

# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 49 No. 1

January 9, 2009

Congratulations to the following Academy members who've been selected for promotion.

**To colonel:**



James M. Durant III

**To lieutenant colonel:**



Donald Allison  
John Beattie  
Jacqueline Breeden  
Michael Brothers  
Ira Cline  
Allan Conkey  
James Dereus  
Michael Drowley  
Tamara Henderson  
Scott Heyler  
David Kent  
Christopher Kirby  
Aaron Mainstone  
Ian Marr  
Adam Marshall  
Brian Maue  
Steven Novotny  
Thomas Omalley  
Ryan Ostersoo  
Brian Ralston  
Chad Rauls  
Mark Reimann  
Angenene Robertson  
Mark Seng  
Nathaniel Southworth  
David Stanfield  
Sarah Strachan  
Andrew Travnicek  
Kelly Tucker  
Jill Whitesell  
Darin Williams

**To major:**



Stanton Applonie  
Jennifer Garrison  
Kathy Knowles



Photo by Dave Armer

Falcons' wide receiver Spencer Armstrong pulls in a long bomb for a 46-yard gain during the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 31. Only the tackle of University of Houston safety Carson Blackmon kept Armstrong out of the end zone on this play. However, Houston beat Air Force, 34-28.

## Falcons fall in Armed Forces Bowl

By John Van Winkle  
Academy Public Affairs

FORT WORTH, Texas – A record-setting ground game couldn't help Air Force overcome early mistakes, as the University of Houston beat Air Force 34-28 in the Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 31.

Air Force fumbled the ball on the opening kickoff, and Houston's Brandon Brinkley recovered the ball at the Falcon 25-yard line.

Four plays later, the Houston Cougars hit end-zone paydirt on a one-yard run by running back Bryce Beall. With Jordan

Mannisto's successful point-after kick, the Cougars took a 7-0 lead, less than a minute into the game.

"As you go into a game, your mistakes have to be close to zero and that initial play was something that can't happen in a bowl game for you to win," said Air Force head football coach Troy Calhoun. "You've got to perform at a different level and we've got to get to that level."

Down 7-0, Air Force responded with a six-play, 77 yard drive featuring four carries for 42 yards and a touchdown by fullback Jared Tew. Ryan Harrison's point-after attempt tied the score at 7 all.

Houston took back the lead on the next drive, scoring on a one-yard quarterback draw.

Then Air Force settled into its classic run-heavy offense, grinding out yards and methodically moving the ball downfield with its triple-option rushing attack, heavy on the fullback.

Houston's opportunistic defenders forced a fumble by Air Force tailback Asher Clark at the Air Force 21-yard line, where it was recovered by Houston's Phillip Hunt and advanced to the Falcons' 14-yard-line. The Falcon defense kept

See BOWL, Page 10

### AFPC Spread the Word Briefing

The Air Force Personnel Center will present a "Spread the Word" briefing at 9 a.m. Wednesday in Fairchild Hall, (F-1), and again at 3 p.m. in the Academy Community Center Theater. The briefing will provide information about recent changes in the personnel world. Permanent party members are encouraged to attend either briefing. Call 333-2259 with questions or for more information.

## Military receives 3.9 percent pay raise

By Academy Spirit staff

There'll be something extra in everybody's paycheck starting this month.

Active-duty personnel will draw an across-the-board 3.9 percent pay raise, retroactive to Jan. 1.

The pay increase is the highest

approved by Congress since 2004. The raise will mean about \$70 a month more than last year for an E-3 with four years of service, and just over \$105 a month for an E-5 with 10 years of service.

Pay raises aren't limited to military personnel, however. Civilian employees under both the General Schedule and

National Security Personnel System pay plans are also receiving pay raises.

Civilians under the GS system get an across-the-board pay raise of 2.9 percent in 2009. Civilians under the NSPS pay system will see an increase of 1.74 percent and can earn additional

See PAY, Page 4

### INSIDE

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Commentary  | 2  |
| News        | 3  |
| Features    | 10 |
| Sports      | 12 |
| Community   | 15 |
| Classifieds | 16 |

# Ring in 2009—minus the ringing

By Ken Carter  
Editor

I'm embarrassed, but not ashamed, to admit how I met the 10th Air Base Wing Commander Col. Jimmy McMillian the first time. Furthermore, had I met him in 2009, surely the encounter would have been equally embarrassing, and the consequences clearly would have been more severe – a seven-day driving suspension. For that, I'm glad we met sooner rather than later.

I remember the evening well, traveling south on Stadium Boulevard listening to the local country station, celebrating that it was "5 O'clock Somewhere," (here, as matter of fact), and sensing all kinds of good vibes through the bright red Chevy's well-worn stereo speakers.

Then, suddenly, there was another kind of vibe. This time, somewhat surprisingly, from my front pants pocket. Could it be a mouse I thought? No. It was my personal cell phone.

I don't even remember who called my hand-held cell phone that evening. But, I do remember the body contortions necessary to quickly retrieve the phone from my pocket while driving 45 mph before the caller found his or her way to my voicemail – all the while staying in one lane, steering with my knees.

The only thing trickier than

answering a cell phone while driving is retrieving voicemail and then returning a call requiring reading glasses where only objects within 24 inches are acceptably clear.

Further challenging my multi-tasking skills was the 5 p.m. instinct to not lose forward momentum. Even well within the speed limit, the combination of movement, the distraction of the phone, and the blurred vision not seeing anything more than an arm's length away very clearly, it was a breeding ground for a headache at best.

When Colonel McMillian pulled me over it was the first time I'd ever met the man. Having worked for numerous wing commanders over my 24-year active-duty career, this wasn't quite the first impression I wanted to make.

However, the "distraction" of his flashing blue light in my rear-view mirror served as a wake-up call and one I have appreciated since the internal alarm went off. The good news — I was able to turn Alan Jackson's and Jimmy Buffet's party lyrics down before the wing commander stepped within ear shot from his vehicle where he'd parked directly behind me.

Reports say distractions while driving cause upwards of 25 percent of all auto accidents. Statistics also reveal that bright red cars are 14 percent more likely to get pulled over for moving traffic violations (i.e., speeding) than any other

color. I have reasons to believe that's a conservative stat ... but that's another story for another time.

In the way of a New Year's resolution, I'm determined to not partake in either statistic in 2009 thus avoiding any further embarrassment. To anyone who might call my cell after 5 p.m., from anywhere, don't expect an immediate answer. I will roll the dice with keeping the bright-red ride.

It's my last hope of ever being perceived as cool ... even if it does have four doors and I'm approaching 50 ... years that is, not miles per hour.

It was a pleasure having the wing commander introduce himself personally that evening, even under these circumstances. It sent the crystal clear signal, to me at least, that driver safety on the Academy is paramount and I honor those who lead by (the right) example.

Fewer distractions will lead to fewer mishaps or injury – or worse.

This exercise in humility, by exposing my infraction, is a small price to pay if someone else avoids an accident by simply remembering to stay focused. Do not fall victim to becoming distracted behind the wheel! In the process, you'll be less likely to "create" other victims as consequences of your distraction.

There may be classical music (at lower volume) in my future as an extra measure of defensive driving as well.

# I stay because what we do is important

By Col. Michael Jorda  
354th Fighter Wing vice commander

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFNS) — Five years ago my son surprised me by announcing he was applying for ROTC.

I was surprised because he made it quite clear he wasn't interested in the military when he left for college the previous year. He had experienced first-hand the effects of a military lifestyle — the deployments, exercises, long hours and change of station moves, and decided there must be easier ways to make a living.

When I asked him what had changed his mind, he struggled to put it into words, but he said he missed being around military people and the military culture.

As I enter my 24th year in uniform, I'm often asked why I choose to stay in the military. Quite simply, I stay for the same reasons my son decided to join: I

get to work with extraordinary people every day.

Our Air Force is made up of men and women from many different ethnic, social and economic backgrounds, but we have one very big thing in common: we are Airmen.

We share a common heritage of service and sacrifice; we have shared experiences that bond us in ways those outside the military would never understand. We serve our country, knowing we may be expected to lay our very lives on the line. Ordinary people wouldn't do that. We work long hours in austere conditions with little compensation. Ordinary people wouldn't do that. We uproot our family from schools, jobs and friends on short notice to move halfway around the world.

