

# Academy says 'hello' to Class of 2014

By John Van Winkle Academy Public Affairs

Approximately 1,274 basic cadet trainees arrived, said goodbye to their loved ones, started their inprocessing and entered Basic Cadet Training Thursday.

"Our goal is 100 percent accountability, get everybody through and everybody rolling so they can continue with basic cadet training," said Cadet 1st Class Thomas Buenger, cadet commander of Basic Cadet Training. The cadet cadre intends to instill pride in attending the best service academy in the nation and creating Airmen out of high school graduates.

The Academy received more than 11,000 applications for the Class of 2014, up 1,730 from 2009. Minority applications rose to 4,064, nearly 1,105 more than last year. Of the 1,274 appointees, the newest class includes 291 women, 22.8 percent of the class, and 350 minorities, making up 27.4 percent of the class. Of the minorities, 7.9 percent are black, 8.9 percent Hispanic, 1 percent Native American and 9.8 percent Pacific Islander.

Today marks the first full day of Basic Cadet Training, which began with reville at 4:30 a.m., followed by physical fitness activities.

The Class of 2014 will form up at 8:15 a.m. on the Terrazzo today, for a mass swearing-in ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Afterward, they will continue basic training activities with their squadrons. The first half of basic cadet training - better known as "first beast" will be conducted in the Cadet Area. It includes physical fitness activities, inspections, Honor Code and core values lessons, language and advanced placement testing, the opportunity to be up well before sunrise, and their recommended daily allowance of marching.

First Beast helps the flights and BCT squadrons learn to work together as a team and unit. They'll test that teamwork during Field Day July 10. BCT squadrons will hold a variety of athletic competitions during Field Day. They will have one break — Doolie Day Out — that afternoon.

On July 11 at 6:30 a.m., the basics will form up for the traditional march out to Jacks Valley, and step off at 6:45 a.m. The transition to Jacks Valley marks



Cadet 2nd Class James Colvin motivates Basic Cadet Michael Craig to move along quickly as inprocessing begins for the Class of 2014 at the Air Force Academy, Thursday. The Academy received more than 11,000 applications for the 1,300 slots in the Class of 2014. Basic cadet training will run through July 31. The first full day of Basic Cadet training began today at 4:30 a.m.

the start of 2nd BCT, which is more affectionately known as "Second Beast." Once in Jacks Valley, the basics will set up their squadron areas and begin two weeks of field training and living in a tent city. Included in these two weeks will be running the assault course, confidence course, self-aid and buddy care, weapons drills, leadership reaction course, honor lessons, and still more drill and marching.

The Class of 2014 leaves Jacks Valley July 24, and will march back starting to the cadet area starting at Academy's fall semester Aug. 7.

1 p.m. that day. BCT concludes July 31, after which the Class of 2014 will transition to their freshman year squadrons. The next major date for the basics will be Aug. 6, when they attend the Acceptance Parade, swear the Honor Oath and to abide by the Academy's Honor Code of "We will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate any among us who does," and pin on their first rank of Cadet 4th Class.

Then it's off to classes, as all cadets will begin the

# Brig. Gen. Born receives Zuckert Award

By Ann Patton Academy Spirit staff The annual award, named after

former Secretary of the Air Force Eugene thanks as they share in this award and Academy was also ranked in the top 1

"It is to them we owe a special Report's "Best Colleges" rankings. The

Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born received the Air 2009 Force's Eugene M. Zuckert Management Award during a ceremony at the Pentagon Monday



hosted by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley.

Zuckert, recognizes general officers and senior executive service civilians for outstanding achievements in top-level Air Force management.

"It is an honor to receive this Secretary of the Air Force recognition, which more accurately reflects the collective accomplishments of all members of Team USAFA," General Born said.

She praised her dedicated teammates at the Academy for their talents, dedication and passion for mission and people.

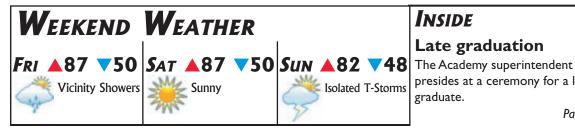
continue to support our noble Air Force mission both here and around the world," she said.

General Born was cited for marked successes leading and managing the Air Force's most comprehensive — and most scrutinized — education program, with 4,500 cadets, 20 academic departments, 1,100 courses and 720 faculty and staff.

During General Born's six-year tenure, the Academy was recognized as the number-one undergraduate program in the West by U.S. News and World

percent for most accessible professors in the Princeton Review's "Best 371 Colleges."

She also pioneered the Academy's shift to focus on learning rather than teaching and expanded diversity for faculty, staff and cadets, championing innovative methods to increase diversity to the Academy's benefit. She is credited for building bridges with other military and civilian institutions and overseeing a thriving faculty and cadet research See AWARD, Page 5



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presides at a ceremony for a late graduate.

#### Solar energy

New solar panels on the roof of Vandenberg Tower move the Academy one step closer to Page 4 energy independence. Page 7

#### **Firefighter Challenge**

A father-son "stealth" team and a chiefs-colonels contest highlight the regional Firefighter Challenge. Pages 10-11



By Mark D. Diamond

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFNS) — About a month and a half ago, when the Air Force opened its network to Internet-based capabilities, primarily social networking sites, it also opened a virtual Pandora's box of questions and concerns from Airmen at all levels.

Can Airmen use social networking during duty hours on their government computer? What type of information can and can't be posted? Do Airmen need to worry about the information they post during their off-duty time? Can any Air Force unit or organization create its own official Web presence?

