

# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

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December 11, 2009



Photo by Johnny Wilson

## Falcons fall to Pioneers in final seconds

Falcons junior guard Raimee Beck maneuvers through defenders during the Air Force-Denver University game at the Academy's Clune Arena Dec. 9. Beck, a native of Blackfoot, Idaho, had 11 points and six rebounds in Air Force's 64-62 loss to DU. For story and more photos, see Page 17.

# Leaders stress safety at superintendent's call

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum  
Academy Public Affairs

The Academy's superintendent and command chief master sergeant both stressed safety during a series of superintendent's calls held for military, civilian and cadet personnel in the Arnold Hall Theater Dec. 3.

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould focused on winter driving safety, and Chief Master Sgt. Todd Salzman asked Airmen to have a plan before they party, during each of the three sessions — two for permanent-party personnel and one for cadets.

"Safety has got to be something you think about all the time," General Gould said. "We are not invincible, and we really have to think about that, especially as we get into the bad weather and the winter season."

Weather in Colorado this winter has been colder than normal, with temperatures in Colorado Springs hitting a record-low minus-3 degrees Dec. 4 and above-average snowfall so far this month.

"Come prepared," General Gould said. "If you don't have your car loaded right now with a shovel and blankets and flares ... go home and work on it, because this

is a tough time of year."

The general recalled Cadets Brian Bullard and Diane Williams, who were at the Academy when he was stationed here from 1981-1985. The two cadets were dating and had driven to Missouri to be with Cadet Williams' family over the Thanksgiving break.

"They were driving back to Colorado to be back in time for class," he recalled. "They ran into a really nasty

“Safety has got to be something you think about all the time.”

— Lt. Gen. Mike Gould  
Academy superintendent

snowstorm — one of those things that just pops up. They were somewhere on Interstate 70 in Kansas. They pulled under an overpass to let the storm pass ... they never left. They died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

"They had pulled up under the bridge, and the snow had drifted. They got cold, so they were running the heater. They didn't crack the window; they didn't

do any of those things that hopefully we've all learned about and think about. They went to sleep and never woke up," he said. "(Brian's) mom, Betty, is still in town and is still a Falcons supporter. The most prestigious award in the Falcon Football program is called the Brian Bullard Award in his memory, but I wish Brian were still here to present that award instead of his mom."

Chief Salzman's safety tale was equally harrowing and focused on not knowing what might happen when one gets behind the wheel.

"In 1988 — Friday the 13th, in fact — my new bride and I were driving back to see my parents in Arkansas, and we were about 28 miles away, in Little Rock," the chief said. "It was about 10:30 at night, there was a little bit of rain out there ... We were cruising along, and I wasn't speeding because my wife reminds me that I don't speed, I drive too slow. All of a sudden, the car in the far right lane swerved a little bit, the car in the other lane swerved a little bit, and the next thing I know, there's a guy standing in front of me."

The chief had no time to react. His car hit the pedestrian at 57 mph, killing him instantly.

See CALL, Page 6

**WEEKEND WEATHER**

**FRIDAY**  
30 8  
MOSTLY SUNNY

**SATURDAY**  
36 12  
MOSTLY SUNNY

**SUNDAY**  
40 14  
MOSTLY SUNNY

### Bowl-Bound

The Falcons will meet Houston for a grudge match at the Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 31.

Page 3

### Winter Graduation

Seven cadets from the "Class of 2009.5" will graduate in a ceremony at the Academy Thursday.

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### Downrange Honors

An NCO from the 10th Security Forces Squadron was recognized as Joint Base Balad's best.

Page 15

# Air Force family forges bonds, eases strain

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Ingersoll  
100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England (AFNS) — As Airmen, many times we put service before ourselves to accomplish the mission. It's what we signed up for, and it's what we're trained to do.

Even so, what is more than a little difficult is when mission requires us to put service before our spouses and children.

The Air Force does a great many things to take care of families and is working even now, as it is the Year of the Air Force Family, to make our quality of life much better.

As a married father of six, I still feel that no matter what is done to provide better services, housing or anything else, a parent or spouse can simply never be replaced with niceties. That's where our fellow servicemembers become so important.

The Air Force is like an extended family, and the bonds we forge allow us to feel secure in the knowledge that our loved ones are taken care of while we are separated from them for extended periods of time.

Since joining the Air Force, I've made friends who understand the strain our families go through and make the effort to take care of my family when I am gone. When I moved to England, there was a problem with my family's paperwork, and I had to move here three weeks early, leaving them in a hotel room in the states.

My friend and fellow Airman, Jonathan, and his family had them over for dinner several of those nights to make sure they were getting good meals. I was also able to tell my teenage sons confidently that if they were in any trouble I would have Jonathan come over and help straighten it out.

Victor, another Airman friend, helped my wife sell the car. While Bill, a civilian contractor with whom I became good friends, lent my wife a van to use in the meantime and gave my family a ride to the airport when it was time for them to join me.

Recently, I took a photo of the wing commander giving Tech. Sgt. Justice Rogers a wingman coin for helping an Airman's family. I learned that taking care of each other is not

just with my friends, it's Air Force-wide.

When Sergeant Rogers learned that one of his deployed Airman's family members had contracted the H1N1 virus, he spent \$150 of his own money to provide groceries and medications for them. He brought videos for the children, checked their mail, took care of the garbage collection, transported them to the hospital, fixed the car, cooked meals and made daily visits to their home to make sure they were being taken care of.

After he received the award I told him I thought what he did was admirable.

"You would have done the same thing for your fellow Airmen," he answered.

That really drove it home for me. That's the real meaning of Air Force family. We share the same struggles, triumphs and adventures, but most of all we take care of each other.

The hardest thing to give the Air Force can be more time when we're needed at home, but thanks to our extended Air Force family, even that can be manageable.



To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

**Lt. Gen. Mike Gould** —  
Academy Superintendent  
**Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth** —  
Director of Public Affairs  
**Staff Sgt. Don Branum** —  
NCIO in charge of Internal Information  
donald.branum@usafa.af.mil  
**Ken Carter** — Editor  
kenneth.carter@usafa.af.mil  
**Butch Wehry** — Senior Staff Writer  
whalen.wehry@usafa.af.mil  
**Ann Patton** — Staff Writer  
elizabeth.patton.ctr@usafa.af.mil  
**Denise Navoy** — Graphic Designer

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Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one 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.



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## Character Corner Does honesty matter?

By Maj. Tom DeVore  
Center for Character and Leadership Development

Much to my dismay, my 8-year-old son has become a pro at telling his parents what he thinks we want to hear. A few months back, my son Jack and his friend Autumn were painting pictures. We set up a table for them in our garage and moved our cars into the driveway. After they'd been painting for about two hours, I asked them to stop painting and put their things away so that we could clean everything up.

Jack and Autumn came in about 15 minutes later and started washing their paintbrushes. I asked if they had

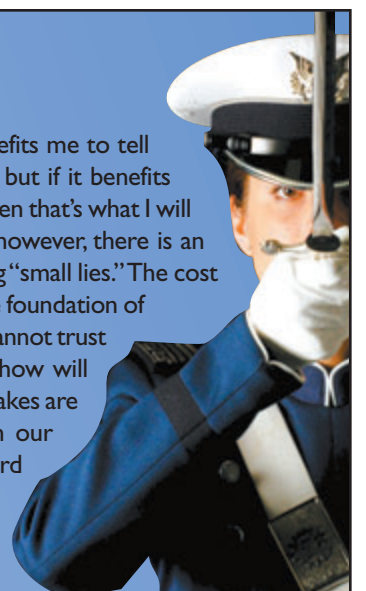
cleaned up all their painting equipment and picked up the tarp in the garage. They responded with an enthusiastic yes!

I went into the garage to see what kind of progress they had made on cleaning up their work area. I discovered two large paint stains in the driveway polka dots covering both cars. Jack and Autumn had decided that the best way to clean their brushes was to walk out of the garage and swing their brushes until they were clean. When I asked how the paint got on the cars and the driveway, the answer was, "I don't know."

Behaviors like this are a result of situational ethics, which revolves around the idea of using the best set of

ethics for the situation: if it benefits me to tell the truth, then I will be honest, but if it benefits me to lie or omit information, then that's what I will do. In our profession of arms, however, there is an even more serious cost to telling "small lies." The cost is our trust in one another—the foundation of our combat effectiveness. If we cannot trust each other on the little things, how will we trust each other when the stakes are high? No lies are acceptable in our culture of trust—we cannot afford to allow any erosion of our foundation.

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](http://www.usafa.org).



## How are you preparing for finals?

"I'm studying a lot and going over homework problems and notes."



Cadet 4th Class  
Uddit Patel  
Cadet Squadron 14

"I'm doing lots of studying, putting aside games and TV. I'm studying course material going back to August."



