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'Buzz' gets warm welcome to mews



Photo by Bill Evans

Buzz, a kestrel falcon at the Air Force Academy, poses for a photo in the Academy mews Jan. 21. Buzz, the newest of the Academy's 13 falcons, came to the Academy from the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center.

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The newest member of the Academy's flying falcons weighs in at only four ounces but is already making a heavyweight impression.

"Buzz," an American kestrel falcon, made his entrance to the mews only a week ago but easily captured the attention of Cadet 2nd Class Calder Goc. Buzz joins the 12 other falcons already housed in the falcon mews on base.

"It's a good way for me to take care of someone," said Cadet Goc, who is assigned to Cadet Squadron 31. Before she came to the Academy, she cared for her brothers while their mother attended graduate school.

The biology major from Clearwater, Fla., began working with the falcons nearly two years ago and works primarily with Cody, a prairie falcon, as well as Buzz.

The small falcon had a rough start in life. He was housed in a small birdcage until he was rescued and rehabilitated at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center.

The little falcon is still recuperating from some damaged feathers but is expected to fully recover. Young birds like Buzz, who is about a year old, still have blood flow to their feathers, thus aiding healing. In older birds, blood flow to feathers ceases, leaving feathers hollow and subject to permanent injury if damaged.

"He's pretty timid because he's small,"

Cadet Goc said. Nonetheless, and even with a tough beginning in life, she reports he is a well-behaved little fellow.

"He's smart and takes care when he's fed so that he gets the food instead of the fingers," she said.

The young kestrel is growing content in his new digs, Cadet Goc said.

"When he puffs his feathers up, he's happy, and he does it often," she added.

When Buzz's feathers heal, he may eventually be able to fly, albeit in a small, enclosed area. Cadet Goc said he is going to make a great contribution to the Academy's falcon education program.

Buzz is hand-fed quail. In the wild, American kestrels feed on insects, mice, lizards and snakes. What the smallest but most numerous of the North American falcons lack in speed, they make up for in their ability to hover over small prey while flying.

Cadet Goc said other species of falcons in the wild can soar at speeds of up to 150 mph and primarily feed on other birds.

Buzz was named after Buzz Lightyear, one of the main characters in the Disney animated film "Toy Story," as was the Academy's previous kestrel, Woody.

"They're neat little birds," said adviser Lt. Col. Mark Seng, air officer commanding for CS 32.

He said the cadets have been looking forward to having him in the mews and that Buzz nearly rounds out the desire to have

See BUZZ, Page 3

Academy, community responders cooperate for public safety

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum
Academy Public Affairs

If you drive along Interstate 25 between Colorado Springs and Monument, you may have seen Air Force Academy firefighters and security forces patrollers working alongside their counterparts from Colorado Springs, El Paso County or Colorado emergency response agencies.

The business of who responds to emergencies on the Academy — which includes eight miles of Interstate 25 — is a complicated business, but the Academy, city, county and state agencies work seamlessly to ensure public safety.

Nine separate mutual-aid agreements cover the working relationship between the Academy's responders and anyone adjacent to the base perimeter, said Academy fire chief Ernst Piercy. The

agreements spell out how each of the nearby fire departments work together during an emergency, whether it occurs on or off base.

One of the Academy fire officers, assistant fire chief Ron Prettyman, has worked at the Academy for 2½ years out of his 23-year career as a firefighter.

"I've responded all up and down the interstate," Mr. Prettyman said. "Our relationship with all the other organizations is excellent. We work well, and most of us immediately recognize one another because we work together so frequently."

The Academy Fire Department assisted Fort Carson during a major wildfire for about three days in 2008. They have also responded to Colorado Springs during major fires in the city.

"During a significant apartment fire, we responded to Colorado Springs Fire

See SAFETY, Page 6



Photo by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

Staff Sgt. Ronald Young directs traffic around a vehicle rollover accident on Briargate Parkway near Interstate 25 in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 14. Sergeant Young is assigned to the Air Force Academy's 10th Security Forces Squadron. The Academy's fire department and 10th SFS work alongside Colorado Springs and Colorado authorities to respond to accidents along the Interstate 25 corridor near the Academy.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
40 14
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
42 15
SUNNY

SUNDAY
41 18
MOSTLY CLOUDY

Clinic Renovation

The Academy Clinic finished upgrading its facilities Jan. 21.

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New Worship Area

Followers of Earth-centered spirituality have a place to call their own.

Page 4

Active Shooter Exercise

Find out how well the Academy responded to an all-too-possible scenario.

Pages 12-13

Do you have moral courage?

By Col. Kirk Davies
18th Wing Staff Judge Advocate

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFNS) — You may not have met Tech. Sgt. Stephen McGrath, but he works in the explosive ordnance disposal shop here.

On Nov. 18, 2007, Sergeant McGrath was on a deployment in Iraq when an enemy force engaged him and a platoon of soldiers with direct small-arms fire. He responded admirably under the pressure during this intense, life-threatening situation and as a result he received the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

The citation accompanying the medal states, "Sergeant McGrath's tactical fortitude and great courage ensured optimum shielding of coalition forces resulting in no injuries during the fight against the enemy."

How did Sergeant McGrath muster this "great courage" to protect the soldiers he was with? Do you have courage? Would you have responded the same way? Can you be a courageous person, even if you've never been in combat?

One broad description of courage says: "Courage is what makes someone capable of facing extreme danger and difficulty without retreating. It implies not only bravery ... but the ability to

endure in times of adversity."

From my perspective, there are two kinds of courage: physical and moral.

As Airmen, we're all expected to have both physical and moral courage because, like Sergeant McGrath, we're all expected to deploy to dangerous places to defend our nation's interests. Fighting a war requires both kinds of courage. But, on a day-to-day basis, in garrison, most of us face more difficult moral decisions than tough physical challenges.

It's ironic, then, as Mark Twain observed, that "physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare."

I was raised on a cattle ranch in the western United States and so I identify with John Wayne's statement that "courage is being scared to death... and saddling up anyway."

"Saddling up" is a cowboy's term for making a decision, or taking action, rather than being physically or emotionally paralyzed by a hard problem. It's important not to confuse courage with sheer physical strength. A person with courage has a strong internal compass and the fortitude to act on his or her beliefs.

One scholar emphasized this when he said, "true courage is not the brutal force of vulgar heroes, but the firm

resolve of virtue and reason."

According to the Airman's Creed, we all aspire to be "faithful to ... a legacy of valor." Carl Sandburg said, "Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure if they have it till the test comes. And those having it in one test never know for sure if they will have it when the next test comes."

Sergeant McGrath surely passed that test. But he didn't miraculously become courageous by just that one heroic act. I imagine he developed courage by a lifetime of making good choices every day.

Aristotle said, "Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts."

If we want to have courage, we must do courageous acts, things like: resisting peer pressure to drink underage or pencil whip a record; obeying the law by observing simple traffic rules; and giving an honest day's work for each day you are paid. Over time we will build a habit of making small, courageous decisions.

And regardless of the challenge that ultimately comes our way, we, like Sergeant McGrath, will surely be Airmen who leave our families and our nation an honorable legacy of "great courage."

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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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 The old lamp

By Chaplain (Maj.) Rives Duncan
Chief, Scholarship Division

When I was about 8, I found an old lamp (electric, not genie) with a frayed cord and decided to repair it. I carefully wrapped the frayed parts with electrician's tape and then plugged it in. The lights went out.

When Dad got home, he unwrapped all the tape I had used and showed me that I had only covered up the problem: that the frayed wires

were shorting out against each other. He then showed me how I should have done it and the old lamp was working as it should have.

Fast forward about three and a half decades.

My life was getting pretty frayed: I was battling depression and outbursts of anger, and my low self-esteem was figuratively blowing fuses in my life. For years, I had been covering up deeper problems with various layers of high performance in

school or at work or simply by "gutting it out." While I was able to make it through, I was hiding pains and weakness that were robbing me as well as those around me.

Sometimes we do need to push through a difficulty temporarily, but if we habitually cover up things that we need to address, then we will inevitably blow a fuse. It is far better to unwrap the surface, no matter how painful it may be, and repair the frayed wiring.

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.



What does U.S. military help to Haiti show the world?

"It shows a side of compassion that maybe some nations don't believe we can provide or have the ability to deliver."

Staff Sgt.
Aaron Brown,
10th Communications
Squadron



"We are again the first to go with aid."

Retired Brig. Gen.
Anna Marie Titus



"It shows the world true American values and principles."

Lt. Col.
Andy Szmerekovsky
Department of
Mechanical
Engineering



"It shows that we have compassion and are not self-reaching like some may try to portray us."

Cadet 1st Class
David Peck,
Cadet Squadron 36



Clinic unveils 61,000 'new' square feet

By Ken Carter
Editor

A recent ribbon cutting at the Academy Clinic highlighted some 61,000 square feet of new and improved operations throughout the facility's third and fourth floors.

The \$25-million project allows the 10th Medical Group staff to consolidate several medical services from the Community Center into the main clinic, said Col. Kenneth Knight, the 10th MDG commander.

Former inpatient rooms became clinics and administrative spaces. The old emergency room became a new women's health clinic, with the old women's health clinic becoming a new allergy and immunization clinic. Workers also renovated the radiology space.

