



# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

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Photo by Capt. Uriah Orland

## Historic March

Led by Cadet 1st Class Tim Black, center, Cadet Squadron 4 works to perfect its extended formation while marching. Eighty-three cadets representing members from all four current Academy classes traveled to Washington, D.C., to march in the presidential inaugural parade. See related story and photos on Page 12.

# AFA praises pilot in heroic river landing

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

A 1973 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate's aviation skills and character were put to the ultimate test Jan. 15.

Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III was pilot of a U.S. Airways Airbus 320 which crashed into the Hudson River, between New York and New Jersey.

As the evacuation of 155 passengers was taking place, media reports said Sullenberger walked up and down the passenger cabin twice to make sure everyone had safely evacuated before he exited the aircraft.

"On behalf of the U.S. Air Force Academy and our graduates, I would like to join the thousands of people around the nation commending 'Sully' Sullenberger III, a 1973 Air Force Academy graduate, for his heroic actions yesterday," wrote Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni, also a 1973 Academy graduate. "He not only showcased unbelievable Airmanship, but exemplary character as well. "In addition to superb judgment under utmost pressure, by checking his

aircraft twice to ensure there were no passengers left behind, he epitomized the 'Service Before Self' concept we strive to instill in our cadets. Well done, classmate!"

Praise for the overnight hero came from friends, classmates and media nation-wide.

"I knew Sully as a classmate and fellow Texan," said Mr. John Muse, chairman, HM Capital Partners, Dallas, Texas, and also a 1973 graduate. "He was in the old dorm and I was in the new dorm, so I did not know him extremely well. We sometimes would catch a military hop home for the holidays. "What I do remember about him is his tremendous focus, integrity and leadership.

"I am not surprised by how he responded in an emergency," Mr. Muse wrote. "Sully will just say that he was doing his job, but remaining calm and focused on emergency procedures and executing a perfect landing in water saved all of those lives. His remaining on board until every last passenger was off safely is a testament to his leadership and selflessness. He is a great example of integrity



Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III

and excellence in everything that we do.

The skill and coolness under pressure wasn't lost on today's cadets and flying staff.

"Flight training has been taking place at the USAFA airfield since the early 1970s," said Capt. Yancey Walker, 98th Flying Training Squadron jump flight

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# Fightin' Fourth makes powerful impression

By Maj. Jill Whitesell  
Air Officer Commanding, CS-4

It's been said that you never get a second chance to make a first impression and that was certainly the case for Cadet Squadron 4 as it had the distinct honor to represent the U.S. Air Force Academy in the inaugural parade and make that first impression with our new Commander-in-Chief and 44th U.S. President, Barack Obama.

The undying dedication to duty and perpetual commitment to Excellence of the cadets in the "Fightin' Fourth" led to them earning the Academy title *2008 Outstanding Cadet Squadron*.

Furthermore, the accomplishment resulted in 83 cadets participating in what's sure to be an unforgettable experience for each of them. They showcased their Academy pride in a pass and review Tuesday during the parade honoring our new president.

By receiving this honor and having the "pressure" to represent the Air Force Academy at such a high-visibility event, the Fighters worked diligently, putting extra hours into marching and practicing "eyes left." Again, they only had one chance to get it right. I am so proud of each of them, because even when we were practicing in the bitter cold weather in Annapolis, it was without complaint. Everyone understood the significance of what we were doing, they

were honored to be doing it and certainly wanted to look their best.

As our bus made its way to the assembly area, in preparation for the parade, the crowds were unbelievable. The awe-inspiring spirit of American patriotism with millions lining the streets or crowded into the mall area to witness the historical event is simply indescribable. As we drove down the road, people waved, many with American flags in hand. The sheer magnitude of those spectators, and the untold number of people watching the event unfold by television around the world, was exciting to say the least. You couldn't help but feel proud to be wearing the uniform and be representing the Air Force Academy during such an historical event.

After much anticipation, hard work and virtually no sleep leading up to the parade, it was somewhat disappointing for the cadets, but still a memory and experience they will have forever. Due to an unexpected delay of at least an hour with the parade, the crowds along the route were no longer what they once were and it was bitterly cold. However, we did what we could to keep warm and spirits remained high. Once we began marching again, the cadets looked awesome. Despite the cold and darkness, the cadets marched with their rifles held steady and heads held high.

Rounding the corner to 15th Street,

where the president's reviewing stand was located, was definitely the highlight of the parade. For me personally, my heart began to beat a little quicker, as I wanted us to shine ... and we did. As the formation executed their "eyes left," the cadets were able to see their new commander-in-chief return their salute ... and that's an opportunity they're likely to never have again in their lifetimes.