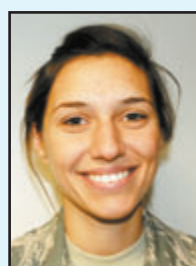
Cadet 3rd Class  
Matthew Buford  
Cadet Squadron 38

"I'm just studying a bunch and spending long hours in the library."



Cadet 2nd Class  
Phil Rancourt  
Cadet Squadron 3

"I'm reviewing my notes, studying and trying to get more sleep."



Cadet 3rd Class  
Jessamy Barton  
Cadet Squadron 14



# Air Force accepts bid to Armed Forces Bowl

By Troy Garnhart  
Athletic Communications

Air Force accepted a bid Sunday as the Mountain West Conference representative to play in the 2009 Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, scheduled for Dec. 31 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Air Force will play against the 25th-ranked Houston Cougars of Conference-USA at Amon G. Carter Stadium beginning at 11 a.m. Central Standard Time. The game will air on ESPN.

"We are thrilled to have the Air Force Academy as the MWC's representative," said Brant B. Ringler, the bowl's executive director. "With Falcon and military fans numerous at our past two New Year's Eve games, we've established record attendance figures."

Falcons head coach Troy Calhoun lauded his team for earning a third consecutive bowl appearance.

"It's a remarkable accomplishment by our cadets," he said. "We never take that for granted. It is a great opportunity to play in a bowl game — but we aren't content just to play. We are going to play to win."

Calhoun said Air Force looks forward to playing the Cougars.

"We know the University of Houston has a very rich football history and currently has an incredibly talented team," he said. "They have great size and skilled people; they have a great quarterback; they are absolutely loaded at receiver."

Defensive back and team captain Ben Garland said winning a bowl game has been one of the Falcons' main goals coming into the 2009 season.

"It would certainly be a great way to go out," said Garland, a senior and native of Grand Junction Colo. "We love this opportunity to play Houston State and go up against such a powerful offense with



Photo by Dave Armer

The 2009 Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will offer the Falcons a chance at redemption. They fell to Houston 34-28 in the 2008 Armed Forces Bowl.

all those great weapons. We look forward to the challenge."

The matchup will be the third between Air Force and Houston in 15 months. They first played Sept. 13, 2008 in Dallas, in a game that was moved from Houston due to Hurricane Ike. The Falcons won the teams' first match, 31-28. The two played in the 2008 Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth Dec. 31, 2008, and the Cougars won the rematch, 34-28.

"This game offers us a chance at redemption from last season," Garland said. "This will give us an opportunity to show what our team is about."

Offensive lineman Nick Charles said he also looks forward to the second chance to win against Houston in the bowl game.

"You don't always get second or third

chances, but we have one," said Charles, a senior and one of 27 Falcons players originally from Texas. "It's been an awesome journey for this senior class, and (winning) would put an exclamation point on our careers."

Air Force finished the 2009 regular season at 7-5 (5-3). The Falcons' defense is one of the best in school history, with a scoring defense ranked ninth in the nation with 15 points allowed per game, a top-ranked passing defense with 149 yards allowed per game and 10th-ranked total defense with 280 yards allowed per game. The Falcons rank third nationally in turnovers with a +17 mark this season, including two fumble returns and three interception returns for touchdowns.

The Air Force offense has ranked

among the nation's top five in rushing all season with more than 270 yards per game. The Falcons are poised to win an 11th straight MWC rushing title this season. Air Force is one of just 15 teams nationally to score in 75 percent or more of the quarters it has played.

Houston finished 10-3 and won the C-USA West with a 6-2 division record. The Cougars' offense is one of the best in the nation, with the top passing offense (450 yards per game), best overall offense (581 yards per game) and second in scoring offense (44 points per game).

This is the Air Force Academy's 20th postseason bowl game, and it is the first time since 1990-1992 that the Falcons have played in three consecutive bowl games.

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# Top leaders spell out president's strategy

By Fred W. Baker III  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Top U.S. government and military officials here spelled out President Barack Obama's new war strategy Dec. 6, even as hundreds of Marines launched a new offensive in southern Afghanistan.

Both Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton appeared on three major networks and fielded questions on the newly announced war strategy ranging from funding to al-Qaida in Pakistan to how the U.S. will measure its success on the ground.

Central to the questioning was the July 2011 date set by the president in the strategy to begin withdrawing troops.

Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, the commander of U.S. Central Command, and James L. Jones, the president's national security adviser, also made appearances on the news shows.

Secretary Gates was quick to clear up debate centered on the notion that setting a date to begin withdrawal allows the Taliban simply to wait out U.S. efforts there.

"I don't consider this an exit strategy," Secretary Gates said. "I try to avoid using that term. This is a transition that's going to take place."



Photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison  
**Defense Secretary Robert Gates tours the training center of the Afghan Army Air Corps in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday. Secretary Gates is on his first trip to Southwest Asia since President Barack Obama agreed to send an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan.**

Both Secretary Gates and Secretary Clinton reinforced the president's position that the U.S. would not abandon Afghanistan, but that the commitment to provide security for the country is not an open-ended agreement.

"We're not talking about an abrupt withdrawal," Secretary Gates said. "We're talking about something that will take place over a period of time."

"We will begin to thin our forces and begin to bring them home, but the pace of bringing them home and where we will bring them home from will depend on the circumstances on the ground and those judgments will be made by our

commanders in the field," he said. "We will have a significant number of forces in there for some considerable period of time after that."

But at the same time, Secretary Clinton said a strong message had to be sent to the Afghan government that it needed to step up and realize that the relationship will change in July 2011. She promised an ongoing civilian commitment long after combat troops have left the country.

"We will have an enduring commitment to Afghanistan," she said. "We don't have an open-ended combat commitment, but we're not going to be walking

away from Afghanistan again. We will stay involved we will stay supportive."

The president's commitment of 30,000 additional U.S. troops, along with NATO's new pledge of 7,000 troops, will help reverse the momentum the Taliban have gained in recent years and give the Afghan government the space it needs to grow and train its own security forces, Secretary Gates said. Already, operations by Marines in southern Helmand Province are showing progress; Marines moved in there about six months ago.

By July 2011, U.S. and NATO troops will have been operating in the heavily contested province for two years. This will be enough time for commanders on the ground to gauge the effectiveness of the surge, the defense secretary said. Meanwhile, the strategy will be monitored.

"We're not going to just plunge blindly ahead if it becomes clear that what we're doing isn't working. There are some other alternatives," Secretary Gates said.

It was time to change the strategy in Afghanistan, Mr. Jones said.

"The status quo was clearly not working," he said. "This will buy the time and space we need to get these other things going: get the Afghan governance established; get the Afghan national security forces established; better integrate the cohesive aspects of our economic development program."

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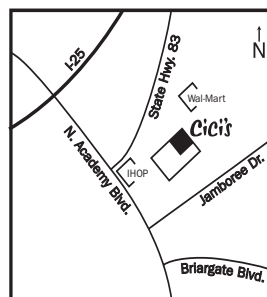
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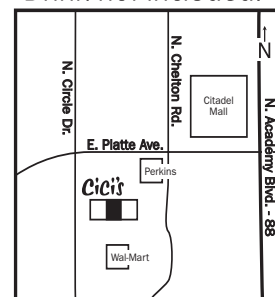
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# Deputy defense secretary cites air power's role

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

NEW YORK (AFPS) — Aerospace assets will be critical to the success of stepped-up operations in Afghanistan — from delivering troops to ferrying logistical support to providing lifesaving intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to ground forces, Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn told industry executives here Dec. 2.

Mr. Lynn told several hundred Aerospace and Defense Conference attendees that he firmly supports President Barack Obama's new force commitment and revised strategy in Afghanistan, announced Dec. 1 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

"The situation there is serious," Mr. Lynn said. "New terrorist attacks against our homeland are being planned there now, including a recent plot disrupted by American authorities. Those facts compel us to act."

Mr. Lynn said the 30,000 additional U.S. troops to join the fight in Afghanistan will support the overarching goal there: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaida in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, and to prevent terrorists from threatening the United States and its allies.

"We must deny al-Qaida a safe haven," he said. "We must reverse the Taliban's momentum, especially in the population centers of Afghanistan. And we must strengthen Afghanistan's government and security forces."

Emphasizing that the U.S. military commitment in Afghanistan isn't open-ended, Mr. Lynn said the troop surge will speed up the process of transferring security responsibility to Afghan security forces. That, he said, will set conditions to begin a drawdown of combat forces in the summer of 2011.

Mr. Lynn emphasized the importance of the contri-



By photo Airman 1st Class Brett Clashma

**Air transports like this C-17 Globemaster III will be critical to the success of stepped-up operations in Afghanistan, the deputy secretary of defense said in New York Dec. 2.**

butions the aerospace industry is making toward that goal, despite a particularly challenging operational environment.

"In a landlocked nation with few workable roads, helicopter lift and cargo aircraft make possible almost everything we do — from dumps of food, fuel and ammunition to maneuver support," he told the group. "It's hard to imagine a more difficult place to support combat operations."