It's important to provide answers and there are, in fact, a number of new Department of Defense, Air Force and command-level instructions, memoranda and policy letters that answer the important questions. If you haven't seen the new guidance, talk to your supervisor or your local public affairs office.

But here's the bottom line: Airmen already know the answers to most of these questions. With the exception of a truckload of new websites that are now accessible from your government computer, not much has changed.

Airmen still need to pay attention to what they say; they still need to protect the Air Force network from viruses, Trojan horses and other malicious attacks; and all Airmen, on and off duty, still need to remember their core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

To me, the biggest question is: Can the Air Force strike a balance between operations security and the acceptable use of social networking sites?

During the past couple of months, I've spent a lot of time studying social networking and OPSEC. One thing is painfully obvious: social networking and OPSEC are on opposite ends of the communication spectrum. OPSEC is about identifying critical information and safeguarding information that could be useful to our adversaries, while social networking is all about sharing information, and in some cases, too much information (no, we do not want to know what you had for dinner last night).

In fact, during the past month, I've attended several briefings that almost had me convinced to run home and deactivate all of my social networking accounts. Almost. I didn't actually ban social networking from my life because I understand the risks, I pay attention to privacy settings, and I'm not likely to post my address or phone number for the world to see.

The fact is, Americans today are sharing more information about themselves than ever before, and the social networking industry is betting they'll maintain that habit, and perhaps share even more information about themselves and their friends.

Although many of today's Airmen may not be concerned about broadcasting their personal lives on the World Wide Web, Air Force officials want to make doubly sure Airmen continue to protect information, protect the network and uphold the personal and professional behavior expected of all Airmen, both on and off duty.

The same OPSEC and information assurance training all Airmen receive still applies, and an Airman's conduct should always be above reproach. In other words, the rules haven't changed, even though the playing field has grown considerably.

That said, social networking is here to stay, and whether our Airmen are at work or at home, they are and will continue to be fully engaged in Internet-based capabilities.

Is this a concern? It could be, but with the right mix of education and training, combined with some common sense and acceptance, I think we'll manage. About two decades ago, many senior leaders were concerned about another technological breakthrough that involved the mass and immediate sharing of information. It was called the Internet. Around the same time, another technological marvel had some Airmen waiving the OPSEC flag. It was called e-mail.

Can you imagine not using either of these technologies today? Before e-mail, Airmen either hand-delivered paperwork to other offices, or they used a large, yellow envelope that looked like it was attacked by a hole puncher.

Social networking is a new operating environment. Rather than ignore the inevitable, we need to provide our Airmen the tools and training they need to operate and succeed in this new environment.

Additionally, all Airmen need to accept the fact that OPSEC, network security and our core values will always trump their right to post information on the Web. The security of our country and the safety of our fellow Airmen are far more important than broadcasting your weekend plans or what your unit is doing. Rather than roll your eyes or smirk at the risks involved with social networking, pay attention to the overarching message: filter out the obvious opinions and sometimes-exaggerated examples of the "Internet gone wild," and focus on what's important.



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June 25, 2010

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week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the Academy Spirit editor at 333-8823.

The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by e-mail: pa.newspaper@ usafa.af.mil.



#### **Comer Pouring into others** Tacier

By Lt. Col. Joel Witzel and Capt. Bernie Proctor Commandant of Cadets Staff

Have you spoken into someone's life lately? Teaching, mentoring, guiding and counseling are all ways we pour into others and build up the next generation of family members, leaders, students, and teammates. Building up others and giving back to our community as teachers, mentors, and counselors often benefits us as much as it benefits our students and protégés. It is our joy as well as our obligation. During Basic Cadet Training, the Center for

Character and Leadership Development will conduct 13 Honor Code education lessons and four core values education lessons for our new basic cadets. This effort permeates all aspects of cadet training and transcends the classrooms the airfield and the athletic field. These lessons comprise nearly 440 sessions for honor training and 160 sessions for core values education.

In order to infuse the lesson material with

Honor Code as facilitators, but any willing senior NCOs or officers, including retirees, can also help with honor lessons. For core values lessons, we need sharp, line, field grade officers who can represent basic cadets' future careers and model the core values they need to understand.

If you are interested in helping with Honor Code education or want more information, please contact Capt. Christopher Thompson or like to help with core values education, contact BobVásquez at 333-2988.

What would you like to say to your basic cadet?

operational relevance and active-duty experience, we Tina Erzen at 333-6345. If you would rely on volunteer facilitators willing to share their time and knowledge.We are especially eager to have Academy graduates and officers familiar with the

Tune into KAFA, 97.7 FM for Character Matters, Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Also on iTunes or www.usafa.org.



#### Why did you apply to join the Air Force Academy?

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"I'm launching my best friend on his new journey."

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Joseph Wilson

St. Louis

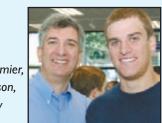
here."

Deborah Kim

Irving, Texas



lim Palmier, to his son, Andrew



John Peterson, to his son, Jared





# **CWID** tests latest in warfighters comm

By Randy Roughton Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFNS) — Airmen and Soldiers brought their experience from Afghanistan and Iraq to test the latest communications systems in the Colorado Springs portion of the joint Coalition Warrior Interoper-ability Demonstration June 16

The demonstration is designed to improve and enhance command and control, communications systems, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

The portion of the demonstration held near the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs showcased the coordination of civil and military authorities during a simulated complex attack on local communications.

"We were tasked to support the exercise, but we really view it more of a privilege because we get to come down here and see the latest and greatest technology and how it directly helps the warfighter," said Maj. Bill Worrell, the commander of Joint Forces Headquarters-Colorado at Buckley Air Force Base. "From a communications standpoint to an operations standpoint, we get to see not only the technology, but also the operations side of the house."