The clinics are designed for efficiency and provide more examination rooms per provider. The project also allowed the staff to expand the sleep lab from four to six beds for this highly demanded service. A new gastroenterology clinic is also the result of the renovation.

The Academy Clinic boasts a higher level of customer service following the renovation, Colonel Knight said.

"Consolidating all clinics into the main facility means patients no longer have to travel for ancillary services, are

closer to specialty clinics, and allow us to better care for them," the colonel said.

All Academy surgeons are credentialed at both Memorial and Penrose-St. Francis hospitals in Colorado Springs and take inpatient surgeries downtown as well as perform ambulatory surgery at the Academy.

The 10th Medical Group has the only standalone ambulatory surgery capability in the Air Force. Its unique focus on sports medicine in both orthopedics and the cadet clinic offer a unique opportunity for Air Force fellowship rotations, Colonel Knight said.

The clinic has a jump start on turning green as the spring of the New Year approaches. The renovation project itself has a green focus, taking advantage of natural light to decrease energy requirements. With only a few sheetrock walls, the fourth floor is built primarily with moveable walls allowing for future flexibility.

The 10th MDG also has more than 700 personnel assigned including officers, enlisted members, civilians, and contract staff running on an annual operating budget of \$54 million.

"This is considerably larger than any other Air Force clinic, due to the robust medical and surgical specialty services as well as our ambulatory surgery capability," Colonel Knight said. The clinic



Photo by Johnny Wilson

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould (right), Col. Rick LoCastro (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Todd Salzman peek into a newly renovated room in the Academy Clinic Jan. 22. The renovations to 61,000 square feet at the clinic allows the 10th Medical Group to centralize its services and provide better medical care for patients. General Gould is the Academy superintendent; Colonel LoCastro is the 10th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Salzman is the Academy command chief master sergeant.

also provides teleradiology support to 11 other clinics and telepathology support to one other.

A clinic environment presents some limits on treatment, but the clinic still offers most of the former services provided by the Academy Hospital prior to the Base Realignment and Closure

actions in 2008.

"We still have all our primary care clinics, specialty medicine and ambulatory surgery services," Colonel Knight said. Patients who need emergency or inpatient care must seek care at Evans Army Medical Center on Fort Carson or at a hospital in Colorado Springs.

Buzz

From Page 1

each of the five primary falcon species represented at the Academy. Primary American falcon species include gyrfalcon, merlin, prairie and peregrine falcons as well as the American kestrel.

"In an ideal world, we would have every type," he

said. "We're looking forward to having a merlin."

The cadet falconers spend about two hours daily checking each bird's health and condition, feeding, training, cleaning the mews and conducting routine maintenance of equipment. About once a month, they also participate in demonstrations and educational programs.

Academy master falconer Sam Dollar said that when the Academy's first cadets at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., were tasked with selecting a mascot, the falcon became their instant choice. A Denver falconer at the time gave the new cadets a demonstration of a trained falcon downing a live pigeon in mid-air.

It remains a perfect symbol for aerial combat.

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Chapel to add outdoor circle to worship areas

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum
Academy Public Affairs

The Air Force Academy chapel will add a worship area for followers of Earth-centered religions during a dedication ceremony scheduled to be held at the circle March 10.

The circle, located atop the hill near the Cadet Chapel and Visitor Center, will be the latest addition to a collection of worship areas that includes Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist sacred spaces.

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Longcrier, NCO in charge of the Academy's Astronautics laboratories, worked with the chapel to create the official worship area for both cadets and other servicemembers in the Colorado Springs area who practice Earth-centered spirituality.

"Feel free to check the site out, but treat it as you would any other religious structure," he said.

The stones that now form the inner and outer rings of the circle once sat near the Visitor Center, where the chance of erosion made the rocks a safety hazard. The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron moved the rocks to the top of the hill in spring and early summer. Once finished, the circle will also include materials from a smaller circle that Sergeant Longcrier briefly set up in Jacks Valley.

"We used the (Jacks Valley) circle during Basic Cadet Training, and it was great," he said. However, the new circle offers significant advantages.

"The circle that we secured in December is much bigger, better and closer to the cadet area," he explained. "This will allow cadets to use the circle anytime they feel the need."

The Academy's chaplains have supported Sergeant Longcrier's efforts every step of the way, the NCO said.

"There really haven't been any obstacles for the new circle," he said. "The chaplain's office has been 100-percent supportive."

"Every servicemember is charged with defending freedom for all Americans, and that includes freedom to practice our religion of choice or, for that matter, not to practice any faith at all," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Ziegler, Cadet Wing chaplain. "Being in the military isn't just a job — it's a calling. We all take an oath to support and defend the Constitution, and that means we've all sworn to protect one another's religious liberties. We all put on our uniforms the same way; we're all Airmen first."

The presence of diverse worship areas reflects a sea change from five years ago, when reports surfaced alleging religious intolerance at the Academy. Sergeant Longcrier became Pagan shortly after arriving at the Academy in 2006 and said he believes the climate has improved dramatically.

"When I first arrived here, Earth-centered cadets didn't have anywhere to call home," he said. "Now, they meet every Monday night, they get to go on retreats, and they have a stone circle. ... We have representation on the Cadet Interfaith Council, and I even meet with the Chaplains at Peterson Air Force Base once a year to discuss religious climate."

Earth-centered spirituality includes traditions such as Wicca, Druidism and several other religious paths that, while relatively new, trace their roots to pre-Christian Europe, Sergeant Longcrier said. Gerald Gardner founded the first Wiccan tradition in England in 1952, with neo-Druidism following in the early 1960s.

Some Earth-centered traditions involve the worship
See CIRCLE, Page 5

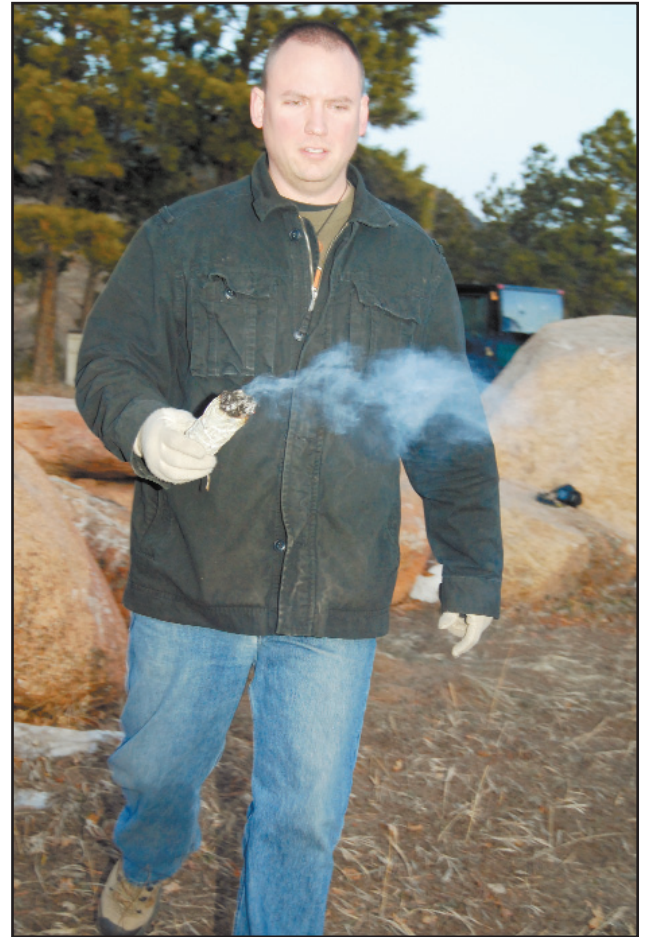


Photo by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Longcrier uses white sage to consecrate a Pagan worship area on the hill overlooking the Cadet Chapel and the Visitor Center at the Air Force Academy just after sunrise on the winter solstice, Dec. 21, 2009. The chapel is scheduled to officially designate the circle as a Pagan chapel during a dedication ceremony in March 2010. Sergeant Longcrier is the Pagan lay leader at the Academy.

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Academic aces honored at reception

By Capt. Miranda Baldwin
Academy Department of English

Twenty-two cadets were honored by the Academy's top leaders Monday at an Aces List reception held at the Dean's Heritage House Monday.

Each of the honorees earned a 4.0 grade point average during the Winter 2009 semester. The list includes five double aces, one triple ace and one four-time Aces List honoree.

"You certainly demonstrate 'Excellence in All We Do' in every aspect of cadet life, from academics to military and athletic performances," said Brig. Gen. Dana Born, dean of the faculty. "We are extremely proud of you and your accomplishments, and we look forward to celebrating your successes within the cadet wing this semester and your future as Air Force officers."

Twelve of the honorees received the superintendent's pin, signifying they are members of the dean's, commandant's and athletic director's lists. Sixteen cadets earned recognition on the commandant's list, and 13 earned athletic list recognition.

Cadet 1st Class Bradford Waldie, a

first-time ace with Cadet Squadron 08, was selected as the Academy's eighth Holaday Scholar and 15th Truman Scholar. Cadet 4th Class Kenneth Sample of CS 38 received the superintendent's pin, while Cadet 4th Class Matthew Kluckman from CS 02 also made the commandant's list.

