served from 1210-1300. There is no Noon Meal Formation on Friday, 23 February 2024 in order to facilitate full cadet participation in NCLS sessions and activities.

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. **Primary points of contact:** Route questions regarding this OPORD through the appropriate chain of command to:
- **i)** Maj Christopher Piha (christopher.piha@afacademy.af.edu)
- **ii)** Maj Lucas Rider (lucas.rider@afacademy.af.edu)
- **iii)** MSgt Cherie Coale (cherie.coale@afacademy.af.edu)

b. **Accountability**

    i) Attendance
- **a)** It is each cadet's responsibility to ensure they are present at mandatory events and the additional events they choose to attend. Accountability will be taken via QR code for each event and will be provided to each Squadron's AOC & Cadet Squadron Commander at the end of each day for their awareness and use. Each squadron is responsible for ensuring their cadets attended five NCLS sessions (three mandatory events with their class and two additional sessions of their choice).

      b) Cadets are prohibited from sharing the QR code in order to record another's attendance.

  ii) Excusals

      a) Cadets may sign out after LMD on Wed, 21 Feb and Thu, 22 Feb on a day-pass only (no overnight passes). IAW AFCW policy, the lower-two classes must sign back in by ACQ, and the upper-two classes must sign back in by TAPs. Sign-out logs are closed on Friday, 23 Feb until 1700. Exceptions may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the PP Gp/CC.

  iii) Cadet Athletes

      a) Intercollegiate athletes are excused at 1400 on Friday, 23 February 2024 to attend practice, as required. Cadets shall schedule and attend sessions 21-23 February that do not conflict with practice to meet the 5-session requirement.

  iv) Other Excusals during NCLS

      a) Route all other excusals (medical, emergency, etc.) through squadron AOC/AMTs for approval.

PETER J. GRYZEN, Col, USAF
Vice Commandant of Cadets

2 Attachments:
1. Mandatory Events
2. Schedule of Events

DISTRIBUTION:
306 FTG
USAFA/DF
USAFA/AD
10 ABW
HQ USAFA Staff

Attachment 1: Mandatory Events

TIME	EVENT	CLASS
Mandatory Events		
TIME	EVENT	CLASS
Wednesday (21 Feb)		
1135-1155	Lunch at Mitchell Hall	
1155-1220	Transit to Arnold Hall	
1230-1330	Cadet Wing Kick-Off Event in Arnold Hall (Speaker: Lt Col Joe Sarduy)	CY 2024 CY 2027
1550-1650	Colvin Keynote Lecture in Arnold Hall (Speaker: Mr. Bryan Stevenson)	CY 2024 CY 2025
Thursday (22 Feb)		
1700-1800	Muse Family Foundation Keynote in Arnold Hall	CY 2025 CY 2026
Friday (23 Feb)		
0800-0900	Polaris Dawn Keynote Lecture in Arnold Hall	CY 2026
0925-1025	Missy Franklin in Arnold Hall	CY 2027
1300-1400	Enix Heritage Keynote in Arnold Hall	CY 2024 CY 2025
1545-1630	Challenge Ceremony in Arnold Hall	CY 2026 CY 2027

Attachment 2: Schedule of Events

Please reference the NCLS website for changes at https://www.usafa.edu/character/national-character-leadership-symposium-ncls/schedule-of-events/.

Tuesday, 20 Feb 2024	**10:00 am – 10:00 pm**	Character Summit out of town guests arrive – Registration at Arnold Hall (External military service academy guests only: Visiting cadets/midshipmen, Faculty, Medal of Honor Recipient(s))
Wednesday, 21 Feb 2024	**10:00 am – 10:00 pm**	Out of town guests arrive – Registration at Falcon Club (External Guests only: Visiting Students, Visiting Faculty, Community, Distinguished Guests, and Speakers
	8:00 am – 3:40 pm	Character Summit (Polaris Hall)
	12:30-1:30 pm	NCLS Kick-off (USAFA Cadets (CY24/CY27) & Character Summit Attendees only)
	3:50-4:50 pm	Squadron DDT Colvin Keynote Lecture (CY 24/CY25)
	5:00-8:00pm	Visiting Students Ice-Breaker (Visiting Students Only)
Thursday, 22 Feb 2024	**6:30-7:45 am**	Breakfast
	8:30-9:00 am	NCLS Opening Ceremony
	9:30-10:15 am	Class of '59 Keynote
	10:30-11:15 am	Speaker Sessions
	11:30-12:15 pm	Lunch
	12:30-1:30 pm	Speaker Sessions
	1:45-2:30 pm	Speaker Sessions
	2:45-3:30 pm	Falcon Foundation Lecture
	3:30-4:30	Speaker Meet and Greet
	5:00-6:00 pm	Muse Family Foundation Keynote Lecture / Class of '74 Wakin Award (CY25/CY26)
	6:00-6:40 pm	Symposium Dinner Social Hour
	6:40-8:10 pm	Symposium Dinner
Friday, 23 Feb 2024	**8:00-9:00 am**	Polaris Dawn Keynote Lecture & Speaker Sessions (CY26)
	9:25-10:25 am	Missy Franklin & Speaker Sessions (CY27)
	10:50-11:50 am	Speaker Sessions
	12:10-1:00 pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00 pm	Enix Heritage Keynote Lecture: Senior Leader Panel (CY24/CY25)
	2:15-3:30 pm	Speaker Sessions
	3:45-4:30 pm	Challenge Ceremony (CY26/CY27)
	5:00-7:00 pm	Dinner
		Symposium Concludes