Aerospace capabilities are directly supporting warfighters, he said, providing combat air patrols and search-and-rescue teams, and ISR platforms keep watch

over troops 24/7 in Afghanistan's most remote corners.

Much of this enhanced ISR capability didn't even exist when the conflict in Afghanistan began, Mr. Lynn noted. He credited investments in technology and manpower that now provide commanders actionable intelligence in minutes.

Mr. Lynn applauded the industry's partnership with the Defense Department in its quest to provide these and other new capabilities that directly support warfighters on the ground.

"Without question, our offense against the Taliban and al-Qaida depends on air power," he said.

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## Call

From Page 1

"I crushed the whole front end of the car, and I bent my steering wheel trying to stop," he said. "What do you think the first question was when the police officer arrived? 'Have you been drinking?' No, I had not. I had all of my faculties."

However, the chief continued, "What if I had been drinking? What if I had been drinking? ... Nobody goes out to get in trouble. Nobody goes out to hurt anybody else when you're out there partying. Think about things that just happen. Think about it if it happened to you and you had been drinking and driving, even just a couple of beers."

Overall, General Gould said he was impressed with what the men and women at the Academy have accomplished in the six months he's been here.

"So much of what's going on is because of you guys and gals — active-duty, civilians, contractors; our permanent party, our Cadet Wing — everybody," he said.

However, the general said, the Academy's staff cannot afford to rest on its laurels.

"We've got a lot of momentum going in the right direction, and we've got to keep that," he said. "We've got to build on our momentum as we go, because there's always room to get better. There's always room in a lot of ways, and one of those ways is to make sure the people of Colorado Springs ... the state of Colorado and the nation understand what we have here at

this Academy in the way of a national treasure."

General Gould also devoted some of his time to talking about the Academy's recent accomplishments. He highlighted Basic Cadet Training, which had an attrition rate of 3.9 percent — the lowest rate in the Academy's history.

"That's because a lot of people are focused on success, are focused on the support needed to get these Basics through — taking care of their needs, helping them chase their dreams and doing the things to train them the right way," the general said.

Other major events included Parents' Weekend, the Falcon Heritage Foundation and the Academy Assembly. General Gould called these "air show-equivalent" events because of the effort that goes into preparing the Academy for each event.

"Then we look at what you all pulled off with CORONA, Army week, the Falcon Foundation ... trust me, I know how much work this takes across the board, in the (10th) Air Base Wing and in all the mission elements here on the Hill. But we've had nothing but great feedback from the chief of staff and our senior leadership, and I thank you for that," he said.

Reflecting on the sexual assault scandal in 2003 and the religious intolerance scandal in 2005, General Gould said both problems stemmed from a breakdown of individual and institutional respect.

"We all have to realize that we come together as one team, and we have to

respect one another," he said. "The key thing is, we're all going to make mistakes, but confrontation at the basic level — at the grass-roots level where it occurs — is the answer. If you're offended, confront right there and say, 'That doesn't make me feel good.' If you catch yourself saying something stupid, own up to it right there on the spot and apologize, then move on."

"Respect at the individual level will keep us focused on our mission and enable us to work as a team," he added. "Respect at the institutional level will go an awfully long way toward making America realize what a gem they have in the U.S. Air Force Academy."

In order for the Academy's leaders to foster individual and institutional respect, though, they have to know about the state of the organization. Chief Salzman asked the audience to help by filling out the superintendent's climate survey, which is online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/LKSBMVJ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LKSBMVJ).

"In the last couple of years — 27 of them — I've been doing climate surveys, and they're important," the chief said. "They were important back then, and they're important today. We don't — and cannot — get our mission done if we have a culture that has no respect. It is so serious to us to make sure that everybody has the rights, that everybody gets treated with respect and that everybody is understood."

If that's not happening, the chief said, then the climate survey can help General Gould and other top leaders fix the situ-

ation. But first, leaders need feedback about their organizations from their subordinates.

"It takes a lot of courage to do that in some cases because you're going to go out there and say things that might upset some people and might even upset your leadership," he said. "Trust me: your leadership needs to know." The survey is anonymous, so respondents can provide feedback without fear of repercussions.

General Gould also asked the audience of enlisted Airmen, officers and civilians to think about the role of air power in Afghanistan, especially in light of the pending troop buildup there.

"What is the Air Force's role?" he asked. "There's a place for air, space and cyberspace and all the things we bring to the fight. There is also ... a non-traditional role in the combat support and combat service support arena that Airmen will continue to play — not to mention the transportation piece that is Air Force mobility-heavy."

The general closed by reminding people to stay safe and take care of one another.

"Like the chief says, this is a wonderful time of the year," he said. "It's time to share things with your family and friends and make sure your family knows you love them. Tell them thanks for getting you where you are, and enjoy that time. But please, if there's one takeaway from this session, be safe in everything you do — everything you do."

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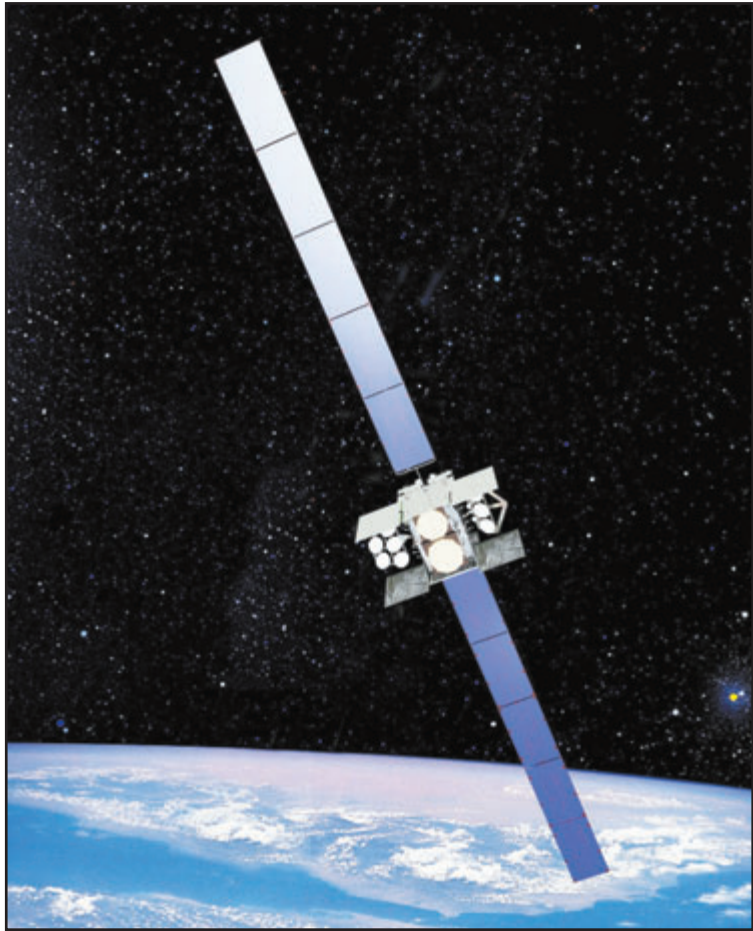
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# Air Force launches new WGS satellite



45th Space Wing Public Affairs

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. — The Air Force successfully launched a new-generation military communications satellite from here Dec. 5 at 8:47 p.m. Eastern Standard Time when a Delta IV rocket carried a Wideband Global SATCOM satellite into space.

WGS satellites are designed to provide high-capacity communications to U.S. military forces. They will augment and eventually replace the Defense Satellite Communication System that has been the Department of Defense's backbone for satellite communications over the last two decades.

"WGS provides a giant leap in communica-

Graphic courtesy Boeing

**Wideband Global SATCOM satellites such as the one pictured here provide 12 times as much bandwidth as the Defense Satellite Communications System satellites they will replace. WGS-3 launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., Dec. 5. The 3rd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., is scheduled to take control of the satellite in May 2010.**

tions bandwidth and technology," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley. "The launch of this satellite is another example of the Air Force bringing important and vital capabilities to our nation's military around the world."

This mission marked the third flight of a Delta IV rocket this year from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, a record for one year. It also was the second launch of a WGS this year from here. WGS-2 launched atop an Atlas V rocket here April 3.

"I am extremely proud to be a part of a team of space professionals that launched the third Wideband Global SATCOM satellite to complete the first phase of the WGS constellation," said Brig. Gen. Edward L. Bolton Jr., 45th Space Wing commander. "I am also pleased this marked our 20th launch of the year."

First launched in 2007, WGS will be a constellation of five satellites that will supply service for military leaders to command and control their tactical forces. The 3rd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., provides command and control for both the WGS and DSCS satellites.

# Alleged Fort Hood shooter faces more charges

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFPS) — The man who allegedly killed 13 people and injured 30 others at Fort Hood Nov. 5 will face 32 specifications of attempted premeditated murder under Article 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the Defense Department announced Dec. 2.

The suspect, Army Maj. Nidal M. Hasan, is presently confined in a medical facility in Texas.