Hosts for the Aces List included Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, Academy superintendent; Brig. Gen. Dana Born, dean of the faculty; Col. R.K. Williams, vice commandant of cadets, who represented the commandant, Brig. Gen. Sam Cox; and retired Col. Mick Erdle from the Academy Research and Development Institute.

"The Aces Reception was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an evening of socializing and dining with the Academy's senior leadership," said Cadet 1st Class Trenton West, a double ace assigned to CS 12. He thanked the ARDI and senior leaders for hosting the event.

Also honored were Cadets 1st Class Millie Mays and Austin McKinney, two Spring 2009 aces who could not attend their recognition dinner due to military commitments.

Five of the 22 aces are intercollegiate athletes. Cadet 2nd Class Ryan Campbell

The honorees are:

Cadet	SQ	Major
Cadet 1st Class Michael Albert***	29	Economics
Cadet 1st Class Daniel Fulcoly*	23	Physics and Mathematics
Cadet 1st Class Paul Gannett*	29	Economics
Cadet 1st Class Erinn Scott*	18	Mechanical Engineering
Cadet 1st Class Bradford Waldie	08	Foreign Area Studies and Humanities
Cadet 1st Class Trenton West*	12	Aeronautical Engineering
Cadet 2nd Class Jennifer Bandi*	06	Political Science
Cadet 2nd Class Ryan Campbell	21	Management
Cadet 2nd Class Gregory Eslinger	39	Astronautical Engineering
Cadet 2nd Class John Kessler	14	Operations Research and Mathematics
Cadet 2nd Class Caroline Kurtz	32	Systems Engineering
Cadet 2nd Class Eric Robinson***	05	Mathematics
Cadet 2nd Class Kyle Smith	04	Aeronautical Engineering
Cadet 3rd Class Christopher Cassidy	08	Military History
Cadet 3rd Class Cody Deacon	34	Aeronautical Engineering
Cadet 3rd Class Brent Drabek	40	Biochemistry
Cadet 3rd Class Aaron Foster	36	Military History
Cadet 3rd Class Casey Horgan	09	Mathematics
Cadet 3rd Class Eric Poland	16	Aeronautical Engineering
Cadet 3rd Class Michael Smith	13	Biology
Cadet 4th Class Matthew Kluckman	02	Computer Science
Cadet 4th Class Kenneth Sample	38	Undeclared

*** Quadruple Ace ** Triple Ace * Double Ace

of CS 21 is a manager for the women's basketball team. Cadet 2nd Class Caroline Kurtz of CS 32 plays women's volleyball. Cadet 2nd Class Eric Robinson with CS

05 and Cadet 3rd Class Christopher Cassidy with CS 08 are on the men's swimming team. Cadet Kluckman is on the men's rifle team.

Circle

From Page 4

of gods and goddesses, whereas others may involve only one deity or none at all. Reincarnation is a popular concept, as is rebirth and celebrating the cycle of the seasons.

Famous outdoor worship circles include Stonehenge and Avebury in England and Native American sites such as the Bighorn Medicine Wheel in Wyoming and

Cahokia Henge in Missouri. A worship circle at Fort Hood, Texas, became a flashpoint for discussions about Paganism in the U.S. military after it was established by the Sacred Well Congregation in 1999.

The Fort Hood Open Circle was vandalized on four separate occasions from 1999 to 2000, including an incident Oct. 27, 2000, in which the half-ton limestone altar was destroyed outright. In response, a member of the Sacred Well Congregation wrote, "If we

speak together, we are a chorus to be heard. If we whisper alone, we are but a sigh in the dead of night."

"We want to create that chorus," Chaplain Ziegler said. "We want to invite the Academy leadership, the Cadet Interfaith Council, the news media and people from every religious background for the dedication ceremony. We want this dedication service to be another example of celebrating the freedom we enjoy as well as the freedom we, as Airmen, have pledged to defend."

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Schulte posthumously honored for contributions

A 2006 Academy graduate was posthumously awarded a National Intelligence Medal for Valor for her efforts to teach Afghan military officials how to gather and interpret military intelligence Jan. 22 here.



First Lt. Roslyn L. Schulte died May 20, 2009, in Afghanistan when a roadside bomb struck her vehicle en route to an intelligence meeting at Bagram Airfield.

Lieutenant Schulte is the first woman to receive the Medal for Valor, a tribute to heroism in connection with an intelligence community contribution to national security. Her parents, Robert and Susie Schulte, and her brother, Todd Schulte, attended the

event on her behalf.

Dennis Blair, the director of National Intelligence, made the announcement at a quarterly National Intelligence Community Awards Ceremony, where he recognized 42 other teams and individuals for outstanding accomplishments in the intelligence community.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence oversees 16 federal organizations that make up the U.S. intelligence community.

In only three months of duty in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Schulte "made a far-reaching impact on how intelligence was taught and shared with the Afghan National Army," Mr. Blair said. She was "wise beyond her 25 years, and respected as a leader by all those around her — from general to Airman to Afghan tribal leader — regardless of

the branch of service, regardless of nationality."

Lieutenant Schulte was an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations officer assigned to the 613th Air and Space Operations Center at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. She deployed to Afghanistan in February 2009, serving the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

In addition to her teaching duties, Lieutenant Schulte was the command's foreign disclosure officer, working to enhance information sharing with Afghan forces. She was often required to travel outside of her main base at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan, to more remote parts of the region. She accepted the known risks of traveling across the region, yet was focused on the goal of helping the Afghan military to achieve self-sufficiency.

"She wanted to be some place where the action was," her father said.

Originally from the St. Louis area, she was first female Academy graduate killed while supporting operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"She was very vibrant, happy, gung-ho, mission-focused," said Anthony Pascuma, the chief of foreign disclosure for U.S. Central Command and who nominated Lieutenant Schulte for the award. "She was 150 percent committed to the mission ... and wanted to do her part to support operations and combat the war on terrorism."

Lieutenant Schulte also spent three hours nearly every day organizing a charity for Afghan refugees. At Camp Pawan, a U.S. training facility in Afghanistan, a building has been named the Schulte School and Clinic in her honor.

Safety

From Page 1

Station 19 and covered their district in the evening. The following morning, we dispatched our ladder truck to the scene of the emergency," Chief Piercy said.

Police agreements also give each agency involved a framework within which to provide law enforcement and investigative services, said Lt. Lari Sevene, the public information officer for the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

"The agreements pertain to a variety of incidents, from (driving under the influence) to domestic violence," Lieutenant Sevene said. "Major crimes will fall under the agreement, as well as some minor crimes."

The Academy's 10th Security Forces Squadron and Sheriff's office sometimes work together on investigations, particularly in domestic violence cases where one party is in the military and the other is civilian,

the lieutenant said. The majority of cases, however, typically fall under one agency or the other.

The Sheriff's office receives few calls for service from the Academy, Lieutenant Sevene noted.

"We have some activity with our school resource officer (at Air Academy High School), but fortunately, it's intermittent," she said. "Calls to the Academy are relatively infrequent, which is definitely a good thing"

Because the Academy is a military installation as well as a university, it has resources unique to the Colorado Springs area. Examples include an underwater dive rescue capability and an aircraft rescue firefighting vehicle. However, Academy firefighters cannot be everywhere at once, and the Academy Fire Department relies on help from its local partners to respond to major incidents on the installation, Chief Piercy said.

"The capability that our community partners bring to the fight is absolutely essential," he said.

Even when the agencies aren't teaming up to respond to an emergency, they talk regularly to share information, Lieutenant Sevene said.

"I cannot think of a time when there has been a negative interaction, and that speaks volumes," said the lieutenant, who has worked with the Sheriff's office nearly 14 years.

She added that the Academy's support has always been solid.

"In an instance where we need backup, it's nice to know we can make that call (to the Academy)," Lieutenant Sevene said. "The folks at the Air Force Academy are very responsive. It speaks very well of the community and how we work together."

"The support we get from your organization has been tremendous," she continued. "The response is immediate — there's never a moment's hesitation. That's the cooperation and relationship that we will continue to foster."

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AF returns enlisted high year tenure to standards

By Master Sgt. Russell P. Petcoff
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force manpower and personnel officials announced Tuesday a return of enlisted high year of tenure limits to their pre-2003 levels.

High year of tenure is the maximum years of service a member may remain on active duty in relation to his or her enlisted grade.

"We've considered returning HYT limits to their normal levels for several years. Now that our Air Force end strength is stabilizing, it is an appropriate time to return back to the pre-2003 levels," said Tom Voegtle, chief of the retirements and separations policy branch at the Pentagon.

The HYT for senior master sergeant, master sergeant, technical sergeant and senior airman will return to 26, 24, 22 and 10 years, respectively. The HYT limits

for both chief master sergeant and staff sergeant will remain the same since they were not raised in 2003, Mr. Voegtle said.

The change will initially affect approximately 2,500 Airmen: 500 senior airmen, 400 technical sergeants, 1,200 master sergeants and 400 senior master sergeants.

The new HYT effective date for master sergeant is April 1, 2011; for technical sergeant, Aug. 1, 2011; and, for senior airman, Sept. 1, 2011. The effective date for senior master sergeant is Jan. 1, 2012.

