

# Ministry and Programs at Military Academies

Lt Col (ret) Paul Homan, PhD  
Janée Homan  
Officers' Christian Fellowship  
United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

*"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20*



# AMCF World Conference

## Overview



- Motivation
- Our Background
- Introduce OCF Background and Mo
- Question 1 – Why?
- Question 2 – How?
- Discussion



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## Motivation



1. Why is targeting a Military Academy valuable and a good investment for MCF?
2. How would you start a new minister from scratch at a Military Academy? What resources would you draw from, techniques, etc.?

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- Janée – USAFA 2001
  - Personnel Officer 2001-2006
- Paul – USAFA 2002
  - Weather and Environmental Sciences Officer 2002-2022
  - Deployed in Iraq 2007-2008
  - Sq Commander
  - Retired as a Professor and the Director of Meteorology at USAFA
- Served as OCF Volunteer Local Leader 4 bases to include on the USAFA Minis Team for 7 years
- 4 kids – Ben 19 (cadet at USAFA), Emily 17, Matthew 14, and Sara 10

## Background



# OCF @ USAFA

← → 🏠 ocfusa.org/usafa/ 🔍

🌐 SCMR 🌐 COD: Sat 🌐 COD: NEXRAD 🌐 MOS 🌐 OBS 🌐 YouTube TV 🌐 NXT 🌐 ADP 🌐 Snow 🌐 Rain 🌐 SWAG 🌐 OCF 23/24 EVENT... 🌐 METARS

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## Welcome to USAFA OCF

Our mission is to engage cadets in Bible Study, Biblical Fellowship, and Discipleship in order to equip them to be Christ-centered leaders in the Air and Space Forces.



# Mizpah Mountain – Home of OCF @ USAFA





# Mizpah Mountain



**Barn Construction at Mizpah Mountain is Underway!**





# OCF Purpose, Vision, and Mission

## OCF Distinctives

- Member Led
- Dual Calling
- Called for a Lifetime

### PURPOSE

To glorify God by uniting Christian officers for Biblical fellowship and outreach, equipping, and encouraging them to minister effectively in the military society.

### VISION

The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders.

### MISSION

OCF engages military leaders in Biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession.

# OCF Military Academy History

## OCF History

- Officers' Christian Union 1943-1972
- Conference Centers 1962 Spring Canyon, CO, 1978 White Sulphur Springs, PA
- 1973 – First staff at USAFA, USNA 1975, USMA 1979, USCGA 1979, Citadel 2025

- Commissioning Sources
  - Academies
  - Reserve Officers' Training Corp (ROTC)
  - Officer Training School (OTS/OCS)
- Professional Military Education
  - Usually in-residence 2 to 3 times a year
- Local Fellowships – Lay led (not staff)
- Two Conference Centers

## Question 1



1. Why is targeting a Military Academy valuable and a good investment?  
MCF?
  - Investment comes in many different forms and doesn't necessarily mean paid staff.

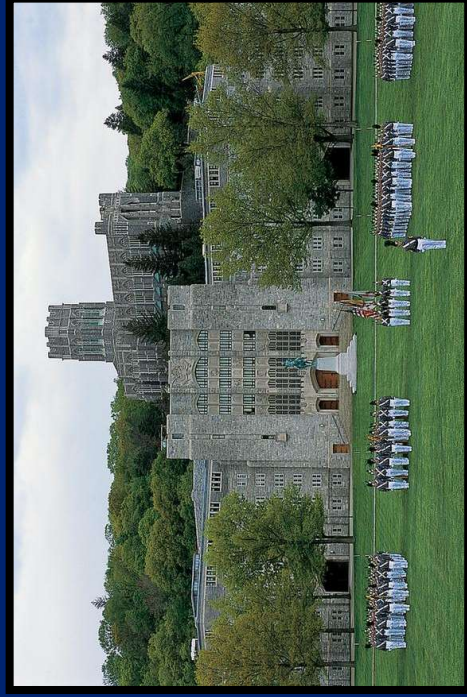
## Question 1

1. Why is targeting a Military Academy valuable and a good investment for MCF?

- Right Place
- Right Time
- Right Uniform



## Question 1



## Right Place

- Strategic location - graduates create a network will allow for ministry development in the military large.
  - No higher concentration of future officers.
- Staff and faculty officers can often times be in mentoring and discipleship for the first time at those skills when they return to operational status.
- Academies produce officers that serve longer other commissioning sources (Institute for Debrief Analysis).

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## Question 1



## Right Time

- Extended length of concentrated time to invest in college students (four years).
- Critical time in young adult's lives to form a personal relationship with God outside of parent's direct supervision.
  - More college-age students fall away from faith than other age groups
- College-age students are moldable as they are learning more with lots of energy

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## Question 1



## Right Uniform – Officers

- Officers are your future leaders of your military influence reaching highest levels of your country
- Officers are responsible before both God and the nation to care well for their people, materials, finances, and authority with which they are entrusted
- In 1946 OCF strategically decided to target cadets/midshipman – long game: the ministry “grow up” with its members (More Than Conquer pg. 21).

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## Right Uniform

- Provides opportunities for the ministry to develop relationships across the entire force as officers and out of the academy.
- Opportunity to model integrating Faith, Family, and Profession.
  - Officers usually live in something like a fishbowl in a glass house. Their lives are regularly observed, analyzed, and critiqued, both on and off base (see the Leadership Handbook, both on and off base Leadership Handbook).

## Question 1





## Question 2



2. How would you start a new mini from scratch at a Military Academy? What resources would you draw techniques, etc.?
- Each country and situation is very different, but may have some things in common.

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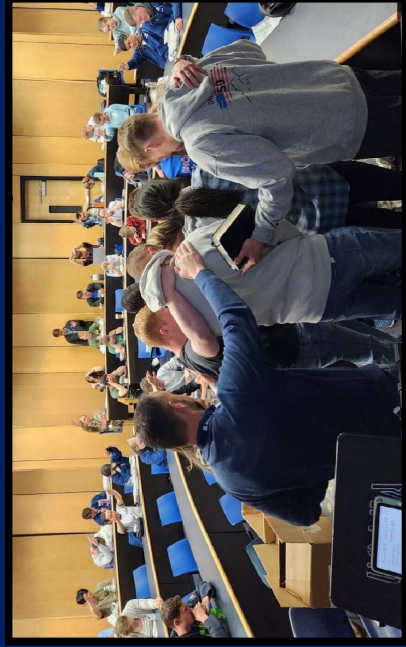
## Question 2



- Pray and develop initial plan
- Engage and partner with Chaplains
- Determine rules and procedures for starting a
- Start a Bible Study
  - Faculty and cadets
  - Food
  - Have cadets disciple cadets
- Cultivate grad network
- Partner with local churches
- Parents can be huge source of prayer and financial support
- Crosstalk with other nations

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## Discussion



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## Resources

### Rocky Mountain High



- Campus Ministry Today – Why COLLEGE Ministry?
- Institute for Defense Analyses – Retiree Investment in Graduates of the DoD Service Academies
- U.S. Naval Institute – Service Academies Critical to our Future
- OCF Handbook