North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command officials at Peterson AFB hosted the Homeland Defense-Homeland Security portion of CWID in Colorado Springs for the seventh consecutive year. The demonstration consists of five main U.S. network locations and more than 20 coalition partners worldwide.

CWID gives warfighters with experience in both wars the opportunity to

test the latest technology and give their opinions on how it will work in a combat environment, said Army Col. Teddy Byrd, the commander of the 207th Army Liaison Team at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"You need a Soldier's or first responder's perspective on how things will work in a real-world type of environment," Colonel Byrd said. "The Pentagon or Department of Defense is going to eventually spend some money on this kind of stuff, so they need to have it asses-sed properly by the people who are going to use it.

"This has been a really good opportunity for my Army Reserve soldiers to see some new things, get new experiences and get their hands on new technology," he said.

About a dozen emerging technological systems were tested in the exercise, with mixed results, Colonel Byrd said.

"We had some good success with some systems on the first day and others that seemed to have some bugs," he said. "We're trying to provide some feedback for the contractors to allow them to fix it, and sometimes they're fixing it on site."

Five Air National Guard Soldiers from Joint Forces Headquarters Colorado supported the exercise along with Major Worrell. Last year, Major Worrell and his Guardsmen observed the Event Management Framework early in its development at the 2009 CWID, and it has already advanced through the procurement phase and is being used by officials in the NORTHCOM command center.

One example of the systems tested this year is the Aerostat for Communications and Surveillance in Disaster and Wartime balloon. The system has a builtin remote control camera that allows the



Photo by Master Sgt. Jack Braden

First responders from the Colorado Springs Police Department don gas masks after being notified of a potential chemical release during the **Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration June 16.** 

exchange of information, dissemination of related data, and real-time

direction to deployed first responders. It offers a variety of communications and surveillance payloads to support the mission, said Army Master Sgt. Ronnie Williams, a first sergeant with the 207th Army Liaison Team at Fort Bragg.

"Basically, Aerostat is a weather balloon, but with camera and video that can be used for surveillance with infrared technology," Sergeant Williams said. "You can actually key in on suspects and track them."

Sixteen Airmen are participating in CWID at Hanscom AFB, Mass., as role players in a scenario involving a terrorist attack. Aerostat will provide video surveillance to track terrorists and damage to the area, and facilitate radio communications.

Other systems that were evaluated during the Colorado exercise included the TerreStar satellite and cellular smartphone, Portable Systems Interconnect Communications and Collaborative Alert and Respond System.

CWID is a Joint Chiefs of Staffdirected annual event that engages cutting-edge information technology and focuses on operational shortfalls identified by combatant commanders and government agencies. Technologies are approved for participation because they address a new information-sharing capability or might improve an existing capability. Assessment results are captured in CWID's annual final report, which informs defense, federal, state and local acquisition decision-makers. The final report is scheduled to be published by October or November.





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# Sole graduate takes center stage for late graduation

#### By Ann Patton Academy Spirit staff

#### "DISMISSED!"

Cadet 1st Class Charles Coburn III, Cadet Squadron 34, worked hard for four long years to hear that command, the last he had as cadet. It was the magic word he wanted to hear since his direct appointment four years ago. He also waited three weeks longer than most of his classmates, who graduated May 27.

Now 2nd Lt. Coburn, he was the sole graduate as he walked across the stage in the Arnold Hall ballroom June 18 to receive his Bachelor of Science degree in social sciences.

"The day is here, and it is a glorious day," graduation speaker and Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould said.

"There is nothing wrong with graduating late," General Gould said, citing Army Gen. George S. Patton, who graduated later than his classmates at the U.S. Military Academy.

"He made out okay," General Gould quipped.

He reminded the audience of about three dozen that the duty the new graduate assumes be much larger than his responsibilities at the Academy. He advised the new lieutenant to enjoy the summer and be "the best navigator in the Air Force." Lieutenant Coburn needed to finish a course, which held up his graduation until now. He said he was a little disappointed that he could not graduate with the rest of his class, "but as long as I get to graduate, I'm happy."

One of the best parts of life on the Hill for him was traveling to such spots as Portugal and Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., where he flew in an F-16 Fighting Falcon.

He will head off to the 479th Operations Support Squadron at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., after some well-earned rest and recreation to begin training as a navigator.

"I'm going to go home and relax and take a break for a change," the Nortonville, Ky., native said.

Lieutenant Coburn is third in line in his family to choose the military as a career. His father, Charles Coburn II, is a retired Air Force major and commissioned his son into the Air Force. His grandfather is a retired Army captain. Both were on hand to see the youngest military Coburn receive his diploma, as were his mother, two sisters, grandmother and Academy friends, faculty and senior leadership.

"He is one of my closest friends," said classmate 2nd Lt. Chris Prochnow. The two met during Global Engagement exercises and have remained friends ever since.



Photo by J. Rachel Spence

Retired Maj. Charles Coburn II pins second lieutenant bars on his son, 2nd Lt. Charles Coburn III, June 18. Lieutenant Coburn's mother, Lesley (right), also took part in the pinning-on ceremony. About 40 people attended Lieutenant Coburn's late graduation ceremony.

Grandfather Charles Coburn Sr. said his grandson will no doubt bring solid leadership and determination as an Air Force officer and described him as "honest, hard-working and full of life."

Lesley Coburn, the cadet-turnedlieutenant's mother, said perseverance has always played a big part in his life. The smallest member of his high school football team, he came out in the top five for most tackles.