Airmen who separate due to HYT will receive involuntary separation pay. Technical, master and senior master sergeants may apply for full retirement if leaving active duty due to reaching their HYT just as they would under existing policy.

While the new HYT is applicable now, Airmen who will be "over" their HYT as the policy is normalized will be allowed to remain on active duty until

the effective date for their corresponding pay grades.

An Airman's total active federal military service date will determine whether he falls under the old or new HYT limit. For example, a senior airman whose service date is Aug. 31, 2001, or earlier would separate under his or her original HYT date or Sept. 1, 2011, whichever comes first. If the senior airman's HYT date is after Aug. 31, 2001, that Airman's date would be adjusted to the new 10-year limit. In other words, the Airman will now be required to separate at the 10-year point rather than the 12-year point if he is not promoted to staff sergeant.

Airmen overseas who will reach HYT before they are scheduled to return will receive new dates in accordance with the revised policy, Mr. Voegtle said. Also, deployed Airmen and those soon to deploy who are affected by the policy change will return no later than 30 days

prior to their new HYT date.

The new HYT requirements will not affect the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Airmen opting to transfer their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to family members will still be able to transfer these benefits even if their new HYT dates prevent them from completing the required active-duty service commitments.

Extensions of HYT are still applicable under existing guidelines. These include reasons such as extreme personal hardship or when an extension is clearly in the best interest of the Air Force, Mr. Voegtle said.

This change to policy will not affect Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members.

Individuals who have questions regarding this policy change or any personnel issue can contact the Total Force Service Center toll-free at 800-525-0102 or visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

16 units win 2008-2009 AF unit awards

By 1st Lt. Gina Vaccaro McKeen
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials announced the 2008-2009 United States Air Force Unit Awards Jan. 22, naming 16 units among the Air Force's best in five categories.

Units were awarded the Gallant Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Award, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

The winners are as follows:

— Gallant Unit Citation: 720th Special Tactics Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla., from Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007.

— Meritorious Unit Award: 4th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, from Jan. 18 to Dec. 13, 2006.

— Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor: 24th Expeditionary Field Investigations Squadron, from June 10, 2008 to June 9, 2009.

Units receiving the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award are:

— 1st Weather Group, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., from April 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— 2nd Weather Group, Offutt AFB, from Sept. 19, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Air Force Office of Special Investigations Field Investigative Region 7, Andrews AFB, Md., from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2008.

Units receiving the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award are:

— The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, Internal Affairs, Washington, D.C., from Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics, Washington, D.C., from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Office of the Secretary of the Air Force Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Office, Washington, D.C., from Oct. 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2008.

— Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill., from June 1, 2006-May 31, 2008.

— Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Air Force District of Washington, Andrews AFB, Md., from April 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency, Lackland AFB, Texas, from June 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M., from Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, Neb., from April 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.

— Air Force Element, North Atlantic Treaty Organization E-3A, Geilenkirchen, Germany, from Jan. 1, 2007-Dec. 31, 2008.

Each winning unit will be presented with appropriate certificates, citations and streamers for the award.

All personnel assigned or attached to an identified organization for at least one day during the period for which

a unit award was awarded, and who directly contributed to the mission and accomplishments of the unit, are authorized to wear the appropriate award ribbon on their uniforms. The one exception to this is the Gallant Unit Citation. Only individuals who received imminent danger pay during the period of the award identified above are eligible for this award and the wear of the ribbon.

Subordinate units assigned directly to parent organizations can share in these awards as long as they have been identified by the parent unit as eligible.

Active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel who have been assigned to a winning organization during the indicated time period and are currently assigned to the Air Force Academy can report to the 10th Force Support Squadron to have their award information updated in their records.

Personnel who have had a permanent change of station or assignment, and who are entitled to share in the approved unit award, should report to their servicing force support squadrons for assistance.

Veterans may report to their local Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans or Veterans Administration offices for assistance.

The Special Recognitions Branch at the Air Force Personnel Center here will update the award database by March 1 to reflect the winning organizations and approved subordinate units.

If you have questions about unit awards, contact the Academy's Military Personnel Flight at 333-8766 or call the Total Force Service Center toll-free at 800-525-0102.

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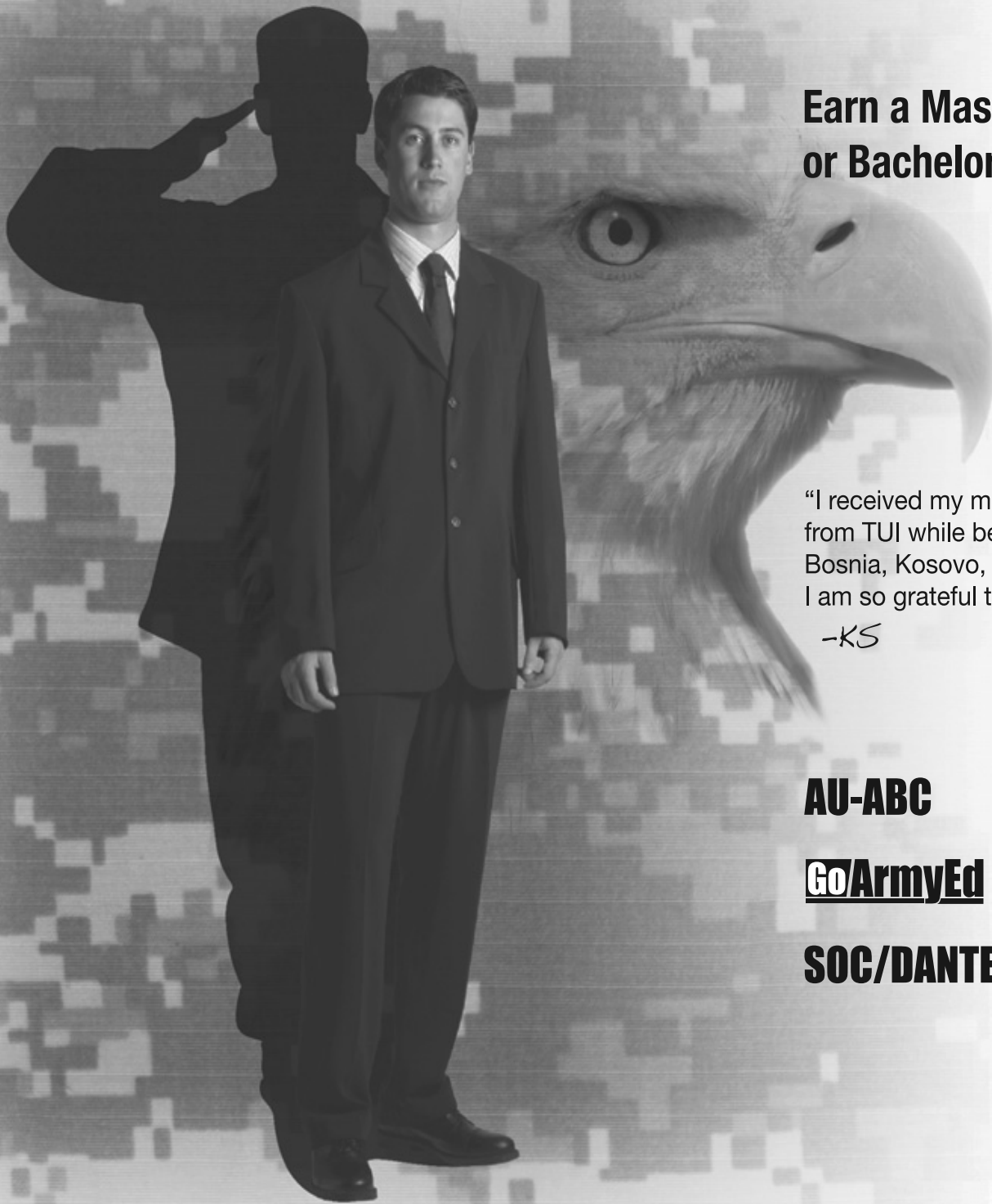


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Cadet receives advanced flying scholarship

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

A junior with Cadet Squadron 27 received the Taryn Robinson Scholarship from Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Sam Cox during a ceremony in Mitchell Hall Jan. 15.

Cadet 2nd Class Andrew Lamb said he had little flying experience before entering the Academy but always dreamed of making flying a career.

"I had flown in small, single-engine planes once or twice with friends, but that's about it," he said.

Currently a pilot instructor for the Academy's soaring program, the astronautical engineering major said he expects the scholarship to improve his flying ability.

"I took the basic soaring course during the summer following my freshman year, completed the instructor upgrade course during the fall of my three degree year and have been teaching since then," said the cadet from Siloam Springs, Ark.

Following the award ceremony, Cadet Lamb met with retired Maj. Gen. David Robinson, the father of 2nd Lt. Taryn Robinson, after whom the scholarship was named. Lieutenant Robinson was killed in a plane crash 40 miles southeast of San Antonio Sept. 21, 2005. Sean Tucker, an aerobatics pilot, set up



Courtesy Photo

Cadet 2nd Class Andrew Lamb was named the Taryn Scholarship winner during a ceremony in Mitchell Hall Jan. 15. He is shown here reviewing a pre-flight checklist before climbing into a glider at the Academy.

the scholarship in Lieutenant Robinson's name.