I'm truly proud, as are my cadets, to have had this honor to represent the Academy during this history-making event. The event showcased America's finest future officers and the phenomenal way they represented the U.S. Air Force Academy was inspirational.

I'd be remiss if I didn't applaud my cadet leadership for their efforts with this huge undertaking of a trip. They were instrumental in leading this effort up to and during our time in Annapolis. The Fighters conducted themselves with the utmost professionalism and, for that, I personally thank each one of them.

Surrounded by the intricacies of our nation's capital and the preparation for this single event, it was refreshing to witness the simple, yet profound, statement made by our cadets. Their professionalism before, during and after the parade reminded me more than ever that the profession of arms is second to no other profession and I'm extremely honored to be their commander.

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## Character Corner

By Capt. Daniel Kenny  
Center for Character Development

"As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains. They have something to tell us today, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages. We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but

because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. And yet, at this moment — a moment that will define a generation — it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all."

— President Barack Obama

These words were taken from President Barack Obama's inaugural address Tuesday. The president was thanking every American — past, present, and future — for keeping our country free and safe.

As I heard the speech broadcast live and I read the words over again, I can't help but feel a strong sense of pride and purpose as a member of team USAFA. We put in long hours, dedicating ourselves toward our common purpose — to develop officers of character.

I'm proud to be part of this profession, among so many great people who embody the spirit of service the president described: serving something greater than ourselves.

Character Matters airs Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Kafa radio, 97.7 FM.

## ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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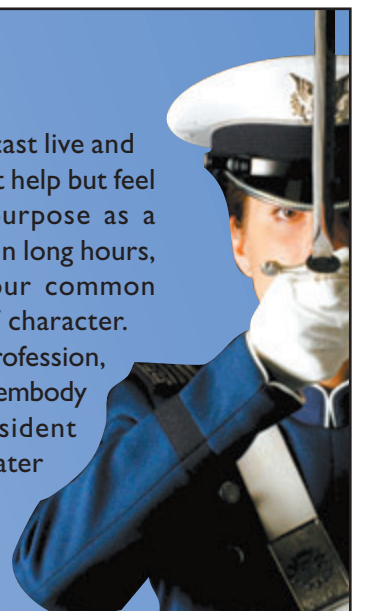
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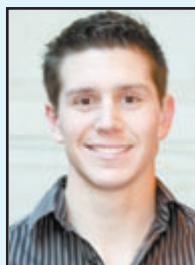
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## What excited you the most about marching in the inaugural parade?

"A lot of time and effort has gone into making this possible. It has been a great experience and I was excited just to be a part of it."



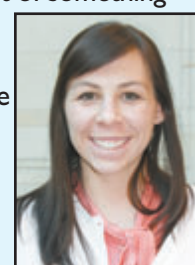
Cadet 2nd Class  
Benjamin Ausburn

"I felt very fortunate to be one of the few who got to march in this exceptionally historic inauguration. It is something I will remember for the rest of my life."



Cadet 3rd Class  
Erin Flanigan

"Not only was I excited about the opportunity to travel across country to represent my school in this event, we cannot deny the fact that we were part of something historical that we will surely remember for the rest of our lives."



Cadet 3rd Class  
Lyndsey Horn

"I was excited because I love America!"



Cadet 2nd Class  
Eric Straub

# Courage earns grad commendation medal

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Ralph Davis considers himself a lucky man.

While driving his '73 Mustang northbound on Interstate 25 last summer, he suffered a heart attack resulting in a major vehicle accident.

Maj. Shawn Anger, two cars behind him, stopped to help.

For his act of courage that day last July, Major Anger was awarded an Air Force Commendation Medal Jan. 13 during a presentation ceremony in Fairchild Hall.

"Thank you for saving my life," Mr. Davis told the major once again.

Major Anger, a master's degree candidate in the Air Officer Commanding course and member of the Class of 1996, was returning from a medical appointment at Fort Carson and took notice of a the red Mustang convertible passing him on I-25. Minutes later, the Mustang began careening, first striking a guard rail before heading toward an off ramp.

The classic car eventually collided with a concrete median and came to a stop.

Major Anger pulled off the Interstate and found Mr. Davis convulsing, unresponsive and struggling to breathe. With the help of two Fort Carson soldiers he had flagged down, Major Anger extracted the victim from the car and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation. An off-duty nurse joined the military trio in providing emergency care.

Paramedics transported Mr. Davis to Memorial Hospital.