The alleged shooter was confronted and wounded by two civilian police officers posted on the base. One of the officers, police Sgt. Kimberly Munley, was wounded during an exchange of shots with the suspected gunman.

Major Hasan initially was charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder under Article 118 of the UCMJ. He has hired a lawyer.

As with the initial charges, the new charges are allegations only, and the accused is presumed innocent until proven otherwise. The investigation

continues, and additional charges remain a possibility, DOD officials said.

Under Article 118, the minimum sentence upon conviction is life with the possibility of parole. The maximum sentence is death. Convictions under Article 80 cannot be punished by death, and the article does not provide for mandatory minimum punishment. The article caps sentences of confinement at 20 years except in cases of attempted murder.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates appointed former Veterans Affairs

Secretary Togo West and retired Navy Adm. Vernon Clark to lead an independent review panel that will examine the circumstances surrounding the Fort Hood shootings to see how potential future incidents could be avoided.

"We will look at policies and procedures that look at how we deal with servicemembers who may cause trouble or harm to their fellows," Secretary West said at a Nov. 24 news conference at Fort Hood.

The panel will report its findings to Gates by Jan. 15.



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# Mullen visits troops readying for Afghanistan

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visited the men and women who have to carry out the new strategy in Afghanistan Monday with stops at Fort Campbell, Ky., and Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Fresh from testifying on Capitol Hill on President Barack Obama's decision to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen thanked the Soldiers and Marines who will carry out the strategy.

"I just want you to know how much I appreciate what you do, that you serve, and the difference you make at this extraordinary time in our history," the chairman said at Fort Campbell. "For those of us in the middle of this, sometimes it's a little difficult to see what's going on as that history is being written, and it is being written by the best military we have ever had."

Admiral Mullen stressed in both places that the mission in Afghanistan is to go after al-Qaida in its home. The terror group plotted the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks from safe havens in Afghanistan and still is plotting from safe havens along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, he said. Complicating the situation is that Pakistan, which is being challenged by al-Qaida-supported Taliban, has nuclear weapons.

"My worst nightmare is terrorists with nuclear weapons," Admiral Mullen said. "Not only do I know they are trying to get them, but I know they will use them."

The military must succeed in its missions but also must balance the force over the long run, Admiral Mullen said. Far more than half of the audience at Fort Campbell had deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan in their military careers. Admiral Mullen said the services need to work on balancing the load that personnel and their families deal with as America fights its wars.

The chairman told the Soldiers and Marines that time is short. He said there was a lot of discussion during the president's strategy review about a July 2011 target date for beginning the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

"You are going to be at the leading edge" of the fight in Afghanistan, he said.

The counterinsurgency effort paid off in Iraq, and the president believes it can pay off in Afghanistan as well, Admiral Mullen said.

"All the lessons we learned in Iraq, specifically in what goes into counterinsurgency and how we think about it, we learned just in time to have the impact we need to have over the next couple of years in Afghanistan," he said.

"In the long run, (Afghanistan) is not going to be about killing Taliban," Mullen told the Marines at Camp Lejeune. "In the long run, it's going to be because the Afghan people want them out."

Just as Iraq did, the chairman said, he expects Afghanistan will go through a process of negotiation and reconciliation. "But there has to be enough security to do that," he added.

It is more than a military effort, the chairman said in both Kentucky and



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chad McNeeley  
Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visits Marines assigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., Monday, 2009.

North Carolina. U.S. civilian employees and those in international and nongovernmental organizations must be able to provide assistance to the Afghans.

"We've got to create options for young 15, 16, 17-year-olds other than joining the Taliban," he said.

The strategy isn't just about Afghanistan, the chairman stressed. He said Pakistan, India and the other countries of Central Asia are also important. Admiral Mullen noted he has been in Pakistan more than a dozen times since taking office more than two years ago. Each time, he said, the Pakistanis ask him if the United States is going to be a good ally and stay, or if America will turn its back as it did when the Soviets left Afghanistan in 1989.

"You heard the president say ... it is our intent to have a long-term, stable and prosperous relationship with both these countries," he said.

Admiral Mullen stressed that leadership at all levels is crucial not only to progress in Afghanistan and Iraq, but also for the future of the military.

"Leading in these tough times, leading and understanding the fight you are going into, the need to lead and understand we need to take care of each other, the need to lead and understand we need to take care of those who were wounded and lost and their families — there's just a host of things connected with that," he said. "These are very, very challenging times, but ... the best solution is great leadership."

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# Support improves for families with special needs

By Elaine Wilson

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Officials are working to boost the resources and support the Defense Department's Exceptional Family Member Program provides to military families with special needs.

"Most people are aware of EFMP as a mandatory enrollment program, but we're working to raise awareness of the family support we can provide," said Rebecca Posante, communications director for the Pentagon's Office of Military Community and Family Policy.

Military families with special needs are asked to enroll in the program so their requirements can be taken into consideration for future assignments. Parents of a child with major medical needs, for instance, are stationed at an installation near a hospital that can accommodate those needs.

The program's purpose "is to prevent you from getting in a situation where your family can't get appropriate care," Ms. Posante said. "Your asthma may be controlled here, but not at a place overseas. You might not know that and unknowingly be put in a life-threatening situation. The goal is to protect the family."

While the assignment component is standard throughout the services, each branch offers a varying level of family support, and the resultant family services are inconsistent at best, Ms. Posante acknowledged. For instance, some bases have one program specialist and others have up to seven.

"The Marine Corps and Army have (augmented) their programs, but it really depends on the passion and the staffing at the installations," she said.

On a positive note, she said, changes are on the horizon.

The fiscal 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Barack Obama in October, mandates a standard program to support military families with special needs, establishes a Defense Department Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs and requires a comprehensive policy on support to families.

While changes lie ahead, Ms. Posante said she is working in the meantime to put the resources in place to ensure success.

Last month, DOD officials sponsored the first joint exceptional family member support conference in Jacksonville, Fla. Ms. Posante said the conference was a definite success, and that she equipped family support personnel with tools they "could take back and use on Monday."

She noted these same tools also are offered online for families.

A Parent ToolKit, available on the Military OneSource site, offers information and resources to aid parents of

special-needs children, taking them from birth to 21 years old. It includes a list of support organizations, sample forms and letters, and other resources.

To supplement the toolkit, Military Homefront offers hundreds of resources online, listed by state, that parents can use to pinpoint a local program.

The Special Care Organizational Record for Children With Special Health Care Needs, also available on Military OneSource, is a binder where parents can store all health care-related information pertaining to their child, from medications and allergies to doctors' business cards and receipts. It also can be used for special-needs adults.

"Imagine if you were a parent and one day you couldn't take care of your child, (and) someone would have to step in and care for that child," said Isabel Hodge, family support program manager for the Pentagon's Office of Military Community and Family Policy. "This gives them what they need to know. It's a set of instructions."

"It's not your official medical record," Ms. Posante added. "But it's something you can take with you as you move (or go) to different appointments. You can take it with you and share with doctors to aid in care."

Ms. Posante also urges parents of special-needs family members to take advantage of Military OneSource's specialty consultations for adult and special needs children by calling 1-800-342-9647.

With the program's new legislation and resources, Ms. Posante said she hopes families will remember to associate the Exceptional Family Member Program with more than just assignments. She wants them to equate the program with family support.

"Enrollment is for your protection. This is a big benefit to our families," she said. "But we also can help support your family. Seek out your EFMP coordinator at your family center; that person knows the area; they can get you the right information. We want our families to know (that) we know the system, and we can help."



Photo by Johnny Wilson

## Cadet Chorale performs 'Messiah'

The Cadet Chorale performs in the annual Messiah concert at the Cadet Chapel here Dec. 4. More than 700 people attended the 2009 performance. The Cadet Chorale is the Academy's premiere choral organization and has appeared in Super Bowls, college bowl games and NBA All-Star games.

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# Pearl Harbor veteran recalls war stories

By Emily Brainard  
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — Curt Head remembers Dec. 7, 1941 vividly. The then-20-year-old Navy petty officer second class and his shipmates had just finished breakfast around 8 a.m. and were considering attending a local football game when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

The young boatswain's mate, aboard USS San Francisco, said he and his crew joined neighboring USS New Orleans crew members in firing at Japanese planes.

Mr. Head recalls slicing his knife through canvas canopies to free stored guns to use against their enemies. He assisted in clearing the gangway of a broken down milk truck blocking passage.

Though listening to the first bomb drop "was a blast of bad news," Mr. Head said living through the war has taught him "to see the good in life" since.

Mr. Head believes honoring Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Monday was important because of the sacrifices military members made during the "day that shall live in infamy." Many World War II veterans are no longer living, leaving the few remaining men and women, like him, to carry on their legacies.

Head continued his service to the nation in the 1942 Guadalcanal campaign. He sustained severe injuries during a battle that November and was later awarded the Purple Heart.