"Sean, who's a very dear friend of ours, decided that Taryn would not be forgotten," Mr. Robinson said. The purpose of the scholarship is to help cadets in the soaring program hone their flying skills.

The aerobic and demonstration team flies in three competitions every fall, including the U.S. National Aerobatic

Championships. They go to several air shows around the country to perform demonstrations throughout the year.

"It is a very generous scholarship, and it is an absolute honor to receive it," Cadet Lamb said. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for the cadet who won the scholarship last year and I hope that it will help me accomplish as much as he has. Further, and perhaps most importantly, the scholarship is a chance

to honor the legacy of the late Taryn Robinson by living life to its absolute fullest."

Cadet Lamb will learn how to perform maneuvers that "he's only dreamt about," Mr. Tucker said.

"From inverted flat spins — from tumbling in airplanes through the sky, end over end — from twirling an airplane, from spinning an airplane," Mr. Tucker said, "he's going to learn everything you can in the aerobatic envelope."

"Every single cadet who's trained at my academy has also taught us something about excellence," Mr. Tucker added. "The men and women who go to school here are the best of the best. They're the best our country has to offer, and they're set up for success through their academic training here. ... They are just excellent, excellent students."

Cadet Lamb said he's eager to learn advanced piloting from the scholarship sponsors.

"It was truly amazing. They were all great people and they had an unparalleled amount of knowledge and wisdom to share regarding the flying community," the cadet said. "I will hopefully enhance my situational awareness in the airplane and learn aerobatic techniques to bring back to the Academy. Ultimately, I hope to become a better, safer pilot."

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Academy's nurse anesthetists 'never miss a beat'

By Lt. Col. Annette Gablehouse
10th Surgical Operations Squadron

Certified registered nurse anesthetists from the Air Force Academy Clinic and thousands from across the country will tell America, "We never miss a beat," as they celebrate the 11th-annual National Nurse Anesthetist Week celebration through Saturday.

This year's catchphrase, "We never miss a beat," touts the quality of care that nurse anesthetists pride themselves on providing patients. To provide the safest anesthesia possible, nurse anesthetists remain by their patients' sides every moment of their procedure, monitoring their vital signs to help ensure a comfortable and safe anesthesia experience.

"As anesthesia providers, it is important to be aware of every heartbeat, every breath, and be ready to quickly respond if necessary," said Maj. Stacey Blottiaux, anesthesia element leader at the Academy clinic. "That's why CRNAs are so proud to belong to a profession that has maintained a sterling record of providing patient-safety for more than 150 years."

The Academy Clinic has six CRNAs assigned to the 10th Surgical Operations Squadron. Locally, they administer general, regional and local anesthetics in a three-room surgical suite, directly supporting general surgery, orthopedics, podiatry, ear-nose-throat and ophthalmology. While deployed, CRNAs focus on replacing traumatically injured patients' blood volume and blood clotting capability and stabilizing their cardiovascular functions.

"Deploying as a CRNA was the most professionally rewarding experience I've had to date," said Capt. Russell Wolbers, a CRNA with the Academy who helped save patients' lives during trauma surgeries while deployed to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Courtesy Photo

Maj. Stacey Blottiaux places a tracheal breathing tube for a patient while Capt. Russell Wolbers assists during a training scenario at the Air Force Academy Clinic Jan. 18. Major Blottiaux and Captain Wolbers are certified registered nurse anesthetists with the 10th Surgical Operations Squadron.

Nurse anesthetists are advanced practice nurses who administer approximately 30 million anesthetics in the United States each year. Practicing in every setting where anesthesia is delivered, CRNAs are the primary anesthesia providers in rural hospitals, and have been the main provider of anesthesia care to servicemembers on the front lines since World War I.

"It is a privilege to be a part of a profession with a focal point that is dedicated to providing patient safety," Captain Wolbers said. "Historically, CRNAs have played a considerable role in advancing trends related to monitoring technology, anesthetic drugs, and patient education. In fact, anesthesia today is nearly 50 times safer than it was in the early 1980s."

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Local Airmen deploy to support Haiti relief

Academy Spirit staff report

Airmen from units at the Air Force Academy and Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., deployed recently in support of Haitian relief efforts.

Maj. John McQuade, an instructor with the Academy's Department of Biology, and Capt. Kristin Henley, a psychologist with the 10th Medical Operations Squadron, left late last week to support Air and Space Expeditionary Force Coronet Oak, which is operating out of locations in Florida, Puerto Rico and Haiti.

Maj. Nicholas Marshall, the 10th Medical Health Flight commander, said he did not know exactly what Captain Henley's mission would be until she made contact, but he believes Captain Henley may provide preventive education and supportive counseling to help reduce relief workers' potential for medium- or long-term post-traumatic stress.

The 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson AFB sent 50 reservists and two C-130 Hercules aircraft Jan. 22 to fly humanitarian missions, with the first flight taking place Monday. The reservists will support airlift operations including aeromedical evacuation and aerial delivery missions, transporting much needed food and water as well as other relief supplies.

Maj. Brad James, a C-130 pilot with the 731st Airlift Squadron, said he was looking forward to flying earthquake relief missions. The airlifts will be part of a previously scheduled Air Force operation known as Operation Coronet Oak, which provides rapid-response airlift to crises as requested by the U.S. Southern Command. Throughout the two-week deployment, the reservists will be based in Puerto Rico and are expected to fly multiple sorties into Haiti daily.

Col. Julio Lopez, commander of the 35th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, said he expects a high

operations tempo for the next four weeks.

"Every day, AEF Coronet Oak is launching four C-130s four times a day," the colonel said.

The crews and aircraft from the 302nd Airlift Wing are expected to fly immediately after arrival in Puerto Rico.

"There is a great need in Haiti, and our aircrews and C-130s will add to the critical airlift support delivering the aid Haitians need," said Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AW commander. "The men and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing are expertly trained, highly-skilled and ready to respond at a moment's notice."

AEF Coronet Oak-assigned C-130s flew 30 missions, logging 111 flight hours in the first seven days of operations after the earthquake.

(Information compiled from 302nd Airlift Wing news releases and staff reports.)

Officials seek applications for Warrior Games

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials are accepting applications until Feb. 15 for the inaugural Warrior Games in Colorado Springs.

Wounded, ill and injured servicemembers will compete across all branches of the military in a joint effort between the Department of Defense and the U.S. Olympic Committee, with some of the games' events to be hosted at the Air Force Academy.

Active duty, Guard, and Reserve members as well as retired personnel and veterans are eligible to compete regardless of their injuries, including those diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries.

DoD officials announced Jan. 7 that approximately 200 participants will compete in the Warrior Games May 10-14. The U.S. Olympic Committee will host the games. Events will include shooting, swimming, archery, track,

discus, shot put, cycling, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball, said Army Brig. Gen. Gary Cheek, the commander of the U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command.

In preparation for this event, Air Force officials will host a one-week training camp prior to the games in Colorado Springs.

"We need a minimum of one week for the volleyball and basketball teams to train together. But for the other events, we can reduce the training time to three or four days on a case-by-case basis," Captain Bruno said. During the training camp, Air Force participants will receive full per-diem pay.

The Army will be represented by 100 Soldiers chosen out of a pool of almost 9,000 wounded warriors. The Marine Corps will send 50 competitors, while the Navy, the Air Force and the Coast Guard will send 25 each, General Cheek said.

"The value of sports and athletic competition and

the fact that you can get great satisfaction from what you do is really what we're after," he said. "And we're really looking for this opportunity to (grow) this program in May and have it get bigger and stronger."

The goal isn't necessarily to determine the best athletes, but rather to show wounded veterans their true potential through competitive sports, he explained.

"While we've made enormous progress in all the military services in our warrior care ... it's not enough," the general said. "And what we have to do with our servicemembers is inspire them to reach for and achieve a rich and productive future, to defeat their illness or injury to maximize their abilities and know that they can have a rich and fulfilling life beyond what has happened to them in service to their nation."

For more information or to request an application, contact the Air Force Services Agency lead action officer, 1st Lt. Hannah McDaniels, at 210-652-7021 or DSN 487-7021.

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Exercise tests responders' readiness

By Ken Carter
Editor

With the ever-present possibility of perpetrators wanting to do harm to those on U.S. military installations, the Air Force Academy tested its ability to respond to the threat of an active shooter in the cadet area Jan. 20.

According to Academy Exercise Program director Franklin Gross, the exercise that had been in planning for two months tested numerous organizations across the Academy and the ability of each to deal with the scenario should it ever become a "real-word" threat here.

Frequent bright red-lettered updates from the Academy Command Center flashed across computer screens base wide as students and employees alike took cover. Reports shortly after 8 a.m. indicated a disturbance in Sijan Hall starting on the third floor and, within minutes, spreading to the second floor of the facility that serves as home for half the students of the Cadet Wing.

By 8:32 and again at 8:35 a.m. the giant voice speaker rang out reinforcing exercise information concerning the lockdown related to the still unidentified disturbance. Elsewhere around the Academy, doors remained locked and window shades drawn. People gathered in secure locations to ensure their safety.