I stay because I know each day I'll be working with people who share common values — Integrity First; Service Before Self; and Excellence in all We Do. These values are reflected in our daily efforts to

serve our country. Whether it's a crew chief launching an F-16 Fighting Falcon at 20 below, a finance specialist making sure Airmen are paid correctly or a security forces Airman responding to an emergency in the middle of the night, Airmen demonstrate their commitment to each other and to these values daily.

I stay in the military because what we do is important to our country and our way of life. Our nation is at war with an elusive and deadly enemy, yet everyday brave Airmen step forward to do their part. Our Air Force is going through some tough times, but the commitment to excellence I see every day assures me that we'll emerge a stronger, more focused force.

I want to thank each and every one of you for what you do day in and day out. I'm amazed at what you continue to accomplish in support of our country. I'm proud of my son for joining the Air Force, and I know his future, and our nation's future, is in good hands.

## ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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### Submissions

Send submissions to: HQ USAFA/PAI, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3100, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5016 or deliver to Suite 3100 in Harmon Hall.

Deadline for free classified ads on a space-available basis is noon every Tuesday for that week's publication date. Paid classified advertising is accepted by the publisher at 329-5236. The number to call for display advertising is 634-5905.

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.



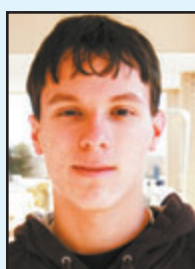
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## What is your New Year's resolution?

"Mine is to eat healthier food because I've been sick a lot lately."



Nathan Lara  
Family member  
Colorado Springs

"To lose about 30 pounds because my doctor told me I need to."



Retired Capt.  
Edward Melko  
Cheyenne, Wyo.

"To quit smoking but I'm finding out it's a little more difficult than I thought it would be."



Airman 1st Class  
Andre Brand  
10th Security Forces  
Squadron  
New York City

"To have a better attitude and better outlook on life. Life is too short to let it slip by."



Master Sgt.  
Dawn Kottke  
Preparatory School  
Colorado Springs



# Denver runway accident 'like a movie' for cadet

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

For three carefree days into their holiday break, Cadet 3rd Class Ryan Darrohn, his brother Andrew, a student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Cadet 3rd Class Scott Ellis, snowboarded the slopes at the Keystone Resort and Arapahoe Basin.

"It was great," Cadet Darrohn said. "We mostly had the mountain to ourselves."

The trip home to Houston Dec. 20 for the brothers was anything but carefree.

They were aboard Continental Airlines flight 1404 when the Boeing 737 veered off the runway at Denver International Airport, rolled over a frozen field and skidded on its belly into a ravine.

Cadet Darrohn said during the attempted take off he and other passengers heard hard bumping sounds.

"We knew something was wrong," he said. "People were yelling."

When the plane came to a stop, the brothers quickly stepped through the over wing emergency exit and onto the ground.

"I couldn't believe this had happened," Cadet Darrohn said. "It was like a movie."

All he could think about was getting out of the plane.

"I was just grateful to be alive. We were just trying to stay together," the member of Cadet Squadron 12 said.



Courtesy photo  
**Cadet 3rd Class Ryan Darrohn and brother, Andrew, explore the Hill during Parents Weekend last fall. The brothers were two of the 110 passengers aboard a Continental Airlines flight that skidded off the runway Dec. 5 at Denver International Airport.**

All 110 passengers and 5 crew members walked away and took temporary shelter at a nearby fire station before being bused to the terminal.

For Cadet Ellis, CS-32, and his father, retired Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Dave Ellis, who lives outside Monument, that day brought two round trips to DIA,

the first to drop off the brothers at the airport and another to pick them up after the crash.

"It was a bit surreal," Mr. Ellis said.

All three young men spent the night at the Ellis home playing video games and watching movies. The next morning they made yet another trek to DIA. This time, the Darrohn brothers flew safely back home to Houston and their parents, Roger and Ulrike Darrohn.

"They weathered it well. We were very thankful it turned out well for Ryan and Andrew and all the passengers," Mr. Ellis said. "Bad things happen but this turned out well."

The brothers' father, Roger Darrohn, also expressed his gratitude for their safe return.

"Thank God they came through the crash OK. We feel very fortunate and blessed," he said.

For Cadet Darrohn, staying calm in a crisis is part of his nature, gained first while playing high school football and basketball and now as a cadet.

"The Academy teaches us to be calm in every situation," the management major said. "I'm actually a calm person in general."

With the accident behind them and in-processing for the spring semester complete this week, Cadets Darrohn and Ellis were back on the mountains Tuesday for a day of skiing.

The National Transportation Safety Board is continuing to investigate the cause of the accident.

# VA launches partnership to benefit veterans

(AFNS) — Department of Veterans Affairs officials have launched a new partnership to help non-government organizations, or NGOs, plan, improve and carry out their own programs on behalf of veterans, their families and their survivors.

"VA has a track record of success in working with non-profit groups and businesses that have their own programs for veterans, but we can do more," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "By tapping into the power and resources of NGOs, we can ensure more veterans, families and survivors receive not

only VA services, but also other assistance in their own communities."

Under the new NGO Gateway Initiative, launched Jan. 7 with the Veterans Coalition Inc., a non-profit organization formed more than two years ago by several major national veterans groups, the Veterans Coalition is available to assist NGOs in identifying the unmet needs of veterans, families and survivors.

The coalition works with the VA to help minimize duplication of effort and confusion among NGOs with programs for veterans.

In addition, the program will encourage continuous feedback from NGOs on issues such as physical and mental health, employment and satisfaction with government services and benefits affecting veterans.

"The Veterans Coalition is dedicated to marshalling energy and resources from all communities to better serve service members, veterans and their families," said Harry Walters, chairman of the Veterans Coalition and former administrator of the Veterans Administration. "Together we can do a better job than any of us can do alone."

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# 2009 BAH Rates

The Department of Defense recently released the 2009 Basic Allowance for Housing rates.

Military members will receive an average housing allowance increase of 6.9 percent when the new rates took effect, New Years Day.

For members with dependents, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$95 per month. A typical junior enlisted member with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$68 per month higher than last year, while a senior non-commissioned officer with dependents will receive about \$93 more than last year.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent; average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer) and average renter's insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. The BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents. An estimated \$17.4 billion will be paid to nearly 950,000 service members in 2009.

An integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will never see his/her BAH rate decrease. This assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

In addition, the military services were recently authorized to pay for local moves for military members forced out of a rented home due to their landlord's foreclosure. For more information, service members and their families should contact their installation housing office, or contact Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647, or <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

For more information on BAH, visit <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>

# Pay

From Page 1

performance-based salary increases through the NSPS "pay pool" process.

Additionally, all civilian employees rate a locality pay, which is based on the cost-of-living in their employment market. Locality pay rates

for 2009 range from about 13.86 percent to 34.35 percent of an employee's base pay.

Officials from the Defense Department and Office of Personnel Management said the raises won't be reflected on individual's paychecks until the end of January, after the first full pay period of 2009.