After his military stint, he made contributions to local Army efforts aiding Fort Rucker, Ala., Soldiers. His Ozark home is surrounded by many open acres, and in the 1960s, he allowed student-pilots to land in his fields for training.

Mr. Head said he was paid \$21 a year for his hospitality, but he didn't do it for the money. After



Curt and Louetta Head recount Mr. Head's Navy service during the bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. Mr. Head and his wife now reside in Alabama near Fort Rucker.

U.S. Army Photo by Emily Brainard

noise complaints from neighbors; however, he shut down the makeshift landing pads several years later.

Now 88, he spends days with his wife of 66 years, Louetta, and their daughters, Barbara Nafziger and Carolyn Buchanan, visiting recently from Milton-Freewater, Ore., and Clinton, Miss., respectively.

Louetta said his Pearl Harbor experiences helped shape her husband into the man he is today — an extremely proud American.

Her father is a stellar example not only to his

family, but to all military members past and present, Mrs. Nafziger said.

"He's the perfect example of patriotism and support for his country," she said. Mrs. Buchanan believes her father's combat adventures formed his character, morals and role as "a perfect father."

Even though rotary aircraft no longer land or take off in his backyard, Mr. Head supports today's troops. His advice to Soldiers is to "carry on" and perform their jobs to the best of their abilities. It's the same effort he put in many decades ago during the Pearl Harbor bombing.

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# USAFA's 36th Cadet on the road to Oxford

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

The Air Force Academy's newest Rhodes Scholar said she visited several schools in her search for a university but could not pass up the sense of purpose she felt here.

"I was greatly impressed by the honor code and the feeling of family among the cadets I visited," said Cadet 1st Class Brittany Morreale. "I thirsted to be part of an institution built on trust, brotherhood, and adventure. The Academy was where I found all of these things and more."

Cadet Morreale is one of 32 Rhodes Scholarship winners for 2009, becoming the 36th cadet to win. She is a physics major with a minor in Japanese and is also a cross-country runner.

"I began a year ago working on essays with the graduate studies department and have been working hard on revisions and improvements since that time," said the cadet from Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. "We began a rigorous interview process at the beginning of this semester with two interviews to narrow the field of applicants and hone our interviewing skills."

They submitted their applications at the end of October and heard that they received interviews during the second week in November.

"At that point preparation consumed our lives for a few weeks," she said. "I met several times with the other cadets interviewing for the scholarship as well as advisors and mentors. We also had three full length practice interviews followed by immediate feedback from the panel."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Don Branum  
**Cadet 1st Class Brittany Morreale is one of 32 Rhodes Scholars nationwide for 2009 and the 36th Air Force Academy cadet to receive the award.**

She felt thoroughly prepared when she entered the Rhodes interview.

"From the time I started, I planned to work my hardest to get the opportunity to go to grad school right after graduating from the Academy," Cadet Morreale said. "In that sense, this has always been something I dreamed and pursued."

But she never expected to win a Rhodes Scholarship.

"I truly attribute this success to the inspiration and encouragement I have received from all of the amazing people I have been surrounded by at the Academy," she said.

Cadet Morreale hopes this scholarship will open doors to help her reach her goals.

"I hope it opens doors for me to eventually become a strategic leader and gives me the skill to shape future policy for the Air Force and the United States," she said. "I hope to be the voice of the Air Force and the United States among the group of Rhodes Scholars and some of the world's greatest scholars at Oxford. I will passionately work to gain the skills and understanding necessary to help shape the military policies of the 21st century."

She also hopes to fly anything she is allowed.

"I'm currently working on getting a height waiver approved because I am an inch below the minimum, so I just hope and pray that I get the opportunity to fly," Cadet Morreale said. "But whatever God has planned for me, I will gladly accept and fulfill wholeheartedly."

Cadet Morreale said her reactions to winning the scholarship were shock, excitement, and relief.

"I'm shocked that I was chosen from such an incredible group of peers to receive this scholarship," she said. "I'm excited to be among the world's greatest academicians and for the future opportunities that this experience will open up. And finally, I'm relieved to have achieved my long sought after goal of attending the best graduate school possible."

The Rhodes Scholarships, the oldest and best-known award for international study, were created in 1902 by the will of British philanthropist Cecil Rhodes. Applicants are chosen on the basis of the criteria set down in the will, including high academic achievement, integrity of character, a spirit of unselfishness, respect for others, potential for leadership and physical vigor.

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# Marshall Scholar to focus on Latin America

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Not only is Cadet 1st Class Austin McKinney at the top of his class academically, he is the Academy's newest Marshall Scholar.

The management major with a minor in Spanish will attend the University of London next year to begin pursuing two master's degrees, one in Latin American studies and another in globalization and Latin American development.

Cadet McKinney received word of the award from the British consulate via e-mail.

"When I opened it, I started yelling in excitement and actually woke up my roommate, who was taking a nap," he said.

Cadet McKinney will be the Academy's 11th Marshall Scholarship recipient and is one of 40 selected nationwide. The scholarships allow two-fully funded years of study, with a possible one-year extension, at any university in the United Kingdom and in any field of study.

"I feel ecstatic and proud to win the scholarship," Cadet McKinney said. "I am looking forward to the amazing opportunities and representing the Academy in the U.K."

The cadet took part in a language immersion program in Spain, spent a semester abroad in Mexico and, more recently, participated in a political science and economics study program through Georgetown University in the Czech Republic.

During his semester in Mexico, Cadet McKinney taught children mathematics and basic English. He also worked as a teacher in the local agriculture markets of Quito, Ecuador. While at the Academy, he has mentored a child through Big

Brothers-Big Sisters.

The Latin American studies program at the University of London is interdisciplinary, but Cadet McKinney said he is particularly interested in studying the history and international politics of Latin America with an emphasis on Mexico.

He is also excited at the opportunity to study sustainable development and human rights and said he feels the most pressing aspect of Latin American development is the need for education.

"Throughout my experiences in Latin America, I have witnessed large disparities between urban and rural education as well as significant shortcomings in facilities and materials," he said. "I believe that improving education is the best way for successful long-term development."

Cadet McKinney said teaching in Mexico and Ecuador was "a real blast." He not only helped with their education but also enjoyed playing soccer and teaching students how to throw an American football.

He said he looks forward to living in London and absorbing its culture, from soccer matches to art exhibits.

One of three sons, Cadet McKinney credits his family for being extremely close and supportive of one another. His father is a retired Air Force officer, his mother a teacher. His brother, Connor McKinney, is a fourth-class cadet, which allows for occasional family visits.

In what little free time he has, Cadet McKinney enjoys working out, going out with friends and reading. After graduation, he looks forward to serving in the operational Air Force. After his Air Force career, he hopes to work in the State Department as a Latin American diplomat.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

**Cadet 1st Class Austin McKinney is the Air Force Academy's 11th Marshall Scholarship recipient and one of 40 selected nationwide in 2009. He will attend the University of London in 2010 to pursue master's degrees in Latin American studies and in globalization and Latin American development. Cadet McKinney is a native of Detroit.**

The Marshall Scholarships are a gift to the United States in recognition of the post-World War II European Recovery Plan, more widely known as the Marshall Plan. The Marshall plan was named for Army Gen. George Marshall, the plan's principal architect. The first class of Marshall Scholars began study in 1954. The logo of the Marshall Scholarship is a blended image of the U.S. and U.K. flags.

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# Class of 2009 members receive commissions

Seven members from the Class of 2009 will earn their commissions and bachelor of science degrees during a 10:30 a.m. ceremony in the Arnold Hall Ballroom Wednesday.

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould will officiate and serve as guest speaker. He and Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born will present diplomas to the graduates.

A reception will immediately follow in the ballroom. Guests attending should park in the upper Harmon Hall parking lot.

**Editor's Note:** Information current as of press time.

## Graduates will include:

### Jordan Lee Barber

(CS-16)

Hometown: Carrollton, Texas

*"For a while I thought this day would never come but we finally made it! Thanks to God and all the wonderful people in my life that helped me get here and believed in me; I could not have done it without you. Congrats class of 2009.5! Whelp, see ya later!"*



### Thomas Victor Avolio

(Cadet Squadron 21)

Hometown: Des Moines, Wash.

*"I have made it through the Academy and in life because God, and awesome family, and the best friends a man could ask for have been in every step along the way. I must personally thank everyone who saved my life and allowed me to continue the fight, those who helped me recover, and those who made my return to the Academy possible. I am excited to call myself and Air Force Academy alum, and even more excited to serve and make a difference out in the Air Force."*



### Nathan Steven Liptak

(CS-40)

Hometown: Bethesda, Md.

*"This has honestly been the best four and a half years of my life. Thank you to my friends and family in this room for all your support and making this day possible, I love you all."*

*Proverbs 18:24- A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*



### Rudolph Thomas Bowen II

(CS-16)

Hometown: Riverdale, Ga.