"He always poured his heart into everything he does," she said.

In the printed program for his graduation, 2nd Lieutenant Coburn wrote, "It's been a long, hard road, but I finally made it through. Thanks to everyone who helped push me to graduate."

Late graduation is held after any semester or summer session as needed.



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# Line officers face revised 'reclass' process

#### By Daniel P. Elkins

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs Office

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force officials here revised procedures recently for line officers eliminated from initial skills training in order to better manage the force and address the needs of critically manned and stressed career fields.

Line officers eliminated from training will now be considered by a panel at the Air Force Personnel Center for reclassification into other specialties or discharge based on the needs of the Air Force and the individual's qualifications to train in another career field.

The new procedures apply only to officers eliminated from initial skills training, or IST, whether self-initiated through declination or the inability to complete training.

Opportunities for reclassification may not be available due to overmanning in other career fields. Therefore, IST elimination panels were established to retain the most qualified officers with skills to fill critical or undermanned Air Force specialties.

For officers who do not complete or self-eliminate from IST, training wings submit a reclassification package that includes a commander's recommendation and the officer's input for review by a five-member panel at AFPC. The IST panel uses the whole-person concept to determine if an officer should be reclassified. To date, four panels have considered 88 reclassification packages and have reclassified 60 officers.

Factors considered by the IST panel in its reclassification decision include an officer's potential to complete future training for career field qualification, potential to develop and contribute in their career field, any special abilities or skills in high demand languages benefitting the career field or broader Air Force needs, academic degree emphasis, demonstrated officership and commitment to the Air Force, and investment already made by the Air Force.

"The final determination will be based on the career field needs of the Air Force and the officer's ability to meet those needs," said Col. Bill Foote, the director of personnel service at AFPC. "For example, if an officer is eliminated from undergraduate pilot training and has an engineering degree, a logical placement is in one of the engineering career fields where we historically have openings."

Decisions by the panel also take into consideration recoupment of education assistance received when officers separate before completing the period of active duty they agreed to serve. Recoupment applies to service academy graduates as well as those who received Air Force ROTC scholarships.

"Officers who don't complete their active duty service commitment may be subject to recoupment of education expenses," Colonel Foote said. "As a general rule and out of fiscal responsibility, the Air Force seeks to recover the cost of educating Airmen who do not complete their service commitments."

For more information on personnel programs implemented as part of the Force Management Program, visit the AFPC personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

#### Award.

#### From Page I

program valued at more than \$50 million.

General Born developed management practices for Air Force-wide or major command acceptance and use, aligned core courses to Academy Outcomes and sequenced courses for enhanced cadet development.

The general refined procedures to

ensure permanent profession selection methods complied with the Larson Report, a Congressionally mandated study published in 2004. She also refined a program to "re-blue" incumbent permanent professors through deployments to combat zones and key operational assignments.

Cultural immersion opportunities expanded during General Born's tenure, with 40 cadets studying abroad and 570 cadets taking part with 96 faculty members in summer culture and language immersions in 39 countries. Ninety-six graduates from the Class of 2010 and 89 graduates from the Class of 2009 earned entry into graduate school as their first assignments.

Paramount among General Born's achievements was the conceptualization, design and implementation of the widely heralded Officer Development System, which transformed the antiquated fourthclass system into one focused on character, professionalism and the warrior ethos. She also served as principal architect and chief catalyst in the creation of the cadet mentoring program and resurrecting the Air Officer Commanding master's degree program.

General Born has also received a Legion of Merit medal for her superior vision, management and service as the dean of the faculty.





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# CE adds solar panels to Vandenberg Hall

#### By John Van Winkle Academy Public Affairs

Solar energy comes to Vandenberg hall with the latest phase of renovations on this cadet dormitories.

A photovoltaic energy collection system is being installed on the roof of the eastern portion of Vandenberg Hall, better known as Vandenberg Tower.

"For that east tower of Vandenberg, we're looking at generating about 360 megawatt-hours per year," said Russ Hume of the 10th Civil Engineering Squadron, the Academy's energy expert. "And to compare that, the Academy load is 108,000 megawatt-hours per year."

The annual electric bill for those 108,000 megawatthours approaches \$6 million.

Future renovation phases of Vandenberg Hall will also seek to add the photovoltaic film to the rest of the dorm's roof. That could add an estimated 672 megawatt-hours for the rest of that dorm, bringing the renewable energy production to more than 1,000 megawatt hours per year, Mr. Hume said.

The new photovoltaic films are cemented flat on the roof of Vandenberg Hall. They have a 25-year warranty and previous editions of this film have lasted well past 30 years. These new films have also been designed to withstand the un-tender mercies of Colorado's fickle weather, and have been tested to withstand the impact of a oneinch hailstone travelling at 100 miles per hour.

"The good thing with these solar panels is, if you lose one cell in it, the whole thing doesn't shut off like it does with Christmas tree lights, where you lose one light and the whole string goes out," Mr. Hume said. "With these, you lose one cell, and the rest of it keeps working."

This photovoltaic film is still a relatively new technology. The Air Force Civil Engineering Support Agency will use the Academy's data on the new array to evaluate



Employees with JBlanco Enterprises install photovoltaic solar cells on the top of Vandenberg Tower at the Air Force Academy June 10. Once completed, the solar cells are expected to generate 672 kilowatt-hours for the cadet dormitories. Below: The photovoltaic cells are designed to withstand rough weather conditions, including impact from a one-inch hailstone at speeds up to 100 mph.

future potential for this technology at other Air Force installations.