## BASIC PAY—EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009

| Pay Grade | 2 or less | Over 2   | Over 3   | Over 4   | Over 6   | Over 8    | Over 10   | Over 12   | Over 14   | Over 16   | Over 18   | Over 20   | Over 22   | Over 24   | Over 26   | Over 28   | Over 30   | Over 32   | Over 34   | Over 36   | Over 38   |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| O-10*     |           |          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           |           | 14,688.00 | 14,760.30 | 15,067.20 | 15,602.10 | 16,302.10 | 16,302.10 | 17,201.10 | 17,201.10 | 18,061.20 | 18,061.20 |
| O-9       |           |          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           |           | 12,846.90 | 13,032.00 | 13,299.30 | 13,765.80 | 14,454.60 | 14,454.60 | 15,177.30 | 15,177.30 | 15,830.00 | 15,830.00 |
| O-8       | 9,090.00  | 9,387.60 | 9,585.30 | 9,640.50 | 9,887.10 | 10,299.00 | 10,365.00 | 10,786.20 | 10,888.10 | 11,235.30 | 11,722.50 | 12,172.20 | 12,472.50 | 12,472.50 | 12,784.50 | 12,784.50 | 13,104.30 | 13,104.30 | 13,104.30 | 13,104.30 | 13,104.30 |
| O-7       | 7,553.10  | 7,904.10 | 8,066.40 | 8,195.40 | 8,429.10 | 8,660.10  | 8,926.80  | 9,192.90  | 9,460.20  | 10,299.00 | 11,007.30 | 11,007.30 | 11,007.30 | 11,007.30 | 11,063.10 | 11,063.10 | 11,284.50 | 11,284.50 | 11,284.50 | 11,284.50 | 11,284.50 |
| O-6       | 5,598.30  | 6,150.30 | 6,553.80 | 6,553.80 | 6,578.70 | 6,860.70  | 6,897.90  | 6,897.90  | 7,290.00  | 7,993.30  | 8,390.10  | 8,796.60  | 9,027.90  | 9,262.20  | 9,716.70  | 9,716.70  | 9,910.80  | 9,910.80  | 9,910.80  | 9,910.80  | 9,910.80  |
| O-5       | 4,666.80  | 5,257.20 | 5,621.40 | 5,689.80 | 5,916.60 | 6,052.80  | 6,351.60  | 6,570.60  | 6,853.80  | 7,287.30  | 7,493.40  | 7,697.40  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  | 7,928.70  |
| O-4       | 4,026.90  | 4,661.40 | 4,972.20 | 5,041.80 | 5,330.40 | 5,640.00  | 6,025.20  | 6,325.50  | 6,534.30  | 6,654.00  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  | 6,723.30  |
| O-3       | 3,540.30  | 4,013.40 | 4,332.00 | 4,722.90 | 4,948.80 | 5,197.20  | 5,358.00  | 5,622.30  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  | 5,759.70  |
| O-2       | 3,058.80  | 3,483.90 | 4,012.50 | 4,148.10 | 4,233.30 | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  |
| O-1       | 2,655.30  | 2,763.60 | 3,340.50 | 3,340.50 | 3,340.50 | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  |
| O-3*      |           |          |          |          | 4,722.90 | 4,948.80  | 5,197.20  | 5,358.00  | 5,622.30  | 5,844.90  | 5,972.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  | 6,146.70  |
| O-2*      |           |          |          |          | 4,148.10 | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  | 4,233.30  |
| O-1*      |           |          |          |          | 3,340.50 | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  | 3,340.50  |
| W-5       |           |          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| W-4       | 3,658.50  | 3,935.70 | 4,048.80 | 4,159.80 | 4,351.20 | 4,540.50  | 4,732.20  | 5,021.10  | 5,274.00  | 5,514.60  | 5,711.40  | 5,903.40  | 6,185.70  | 6,417.30  | 6,681.90  | 6,881.90  | 6,815.40  | 6,815.40  | 6,815.40  | 6,815.40  | 6,815.40  |
| W-3       | 3,340.80  | 3,480.30 | 3,622.80 | 3,669.90 | 3,819.60 | 4,114.20  | 4,420.80  | 4,595.10  | 4,731.90  | 4,904.10  | 5,213.10  | 5,422.20  | 5,547.30  | 5,680.20  | 5,860.80  | 5,860.80  | 5,860.80  | 5,860.80  | 5,860.80  | 5,860.80  | 5,860.80  |
| W-2       | 2,956.50  | 3,236.10 | 3,322.20 | 3,381.60 | 3,573.30 | 3,871.20  | 4,018.80  | 4,164.30  | 4,341.90  | 4,480.80  | 4,606.80  | 4,757.10  | 4,856.40  | 4,935.00  | 4,935.00  | 4,935.00  | 4,935.00  | 4,935.00  | 4,935.00  | 4,935.00  | 4,935.00  |
| W-1       | 2,595.30  | 2,874.00 | 2,949.60 | 3,108.30 | 3,296.10 | 3,572.70  | 3,701.70  | 3,882.30  | 4,059.90  | 4,199.40  | 4,328.10  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  | 4,484.40  |
| E-9*      |           |          |          |          |          |           |           | 4,420.50  | 4,520.70  | 4,646.70  | 4,795.50  | 4,944.90  | 5,185.20  | 5,388.00  | 5,601.90  | 5,928.30  | 6,224.70  | 6,224.70  | 6,536.10  | 6,536.10  | 6,863.10  |
| E-8       |           |          |          |          |          |           |           | 3,618.60  | 3,778.80  | 3,877.80  | 3,996.60  | 4,125.00  | 4,357.20  | 4,474.80  | 4,674.90  | 4,785.90  | 5,059.50  | 5,160.90  | 5,160.90  | 5,160.90  | 5,160.90  |
| E-7       | 2,515.50  | 2,745.60 | 2,850.60 | 2,990.10 | 3,098.70 | 3,285.30  | 3,390.30  | 3,577.50  | 3,732.60  | 3,838.50  | 3,951.30  | 3,995.40  | 4,142.10  | 4,221.00  | 4,521.00  | 4,521.00  | 4,521.00  | 4,521.00  | 4,521.00  | 4,521.00  | 4,521.00  |
| E-6       | 2,175.60  | 2,394.00 | 2,499.60 | 2,602.20 | 2,709.30 | 2,950.90  | 3,044.70  | 3,226.20  | 3,282.00  | 3,322.50  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  | 3,369.90  |
| E-5       | 1,993.50  | 2,127.00 | 2,229.60 | 2,334.90 | 2,499.00 | 2,670.90  | 2,811.00  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  | 2,828.40  |
| E-4       | 1,827.60  | 1,920.90 | 2,025.00 | 2,127.60 | 2,218.50 | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  | 2,218.50  |
| E-3       | 1,649.70  | 1,753.50 | 1,859.70 | 1,859.70 | 1,859.70 | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  | 1,859.70  |
| E-2       | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70 | 1,568.70 | 1,568.70 | 1,568.70 | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  | 1,568.70  |
| E-1*      | 1,399.50  |          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |

- Notes:
- Basic pay for an O-7 to O-10 is limited by Level II of the Executive Schedule which is \$14,750.10. Basic pay for O-6 and below is limited by Level V of the Executive Schedule which is \$11,958.30.
  - While serving as Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff/Vice Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff, Chief of Navy Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Army/Air Force Chief of Staff, Commander of a unified or specified combatant command, basic pay is \$19,326.60. (See note 1 above).
  - Applicable to O-1 to O-3 with at least 4 years and 1 day of active duty or more than 1460 points as a warrant and/or enlisted member. See Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations for more detailed explanation on who is eligible for this special basic pay rate.
  - For the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Chief Master Sergeant of the AF, Sergeant Major of the Army or Marine Corps or Senior Enlisted Advisor of the JCS, basic pay is \$7,143.30. Combat Zone Tax Exclusion for O-1 and above is based on this basic pay rate plus Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay which is \$225.00.
  - Applicable to E-1 with 4 months or more of active duty. Basic pay for an E-1 with less than 4 months of active duty is \$1,294.50.
  - Basic pay rate for Academy Cadets/Midshipmen and ROTC members/applicants is \$929.40.

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# Accident kills assistant men's gymnastics coach

By Academy Athletic Communications

The Air Force family suffered a loss Dec. 27 when the 29-year-old assistant men's gymnastics coach was killed in an automobile accident in San Antonio.

Capt. Levi Torkelson was in his second season as an assistant coach for the men's program. He returned to the Academy midway through the 2008 season, after completing a six-month deployment to Iraq. In addition to his coaching duties, Torkelson worked in the athletic department's scheduling and grading division.

A four-year letterwinner on the Falcons' gymnastics



Capt. Levi Torkelson

tics team, Torkelson graduated from the Academy in 2001. A decorated gymnast, he was a two-time champion on the parallel bars at the USA Gymnastics Collegiate Championships. A nine-time USAG All-American, he is the Academy record-holder on the parallel bars, with a score of 9.550.

Torkelson remained at the Academy after graduation, serving as an assistant coach for the men's team during the 2001-2002 season.

Following his time at the Academy, the captain spent four years stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. While there, he served as the deputy flight commander for both the communications control center and mission systems flight. He also served as the officer in charge for all geographically separated units controlled by the 435th Communication Group.

During his time at Ramstein AB, Torkelson deployed twice. He spent four months as an execu-

tive officer in Jacobabad, Pakistan, and a year as the officer in charge for Screening and Property Exploitation Cells under the Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Center in Forward Operating Base Abu Ghraib and Victory Base Comply in Iraq.

Torkelson was awarded the Bronze Star and the USAFE Arthur S. Flemming Award. He has also won two company grade officer of the year awards from the 435th Communications Squadron and the 86th Communications Squadron.