During the rescue Major Anger noticed the car was leaking fluid of some sort, a hazard under the best of circumstances. "It's amazing what goes through your mind in times like these," he said. "I thought maybe the car would catch fire, but I comforted that thought with the fact that I was wearing my Nomex flight suit."

He doesn't consider himself a hero.

"As a fighter pilot, I'm used to thinking quickly and taking action and, in the presence of chaos, take control if necessary," he said. "I guess instincts kick in. I would consider what I did the civic duty of any compassionate human being."

The heavy electrical equipment operator for the Colorado Springs Utilities and his family certainly do consider Major Anger a hero.

"He's better than Superman," Mr. Davis said. "If it weren't for Shawn, I wouldn't be here."

His wife, Darlene, said the Davis family, which includes daughters Jessie and Cassie, has always kept strong family ties but the accident has brought them even closer together.

"We appreciate family more. We now look at things differently," Mrs. Davis said. "You can be here this morning and be gone in the afternoon."

Of her husband's rescuer, she said, "We could thank Shawn a thousand times and that wouldn't be enough."



Photo by Dave Armer

Ralph Davis expresses his gratitude to Maj. Shawn Anger for saving his life after an accident on I-25 last summer. The two reunited for a presentation ceremony Jan. 13 in Fairchild Hall when Major Anger was awarded an Air Force Commendation Medal for his courage.

The family and Major Anger have reunited for an occasional social gathering since the accident. The Mustang has been fully restored.

In accepting his Commendation Medal, Major Anger reminded his Air Force colleagues they, too, would respond just as he had in an emergency.

"The Air Force gave you your training, and you'll know what to do," he said. "I won't tell you to do the right thing. I know you will."

## Pilot

From Page 1

commander at the Academy's runway. Powered flight training has always been accomplished in some type of two seat single engine piston driven aircraft. Cadets are still taught, as they were in 1973, the fundamentals of flying including takeoff, landing, and aircraft performance."

The Academy's current program still gives the cadets a chance to solo an airplane for the first time in their young career as was the case for cadets in the '70s.

"Our airmanship programs, as a part of the Air Force Academy curriculum, focus on teaching cadets how to perform in high pressure situations" Captain Walker said. Prior to making their first jump or flight, cadets are subject to intense evaluation centered around their ability to handle emergency situations in a stressful atmosphere.

Ditching an airplane in the water is one of the most challenging things to do," said Captain Walker. "Then add into the scenario experienced by the United

crew that they had no power as both engines had been crippled by hitting the birds. With no power, the crew only had one shot to place the plane perfectly in the water. The fact that every single person survived is a testament not only to the pilot but to the entire crew's ability to work as a cohesive unit.

"From day one, regardless of class year, the Air Force Academy forces its cadets to develop the ability to focus under duress and perform in high stress situations."

"Like every superhero, Capt. Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger III has a super-sized brain - when he was 12 years old, his IQ score qualified him for membership in the genius group Mensa." Wrote New York Post writer Jeremy Olshan.

"Sullenberger, 57, has 40 years of aviation experience," wrote the Post writer in an article entitled 'Always a quick thinker'. "He graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1973, flew F-4 jets in the 1970s, and since 1980 has been a U.S. Airways captain."

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# Faculty members named permanent professors

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Two members of the Academy Class of 1988 have been welcomed as the latest faculty members to be named Professor, here.

The investiture was held Jan. 13 at the Falcon Club.

Presented the badge of permanent professor were Col. Jeffrey Butler and Col. Daniel Uribe.

"This is a really big day for us," said Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni. "It is the most important personnel action we do at the Academy."

Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born stressed the appointments will further the Academy's primary goal of building leaders of character.

"This is a celebration for academic departments, the Dean of Faculty team, the Academy and our nation," she said.

Colonel Butler serves as professor and head of the Academy's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He leads a team of 24 teaching faculty for 25 academic courses to approximately 2,000 cadets annually.

Colonel Uribe is professor and head of the Academy's Department of Foreign Languages. He serves as leader for the second largest academic department teaching eight languages to more than 5,000 cadets annually.

Permanent professors make up about four percent of the total faculty. They are selected from among all eligible field grade officers and must have a doctorate degree, strong leadership experience and solid credentials.

Unless extended by the secretary of the Air Force, they retire upon completing 30 years of service as commissioned officers. They may retire with the honorable grade of brigadier general and are exempt from



Col. Jeffrey Butler

appearing before promotion boards.

Colonel Butler's background has involved a wide variety of acquisition, technology, space and intelligence assignments. Before arriving on the Academy, he was deputy director of systems engineering for the Missile Defense Agency in Washington, D.C. and was a National Defense Fellow for Russian and Eurasian security issues at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy in Boston, Mass.