*"Johan Wolfgang once said, 'He who moves not forward, goes backward.' However, we never move forward alone. We align ourselves with individuals who will assist in the realization of our commitment, whether that commitment is serving to protect, or just to make it to graduation. I give thanks to all that have helped me make it this far, and all who will assist in continuing to help me move forward."*



### Robert Charles Manning

(CS-11)

Hometown: Southampton, Pa.

*"Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans." - Kathie Humphry*



### Matthew Isaac Campbell

(CS-22)

Hometown: Wamego, Kan.

*"This 5 1/2 year journey was filled with magnificent triumphs and utter failures. While the assurance of my career danced between red and black, my ultimate success can only be accredited to the will of others. I would like to thank all the people that made this achievement possible. It is you that have given me the guidance and support to move past complacency when I felt I was on top of the world. It is you that, in my darkest hours of despair, allowed me to stand on your shoulders to see the light. It is you, right here and now, that have earned this praise, this degree, this distinction."*



### Robert James Mobley Jr.

(CS-37)

Hometown: Leesburg, Ga.

*"I would like to thank my parents, all of my friends, and everyone who believed in me for sticking by me. I could not have done it without you."*



# Details announced for 2010 graduation

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum  
Academy Public Affairs

The Air Force Academy's Plans, Programs and Institutional Events Division published details for Graduation Week 2010 on its public Web site Wednesday.

Graduation Week activities for the Lieutenant Frank Luke Jr. Class will begin May 20 and end May 26, the Wednesday before Memorial Day.

A packet of information, including base passes and a graduation brochure, will be mailed to first-class cadets' parents in Spring. Any returned packets will be given to the cadet to deliver. Additional parking passes will become available to cadet squadrons in mid-May.

More information on graduation events, including a schedule of events and frequently asked questions, is on the Academy's public Web site at [www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation). Interested parties may also call the Graduation Event Info Line at 333-4723 (GRAD). Information on the Web site will change as Graduation Week approaches.

Graduation announcements may be ordered from CB Announcements, online at <http://www.cbgrad.com> or by phone at 800-433-0296. Photographs, DVDs, yearbooks and other graduation paraphernalia may be ordered through Cadet Wing Media, online at [www.usafa.services.com/cadetactivities/cadet-media](http://www.usafa.services.com/cadetactivities/cadet-media) or by phone at 333-4644.



Photo by Rachel Boettcher

# 10th SFS Airman wins 'Tuskegee Airman of the Week'

By Airman 1st Class Allison Boehm  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — A security forces patroller deployed from the Air Force Academy's 10th Security Forces Squadron was named the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's Tuskegee Airman of the Week for Nov. 22-28.

Staff Sgt. Audrina Corpuz was presented with an award and a commander's coin at the wing headquarters here Dec. 4.

"Sergeant Corpuz has not only excelled as an Airman, but she's also accomplished great things off-duty," said Col. Luke Grossman, 332nd AEW vice commander. "Her efforts have proved to be an instrumental aspect of making Joint Base Balad a better place, as well as keeping us safe."

A security forces leader, Sergeant Corpuz coordinated three in-flight emergency responses with multiple base agencies. She directed the base fire department, cordoned the airfield and secured the area for the affected aircraft.

Sergeant Corpuz, who is on her second deployment, also directed 10 alarm responses, which helped ensure the safety of more than 25,000 personnel.

"I am satisfied in my job knowing I provide a role in the transformation of the Iraqi nation," said Sergeant Corpuz. "We provide security and in doing so, we protect the personnel who support the mission of Operation



Photo by Airman 1st Class Allison Boehm

**Staff Sgt. Audrina Corpuz of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron is the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's Tuskegee Airman of the Week for Nov. 22-28. Among her distinctive accomplishments, Sergeant Corpuz directed 10 alarm responses at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, which helped ensure the safety of more than 25,000 personnel.**

Iraqi Freedom. Knowing I have a small role in the overall picture of Iraq is truly satisfying."

Sergeant Corpuz, deployed here from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., also served as the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group co-chair for Director of Security Forces Brig. Gen. Jimmy McMillian's JBB visit. General McMillian was the

previous 10th Air Base Wing commander at the Academy.

Off-duty, the Brawley, Calif., native also completed two college courses, which earned her six credit hours toward both a bachelor's and Community College of the Air Force degree.

Master Sgt. Henry Adkins, the 332nd ESFS Bravo Flight chief and

Sergeant Corpuz's supervisor, nominated her for the award.

"Sergeant Corpuz is an outstanding leader for Bravo Flight," Sergeant Adkins said. "She is one of our primary controllers for the joint defense operations center, and she also works as a sector supervisor. She serves as an outstanding mentor for her fellow Airmen."

# Cadets play Santa for children in need

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Cadets are donning their elf hats this holiday season to brighten the lives of less fortunate children.

Cadets sponsored the "Toy Trick" at the Falcons hockey team's match against American International College in the Cadet Ice Arena Saturday. After the Falcons scored their first goal, fans tossed donated toys onto the ice.

The Toy Trick program started 10 years ago and has collected about 5,000 toys for local children from 1999 to 2008. Cadet 2nd Class Derrick Burnett estimated Saturday's toss at about 1,000 toys.

The toys will be distributed to children's hospitals in the Colorado Springs area near Christmas. Members of the Falcons hockey team will visit the hospitals in hockey jerseys and sign posters and will maneuver large wheel barrows laden with toys from which children may choose one or two.

"This is a great opportunity to get our face out in the community and show our support," Cadet Burnett said. "The holiday trip to the hospital is always a blast, and we love talking to the kids about sports and seeing them laugh and smile."

Cadets in Section 8 have also decorated and placed collection boxes for toys in each squadron through the Toys for Tots program.

"This is a very popular project for cadets and usually with a very good turnout, especially because of the holiday atmosphere," said Cadet 2nd Class



Photo by J. Rachel Spencer

**Air Force Falcons hockey players rein in toys from the "Toy Trick" after the Falcons scored their first goal of the game against American International College at the Air Force Academy's Cadet Ice Arena Saturday. The hockey team collected about 1,000 toys, which it will deliver to children in local hospitals and clinics.**

Steve Kim, co-coordinator of the project with Cadet 1st Class Michael Masiello. "I volunteer to be a squadron rep because not only did it help children in need, but it also boosted morale and holiday spirit in the squadron."

Toys for Tots began as a pilot project conducted by a Marine Reservist in 1947. Over its 62 years, Toys

for Tots has collected about 400 million toys for about 188 million youngsters.

Section 8 runs the Toys for Tots drive at the Academy every year for the Marines Toys for Tots Foundation. Cadet Kim said he wants to open future years' toy drives to Academy staff and faculty members.

# Air Force beats AIC, 6-2, to sweep series

By Dave Toller  
Athletic Communications

Sean Bertsch scored two goals as Air Force beat American International College 6-2 in an Atlantic Hockey Association game Saturday night at the Academy's Cadet Ice Arena.

Air Force swept the two-game league series, having defeated AIC 5-3 Dec. 4.

With the win, Air Force remained in a tie for first place in the AHA with the Rochester Institute of Technology. The Falcons improved to 8-5-3 overall and 8-1-3 in the conference and extended their unbeaten streak to nine games (6-0-3). AIC fell to 2-12-1 overall and 2-10-1 in the conference.

Air Force jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first period with an even-strength goal and a power play goal. Derrick Burnett scored on a centering pass by Jacques Lamoureux 62 seconds into the game. Scott Mathis kept the puck in the zone at the right point to start the play. The Falcons added a power-play goal at 14:17. Burnett was on the goal line and found Tim Kirby in the high slot. Kirby's blast was re-directed by Lamoureux at the top of the crease.

Early in the second period, Air Force took a 3-0 lead on a goal by Blake Page. Sean Bertsch won a faceoff, and Matt Becker fed Brandon Johnson at the left point. Johnson's slap shot was tipped by Page for his second goal of the season at 3:16. Six minutes later, the Falcons took a 4-0 lead on Bertsch's first goal of the season. Paul Weisgarber dug the puck out of a scrum in front of the net and fed Bertsch out front. Scott Kozlak also assisted on the play.

AIC got on the board at 16:51 in a four-on-four situation. The Yellow Jackets rushed through the neutral zone and got into the Air Force zone. Mike Little controlled the puck on the half boards and drew



Photos by J. Rachel Spencer

**Falcons senior defender Brandon Johnson tries to move the puck past Yellow Jackets junior defender Mike Little during the Air Force-AIC game at the Cadet Ice Arena Saturday. Johnson, a native of Duluth, Minn., scored his first career goal in the Falcons' 6-2 victory.**

three Air Force players to him. He centered the puck to a wide open Steve McLeod who beat Andrew Volkening to make the score 4-1.

AIC started the third period on the power play, but it was Air Force that scored. Bertsch skated into the AIC zone, beat a defenseman and scored short-

handed 44 seconds into the period. Midway through the period, Johnson scored his first career goal at the 7:30 mark for a 6-1 lead. Page and Lamoureux assisted on Johnson's blue-collar goal right in front of the AIC goal. With 11:45 remaining in the game, Volkening was taken out of the game, giving way to freshman David Bosner for his first collegiate appearance. AIC cut the Air Force lead to 6-2 at the 15:01 mark when Adam Pleskach scored.