"He has done a fantastic job not only coaching the gymnastics team but as a physical education teacher," said Col. Billy Walker, the Academy's deputy athletic director, who oversees the Olympic sports and physical education department. "He taught a lot of aquatic training. He was very well respected by the cadets, a great role model and mentor not only to the cadets he taught in his PE classes, but especially the cadet-athletes he coached on the gymnastics team."

# Cadets to march in Inaugural Parade

From staff reports

Cadet 1st Class Ian Black will salute newly sworn-in President Barack Obama in the nation's Capitol Jan. 20.

Cadet Black is this semester's cadet commander for Cadet Squadron 4, and will lead 92 of his squadron's fellow cadets in the 56th Inaugural Parade.

"The U.S. military has participated in this important American tradition since members of the U.S. Army, local militia units and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to his first inauguration ceremony," said Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe, Jr., Military District of Washington Commander,

and Armed Forces Inauguration Committee chairman.

During the 10-day inaugural period leading up to Jan. 20, more than 5,000 service personnel will provide ceremonial support to the 56th Presidential Inaugural. This support is traditionally comprised of musical units, marching bands, color guards, salute batteries and honor cordons to render appropriate ceremonial honors to the new Commander in Chief.

The Air Force Academy has been part of every Inaugural Parade since the 43rd Presidential Inauguration, of President Eisenhower in 1957.

Cadet Squadron 4 will march the 1.7 mile route from Capitol Hill to the White House, to pass the president, members of the cabinet, Congress and

other dignitaries on the reviewing stand. When passing the reviewing stand, it is traditional for the unit commander to render a salute to the reviewing officials for his or her entire unit.

Cadet Squadron 4 represents the Air Force and the Air Force Academy, by virtue of being the outstanding cadet squadron for 2008. Cadet squadrons compete for this honor throughout the academic year, via a performance-based system which evaluates academic and military performance.

The 56th Inaugural Parade's exact start time has not been announced. However, the parade will immediately follow the swearing-in and inaugural address of the new president, which begins at noon, EST.



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# Bone marrow donor gives recipient new hope

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By Academy Spirit staff

Cadet 2nd Class Bill Percoski giving the gift of life to a 33 year-old woman suffering from leukemia may have been his greatest 2008 achievement.

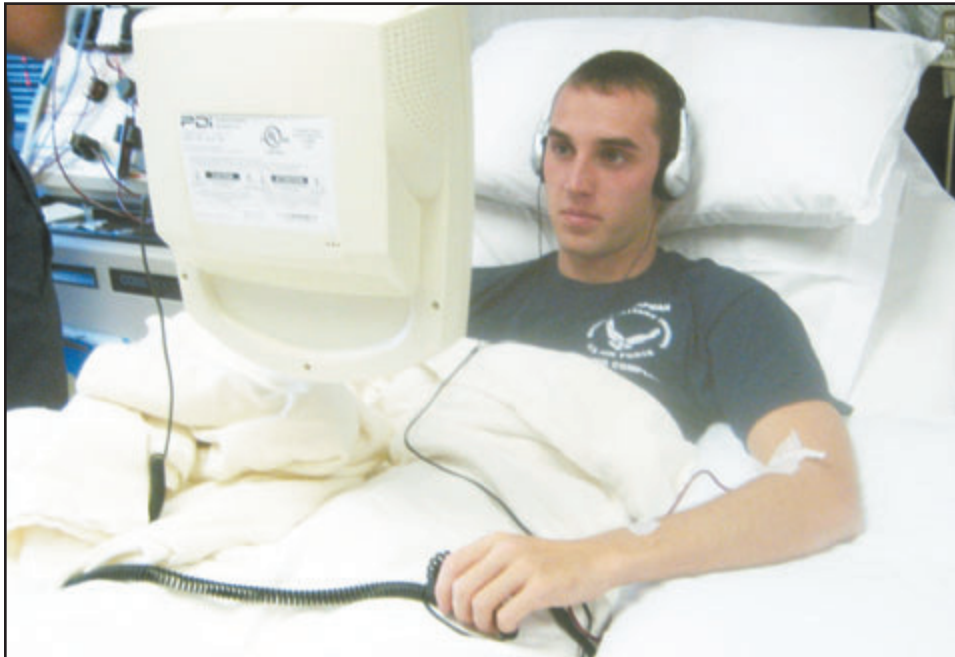
The Cadet Squadron 40 member with a space operations major and Chinese minor had the opportunity to save a life and spend much of October in Washington D.C., receiving shots and having stem cells extracted.

"I wanted to help," said the cadet from Belleville, Wisc. "I was given the opportunity to save a life. My body has treated me well over the years and having the chance to use it for someone else other than myself gave me great satisfaction."

When describing the pain associated with being a bone-marrow donor, Cadet Percoski said there are two prongs.

"The first side of it was the shots," he said. "I received two subcutaneous shots every day for five days of a hormone. This hormone forced my bone marrow to over produce cells and because of the over production, those cells were forced out into the blood stream."

This gave an interesting bone pain.



Cadet 2nd Class Bill Percoski, Cadet Squadron 40, while in Washington D.C., received shots and had stem cells extracted to help a leukemia patient have a second chance at life

"Throughout the week I had sore joints, a skull ache, sore hips, and pain shooting up and down my tailbone once in a while," said the aspiring A-10 pilot. "The pain was mostly a nuisance and was not debilitating. The pain from the shots continued for a few days after my last set."

The second prong was the extraction. "Because the cells were forced into the blood stream, they became slightly more mature," Cadet Percoski said. "They call these cells Peripheral Blood Stem

Cells. To extract these, they hooked me up to a machine then spun my blood and separated the cells and some plasma from my regular blood cells. This wasn't painful at all. I just had to keep the arm straight for about five hours while I watched movies."

When he originally signed up, he never thought he would be matched up.

"The odds are pretty tremendous," he said. "I just wanted to help someone out. I like helping people when I get a chance and this was kind of the ultimate

way of helping a person. When I was notified, I definitely wanted to help out."

What he sought was the satisfaction of being able to help someone.

"And that's exactly what I got," he said. "There was a specific person I matched to. The matching criteria is most concentrated on six specific proteins in your blood, not the blood type."

Because the six proteins are keys for success, it was really hard to find a solid match.

"That's why the odds are low that you'll be picked up for a donation. My recipient is a 33 year-old woman with leukemia. That's all I really know."

Cadet Percoski and the marrow recipient will be able to anonymously communicate and once a year is up, both parties may exchange information.

"If both parties agree, then we can actually get to know each other," the cadet said. "The best part of my experience was being able to save someone and I was able to tour Washington D.C. nearly the entire week. All costs were covered so there was no worrying about money issues for the trip."

"Once signed up for the program, you are never obligated to donate. At any time in the process if you get chosen as the best candidate, you can still withdraw. It also does not medically disqualify you from anything," he said.



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# Intercultural Competence and Involvement

## A Responsibility Outcome



By Col. Dan Uribe  
Intercultural Competence and Involvement Team Lead

The nature of today's conflicts clearly show the young men and women we are preparing at the Air Force Academy as future leaders of character for the Air Force and the nation will face increasingly complex challenges.

They will have to work together with coalition partners and allies and may also have to interact with members of local populations around the world. These future officers will need to have the Intercultural Competence necessary to navigate complex multi-cultural environments in order to successfully accomplish the mission.

Intercultural Competence can be described as a process of development from a mono-cultural or inward-looking perspective to a multi-cultural or outward-looking perspective

Intercultural Competence is characterized by understanding and being accepting of other cultures, without sacrificing or compromising one's own culture and values.

All Air Force Academy cadets begin their formal journey toward Intercultural Competence in a foreign language and history classroom during their fourth-class year. Understanding that not everyone is the same and that they don't necessarily see the world the way others do is the first step in this process.

In the initial foreign language courses cadets learn, not only the mechanics of a foreign language, but they are also exposed, for the first time

*“To be effective in stability, security, transition, and reconstruction operations, as well as other counterinsurgency measures and to prevail in the long war, we must be able to understand different cultures and communicate effectively in order to gain the support of the local people.”*

— Gail McGinn, deputy under secretary of defense for plans, before the Senate Armed Services Committee in April 2007

in many cases, to a foreign culture, where people may have practices, perspectives and worldviews much different than their own.

During this first year, all cadets also take History 101, which addresses a wide range of ethnic issues, such as culture, religion, and race, and also includes a survey of the origins of the world's civilizations, with emphasis on world religions and philosophies.