The focus on renewable energy at the Academy mirrors the Air Force's goals to increase its energy independence and promote the nation's energy security. The Air Force's 2015 energy goals are to increase on-base renewable energy to produce 3 percent of the Air Force's total electricity needs by 2015. The focus on adding more renewable energy production on military bases is coupled with increased utility conservation and decreased demand for fuel to meet these goals.



At the Academy, the previous superintendent, retired **See SOLAR, Page 8** 



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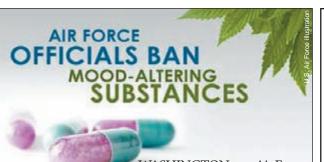






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WASHINGTON — Air Force officials issued guidance June 17 banning the knowing use and possession of any intoxicating substance ingested to alter mood or function other than lawful use of alcohol or tobacco.

The Air Force published a guidance memorandum June 9 revising Air Force Instruction 44-121, "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program," said Lt. Col. Elizabeth Schuchs-Gopaul, a judge advocate with the Air Force Judge Advocate General Action Group.

The revised language makes punitive the prohibition in the current Air Force Instruction regarding the ingestion of any intoxicating substance, other than legal use of alcohol or tobacco, for the purpose of altering mood or function. The possession of any intoxicating substance, if done with the intent to use in a manner that would alter mood or function, is also prohibited, she said.

The guidance cited the designer drug "spice," salvia divinorum, inhalants, household chemicals, solvents and prescription drug abuse.

Colonel Schuchs-Gopaul said the new AFI provisions are punitive. Violators will be punishable as violations of a lawful general regulation under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"This revision is an addition to the already existing tools used by commanders to address the (ingestion) of otherwise lawful substances such as salvia, inhalants, propellants, solvents, household chemicals, and other substances used for 'huffing," she said.

Violating this new punitive memorandum is punishable by a dishonorable discharge, confinement for two years and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, the colonel said. Enlisted Airmen also face reduction in grade to E-1.

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Contact Mark Backlin: mark.backlin@ usafa.edu or TSgt Tammy Taylor: tammy.taylor@usafa.af.mil



#### The Rodeo is back!

Photo by Rachel Boettche

Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould and his wife, Paula, render honors to the American flag as the Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard rides by at the Range Riders' ride during the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Breakfast in downtown Colorado Springs Wednesday. The Air Force Academy day at this year's rodeo is July 19.

#### Solar\_

#### From Page 7

Lt. Gen. John Regni, established the Net Zero goal of having the Academy generate 100 percent of the electricity it needs via on-base renewable energy sources by the year 2015. This will be achieved by a multitude of means, including conservation, continuing to make Academy buildings more efficient as part of ongoing renovation efforts, use of alternative fuels, reducing overall electrical energy usage, and by tapping into the multiple alternative energy research efforts underway by faculty and cadets.

The new photovoltaic array on Vandenberg Hall is part

of that strategy, as well as plans for a much larger solar array on base.

Plans are also underway to build a fixed solar array on the southeast side of the Academy. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this \$18.3million project will pay for the construction of a fixed solar array on the Academy that will help provide electricity directly into the Academy's grid through 2026. Once complete, that solar array is expected to produce 7,500 megawatt-hours per year. For the Academy, that equals about 7 percent of the Academy's total annual electrical energy needs.



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# President accepts Gen. McChrystal's resignation

By Elaine Wilson American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama accepted Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal's resignation as the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan Wednesday, calling it the right decision for national security.

The president also announced that he has nominated Army Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. Central Command, to replace McChrystal in Afghanistan.

The decision comes in the wake of a Rolling Stone magazine article that depicts General McChrystal and members of his staff as being at odds with the president's administration.

"The conduct represented in the recently published article does not meet the standard that should be set by a commanding general," President Obama said. "It undermines the civilian control of the military that is at the core of our democratic system. And it erodes the trust that's necessary for our team to work together to achieve our objectives in Afghanistan."

President Obama noted that his decision wasn't based on a difference in policy or "any sense of personal insult," and he said he greatly admires General McChrystal for his decades of service.

"Over the last nine years with America

fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he has earned a reputation as one of our nation's finest soldiers," the president said. "But war is greater than any one man or woman, whether a private, a general or a president. As difficult as it is to lose General McChrystal, I believe it is the right decision for our national security."

President Obama said he didn't make the decision lightly, noting his responsibility to the "extraordinary men and women who are fighting this war."

"Tve got no greater honor than serving as commander in chief of our men and women in uniform, and it is my duty to ensure that no diversion complicates the vital mission that they are carrying out," he said. "That includes adherence to a strict code of conduct. The strength and greatness of our military is rooted in the fact that this code applies equally to newly enlisted privates and to the general officer who commands them. That allows us to come together as one. That is part of the reason why America has the finest fighting force in the history of the world."

The president also noted his responsibility to do whatever is needed to succeed in Afghanistan and "in our broader effort to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida."

"I believe that this mission demands unity of effort across our alliance and across my national security team," he added.



oto by Spc. Matthew Thompson

Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, seen here talking with a Czech Republic soldier during a visit to Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, in August 2009, tendered his resignation to President Obama Wednesday.

The nation has a clear goal, the president said.

"We are going to break the Taliban's momentum," he said. "We are going to build Afghan capacity. We are going to relentlessly apply pressure on al-Qaida and its leadership, strengthening the ability of both Afghanistan and Pakistan to do the same.

"That's the strategy that we agreed to last fall," he continued. "That is the policy that we are carrying out in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The president reiterated that the change in leadership marks a change in personnel, not policy. General Petraeus has been heavily involved in the development of the Afghanistan strategy, he noted.

we agreed to In a statement issued June 22, Defense

outcome."