He and his wife, Dawn, are the parents of two daughters, Sarah and Grace. He holds a B. S. degree in mathematics and electrical engineering, an M.S. in electrical engineering and a Ph.D. in computer engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

"This is a big commitment, and I hope to earn your trust," he told investiture guests made up of present and past faculty members, family and friends.

He recalled a time when he was volunteering at a homeless shelter and the satisfaction of giving back.

"My being here is a divine appointment," he said. "I



Col. Daniel Uribe

Photos by Dave Ahlschwede

wanted to make a difference in people's lives."

Colonel Uribe, born in Juarez, Mexico, completed the Academy Preparatory School while awaiting finalization of his U.S. citizenship, a requirement for entering the Academy.

He related his experiences as a youth peering into El Paso, Texas, while still in living in Mexico.

"It became a land of opportunity and of dreams," he said. "Beautiful dreams can come true."

Colonel Uribe and his wife Silvia, whom he met when both were only 12 years old, are the parents of two sons, Academy Cadet 3rd Class D. J. Uribe, and Eric Uribe, who will join the Class of 2013 at the U.S. Military Academy.

He holds both a B.S. and M.S. degree in astronautical engineering and a Ph.D. in educational technology from Arizona State University. He minored in Spanish while at the Academy.

Colonel Uribe entered the Air Force as a strategic missile guidance systems engineer and has held a variety of positions in engineer, acquisitions and language education.

The outer edges of the permanent professor badge, designed by General Robert McDermott, features 17 spires, symbolic of the Cadet Chapel and 13 stars, symbolic of the original U.S. colonies.

The centerpiece shield with its golden eagle is symbolic of the country's strength, the light blue the aviator's domain of the sky and the black of the astronaut's domain, space. The white above the shield symbolizes wisdom.

The lamp on the shield represents knowledge and the polar star, or Polaris, the traditional guide for navigation.

The round shape of the badge is comparable to the circle of life.

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# Museum opens exhibit dedicated to Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates  
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

DAYTON, Ohio (AFNS) — A new exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force now gives visitors a chance to see not only the service's past, but also its present and future.

Called "Warrior Airmen," the new exhibit highlights how today's Airmen are contributing to the war on terrorism, both in the air and on the ground.

It includes more than 400 artifacts, three dioramas with fully dressed and equipped mannequins, an audiovisual presentation on a 15-foot wide screen, and compelling firsthand accounts.

"The Air Force has always been an adaptive service," said Dick Anderegg, the director of Air Force history and museums. "This exhibit is a testament to this adaptability and serves as an opportunity for future generations to see what we already know our Airmen are capable of."

The exhibit, which opened to the public recently, is divided into three sections, each highlighting a way the Air Force is supporting efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The first section, "Battlefield Airmen," is dedicated to Air Force special operations forces such as pararescuemen, tactical air controllers and combat weather personnel. The section opens with an immersive video recreation of the battle for Takur Ghar, where several Air Force



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III

**Master Sgt. Keary Miller shows his son, Ian, equipment used by special operations Airmen during the war on terrorism at the opening of the Warrior Airman Exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Sergeant Miller, a pararescuer honored in the Warrior Airmen Exhibit, fought during the Battle of Takur Ghar, the deadliest entanglement of Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan.**

pararescuemen were either killed or wounded while attempting to rescue a Navy SEAL who had fallen out of his helicopter when it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

The next section, "Expeditionary Combat Airmen," highlights other ground operations Airmen perform on a daily basis in support of operations *Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*. These Airmen include security forces personnel, convoy operators and explosive ordnance disposal teams.

The final section, "In the Air," demon-

strates how pilots and aircrews continue to perform important missions in the air, providing close-air support, flying rescue aircraft and dropping bombs on target.

"The Air Force is truly engaged in the war on terrorism," said Jeff Duford, the museum's research historian. "But not many people realize how many Airmen are working on the ground. This exhibit will hopefully educate a lot of people on this fact."

All of the uniforms, items and photos in the exhibit were donated by Airmen who served in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

For them, this exhibit is a way to honor all Airmen and keep the memory of their sacrifices alive.

"This place, this exhibit, defines legacy and heritage," said Senior Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez, a pararescuer who donated several items he used and wore while in Afghanistan. "Our legacy now lives on for our sons and daughters."

The exhibit also includes several firsts at the museum. There are several digital touch screens that allow visitors to interact with the displays and the donated items include numerous special operations "tools of the trade."