The Intercultural Competence journey continues in the third-class year in courses such as English 211 and Political Science 211.

In the English course, cadets focus on understanding different perspectives on major issues and engage in cultural awareness, diversity and sensitivity to the value systems of others. In Political Science 211, "American Government, Politics and National Security," cadets strengthen their knowledge of their own culture and way of life, which is a key element in the development of Intercultural Competence.

In their second-class year, all cadets take an ethics course (Philosophy 310), which highlights an officer's responsibilities to reason and act ethically and know civic, cultural and international contexts in which the U.S. military operates. In the first-class year, all cadets starting with the Class of 2012, will take Social Sciences 412, "Geopolitics," where they will describe, interpret and evaluate global political relations and formulate strategies for interacting in Western and non-Western cultures.

In addition to the classroom experience, approximately 800 cadets per year participate in language/cultural immersion programs or in summer operational experiences in a foreign country. These opportunities provide a significant boost to their Intercultural Competence.

Cadet 1st Class Leah Pound wrote after a language immersion trip to Morocco: "I loved our night in the mountain because I got to be witness to a culture extremely different from my

own. It's so easy to get caught up in the American way of life, focused on wealth and materials, we sometimes forget to appreciate the small things."

Intercultural Competence is intentionally developed during a cadet's academic experience, but we do not currently know to what extent this is achieved. Dr. Terry Haverluk, from the Department of Economics and Geosciences, in collaboration with the Air Force Culture and Language Center at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., is leading an effort to gain insights into the current level of Intercultural Competence of our cadets using the Intercultural Development Instrument.

According to Dr. Haverluk, "We expect this assessment will help us understand the level of cultural awareness among cadets in order to improve our programs and better prepare them to operate in international environments."

Intercultural Competence is a critical learning outcome for the officer of the 21st century. To be effective leaders, Academy graduates must have a strong intercultural competence foundation that is further developed as they progress in their Air Force careers.

"Knowing the [Iraqi] culture has helped me build a stronger rapport with the younger Iraqi airmen," said Capt. Curtis Baack, Academy Department of History, currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I can respect their culture and not offend the host nation. The deeper the understanding you have of other cultures [will] help accomplish the mission."



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# Drum and Bugle Corps returns trophy to Academy

By Tech. Sgt. Brian McCoy  
Cadet Wing training

It was early August 2008 and the "Flight of Sound" was at the beginning of another long season.

The cadets were dressed in physical training uniforms and their class colored caps protected them from the rays of the hot sun.

Drum Major Cadet 1st Class Zachary Basnight barked out commands as upperclassmen taught the Class of 2012 the corps method of marching. Just out of Basic Cadet Training, the cadets fourth class had a new way to perform facing movements and new marching techniques.

After all, it is impossible to have arm swing with a bugle in your hand or a drum strapped to your body.

Parents Weekend fast approached and the corps' first performance of the season arrived. As the cadets marched out of the tunnel for the first time, 23,000 fans cheered and the adrenaline rush experienced by those in front of large crowds was strong.

The Academy Drum and Bugle Corps season had just started.

There would be many more opportunities to show their pride at home games and as the corps travelled to away football games.

The date that stands out each season is the annual Inter-Service Drum and Bugle Competition and, Oct. 4, 2008, was the magical date. The "Flight of Sound" took first place against the U.S. Naval Academy Drum and Bugle Corps. Navy had a run of wins over the last three years but Air Force led in overall competitions placing first in 21 of the 31 competitions.

The Academy's repertoire included Olympic Spirit and Malaga. The corps marched off the field with the



Courtesy Photo

The Academy's Drum & Bugle Corps, the University of Houston and the Marine Corps Reserve Command bands performed at the Armed Force Bowl Dec. 31, 2008.

traditional Air Force Song. The Academy Drum and Bugle corps repertoire included Mars and the 1812 Overture. Members concluded their show with a pass of the audience to the tune of Anchors Away.

With performances earlier in the day at the Navy vs. Air Force football game, instructors knew the competition was going to be close. It came down to a single point separating the two corps.

The Air Force members' average day consists of a full academic schedule, military training, physical conditioning, noon meal parade, and two hours of practice. Upper-classmen also can have leadership positions in their squadrons, groups and throughout the wing.

After the contest Bill Smith said "the corps was one

of the hardest working" he has had over his tenure as director.

With only six graduating seniors, the corps hopes to continue to keep the trophy at the Academy.

As the leaves fell and the hot summer days turned to cold winter nights, the D&B Corps transformed into its pep band "The Mob."

The Mob performs at Clune Arena for men's basketball games. The mission now is to energize Section 8 and the rest of the fans snuggled into the warm arena.

Whether walking across the Terrazzo, watching a parade, enjoying a Saturday football game, or an evening with rowdy basketball fans, visitors are likely to see and hear the hard working cadets of the drum and bugle corps.

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# DoD inaugural committee shifts into high gear

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Exactly three weeks before inauguration day, the buzz of activity at the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee here was a notable exception to the traditional holiday lull that settled over the nation's capital between Christmas

and New Year's Day.

More than 400 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen — active duty, Reservists and National Guardsmen — are busy preparing for President-Elect Barack Obama's inauguration Jan. 20. Another 300 will report for duty bringing AFIC to full strength with about 700 servicemembers.

"We're spinning up for the full dress rehearsal

[Sunday]," said Navy Lt. Mike Billips, a Reservist from Atlanta serving as an AFIC spokesman. The rehearsal will kick off in the dark at about 3 a.m., when participants go through two full iterations of the swearing-in ceremony at the capitol, then parade down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House.

"The curtain goes up on Jan. 20, and everything has to be locked down perfect before then," Lieutenant Billips said. "So it's a lot of rehearsal, a lot of coordination and a lot of training for the people who are coming in."

The incoming servicemembers will get intensive training for the ceremonial support they'll provide at the inauguration ceremony and 10 official inaugural balls, Lieutenant Billips said. Some will be in the midst of the fanfare, serving as honor guards, drivers, ushers or escorts for distinguished visitors, or participating in marching bands, musical units, or salute batteries. Others will work behind the scenes, helping to ensure the events go off seamlessly.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Finney, a telecommunications technician from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, assigned to AFIC's information technology directorate, called being a part of the inauguration a rare opportunity.

"I am excited to be a part of our nation's history," he said.

"I am honored to be a part of a committee of this caliber," Army Spc. Kevyn Coleman said. "This is definitely an assignment to talk about years from now. In my personal opinion, I don't think that I have ever had a better assignment."

The 2009 inauguration will be the 56th in which the military has played a role in welcoming the incoming commander in chief. During the first, in April 1789, U.S. Army, local militia units and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to his inaugural ceremony at New York City's Federal Hall.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel J. Calderon

Members of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee participate in a large-scale map exercise Dec. 18 in Washington, D.C. AFIC carries on a tradition, which dates back more than 200 years, of honoring the new commander in chief and recognizing civilian control of the military. AFIC is a joint-service organization responsible for providing military ceremonial support to the 56th Inauguration Day, which will take place Jan. 20.

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## Academy seeks comments in accreditation process

The U.S. Air Force Academy is seeking comments from the public in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The Academy will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit April 27-29 by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Air Force Academy has been accredited at the Bachelor's degree level by the Commission since 1959. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the Air Force Academy to:

**Public Comment on the United States Air Force Academy**  
**The Higher Learning Commission**  
**30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400**  
**Chicago, IL 60602**

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments can't be treated as confidential. All comments must be received by March 27.