Secretary Robert Gates said General McChrystal made a "significant mistake and exercised poor judgment in this case."

gized Tuesday for the profile piece.

"It was a mistake reflecting poor judg-

ment and should never have happened," he

said. "I have enormous respect and admi-

ration for President Obama and his national

security team and for the civilian leaders

and troops fighting this war and I remain

committed to ensuring its successful

"We are fighting a war against al-Qaida and its extremist allies, who directly threaten the United States, Afghanistan, and our friends and allies around the world," the secretary said. "Going forward, we must pursue this mission with a unity of purpose."

General McChrystal publicly apolo-

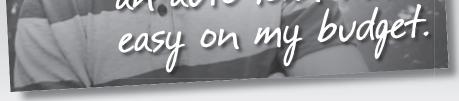
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# Father-son team, chiefs-colonels rivalry highlight Academy's firefighter challenge

#### By John Van Winkle Academy Public Affairs

Six Academy Fire Department teams, five tandems and four individual firefighters each qualified to advance to the world firefighter combat challenge during last weekend's Rumble in the Rockies at Falcon Stadium.

The Academy hosted the Rumble in the Rockies, a regional qualifying event for the World Firefighter Combat Challenge XIX.

All are back this year, with a few new teams and team members, aiming to win world championships again. Individual firefighters who qualified for the world games are Anthony "Tank" McMurtry, Patrick Kraft, Senior Airman Tyler Moran, and Dan McAuliffe.

Tandem qualifiers are: Anthony McMurtry and William Gates; Senior Airman Tyler Moran and Patrick Kraft; Ken Helgerson and Dan McAuliffe; Mr. McMurtry and Stacy Billapando of the Colorado Springs Fire Department; and Mr. Gates and Courtney Van Marter of the Westminster Fire Department.

Six relay teams from the Academy qualified to advance to the world games. For three of the teams, it's their return to the world games, with most of their 2009 membership intact: Team USAFA, the 2009 silver medalists; Air Force Academy 40+ team, the 2009 world champions; The Fire Fembots, the 2009 World Champions who are a joint Academy-Colorado Springs Fire Department Team, and three new additions to the USAFA team roster: The Simple Jacks, USAFA Cinco and AFA-Team Stealth.

Team Stealth was the mystery team going into the competition and was set to compete on Father's Day. Academy Fire Chief Ernst Piercy teamed with his son, Matthew Piercy of the Fort Carson Fire Department. The Piercys rounded out their relay team with fellow Academy firefighters Roy Dalton and Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Pyle, and Lt. Col. Justin Davey, 10th Civil Engineering Squadron commander, to make up Air Force Team Stealth. The team's membership went undisclosed until the race started, with a little help from race officials.

The course announcer held to the secrecy the team desired. "You might have seen them on a milk carton somewhere," he told the crowd, "but I'm not allowed to disclose their names."

This drew in the crowd's attention, especially from members or the Academy Fire Department, who were surprised to see their fire chief as well as their squadron commander suited up to run the course.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of my son Matt," Chief Piercy said. "It's Father's Day, so I wanted to run with him. The folks at the FFC told me that they've never had a father-son team run before, so we wanted to be the first."

Sergeant Pyle started the course, going up the stair, handing off to Matt, Chief Piercy said. "Then Matt hoisted and handed me the baton, I came down the stairs and handed off to Roy Dalton, who did the Keiser sled. Then I ran the delimiters and handed off to Colonel Davey, who did the fire hose." Matt Piercy finished off the course with the dummy drag.

"It was an awesome and a great experience," the younger Piercy said. "And to be honest, I didn't think my dad would come out and do it, so I'm really proud that he came out to do it."

Not only did Team Stealth complete the course on par with other teams, their time of 1:46.37 qualified them to advance to the World Firefighter Combat Challenge XIX, for a possible repeat father-and-son performance on the world stage if schedules allow.

A longtime advocate of the firefighter challenge, Chief Piercy has been the force and finance behind the Academy teams since their first firefighter challenge appearance in 2001, knowing that training for this course equals increased readiness for the Academy Fire Department.

This year's Rumble in The Rockies also featured an exhibition match between the colonels and chiefs. Col. Rick LoCastro, 10th Air Base Wing commander, led the colonels team. His team consisted of two mystery players, along with Col. Timothy Ferguson, 10th Mission Support Group commander, and Lt. Col. Justin Davey, 10th Civil Engineering Squadron commander.

"We have two secret other players, who might look like firefighters, but I assure you they aren't," Colonel LoCastro joked, earning a chuckle from the attendees and getting the crowd into the mood. Postevent research by the Academy Spirit's investigative staff determined the guest members of the Colonels team to be Academy Firefighter Roy Dalton, chief of the 2009 firefighter combat challenge team, and





Above: Academy Fire Chief Ernst Piercy of the Team Stealth relay team hands off the baton to teammate Roy Dalton.

Photo by J. Rachel Spencer Right: Fort Carson firefighter Matt Piercy, the chief's son, runs the last leg of the relay, dragging Rescue Randy, a dummy who weighs 175 pounds, 75 feet to the finish line with moral support from his father and another Team Stealth member.

FEATURE

to the final event, although the Chiefs cut that lead down to keep hot on the colonels' heels. With victory in their grasp, the colonels team member fell backward halfway through the dummy drag, and Chief Dunson kept his strong and steady pace to drag his rescue dummy across the finish line first. With the win, the chiefs secured the enlisted corps' bragging rights until the next event in the colonels-vs.-chiefs rivalry.