Shortly before 9 a.m., the command center issued an "all clear" -- Airmen with the 10th Security Forces Squadron had apprehended the attacker.

"I was very happy with everyone's efforts and their high level of response to 'cover, communicate and mitigate,'" Mr. Gross

said. "Sure, there are areas that need improvement, but overall I'm impressed with how well the entire installation's personnel performed."

Cadet 2nd Class Brett Boyce from Cadet Squadron 23 portrayed the shooter. His ability to take on the role and perform as though he'd rehearsed for months impressed the members of the exercise evaluation team, who had selected him for the role only a few days before.

"Cadet Boyce's strong academic and physical background enabled many of the evaluation team members to remark about how very close to a real-world event it resembled," Mr. Gross said. "I would have to give this exercise a thumbs-up."

Col. Rick LoCastro, commander of the 10th Air Base Wing, praised the exercise as a measure to further improve the readiness and capability of base personnel for any contingency or emergency, adding that cadets, faculty, base residents and family members can never be too ready.

"Sharpening our preparedness through practice and refinement of our emergency procedures across the entire installation is the Academy's key to success," he said. "This rededication to a new and improved exercise posture will ensure Team USAFA can best react and respond to any crisis."

Paul Ceciliani, the Academy's antiterrorism officer and lead for installation active shooter readiness, said the exercise was designed to evaluate preventive measures when a known threat is identified, people's readiness to respond to an active shooter incident, command and control and the effectiveness of mass communication systems.

The whole base participated, Mr. Ceciliani said. Key organizations directly involved with the shooter exercise included the Cadet Wing, dean of faculty, security forces, the Academy Fire Department, command post and the 10th

Medical Group. Key organizations involved in the prevention portion of the exercise

included the Cadet Wing, Peak Performance Center, the 10th MDG, security forces and the Staff Judge Advocate office.

"This was the best response seen to date from the cadets and personnel on base since starting active shooter and lockdown exercises in 2007," Mr. Ceciliani said. "The sense of urgency

seen across all mission elements was very commendable."

The sequence of events in the exercise unfolded considerably faster than would be expected in a real-world active shooter attack.

"Fort Hood was in lockdown for nearly six hours with many follow-on actions for several days" after the incident there that killed 13 people and injured 43 others, Mr. Ceciliani said.

"Our exercise was intended to balance the needs of the academic mission with readiness, and we feel we met this objective with few exceptions," Mr. Ceciliani said.



Photo by Rachel Boettcher

Cadet 2nd Class Brett Boyce, playing the role of a disgruntled cadet, stalks through the McDermott Library.



Photo by Johnny Wilson

Airmen with the 10th Security Forces Squadron clear a room while responding to an active shooter scenario during the Academy's exercise Jan. 20.



Photo by Johnny Wilson

Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Lasater, a patroler with the 10th SFS, secures a cadet's dormitory.



Photo by Rachel Boettcher

Airman Brandon Aguirre detains a suspect during an "active shooter" exercise in the U.S. Air Force Academy's McDermott Library. The exercise is designed to test the Academy's response to events such as the November 2009 shooting incident at Fort Hood, Texas.



Photo by Rachel Boettcher

Staff Sgt. Justin Richardson responds to an "active shooter" scenario during a base readiness exercise under the observance of exercise evaluation team members.

Matt McShane named volleyball head coach

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

Matt McShane has agreed to become the head volleyball coach at the Air Force Academy, athletic department officials announced Tuesday afternoon.

McShane, recently selected as one of Volleyball Magazine's 10 Best Assistant Coaches, joins the Falcon program after a five-year stint as an assistant coach at Cal. Details of the contract are still being worked and are going through the Academy process.

McShane joins the Academy after spending five seasons as an assistant coach at the University of California. During his tenure, the Bears posted a 114-47 overall record, produced seven AVCA All-Americans and finished every season ranked in the nation's top 20, including a No. 4 ranking in 2007.

Cal earned a berth into the NCAA Tournament every year McShane was on the bench. In 2009, his last season in Berkeley, the Bears (21-11, 11-7 PAC-10) advanced to the regional championship match for the third consecutive year, before falling to defending national champion Penn State.

McShane is no stranger to the Mountain West Conference. Prior to his stint at Berkeley, McShane spent four years as an assistant coach at the University of Utah. In 2004, the Utes went 24-7 overall and 13-1 in league action and captured a share of their first-ever MWC title. Before joining the Utah staff, McShane was an associate head coach at the University of New Mexico (1987-00). In 13 years in Albuquerque, he helped guide the Lobos to a 189-127 record, two conference championships and six trips to the NCAA tournament. Additionally, McShane served as an assistant coach at

Brigham Young University from 1980-82.

The Falcons' new coach also has a tremendous amount of experience at the national and international coaching level.

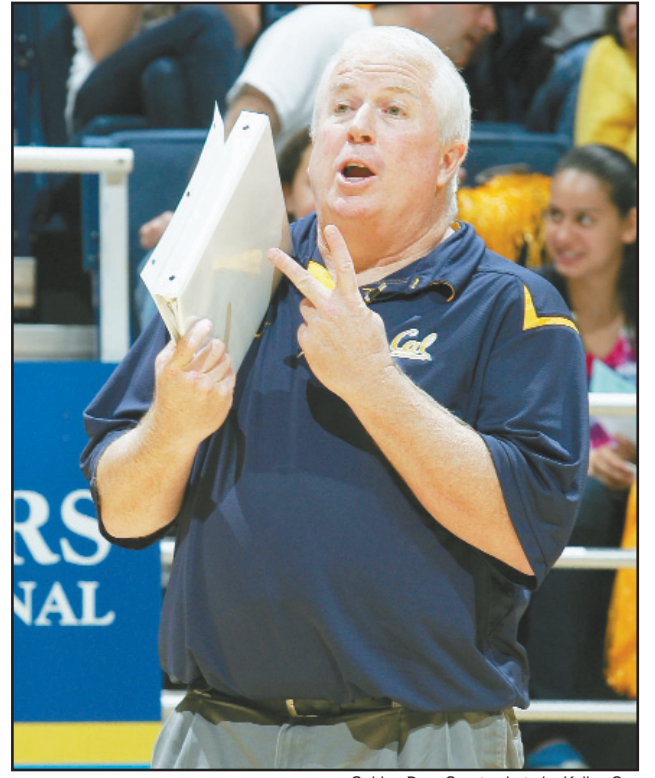
In the summer of 2007, McShane was an assistant coach for USA Volleyball's National A2 team. During the summer of 2002, he also served as the head coach for the USA National A2 Team. In the summer of 2001, he was the head coach for the Intermountain Volleyball Association (IVA) High Performance Team that toured Europe.

In 1996, McShane was named an assistant coach of the USA Women's National team at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. While with the U.S. National team, McShane designed and ran practice sessions, did video analysis of Team USA and other major teams in the world, and prepared scouting reports on U.S. opponents.

McShane's coaching background also includes assisting former USA Women's National Indoor Volleyball team coach "Jenny" Lang Ping with the Yaohan International Volleyball Team in 1996. The team was comprised of the best American and Russian players who competed against the Chinese and Cuban National teams in cities throughout China.

He is a member of the USAV Coaches Accreditation Program Cadre (CAP Level III), and each year, he runs numerous clinics throughout the U.S., teaching other college, high school and junior coaches the fundamentals of volleyball.

As an undergraduate at UC Santa Barbara, McShane played on the only intercollegiate team to win the USAV Open National Championship. The UCSB teams finished second in the NCAA Championships in 1974 and 1975,



Golden Bear Sports photo by Kelley Cox
Matt McShane, seen here coaching for the University of California Golden Bears, accepted the head volleyball coach position at the Air Force Academy Tuesday.

and finished third in the NCAA Regional Championships in 1976. He was an All-American for the Gauchos in 1974.

McShane earned his bachelor's degree from UC Santa Barbara in 1977 and his master's degree from BYU in 1982. While at BYU, he played on the men's club team that finished third at the USAV Open National Championship in 1981.



Photo by Bill Evans

Falcons guard Raimee Beck goes up for two against Rebel defenders during the Air Force-UNLV game at Clune Arena Tuesday.

Air Force falls short to UNLV

By Nick Arseniak
Athletic Communications

Amanda Anderson's jumper with three seconds left rallied UNLV to a 77-76 win over Air Force in Mountain West Conference women's basketball action Tuesday night at Clune Arena. The loss dropped the Falcons to 3-16, 0-6 on the season and lifted the Rebels to 9-12, 2-5.

In another wild finish between the two schools, UNLV ran off a 14-4 run over the final two minutes and 15 seconds of the game to pull out the win. The Falcons lost to the Rebels in agonizing fashion for the second-straight meeting. Last March, UNLV rallied from a 22 point deficit with under 10 minutes remaining to down the Falcons 64-63.

Air Force went down despite tying a season-high for points and getting a season-high 26 points from guard Raimee Beck. The Falcons also shot 53.7 percent from the field, to the

Rebels' 35.3 percent. The Falcons also connected on 10-of-17 three-point baskets, good for a 58.8 shooting percentage from downtown.

