

# MAJ. ROB "WALDO" WALDMAN, '90, addressed

more than 500 cadets and various members of the Academy's faculty and staff Jan. 15 emphasizing the value of teamwork, trust and leadership.

Waldo, as his friends and comrades call him, received his nickname during the second day of BCT in 1986. The name stuck.

"Trust in yourself, trust in your wingman, and trust in your leadership," Waldo told the cadets. "You cannot do it all on your own."

Throughout his speech, Waldo engaged and energized cadets, calling on them to "pump it up," and cadets enthusiastically shouted back, "Pump it up!"

Using personal testimony from Operation Allied Force and video clips from Operation Desert Storm, the F-16 pilot with 65 combat missions and 226 combat hours reflected on his experience surviving four surface-to-air missile lock-ons while flying over Yugoslavia.

"I defeated the first 'no-kidding' mission of my life," Waldo said.

And, he stressed, he couldn't have done it without the leadership and support of his wingmen. His message to cadets: "I'm proud to be your wingman!"

This message reflects the undiminished level of excitement and energy Waldo had when he left the Wing nearly 14 years ago. He credits the Academy for helping him get to where he is today.

"You know where your office is, folks?" Waldo asked. "It's right here at the Air Force Academy ... You're in the business at the Air Force Academy to win."



## WALDO PUMPS UP DOOLIES

He says his passions as a cadet were honor, discipline and sacrifice, tenets that have helped guide and direct his successes — both in and out of the military.

After serving 15 years in the active-duty Air Force, Waldo is now in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and also plays an important part in the Academy's recruiting program as a liaison officer. Before starting his own company, The Patriot Group, Waldo worked for a high-tech aviation simulation software company and later a major tax consulting firm. 

### '90 GRAD TELLS CADETS 'I'M PROUD TO BE YOUR WINGMAN!'

by Christopher A. Stewart