The Academy teams will continue training and plan to compete in an upcoming Firefighter Combat Challenge regional competition Aug. 28-29, in Vail, Colo., before heading to the World Firefighter Combat Challenge XIX, Nov. 8-13 in Myrtle Beach,





Photo by Denise Navoy Above: An intense Anthony "Tank" McMurtry of Team USAFA sets out to drag a fire hose 75 feet to hit a volleyball-sized target with water for his part of the relay.

Photo by J. Rachel Spence **Right: The Academy women's** relay team, The Fire Fembots, surrounds Senior Airman Jessica Morehouse as she heads for the finish line.



Photo by J. Rachel Spence Air Force Academy 40-plus team member Dan McAuliffe gets off to a strong start on the first leg of his team's relay, climbing a five-story tower while carrying a 42pound fire hose.



# Utah bolts from MWC to Pac-10

#### By John Van Winkle Academy Public Affairs

The college sports landscape continued to shift June 17 when the Pac-10 conference announced the addition of the University of Utah to their conference.

"Utah will begin playing in the Pac-10 in the 2011-2012 academic year," said Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott.

Previously, the University of Utah was one of the founding members of the Mountain West Conference, along with the Air Force Academy. Prior to this, both the Academy and Utah were members of the Western Athletic Conference. Utah was a founding member of the WAC in 1962, and the Academy joined the WAC ranks in 1990, prior to both programs leaving the WAC to form the Mountain West Conference.

"The Air Force Academy has enjoyed having The University of Utah in the Mountain West Conference," said Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen Mike Gould. "We wish them the best as they move to the Pac-10."

Utah and Air Force have been sporting rivals since the Academy's first year with cadets, when the freshman of the Class of 1959 met the Utah freshmen on the gridiron Nov. 5, 1955 at Penrose Stadium in Colorado Springs. That game ended in a 6-12 loss for Air Force, as the schools met two more times in the 50s and resumed competition in 1983. The football series between the two universities is 14-13 in Air Force's favor going into Utah's last scheduled Mountain West Conference game against Air Force, Oct. 30 in Falcon Stadium.

"Utah has been a great member of the WAC and the MWC and we'll miss them," said Athletics Director Dr. Hans Mueh. "Utah is a great university with an athletic program that has had tremendous success in many sports. The Air Force Academy wishes all the best for Dr. Chris Hill and the whole Utah athletic staff as they take on this next challenge. The PAC-10 is lucky to have them."



Defensive back Chris Thomas and other Falcons bring down Utes quarterback Brian Johnson during the Air Force-Utah game at Falcon Stadium Sept. 20, 2008. Air Force holds a one-game series lead and will host Utah Oct. 30.

With the addition of Utah, the Pac-10 now grows to 12 schools. On June 10, the Pac-10 added Colorado to its membership, taking that school from the Big Ten Conference. With these additions, the Pac-10 will now consist of Arizona, Arizona State, California, Oregon, Oregon State, Stanford, UCLA, USC, Washington, Washington State, Colorado and Utah.

"The Air Force Academy wishes the University of Utah well in their future endeavors," said Air Force head football coach Troy Calhoun. "Movement of universities across the athletic landscapes may continue, but the Academy's focus will remain resolute: develop young men and women of strong character who will be outstanding leaders for our country."

Utah's move the Pac-10 evens out the recent changes in the Mountain West Conference, keeping membership in the conference at nine teams. The core of the conference remains Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State, TCU, UNLV, Wyoming. When Utah leaves the Mountain West on June 1 of 2011, Boise State will become a member of the Mountain West Conference.

# Four Falcons to play summer baseball

#### From Athletic Communications

Four Air Force players are spending a portion of their summer vacation playing in summer baseball leagues. Two rising sophomores and two rising juniors are spread across three teams.

Rising junior infielder Blair Roberts and rising sophomore catcher and outfielder Garrett Custons are playing in the Northwoods League. Roberts is playing for the Alexandria Beetles (Alexandria, Minn.) and Custons - a recent freshmen All-American selection by Collegiate Baseball, the NCBWA and Ping!Baseball — is playing for the Eau Claire Express (Eau Claire, Wisc.). Rising junior infielder Adam Hill and rising sophomore right-handed pitcher Matt Zettler are teammates on the U.S. Military All-Star team. Representing all branches of the U.S. armed forces, players on the 25-member All-Stars wear unique camouflage uniforms with historical references instead of their own names. The team plays a full schedule of games on its "Red, White and Blue Tour" presented by Ashford University, competing against the Summer Wood Bat Collegiate, Minor League and Independent Professional teams.



Photo by BIII Evans

#### Good day for a ride

Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter rides with wounded warriors at the Air Force Academy June 18. The event was part of the Sea to Shining Sea bike ride, which began May 22 in San Francisco and will end July 24 in Virginia Beach, Va. The June 18 route through Colorado included Colorado Springs, Castlewood Canyon and Denver in addition to the Air Force Academy.

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#### **Evening Aerobics**

The Community Center Sports and Fitness Center now offers evening aerobics classes at 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. To sign up or for more information, call 333-4522.

#### Voyage to Book Island

The Community Center Library's summer reading program, "Voyage to Book Island," runs now through Aug. 7. For more information, rules and age categories, call the library at 333-4665.

#### **Fishing permits**

Outdoor Recreation offers Academy fishing permits to fish Kettle Lakes, Ice Lakes, Dead Man's Lake or any of the lakes on Farish Recreation Area grounds. For more information, call 333-2940 or 687-9098.

#### **School physicals**

The 10th Medical Group will offer multiple appointment times for school



#### CADET CHAPEL

Buddhist Sunday 10 a.m.