Air Force outshot AIC, 37-22. The Falcons had a 16-4 shot advantage in the second period and were 1-for-4 on the power play, while AIC was 0-for-3. Volkening earned the win, making 14 saves. Bosner played the final 11:45 and had six saves. AIC goalie Ben Meisner had 31 saves.

"We dominated the game from the beginning to the end," head coach Frank Serratore said. "Our special teams were good and I couldn't be happier with our performance. We won last night and we won tonight but I'm a lot happier tonight. That is the way we have to play if we are going to win."

Air Force concludes the first half of its season next weekend with a home series against Mercyhurst tonight and tomorrow at 7:05 p.m. each night at the Cadet Ice Arena.

**Falcons junior forward Sean Bertsch tries to maneuver past Yellow Jackets sophomore defender Luciano Primiani during the Air Force-AIC game at the Cadet Ice Arena Saturday. Bertsch, a native of Woodland Park, Colo., scored two goals to lift Air Force over AIC 6-2 and keep Air Force tied for first place in the Atlantic Hockey Association.**



## Hockey

Air Force (8-5-3, 8-1-3 AHA) hosts Mercyhurst College (8-9-1, 8-5-1) tonight and Saturday, at 7:05 pm each night at Cadet Ice Arena (2,470). Mercyhurst is in third place in the league, two points behind Air Force. Following the Mercyhurst series, Air Force is off until Jan. 2-3 at Sacred

Heart. Both games will be broadcast in Colorado Springs on The Sports Animal AM 1300 and on the internet at [www.goairforcefalcons.com](http://www.goairforcefalcons.com). Pre-game show is at 6:35 p.m. with faceoff at 7:05 p.m. each day. Both games will be video streamed with audio by the B2 Network on a subscription basis. For more information, please

go to [AtlanticHockeyOnline.com](http://AtlanticHockeyOnline.com)

## Men's basketball

Grant Parker scored 14 points as Air Force held Prairie View to a season low point total in a 75-41 victory Tuesday night at Clune Arena. Even better, Michael Lyons and Mike Fitzgerald added a career-high 12 points each for Air Force (5-2), which has won all three

meetings between the two schools.

## Lacrosse

Two Air Force lacrosse players were named to the 2010 Preseason All-ECAC team, as announced by the league on Tuesday afternoon. Brothers Bryan and Dayton Gilbreath, who were both All-Great Western Lacrosse

*Continued next page*



# Blue defeats Silver in preseason gymnastics

By Valerie Perkin  
Athletic Communications

Highlighted by six first-place finishes, the Air Force gymnastics Blue team defeated its Silver counterparts in the second annual Blue-Silver Invitational on Saturday at the Academy's Cadet West Gym.

Gymnasts from Team Blue (211.775) posted a share of the top scores in five of the six men's events, as well as one of the women's events, to better the Silver Squad (206.995).

Five different members of the men's team contributed to its five first-place finishes, including three freshmen. James Okamoto recorded a score of 14.100 - a tally just .100 off of the Academy record—to win the pommel horse, while Tory Brown tied for first on the vault behind a score (15.700) just .150 off the Academy standard. Fellow freshman Travis Langham won the high bar with a mark of 12.750. Junior Aaron Zaiser won the floor exercise with a tally of 14.650, while classmate Matthew Thorne paced a Blue Team sweep of the top four scores on the parallel bars with a winning score of 13.800.

Brown also counted as a scoring member of the Blue team on the floor exercise (13.350), parallel bars (13.550) and high bar (12.000), while Langham's score of 13.050 on the still rings also counted



Photo by Bill Evans

**Men's gymnast Nash Mills competes on the pommel horse during a Blue-Silver scrimmage at the Air Force Academy's Cadet West Gym Saturday. The Silver Squad fell to the Blue Team 211.775 to 206.995.**

toward the team total. In addition to his top score on the floor, Zaiser also scored for the Blue team on the vault (15.000), while Nick Owen's pommel horse score (12.400) and sophomore Devin Menefee's still rings score (12.500) also counted toward the team's overall score.

Junior Dan Klimkowski, a member of the Silver squad, won the still rings with a score of 13.550 and also paced the team on the floor exercise with a score of 13.700. Sophomore Joel Uptmor, who tied with Brown for first on the vault (15.700), also scored on the high bar with a mark of 12.000.

Nash Mills posted the Silver Squad's

top marks on the pommel horse (13.150) and parallel bars (12.100) and also scored on the still rings (13.400) and vault (15.300). Team co-captain Brennan Wolford posted the highest Silver score on the high bar (12.650), while also scoring on the pommel horse (12.300). Freshman Thom Wilkinson tallied a scoring finish on the floor exercise at 13.500, while senior co-captain Garrett Canter's mark of 12.000 on the parallel bars also counted toward the Silver's overall score.

On the women's side, Team Blue recorded a first-place finish from freshman Britney Calley, who won the uneven bars with a score of 9.550. Senior captain Aftan

Boudreaux also scored for the Blue team on that event with a tally of 9.125.

Junior Lisa Wong and senior Michelle Denise tied for the Blue team's top score on the floor exercise, with matching marks of 9.300, while both gymnasts also scored on the vault. Denise paced the team with a 9.350 and Wong scored with a mark of 9.050. In addition, Wong tied with freshman Erin Brown for Blue's top score (9.400) on the balance beam.

Sophomores Jenna Dudley and Katie Shetley accounted for three first-place finishes for the Silver team. Dudley won the balance beam (9.650) and floor exercise (9.575), while Shetley, who won the vault with an impressive tally of 9.775, finished second to Dudley on both the beam (9.425) and floor (9.500).

Junior Brittany Dutton was the top-scoring member of the Silver squad on the uneven bars, collecting a score of 8.900, while freshman Tara Harris recorded scoring marks on the vault (9.250) and bars (8.525).

The men's team officially opens the season at home Jan. 16 as they host the annual Rocky Mountain Open at 6 p.m. The women begin the season Jan. 8 at the Salbasgeon Suites Invitational in Corvallis, Ore., against Alaska-Anchorage, Illinois and host Oregon State. The women open their home schedule Jan. 27 with the second of four regular season competitions against Alaska-Anchorage.

# Lady Falcons drop close game to Denver

By Nick Arseniak  
Athletic Communications

Denver's two and only made free throws of the game were its most important, as Britteni Rice hit a pair of free throws with four seconds left to drop Air Force 64-62 in women's basketball action Wednesday night at Clune Arena. The loss dropped the Falcons to 2-7 on the season and lifted the Pioneers to 3-5.

Trailing by as many as nine points late in the game, Air Force mounted a furious late-game rally only to fall short. A three-point basket by Kathleen Schjodt, followed by a three-point play on a layup and foul shot by Raimee Beck, tied the game at 62 with 10 seconds left in regulation.

Rice was fouled just seconds later on a drive to the basket and hit both free throws. Air Force then turned the ball over on an inbounds play, and DU ran out the clock.

Five Pioneers reached double figures in scoring, led by Brianna Culberson's 14 points. Guard Emiko Smith had game-highs of eight assists and four steals. Laura Palmere added 12 points off the bench by way of four three-point baskets.

Beck and Schjodt tied for Air Force's team lead with 11 points each. Beck also had five assists and a team-high

six rebounds. Sophomore guard Anna Gault added seven assists to go with six points and three steals.

The Falcons also got nine points each from freshmen forwards Kelsey Berger and Dymond James. Junior Candice Chase also gave AFA a strong outside presence hitting a career-best two three-point baskets.

Air Force led 29-26 at halftime by doing a good job of holding on to the ball. The Falcons turned the ball over just four times in the opening half and tied a season-low with 12 for the game.

Denver clawed its way back into the game, primarily with the three-point ball and by shooting 62.5 percent from the field in second half. The Pioneer's hit 6-of-11 threes in the second half.

Air Force shot 46 percent from the field, its second-best shooting night of the season. All 10 Falcons who played scored, and five different players hit three-point baskets, both team highs.

Air Force returns to action Dec. 19, hosting Bradley. Tipoff is at 2 p.m.

Photo by Johnny Wilson

**Falcons senior forward Kathleen Schjodt and Pioneers Kaetlyn Murdoch jump for the ball at the beginning of the Air Force-Denver University game at Clune Arena Wednesday. Air Force lost the close contest, falling 64-62. Schjodt, a native of Hot Springs, S.D., had 11 points.**



*Continued from previous page*  
League honorees in 2009, earn the honor in the Falcons' first season as a member of the ECAC Lacrosse League. The Gilbreath brothers, who hail from Bainbridge Island, Wash., continue to be key components of the Falcons' defensive unit. Bryan, a junior long-stick midfielder, proved to be one of

the most talented long poles in the nation last season, contributing on both offense and defense. He led the nation in scoring by an LSM/defenseman in 2009, registering 13 points on the season (11g, 2a), while also ranking third on the team in ground balls with 44. As a result, he was named to the All-GWLL second

team at the long-stick midfield position (behind teammate Dan Gnazzo).