## AFCEA Defending America/SPACECOMM

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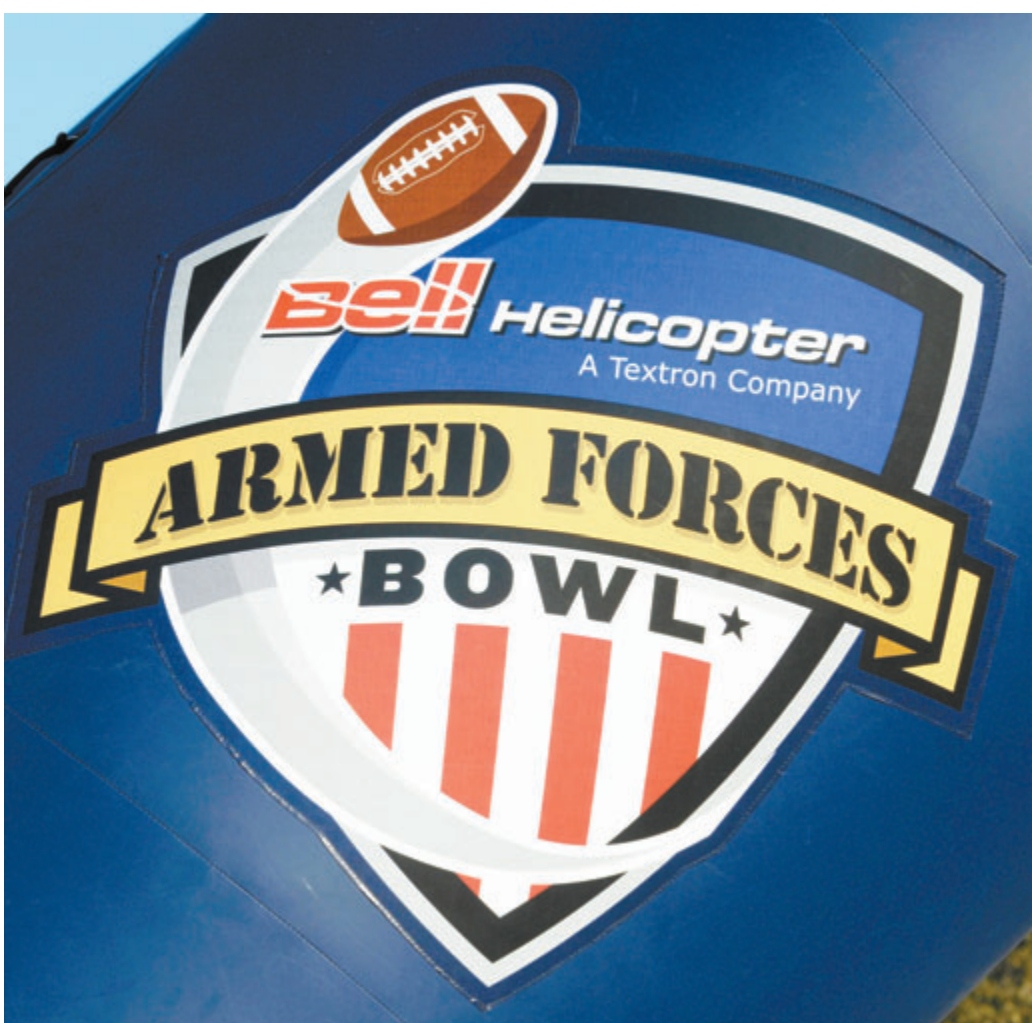
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[WWW.AFCEASPACECOMM.COM](http://WWW.AFCEASPACECOMM.COM)





Photos by Dave Armer



Coach Troy Calhoun and The Bird fire up the crowd at the pep rally.



Right: The Adventure Zone featured nearly 60 displays of military hardware and equipment including gliders from the Academy.



Above: Wings of Blue jumps into the stadium at half-time during the performance by the Academy Drum and Bugle Corps, Houston Marching Band, and the Marine Band.



Left: Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Lt. Gen. John Regni, Academy superintendent, officiate a swearing-in ceremony during half time at the Armed Forces Bowl.



**Bowl**

From Page 1

Houston out of the end zone, and the Cougars had to settle for a field goal.

Those two fumbles yielded Houston 10 points. Both teams spent the game exchanging scores. The two first-quarter fumbles and a rare missed field goal kept Houston in the lead until game's end.

"Going into this game, I thought we'd have to play very crisp and faster than we had all season long," said Coach Calhoun. "We didn't do that today. "You just have to take advantage of every single opportunity and we didn't do that."

The Falcons did set an Armed Forces Bowl record for yards rushed, grinding out 243 yards on 67 carries, lead by Tew. The sophomore fullback carried 27 times for 149 yards and two touchdowns and was named the game's most valuable player for his efforts.

"A win would've been better," said Tew. "After the first half, the linebackers were looking at me and reading what I was doing. We'll need to expand the offense more to do better next season."

Next season is where the focus now turns for the Falcons. For a team picked to end near the bottom of the conference during what was supposed to be a rebuilding year, and 8-4 regular-season finish and a bowl appearance, the future is promising, said Coach Calhoun.

"Losing hurts, I don't care who you play," he said. "But these are experiences our players can learn from. You can grow immensely as a player from being in a bowl game like this. If you looked back to spring ball and through the summer, this team has made tremendous strides, just because of its dedication."



Army Gen. David Petraeus, U.S. Central Command commander, helps with the coin toss.



Falcon quarterback Tim Jefferson runs in for a two point conversion late in the game.



Falcon defenders stop a Cougar runner for a short gain.



Falcon linebacker Justin Moore breaks up a pass.



Falcon's fullback Jared Tew and Houston's running back Bryce Beall were voted Most Valuable players of the game.

# Beck's three sinks Navy in thriller

By Nick Arseniak

Academy Athletic Communications

Raimee Beck's three-point basket with 23 seconds left in the game rallied Air Force to a thrilling 65-62 win over Navy in women's basketball action Saturday afternoon at Clune Arena.

The Falcons rallied back from a 13-point deficit to improve to 4-9. The Midshipmen dropped to 6-8.

Trailing 53-40 with 10:13 left to play

in regulation, Air Force came back by outscoring Navy 25-9 over the remainder of the game. Beck and Kim Kreke led Air Force with 18 points apiece and Brooke Cultra added 12 points.

Navy was led by Cassie Consedine, who notched a double-double with a team-high 16 points and 12 rebounds. Angela Myers also recorded a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

It was a wild finish for the Falcons and Midshipmen, who battled back and forth

in the final three minutes of play. Air Force took its first lead of the second half, 59-58, at the 2:26 mark when Beck hit a three. Navy re-gained the lead with a pair of free throws by Myers.

After a free throw by Kathleen Schjodt tied the game at 60, Cultra gave the Falcons the lead again on a runner from the right sideline to make it a 62-60 game. Navy answered as Consedine put in a bucket off a pass from Whitney Davidson to retie the game at 62 with 56 seconds to go.

Seconds later, Air Force took the lead for good as Cultra swung the ball across the court to Beck who fired for the go-ahead basket. Navy had a chance to tie the game, but Davidson's three-point attempt was off and the Falcons picked up the win.

Beck went 6-for-15 from the field and 4-of-7 from three-point range. Kreke notched her fifth double-double of the season with 10 rebounds to go with her 18 points. Cultra added six rebounds and four assists. Anna Gault also played well for the Falcons, with a team-high six assists.

In the first half Air Force jumped out to an early 8-0 lead, but Navy closed out the half on a 22-5 run to lead 37-30 at the



Raimee Beck makes a strong move to the hoop against the Navy defense.

intermission. Air Force shot well from the field in the first half, making 54.1 percent from the field, but found themselves trailing.

The Falcons ratcheted up their defense in the second half, forcing eight turnovers, while committing just three. Air Force had a season-low nine turnovers on the night.



Photos by Rachel Boettcher

Brooke Cultra patiently sets up a play.

## Cyclists club rolls toward national honors

By Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Hughes

Cadet Wing Training and Support superintendent

The Air Force Academy's cycling club was recently named USA Cycling Collegiate Club of the Year. The Academy hosted the Front Range Cycling Classic Road Race and Time Trial in April 2008, and co-sponsored the USA Cycling Collegiate Track National Championships in September, 2008.

The club hosted a week-long training camp, four weekend-long, discipline-specific training camps and 16 different cycling seminars throughout the 2008 cycling season.

A series of membership drives, training events, banquets and tours also highlighted the club's season.

The group's mission is to develop exceptional young men and women into leaders of character through competitive cycling and to take a lead role in developing cycling conscious policies across the U.S. Air Force.

It also accomplished several team goals, including securing a fully functioning on-campus bicycle shop and developing a comprehensive club handbook and a nutritional analysis program.

The team, comprised strictly of undergraduates, also started a "Borrow a Bike" program which offers free use of team bicycles, maintains a mentorship program which matches upperclassmen with newcomers, promotes cycling

for fitness and offers weekly clinics. From a competitive standpoint, the Academy club competed in more than 70 USA Cycling sanctioned races, racking up 32 wins and

206 top-10 placings, including a fifth-place finish in the men's team time trial at the USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships.