After trading leads early on, Air Force led from the 15:02 mark in the first-half, until UNLV went ahead 75-74 with 18 second remaining. On the ensuing play, the Falcons seemed to have won the game, when Falcon guard Kira Gonzalez threw a full-court inbounds pass to Beck, who layed the ball in, giving the Falcons a 76-75 lead with 14 seconds left.

UNLV quickly took the ball back down the other end of the court and Rebel guard Erica Helms hoisted up a missed jumper. Gonzalez was able to get to the ball, but LaToya Hunt was able to knock the ball out of Gonzalez's hands. Out of a wild scramble, Anderson came away with the ball and threw up the shot which went in. A desperation shot by Beck then fell short to end the game in a tough loss for AFA.

Four players reached double figures in scoring for both teams, a season-first for the Falcons. Kelli Thompson led UNLV with 24 points, to go with six rebounds. Helms and Alison Holiday added 12 and Anderson scored 11.

Forward Kathleen Schjodt scored a career-high 17 points, as did forward Kelsey Berger for Air Force. Alicia Leipprandt added 11 points off the bench. Center Liz Dunsworth also had a standout game for the Falcons, notching a career-high five assists to go with four rebounds.

Beck, who was off to a slow start in MWC play, was in top form from the get go, hitting eight field goals, four for three-point baskets. She also went 6-for-7 from the line and had a game-high eight rebounds. The 26 points gave her 914 for her career, moving her into sixth place all-time at Air Force in the Div. I era.

Air Force returns to action Saturday at Wyoming. Tipoff is 2 p.m.

Women's gymnastics

Backed by team-leading finishes from junior Brittany Dutton and Jenna Dudley, the Air Force women's gymnastics team collected a score of 185.150 to finish third at the Illinois State Quadrangular Sunday in Normal, Ill. Dutton and Dudley each paced the team on a pair of events, as the Falcons accounted for six top-10 finishes.

Illinois State scored a 190.925 to

win the four-team meet, edging out Western Michigan by 0.400. Air Force tallied its second-highest score of the season (185.150) to finish third, while Wisconsin-La Crosse finished fourth with a score of 183.300.

Hockey

Tim Kirby scored the game-winning goal with 0.6 seconds left in overtime to lift Air Force to a 4-3 win over Holy Cross in an Atlantic Hockey

Association game Saturday at the Academy's Cadet Ice Arena.

Air Force remains in a tie for first place in the AHA with RIT. Each team has 29 league points. The Falcons improved to 12-9-5 overall and 12-5-5 in the AHA. Holy Cross fell to 6-14-5 overall and 5-10-4 in the league.

A season-high crowd of 3,113 watched the Falcons come from behind to beat the Crusaders. Air Force

extended its sellout streak to four straight games and eight overall this season.

Track and field

Three more Academy records were broken as the Air Force track and field team wrapped up competition at Nebraska's Adidas Classic in Lincoln, Neb., Saturday. Ally Romanko crushed her own record in the 800-meter run, while classmate Sara Neubauer reset the program standards in the shot put

2009 graduate balances Air Force, pro hockey

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Few people can actually say they have had a dream come true. Greg Flynn has had two: the opportunity to serve the country he loves and the chance to play professionally in the sport he loves.

A 2009 graduate of the Air Force Academy, Flynn is a second lieutenant stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base, just outside Boston.

By day, he is a contract manager — an officer diligently working on market research, negotiating contracts and sending them forward through the Air Force process.

By night, he puts on the No. 37 sweater as a rookie defenseman with the Lowell Devils of the American Hockey League. A fiercely competitive defenseman with a razor's edge, he goes toe-to-toe with players who will soon be, or have been, in the National Hockey League.

"Playing professional hockey is an unbelievable opportunity, but I am an officer in the Air Force and very proud of that," Flynn said. "I cannot thank everyone involved in the process enough. Everyone has been so supportive and for that I am eternally grateful. To my coaches at the Academy who taught me to play at the highest level, my commanders here at Hanscom who have given me this opportunity and the Lowell administration who took a chance on an unknown, a heartfelt thank you."

Flynn was a 2009 All-American at the Academy, where he was the nation's top scoring defenseman. His slap shot made him a threat on every power play. But it was his tenacious style of play that gave Air Force a toughness it needed to win three straight championships.

In March 2009, Flynn assisted on both goals to help lead Air Force to a 2-0 win over third-ranked Michigan in the NCAA Tournament. Air Force reached the Elite Eight for the first time in school history and posted a school-record 28 wins.

"Greg Flynn came to us as blue-collar defenseman and he willed his way to becoming the leading scoring defenseman in the nation," Air Force coach Frank Serratore said. "He started out as a big, rugged defender whose work ethic and intensity enabled him to become the complete package. He came to us as a two-tool player and developed into a five-tool player. He has great balance to his game. He went from being a player who couldn't play on a mediocre Air Force team to being an All-American on a team that nearly made the Frozen Four."

Flynn's work ethic carried over into the classroom as well as he was a three-time academic all-conference selection. Flynn graduated from the Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in management and was commissioned a second lieutenant. After taking 60 days of leave, he spent five weeks at contracting school at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and started his first assignment at Hanscom. He practiced with the Devils for three weeks before going to the Air and Space Basic Course, an entry-level module for all new lieutenants at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Upon returning to Hanscom in early December, Flynn's dream of playing professional hockey became a reality. He signed an amateur tryout contract and first practiced with the Devils, the top minor league affiliate of the New Jersey Devils, Dec. 8. His first game came on the road at Manchester, N.H., Dec. 19.

"I hadn't felt nerves like that in a long, long time," Flynn said. "Not even my first college game. I think the biggest reason is that I had not played a game since April against

Vermont in the NCAA Tournament. Then once the game started and I played my first shift, it all went away and I was just playing hockey again.

In his third career game, again at Manchester, Flynn had four shots on goal, the third most on the team. As of Jan. 22, 2010, Flynn played in six games and has 12 shots on goal. He earned his first plus as a professional in a 3-2 loss to Syracuse on Jan. 14, a game in which he tied his professional career high of four shots on goal.

"From the time I was a kid, I always dreamed of playing in the NHL," Flynn said. "I grew up a North Stars fan and always thought to myself, 'hopefully that is me one day.' I think every kid that plays a sport when they are young, dreams of playing that sport professionally."

Flynn started playing hockey when he was seven. Not long after, his father built a rink on the side of their home in Lino Lakes, Minn. Flynn, and his two younger brothers: Ryan, a senior forward at Minnesota and a Nashville Predators draft choice; and Jake, a junior defenseman at Centennial High School, had the pleasure of playing right in their own backyard, just a few miles north of Minneapolis.

A two-time all-conference and an honorable mention all-state selection at Centennial High School, Flynn was recruited by former Air Force assistant coach Joe Doyle. Flynn committed to the Air Force Academy while still in high school and then played one year of junior hockey for the Billings Bulls of the North American Hockey League.

The freshman year at a service academy is certainly challenging, but for Flynn the hockey season was difficult as well. He did not play in the first half of the season. His first game came on Dec. 31, 2005 against RIT. From that point on, he missed just three games in three-and-a-half years.

"Hockey was the only thing I was good at and I was failing at that," Flynn said. "That was the low point of my hockey career. I worked as hard as I possibly could and I felt like my work ethic is what got me through and helped me throughout my career."

Air Force was 11-20-1 his freshman year, but little did he know at the time that a championship foundation was being built. Air Force won three straight league Atlantic Hockey championships, played in three NCAA Tournaments and reached the Elite Eight his senior year.

"After my freshman year, if someone said 'do you think you'll ever play in the NCAA Tournament' I would have said 'absolutely not,'" Flynn said. "Going to the NCAA tournament my sophomore year and playing against my brother was a dream come true. After that I thought, 'that was cool,' but I don't know if it will happen again. Then to go back and go a little farther every year was awesome."

Similar to his days as a cadet, Flynn must find the balance between his Air Force career and athletics and put in the commitment necessary to succeed at both. Flynn wakes up at 5:30 a.m. and gets to the office by 6:30. First and foremost, he works a full duty day. After a couple of hours in the office, he leaves for Lowell for the Devils' practice (about 15 minutes away) in the late morning and then returns to Hanscom to complete his day into the early evening.

"The day is a little like playing at the Academy, when I had class and then practice and back to the dorms at about 7 p.m.," Flynn said. "The difference is that now I don't have homework."



Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Ramsey

Second Lt. Greg Flynn poses for a photograph in Paul Tsongas Arena in Lowell, Mass., Jan. 5. Lieutenant Flynn is a contract manager at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., and also a defender for the American Hockey League's Lowell Devils. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in May 2009.

Flynn has played in five games with the Devils and has seven shots on goal. Playing at the highest level of minor league hockey, Flynn knows he still has a long way to go before reaching the NHL.

"The biggest thing I need to do is to adjust to the speed of the game," Flynn said. "I need to improve on the little things of the game, being in the right place all the time and trying to be a step ahead of the game. The guys in this league are future NHL players. They know exactly where they need to be and what they are doing all the time. I have a lot to learn on the hockey side, but I know that my priority is the Air Force, and I take a lot of pride in that."

The Department of Defense policy is that an active-duty service member pursuing professional sports must serve a minimum 24 months (Flynn's 24 months extends through May 2011). At that point, an individual can apply for early release. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Several conditions must be met, including the individual being assigned to reserve unit and the situation having potential recruiting or public affairs benefits for the Air Force.