## Wrestling

The Air Force wrestling team opens its home slate today, hosting Ohio and the Colorado School of Mines in a pair of non-conference duels. The Falcons will take on the Bobcats in Clune Arena at 1 p.m.,

followed by a match against the Orediggers at 2:30 p.m. Ohio and CSM will compete against each other at 4 p.m. Fans who cannot attend can watch the games on [www.goair-forcefalcons.com/](http://www.goair-forcefalcons.com/).

The Falcons will travel to Corvallis, Ore., Dec. 18 to compete against Southern Oregon and Oregon State.



### Music director sought

A part-time position is open at the Academy Community Center Chapel for the 10:15 a.m. Protestant Evangelical worship service. The music director will plan, coordinate and direct a contemporary and traditional blended music program. Please contact the chapel at 333-3300 for more details.

### Gymnastics instructor wanted

The Falcon Trail Youth Center here is looking for a gymnastics instructor. The Youth Center offers classes to children ages 3-17 on several different levels, both at the Youth Center and the Cadet West Gym.

The instructor will be placed on a personal service contract and is scheduled

to teach 10 one-hour classes per week Tuesdays through Thursdays.

For more information, contact Linda Crom or Jann Thomas of the 10th Force Support Squadron at 333-4169.

### Track and Field

The Track and Field team wants volunteer officials for the Academy's 2010 season indoor and outdoor meets. The first meet is scheduled for Jan. 15.

For more information, contact Scott Irving, associate head coach for men's and women's track and field, at 333-3013.

### Springs Rescue

The Springs Rescue Mission needs more than 500 volunteers who can help during upcoming events Dec. 23 and Christmas Eve to serve the hungry and homeless, the working poor and those living in extreme poverty.

For more information, contact Eleanor Vazquez at 314-2347 or visit the Springs Rescue Mission at [www.mysrm.org/volunteer](http://www.mysrm.org/volunteer).

### Final Friday

Why not kick off the holiday season on Final Friday at the Falcon Club? The next Final Friday is scheduled for Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. Final Friday is a chance to mingle with colleagues and build positive working relationships and camaraderie with Team USAFA.

Final Friday is free for club members, and people can sign up to become members on Final Friday. Non-members are welcome for nominal fees: \$2 for Airmen, \$4 for NCOs and \$5 for all others.

### Free trip to SnoFest

The Information, Tickets and Tours office will hold a drawing Jan. 4 for a free trip to SnoFest Jan. 29-30, including eight ski lift tickets, lodging and theme party tickets for four, in honor of the Year of the Air Force Family.

To register, stop by the ITT office at the Community Center between now and Dec. 31. Only one registration is allowed per family, and registrants must be 18 or older.

The drawing is open to all active-duty Airmen and Air Force retirees civilians and reservists. If the winner already has a SnoFest lodging reservation, party and lift tickets, they can cancel their other reservation and return their party and lift tickets by Jan. 6.

### Ham Shoot

The Ham Shoot at Academy Lanes continues today through Monday. Bowlers can win a bottle of wine and a ham by getting strikes in the third, sixth and ninth frames. The cost to enter is \$3. For more information, call 333-4709.

### Golf open house

The Eisenhower Golf Club will hold its annual open house Saturday from 4-8 p.m., featuring a free buffet and a Pro Shop sale with prices up to half off.

### Youth Center offerings:

The Academy youth center hosts several events in December. Call 333-2928 for more info or to sign up.

#### Gingerbread and movies

Decorating a gingerbread house and

holiday movies are on tap Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$15 per family and includes the house kit and movie. Prizes will be awarded. Deadline for registration is Dec. 10.

#### Santa Paws

"Santa Paws" is coming to town today! Have your family pet or entire family photographed with Santa from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$5. Domestic animals only — cats, dogs, guinea pigs, etc.

#### Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast buffet free to the entire family accompanied by a child Saturday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Falcon Club. The event is open to children of Air Force families and DOD civilians and will feature make-and-take crafts, giveaways and a giving tree — bring an unwrapped new present to donate.

#### Skate with Santa

The Department of Athletics "Skate with Santa" is set for Dec. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Cadet Ice Arena. Admission is \$3, and skate rental is \$2. Military personnel, family members and accompanied guests and government civilian employees are all welcome. For more information, call 333-0389.

### Bowling with Santa

Santa takes to the lanes looking for that perfect 300 Dec. 20 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the bowling lanes. Free bowling is available all day with a \$2.25 shoe rental. Santa visits between noon and 2 p.m. for pictures.

### Holiday bazaar

The annual Holiday Bazaar will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Saturday in both the Milazzo Center and Community Activities Center Ballroom. For more information or to sign up, call 333-2928.

### Ballroom dancing

One-hour ballroom dancing classes start for beginners each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., with intermediate classes at 6:45 p.m. and swing classes at 8 p.m. Swing, Foxtrot, Rumba and the Waltz are all offered. New students can join classes that start Jan. 6. Cost is \$40 per person and \$70 per couple. For more information or to sign up, call 333-2928.

### Monday Night Football

The Sports Area will open at 5 p.m. at the Milazzo Center Monday and Dec. 21 for those who want to come out and show support for their teams. The event is open to all, and a cash bar will be provided.

### USAFA Recycles

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron will hold its fifth-annual electronics recycling event every Wednesday and Thursday from now through January. People can take electronic items to Building 8125 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on those days to be recycled at no cost. Recyclable items can include personal computers and components, televisions, DVD or CD players, stereos, speakers and VHS players. For more information, call Jeanie Duncan at 333-0812.

### A&FRC offerings

The Air Force Academy Airman and

Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes in December. Call 333-3444 with questions or to sign up.

#### Pre-separation counseling

Mondays (except during TAP week), 2 to 4 p.m.: Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing identifies benefits and services associated with transition and beyond.

#### Medical records review

Mondays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review medical records in preparation of filing for VA Disability Compensation through the VA forms.

#### VA benefits briefing

Mondays, 8 a.m. to noon: This briefing provides a comprehensive overview of VA benefits for separating/retiring military personnel. Topics discussed include medical care, disability compensation, education, vocational training, vet preference, small business loans, home loan guarantees and more.

### H1N1 shots available

The Academy Immunizations Clinic has H1N1 vaccines available to all 10th Medical Group civilian employees, as well as to all children ages 2 to 18. If you are a civilian employee who desires H1N1 vaccination (highly recommended, especially if you are involved in directed patient care), please report to the immunizations clinic during normal business hours.



### Winter WildLand

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo will light up the town starting this weekend and continuing nightly Dec. 18 to Jan. 3 with its Winter WildLand experience.

Active-duty and retired military personnel and their families will receive a discounted admission price of \$4.25. Normal admission starts at \$7.25 for adults and \$4.25 for children ages 3-11.

For more information, visit the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Web site at [www.cmzoo.org/](http://www.cmzoo.org/).

### Holly and Ivy

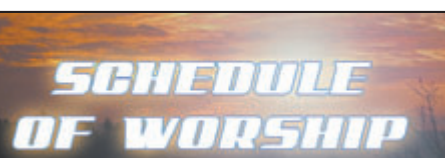
The Academy Band will close out its "Holly and Ivy" concert series at the Pikes Peak Center in Colorado Springs Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. Tickets are not available, but available seats will be offered starting at 6:45 p.m. the evening of the shows on a first-come, first-served basis.

### NASA Art exhibit

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center will present an exhibit titled "NASA / ART: 50 Years of Exploration," starting Dec. 19 with an opening celebration scheduled for Dec. 18 from 5-8 p.m.

Admission to the museum is free for members, \$10 for adults and \$8.50 for seniors, students and youth ages 5-17.

To arrange tours or for more information, contact the Fine Arts Center at 719-477-4345 or visit the Fine Arts Center's Web site, [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org).



#### CADET CHAPEL

Call 719-333-2636 for more information.

#### Buddhist

Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

#### Jewish

Friday - 7 p.m.

#### Muslim

Friday Prayer - 12:15 p.m.

#### Protestant

Traditional Worship

Sunday - 9 a.m.

Liturgical Worship

Sunday (Music Room) - 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

Sunday - 11 a.m.

#### Roman Catholic

Mass

Sunday - 10 a.m.

Academic Year, when cadets are present

Mon, Tues, and Thurs - 6:40 a.m.

Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

#### Sacrament of Penance

Sunday - 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Academic Year, when cadets are present

Wednesday - 5:30-6:15 p.m.

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Academic Year, when cadets are present

Wednesday - 5:30-6:20 p.m.

#### Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality

Contact TSgt Longcrier at 719-333-6178

or [Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu](mailto:Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu)

#### 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.

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