<u>Jewish</u> No services until the beginning of the Academic year in August

Protestant Combined Worship Service Sunday 10:00am

Roman Catholic Mass Sunday - 10 a.m.

Sunday - 9:10-9:40 a.m.

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The Chapel is open for tours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon.- Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. Sun. No tours during services

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#### July 4th fireworks

The Academy hosts an evening of family-oriented games, music and fireworks to celebrate the nation's birthday. The celebration is open to the general public. Events start at 6 p.m. on the Academy athletic fields, with numerous games, vendors and displays on the Cadet Athletic Fields. The Colorado Symphony Orchestra plays 6:30 to



Photo Illustration by Dennis Roge

7:45 p.m., and the Academy Orchestra plays 8:15 to 9:30 p.m., followed by a fireworks display. Attendees can bring cameras, lawn chairs, blankets, umbrellas, and sealed plastic water bottles. However, no coolers, barbecue grills, pets other than working service dogs, or fireworks are allowed. Water and portable restrooms will be provided.

physicals throughout the summer for students who wish to participate in school sports or camp programs and are enrolled in Tricare Prime.

If your child has had a physical completed within the last 12 months prior to the start of school or sports season, he is considered current, and you can contact the medical treatment clinic where the child is enrolled to obtain a copy of the physical for school, sports or camp purposes.

To schedule your child's physical or learn more, call the Tricare Appointment Line at 719-457-2273.

#### **Prep School sponsors**

Sponsors are needed for cadet candidates attending the Air Force Academy Preparatory School for the 2010-2011 school year.

Eligible sponsors are active or retired GS-05, E-6, O-3 and above. Academy graduates and professors may also apply. To volunteer as a sponsor or form more information, contact Mark Winter at 333-3057 or e-mail him at: *mark.winter @usafa.edu* 

#### Services scholarship

Each year, Air Force Services gives away \$25,000 in scholarship money for higher education. All eligible Club members and their families are encouraged to compete for the funds through a themed essay entry.

The topic for this year's program is "What does it mean to be part of the Air Force family." Cutoff date for submissions is Thursday. Final scholarship awards for school year 2009-10 will be announced by Sept. 17. To enter, write and submit an essay of 500 words or less on the topic. Essays exceeding 500 words (excluding title) will be disqualified. For more information, visit the Falcon Club. To book the Milazzo Center or Community Center Ballroom for your event, call Community Activities at 333-2928.

#### **A&FRC offerings**

The Academy Airman & Family Readiness Center will host the following classes in June. Contact the A&FRC at 333-3444 or 333-3445 with questions or to sign up for a class. Class dates and times are subject to change.



#### **Donkey Derby Days**

Cripple Creek's 79th annual Donkey Derby Days is Saturday and Sunday. People from all over the world descend on downtown, drawn by a chance to watch a race inspired by the town's resident donkey herd, distant relatives of the original donkeys from the town's Gold Rush days. The two-day family jamboree features a host of free events, including its traditional donkey races, as well as a donkey calling contest, children's activities, an ore cart race, a parade, live entertainment, street vendors, and an art show. For more information and a schedule of events, visit *http:/ /www.visitcripplecreek.com/Donkey DerbyDays.aspx.* 

#### **Renaissance Festival**

The Colorado Renaissance Festival runs each weekend now through Aug. 1, rain or shine. Admission is \$18.95 for adults, \$8 for those 5-12 and free for 5 and younger. Military Appreciation weekend is this Saturday and Sunday, and tickets are buy one, get one free for those with a military ID. The fest is at Larkspur, off Interstate 25, between Colorado Springs and Denver.

#### Free entry to museums

Museums across the nation have partnered with Blue Star Families to grant military members and up to five family members free admission to participating museums. This offer is good through Labor Day. Participating museums are listed at *http:// www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php*.

#### Free summer concerts

The First and Main Town Center on Powers Boulevard starts its 6th annual free summer concert series, today and each Friday through July 30, 5-7 p.m. Today's summer concert artist is The Parable Sons. Upcoming acts are provided via the Pikes Peak Blues Community, and include local artists such as: Latigo, Parable Sons, Phat Daddy, Martini Shot, George Whitesell & His All Stars, Brickyard and Arch Hooks. For more information, visit *http://www.firstandmaintowncenter. com/.* 



out notice due to mission requirements. Please call 719-333-2636/4515 for more information.

#### COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL Catholic Masses:

Saturday

Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.

Mass - 4 p.m.

Sunday

Mass - 9 a.m. Religious Formation - 10:15 a.m. (September - May) **Tuesday-Friday** Mass - 11:30 a.m.

#### Protestant Services:

#### Wednesday

Wednesday Night Live - 6 p.m. Dinner followed by Religious Education (September - May). **Sunday** Evangelical - 10:15 a.m. Gospel - 11:30 a.m.

#### **Community Center events**

The community center will hold a book faire July 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Base Exchange parking lot. The book faire is a book sale and swap and will feature about 400 titles for children's books from every category.

Ballroom dance classes start Aug. 4, with beginners' classes at 5:30 p.m., intermediate classes at 6:45 p.m. and swing at 8 p.m. Each course is \$70 per couple or \$40 per individual. Photo by Mike Kaplan

#### Wreaking 'Havoc'

Benjamin Kaplan, son of Air Force retirees Iris and Mike Kaplan, gets acquainted with Havoc and falconer Cadet 3rd Class Nathan Lebens at the Air Force Athletics tent during "Spring Spree" in Colorado Springs, Sunday. The Air Force Academy set up a tent during this annual twoday event.

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