"He's a big, tough, durable defenseman who can also make things happen when the puck is on his stick," Serratore said. "His greatest strength as a pro is that he doesn't have a weakness. That makes him real enticing as a pro. The way he works, and his intensity, I would not bet against this guy in anything he wanted to do."

From the time the seven-year old first laced up the skates, to a college All-American, a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and now a professional hockey player, Greg Flynn truly is living the dream.

and weight throw for the third time in as many meets.

Neubauer won both the shot put and the weight throw for the third straight meet. She became the first female in Academy history to surpass the 60-foot plateau in the weight throw, as she won the event with a career-best 60'1". In her first attempt, Neubauer went on to increase her own record in the shot put, tossing a NCAA Provisional

mark of 52'3¾".

Women's tennis

The Air Force women's tennis team posted its third consecutive victory Saturday with a 6-1 win over the University of South Dakota at the Academy.

For the third straight match, the Falcons swept the three doubles matches, then won the Nos. 2-5 singles matches in straight sets. Hannah Dake and

Melissa Cecil won at No. 2 and No. 3, respectively, with Dake posting a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Melanie Rockne. Cecil, who went 6-0 this weekend in singles and doubles, downed Marina Kiefer, 6-1, 6-1.

Falcons @ Home

Today

Men's & Women's Swimming

Air Force Diving Invitational - All Day

Saturday

Men's Basketball

vs Wyoming - 1:30 p.m.

Track

Don Barrett Duals - 10 a.m.

Women's Gymnastics

vs UC Davis - 6 p.m.

Men's & Women's Swimming

Air Force Diving Invitational - All Day

Wednesday

Women's Basketball

San Diego State - 7 p.m.





Base honor guard

The Air Force Academy Honor Guard seeks ceremonial guardsmen to render final honors for fellow Airmen, participate in retirements, colors ceremonies, professional sporting events and more.

The honor guard will hold new member training Feb. 11-19 from noon to 4 p.m. for new volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Michiyo Litynski at 333-5070 or Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Bess at 333-3811.

Get ready for SnoFest!

SnoFest will celebrate its 20th anniversary today through Sunday in Keystone, Colo., and will feature family events such as a cardboard derby, skiing and snowboarding. Guests qualify for discounted lift tickets starting at \$45 for Academy and Prep School cadets and junior enlisted Airmen

and \$49 for others. Visit www.usafaservices.com/homepage-stories/snofest for more details.

Free tax preparation

The Air Force Academy will prepare tax returns free for active-duty servicemembers stationed at the Academy as well as cadets and retirees in Arnold Hall near Hap's beginning Monday.

To have your tax return prepared, you will need a military ID card, wage and earning statements from your employers and any interest and dividend forms. You will also need bank routing and account numbers if you would like your tax refund issued through direct deposit.

For more information, contact the tax center at 333-3905.

Sports camps

Early bird registration is now open for 12- to 18-year-olds to attend 2010 Falcons Sports Camps. Sporting events include baseball, basketball, football, cheerleading, and diving and swimming. Prices start at \$150 for three-day commuter camps, \$325 for one-week commuter camps and \$500 for weeklong camps with boarding at the Academy. For more information on prices, check-in times and registrations, call the Athletics Department at 333-2116.

Weight loss class

The Community Fitness Center will hold a free weight-loss class called "Losing Weight ... the Real Story," given by Robin Brandimore, an Air Force spouse and Air Force Academy fitness trainer.

Call Ms. Brandimore at 200-8914 for more information or to register.

USAFA recycles

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron will hold its 5th-annual electronics recycling event every Wednesday and Thursday through January. People can take electronic items to Bldg. 8125 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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.

H1N1 vaccine

TriCare beneficiaries can visit TriCare retail network pharmacies to receive seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at no cost. This expanded coverage is available to all TriCare beneficiaries eligible to use the TriCare retail pharmacy benefit.

To receive the vaccines, beneficiaries can call their local TriCare retail network pharmacy to make sure it participates in the vaccine program and has the vaccine in stock. To locate a participating retail network pharmacy, go to www.expressscripts.com/Tricare or call Express Scripts at 877-363-1303.

At the Academy, the 10th Medical Group offers the H1N1 influenza vaccine to all servicemembers, TriCare beneficiaries, Department of Defense civilians and contractors. Active-duty servicemembers are required to receive the H1N1 vaccine in addition to the seasonal flu vaccine. Visit www.usafa.af.mil/information/h1n1 for more information.

A&FRC Offerings

The Academy Airman and Family Readiness Center will host the following classes in February. 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.

Group pre-separation counseling

Held 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 assists you in identifying benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

Career tracks

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This comprehensive two-day course assists military spouses with assessing and evaluating skills, values, and interests; building an effective 'toolkit' through a career plan, education, and volunteerism; conducting an efficient job search through research, networking, career fairs, interviewing, and resume writing; also learn employer feedback on what organizations specifically look for in a candidate (local employer panel). Must be registered to attend.

Mock interviewing

Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Preparing for your next career move? Feeling a little rusty or insecure about your interviewing skills? Sign up for the next best thing with mock interviewing with real human resources representatives.

Key spouse training

Feb. 5, 8 a.m. to noon

Feb. 11, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 19, 9 to 11 a.m.

The Academy Key Spouse Program enables open communication between unit leadership and families. Training includes roles and responsibilities, resources, making connections, responding to the call, and how to support families during deployment.

Teen job search

Part 1: Feb. 6, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Part 2: Feb. 9, 4 to 6 p.m.

Learn about filling out job applications, résumé writing, interviewing skills, appropriate workplace behavior and volunteer opportunities. An employer panel will provide information and answer questions. The class is open to children of active-duty servicemembers, retirees, reservists, Guardsmen and DOD civilians. Minimum age to attend is 15.

Medical records review

Feb. 8, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 26, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the Disabled American Veterans review their medical records in preparation of filing for Veterans Administration Disability Compensation through the VA Form 21-526. Call for more information or an appointment.

Smooth move

Feb. 9, 9 to 10 a.m.

Feb. 17, 3 to 4 p.m.

This is a mandatory class for anyone permanently departing the Academy. Being prepared certainly lessens the stress of an upcoming move. Learn innovative and proven ways to make your move a smooth one — "know before you go."

Résumé writing

Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to noon

Learn different types of résumé and cover letter styles and how to improve your own. The main purpose of a résumé is to entice an employer to call you for an interview. If your résumé is not doing this for you, then it probably needs some refinement.

Sponsorship training

Feb. 11, 8 to 9 a.m.

This class is for those who have been assigned to sponsor an Academy newcomer. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details and to get signed up for this class.

Troops to teachers

Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This workshop provides information for military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher. Learn how you can make the transition to this rewarding career.

FERS retirement benefits briefing

Feb. 17, 8 a.m. to noon

Come and learn about your Federal Employees Retirement System benefits and planning for retirement. Seating is limited, and you must be registered to attend. Spouses welcome if they signed up with the member.

SCORE – starting your own business

Feb. 18, 9 a.m. to noon

If you've ever thought about owning your own business but are not sure how to start, this workshop is for you!

TAP seminar

Feb. 22-26, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? The Transition Assistance Program workshop is designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for a successful transition into the civilian workforce after a military career. Learn interviewing skills, resume writing, networking, negotiations, dress for success, and much more. Call now to reserve your spot in the next available TAP class. These workshops fill very quickly so plan your attendance well in advance.

Family Advocacy Classes

For information on classes offered by the Family Advocacy Office or to sign up, contact Kristin Larkey of Family Advocacy Outreach at 333-5270.

Common sense parenting

Wednesdays through Feb. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: All parents occasionally need help and advice when they're having a hard time with their children. This research-based, practical training program, designed for parents of toddlers and preschoolers ages 2-5, teaches parents how to set reasonable expectations, effectively use consequences, when and how to use timeout and how to teach instead of punish. The class is open to active-duty servicemembers, Defense Department civilians, retirees and family members.

Anger management

Thursdays through Feb. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Anger is a normal, healthy human emotion, but when it gets out of control, it can lead to problems at work, in relationships and in quality of life. Anger management classes will help attendees better understand their anger and where it comes from, how to handle conflict in frustrating situations and how to relax and de-stress their lives.



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

Liturgical Worship Sun. - 8 a.m.
Traditional Worship Sun. - 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Sun. - 11:30 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 - 9:00-9:40 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

Academic Year, when cadets are present
Monday, 6:30 - 7:50 - Room 1M125
(1st Floor - Fairchild Annex -- Astronautics Museum)
Contact TSgt Longcrier at 719-333-6187

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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| 2007 Acura MDX Tech, Stk# Cs1074.... \$31,988 | 2002 Dodge 1500 Quad Cab 4x4, Stk# Cs1048a.... \$10,988 | 2007 Mazda Rx8 GT, Stk# Cs1005a.... \$15,988 |
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| 2008 Chevy Aveo, Stk# Cs1007.... \$8,988 | 2001 Ford Expedition, Stk# Cs1045.... \$7,988 | 2008 Mitsubishi Alant ES, Stk# Cs1031.... \$10,988 |
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