Photo by Col. Zane Mitchell

**Back Row:** Daniel Henning, Adam Kruse, Joseph Matejcik, Anthony Peluso, Kaz Teope, Christina England, Chris Cassidy, Jeanna McGovern and Megan Cummings. **Middle Row:** Neil Grigsby, James Nicholas, Trevor Johnson, Paul Wilson, Ryan Lowenstein, Justin Goodin, Matt Cork, JD Ferut, William Gates, Preston Moon (CIC), Don Feeley, Leanna Hoffmann, Marissa Strauss, Ashley Olson, Christopher Reith, Cody Seibt, Alan Fischer, Jesse Galt and Maj. James Weinstein (OIC). **Kneeling:** Jared Becker and Kevin Gross.

### Racquetball

The Academy Fitness and Sports Center hosts its DOD singles racquetball championship Jan. 24 and 25 and the doubles event Feb. 21. The tournament is open to all DoD members 18 and older. In the men's division, the category of play will be "A/B" and "C/D" and for the women all cate-

gories of skill level will compete. Entry fee is \$15 for each participant and \$30 per team. All participants will receive a T-shirt plus snacks and refreshments. The top three players in each category will receive Services crazy checks usable in most facilities. There must be at least four participants in each division to constitute a tournament. Deadline to sign up

for singles competition is Jan. 21 and Feb. 18 for doubles. Call 333-4078 for more information.

### Pole vault

The Air Force pole vault team wrapped up competition Saturday at the National Pole Vault Summit in Reno, Nev. Kimber Shealy and Tawny Lambuth made an immediate

impact on the women's record book in their collegiate debut, while Brandin Bear was the top finisher for the men's team. Shealy vaulted to a height of 11'7¾" to post the fifth-highest mark in Academy history. She picked up a fourth-place finish in the second section of competitors. Lambuth won the meet's third section, with a clearance of 11'5¾". That is tied

for the seventh-best mark in team history.

### Men's basketball

D.J. Gay scored 15 points to lead San Diego State past Air Force, 61-44, Saturday night at Clune Arena in the Mountain West Conference opener for both schools. San Diego State improved to 11-3 overall and 1-0 in the

# Grad earns 2008 Female Athlete of the Year

By Airman 1st Class Robby Hedrick  
75th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — Every year the Air Force recognizes the top male and female Airmen athletes in the Air Force and the top female athlete of 2008 is from Hill Air Force Base.

Dana Pounds from the 538th Aircraft Sustainment Group, won the award for a myriad of reasons. The member of the Class of 2006 had volunteered at the Academy track and field program as a javelin throw coach.

She was recruited by the Academy as a basketball player in 2002, and had mentioned to the track and field coach she had thrown shot put and discus in high school. He quickly steered her toward throwing the javelin.

The athlete of the year transitioned almost effortlessly and soon became a back-to-back NCAA champion, Pan-am competitor, and almost qualified for an Olympic berth, allowing her to be accepted into the World Class Athlete Program at the Academy.

As a member of the WCAP, she is a national and international ambassador for the Air Force.

“The Air Force provided me with an opportunity with the WCAP that allowed me to focus on my training and it was an opportunity that can’t be matched,” she said. “It was an awesome journey physically, spiritually and emotionally.”

Through the program Pounds competed both nationally and internationally allowing her to make friends all over the world.



Courtesy Photo

**Dana Pounds, 538th Aircraft Sustainment Group, prepares to throw the javelin at the 2005 Mountain West Conference Championship. She took first place.**

“I really developed a great appreciation for the WCAP as well as the national and international communities,” she said. “The ability to represent the Air Force worldwide and the relationships that come along with it was an awesome opportunity.”

Since WCAP was an Air Force program, the lieutenant didn’t have to worry about housing or money, which allowed her to fully pour herself into the program. It allowed her to train with all the intensity and passion that goes into making someone a world-class athlete.

“By not having to worry about anything allowed me to develop a strong work ethic with a chance to produce tangible results and give something back to the Air Force,” said Lieutenant Pounds.

While participating in the WCAP at the Academy, she worked with 12 cadet athletes on their individual skills and throwing techniques along with administering a 20-hours-a-week strength and conditioning program.

Of the 12 athletes she worked with, eight of them qualified to go to the

Mountain West Conference meet with seven of them placing.

Although she was taking the time to guide and mentor young individuals she hasn’t rested on her laurels and is currently ranked #2 in the United States and #34 in the world at throwing the javelin. She just fell short of representing the Air Force in the 2008 Olympics by a mere two inches and she is looking forward to competing in the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

The athlete contributes her success to her coach from the WCAP, Ty Reyes and coach Scott Irving.

She has visited various venues and schools to improve awareness of the Academy, boost morale, all the while supporting Airmen home and abroad.

She hopes to return to the Academy as coach to give back to the Air Force when her competition days are done.

Her experience as a competitor and leader in the Air Force has prepared her for the challenge of coaching and leading others to achieve their personal best in representing themselves and the Air Force.

Having gone through the challenges of being a military member, college student, as well as an athlete, gives her a different perspective on working with other athletes who have commitments other than training. She also uses her experiences to motivate and help the Airmen under her here at Hill AFB.

Becoming the Female Athlete of the Year has made a huge impact on her, she said.

“I consider being awarded the Female Athlete of 2008 an extreme honor that I will cherish forever,” Pounds said.

## AF hockey team comes back to beat UConn

By Dave Toller  
Academy Athletic Communications

Jacques Lamoureux scored with 3:03 remaining in the game to lift Air Force to a 4-3 win over UConn, Saturday in an Atlantic Hockey Association game at the Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn.

Air Force improved to 15-3-1 overall and 12-1-1 in the AHA. UConn fell to 4-13-1 overall an 3-6-1 in the league. Air Force took three of the four points in the series.

UConn scored two power-play goals early in the first period and built a 2-0 lead. Just seven seconds after a penalty on Greg Burgdoerfer, Husky defenseman Brian Reagan scored right off of the ensuing faceoff at the 8:24 mark. The Huskies took a 2-0 lead with a 5-on-3 power-play goal at the 13:06 mark. On the rush, Justin Hernandez scored from Jason Krispel and Andrew

Olson from the slot. The Falcons answered with a power-play goal of their own.

After Paul Weisgarber drew a tripping penalty, the Falcons got on the board with 59 seconds left in the period. Josh Frider fed Michael Mayra at the center point and the senior from Anchorage, Alaska, blasted his second of the season.

The Huskies took a 3-1 lead with a goal 90 seconds into the second period. Hernandez scored his second of the game on a centering pass from Andrew Olson. The Falcons used their special teams to get back into the game. They had more than 90 seconds of a 5-on-3 but were unable to score.

During the Falcon power play, goaltender Andrew Volkening made three short-handed saves on breakaways. Just as the final penalty was about to expire, the Falcons capitalized as Josh Frider scored from Brent

Olson at 7:06 with a power play goal on the rush. Three minutes later, Air Force tied the game when Brent Olson scored on a flurry in front of the goal at 10:41. Michael Mayra took a shot from the point and Olson put back the rebound to tie the game at 3-3.

With 3:03 left in the third period, Jacques Lamoureux scored the game-winner on the rush. Brent Olson made a pass up ice to Josh Frider but the puck slid ahead of the senior winger. Frider chased the puck behind the net and made a centering pass to Lamoureux who buried his 14th of the season. The Huskies pulled the goaltender in the final 49 seconds, but had just one shot on goal.

Air Force out-shot UConn, 29-23, in the game. The Falcons were 3-for-7 on the power play while the Huskies were 2-for-4. Volkening made 20 saves for the Falcons while Beau Erickson made 25 for the Huskies.

MWC, while Air Force fell to 9-5 and 0-1 in conference play. Gay hit a pair of three-pointers on consecutive possessions to key a 9-0 run midway through the second half to give San Diego State a 45-36 lead with 8:44 remaining. The Falcons had opened the second half on a 10-5 run to tie the score at 36.

### Wrestling

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas - Despite two wins from both Stephen Crozier and Tyler French, the Air Force wrestling team opened its dual slate Saturday with three losses at the Lone Star Duals. The Falcons fell to Appalachian State, 30-6, Brown, 26-6, and seventh-ranked

Minnesota, 41-3. In the first match of the day, the Falcons faced off against Appalachian State. Andrew Zwirlein opened with an 8-3 decision over Andrew Sifakis at 125 pounds to put Air Force up 3-0, but the Mountaineers won the next five bouts to take a 18-3 lead. French, wrestling at 174 pounds, gave the Falcons another win with a 9-8

decision against Antoine Jones, but Appalachian State closed out with three more wins to score the 30-6 victory.

### Player of the week

Jacques Lamoureux was named the Atlantic Hockey Association Player of the Week for his performance in four games last week. The award is his third

of the season and the seventh weekly honor earned by an Air Force player this season. The center had six points, including five goals, in four games. Lamoureux scored three power play goals and leads the nation with 11 points per game. He scored the game-winner against the University of Connecticut,

# Winter Lease Program offers test ride for horse lovers

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Horse lovers can take a test ride of full horse ownership through the Academy Equestrian Center's Winter Lease Program.

Begun Nov. 1, it runs through the end of March.

"It's a good way to have a feel for ownership and is a great way to enjoy a horse without the full responsibility," said Jeanne Springer, lease program manager.

Nine of the Academy's dude string, or rental horses, are still available for lease, including Skip, Billy, Curly Q, Sally, Cody, Nero, Cherokee, Blue and Jack. Equestrian Center staff will match riders with a horse appropriate to their skills.

Cost for the first leased horse is \$150 and \$100 for the second per month.

"It is a commitment for the whole time," Ms. Springer said of the four-month program which was re-instituted this year and open to DoD ID card holders and contractors.

The Academy Equestrian Center provides tack, feed and medical care. Shoeing is available for

an additional charge.

Riders, who must care for saddling and grooming, need to call a day in advance so the horse will be available in its stall. Riders must clean the stall on days the horse is ridden.

Horses benefit from the winter program, both in terms of exercise and personal attention.

"They aren't ridden quite as often in the winter," Ms. Springer said. "It puts miles on them and keeps them 'tuned up.'"

Horse caretaker Sandra Lowe said horses also benefit from having the personal attention of a single rider, even if only for a few months.

She noted the availability of trails and the beauty and vastness of the riding landscape available to Academy riders are major attractions of the lease program. Riders have access to both the Academy and Pike National Forest with a combined area of 44,000-plus acres, and they may ride all the way to Rampart Reservoir or simply stay in the arena.

Ms. Lowe added the cost for leasing is well below Front Range area equine center rates.

Arrangements for the Winter Lease Program are



Photo by Ann Patton

Sandra Lowe visits with Cody in his stall at the Academy Equestrian Center. He is among nine horses available for the Winter Lease Program.

by appointment only with Ms. Springer. Call her for information or questions about the program at 472-8639 or send an email to [jeannespringer@usafa.af.mil](mailto:jeannespringer@usafa.af.mil).

## FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY INSTANCES OF FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE, REPORT IT TO ONE OF THE HOTLINE NUMBERS

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DSN: 333-3490

**WASTE:** Extravagant, careless or expenditure of government funds

**AIR FORCE**  
1(800)538-8429  
DSN: 425-1562

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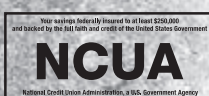
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**CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE:**

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of Capt. Levi C. Torkelson, who passed away Dec. 27, 2008, should contact Summary Court Officer, Capt. Nickolas K. Thompson, at 333-3628.

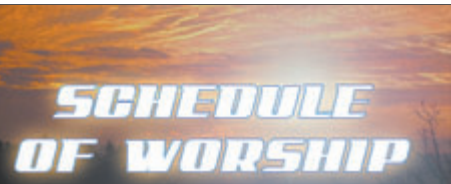


**Dance lessons**

Weekly ballroom dance lessons, one hour each for six weeks, begin Wednesday at 7 p.m. Learn the swing, foxtrot, slow waltz and rumba dance steps. Cost is \$70 for couples or \$40 for an individual. Call 333-2928 for more information or to sign up.

**National Eye Care Month**

Community Programs is conducting



**CADET CHAPEL**

**Catholic Masses:**

**Sunday**

Confession - 9:15 a.m.  
Mass - 10 a.m.

**Wednesday**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 5:30 p.m.  
Confession - 5:30 p.m.  
Mass - 6:30 p.m.

**Weekday**

Mon., Tues. and Thurs. - 6:45 a.m.

**Protestant Services:**

**Sunday**

Traditional/Liturgical - 9 a.m.  
Contemporary - 11 a.m.

**Jewish Services**

**Friday**

Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.

**Buddhist Worship**

**Wednesday**

Traditional Mahyana Service -6:30 p.m.

**Muslim Prayer**

**Friday**

Salaat ul-Jumman - 12:30 p.m.

All Other Faiths

Call 333-2636 for more information

**COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL**

**Catholic Masses:**

**Saturday**

Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.  
Mass - 4 p.m.

**Sunday**

Mass - 9 a.m.  
Religious Formation - 10:15 a.m.  
(September - May)

**Tuesday-Friday**

Mass - 11:30 a.m.  
(No weekday Masses in January)

**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.

**Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:**

Contact Tech. Sgt. Robert Longcrier at 333-6178 or e-mail: [Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu](mailto:Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu)

a "used/unwanted" eye glasses drive this month. Adult and children's glasses are needed. They will be given to Doctors Without Borders where they will find new life in third-world countries. Drop off boxes are located at Milazzo Center, marketing office, outdoor recreation and the Academy Child Care and Youth Center. Call 333-2928 for more information.

**Volunteer opportunity**

Anyone interested in being a volunteer track and field official at Academy indoor and outdoor meets for the 2009 seasons should contact [scott.irding@usafa.edu](mailto:scott.irding@usafa.edu) or call at 719-333-3013 or toll free at 1-800-379-1455 extension 3013. If no answer, leave a message.

**A&FRC offers options**

The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes for January. Call the A&FRC @ 333-3444 with any questions or to register.

**The Art of Love**

Academy artisans will pay tribute to St. Valentine during the Academy Arts & Crafts Center's "That's Amore" art contest. All forms of art may be entered but must either contain the color red, a heart and the word "love" or its concept. Entries will be accepted Jan. 28 - Feb. 4, and entry forms are available at the Center. A show and awards reception is set for Feb. 6 and will include light refreshments. For more information call 333-4579.

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

**Smooth Move**

Tuesday; 9 to 10 a.m.

Being prepared can certainly lessen the stress of an upcoming move. Learn innovative ways to make your move a smooth one. This is a mandatory class for individuals departing the Academy.

**Resume Writing**

Wednesday; 9 a.m. to noon.

Learn different types of resume and cover letter styles and how to improve your own.

**Newcomer's Orientation & Information Fair**

Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This is a mandatory orientation for all those newly assigned. Spouses are welcome to attend at the Milazzo Center.

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Medical Records Review**

Jan. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review medical records.

**Sponsorship Training**

Jan. 22; 8 to 9 a.m.

This class is for those who have been assigned to sponsor a newcomer to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

**Newcomer's Red Carpet Base Tour**

Jan. 23; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This informative base tour offers insight into the Academy mission and reveals what there is to see and do at the Academy.

**TAP Seminar**

Jan. 27-30; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? Call to reserve your spot in the next available TAP class.

**Water aerobics**

The Academy Fitness & Sports Center offers a 10-punch card for water aerobics. The cost is \$30 and the card does not expire. Water aerobics classes

are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:05 p.m. Improve muscular strength and endurance and increase overall aerobic conditioning with zero impact on the joints. For more information, call 333-4522.

**America recycles**

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron will hold an electronic recycling event through January. Each Wednesday and Thursday electronic items can be taken to Bldg. 8125 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for recycling. The event is free to all participants. Some recyclable items are personal computers and components, televisions, DVD or CD players, stereos, speakers and VHS players. Call Jeanie Duncan at 333-0812 for more information.

**Ski rental**

Season ski rentals from the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center require an appointment for a fitting. Call 333-4753.

**Volunteer program**

There are several on-base organizations in need of volunteers. Contact Jeannie Lopez at 333-3168/3444 for more information.



**SnoFest headquarters**

Lift tickets, party tickets and accommodations are now available for SnoFest 2009, the 19th annual military snow sports weekend, Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, 2009, at Keystone Resort. For more information, visit: [www.usafaservices.com/SnoFest.html](http://www.usafaservices.com/SnoFest.html).



Photo by Todd Ryan

**Do not try this at home**

A skier performs an aerial maneuver in the Area 51 terrain park at Keystone Resort during last year's SnoFest. The 2009 SnoFest is scheduled for Jan. 30-Feb. 1. For more information visit [www.usafaservices.com/snofest.html](http://www.usafaservices.com/snofest.html).