The exhibit itself is also an original at the museum. It is not a monument to the past, but to the present and future of Air Force operations.

"The past is static and never changes," said retired Maj. Gen. Charles D. Metcalf, the museum's director. "This exhibit is a contemporary one, though. It will change and grow with the mission as long as the mission continues."

The "Warrior Airmen" exhibit is a permanent display at the museum and will be open year-round.

"More than 1 million people will see this exhibit each year and our hope is that they will better appreciate the courageous sacrifices of today's Airmen and gain a better understanding of how they make a difference in the world," Mr. Duford said.

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# Academy grad named top Air Liaison Officer

By Lt. Col. Scott Covode  
Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) — An Air Force Special Operations Command captain was named the service's top air liaison officer for 2008 recently.

This year's annual winner is Capt. Christopher Wilson who is assigned to the 17th Air Support Operations Squadron and is the tactical air control party flight commander for Operating Location Echo, 2/75 Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The native of Wheeling, W. Va., is recognized for his tactical expertise while deployed to *Operation Iraqi Freedom* where he provided command and control of more than 150 direct-action missions resulting in the capture of 200 high-value targets and the destruction of more than 50 targets, said Lt. Col. Chris Cronk, the 17th ASOS commander.

"While in Iraq, Chris worked some of the busiest airspace in the world," Colonel Cronk said.

Captain Wilson is a 2001 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot. While assigned to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, he deployed twice to support *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

"During my deployments in the F-16, I directly supported special forces and I found I really enjoyed working with their operations. It led me to join the ALO program," he said.

The captain volunteered to join the tactical air control party program after his combat experience supporting special forces from the cockpit. He attended jump school and other specialized training and then joined the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis.

"He was an eager volunteer and has even offered to extend his tour in the program," Colonel Cronk said. "He's a great asset to the TACP community and the

[Defense Department] combat forces he supports."

While Captain Wilson normally works the "fires desk," in charge of controlling airpower for the battle space, his first deployment to Iraq as an air liaison officer put him in the field with the Rangers.

"When Chris first arrived in Iraq, the unit was temporarily short a joint terminal attack controller," Colonel Cronk said. "Since he was fully qualified, he joined the Rangers combat mission team in the field. This gives him great perspective on the air-to-ground battle. He's flown direct support missions for the ground guys and has also seen combat with the Rangers."

"I wouldn't have received this [this award] without the help of the rest of the TACPs in my shop and the Ranger battalion," he said. "They enabled me to succeed. I couldn't have done any of this without them."

# Pilot program helps disability evaluation process

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) — Department of Defense officials here are working with the Department of Veterans Affairs staff to expand a pilot program that simplifies the current disability evaluation process for wounded, injured and ill servicemembers.

The Disability Evaluation System pilot program is aimed at assisting wounded servicemembers obtain faster access to TRICARE and other healthcare and VA benefits by developing a single medical examination used by both DoD and VA officials, with a single source disability evaluation done by VA and accepted by DoD.

The pilot, implemented in November

2007 in the National Capitol Region, is slated to expand to 19 additional installations through June 1, 2009.

Currently, a wounded warrior's branch of service evaluates the member for conditions that may make him or her unfit for duty. This evaluation initiates the medical examination board process. Following separation or retirement from service, the member is again evaluated by the VA for disability and compensation. The pilot process streamlines and makes more transparent both processes through concurrent rather than sequential processing, more information for the member during the process, and comprehensive information regarding entitlements from both

agencies at the time of the separation.

Under the pilot, only one evaluation is necessary after a member is referred for a service medical evaluation board. The single evaluation also helps servicemembers get comprehensive information about their benefits, including Tricare.

The pilot is a result of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. The goal is to simplify healthcare and treatment for injured servicemembers and veterans and deliver benefits as quickly as possible.

The pilot was initially tested at three military treatment facilities in the National Capitol Region — Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.,

Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Since the pilot program began, VA officials said more than 700 servicemembers have participated in the pilot. To collect and evaluate data from other geographic regions, 19 more installations have been added to the study, including Fort Carson, Colo., Naval Medical Center San Diego, Calif., and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

For more information about how TRICARE works for medically retired servicemembers, visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil). For more information about VA benefits, visit [www.vba.va.gov/VBA](http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA).

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# Oral, written communication

## A skills outcome



By Dr. Aaron Byerley and Dr. Richard Lemp  
Oral and Written Communication Team Leads

Leading the charge of the Rough Riders up San Juan Hill, then Col. Theodore Roosevelt said, "Let all brave men follow me."

His order to the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War was as clear as it was simply worded. Despite heavy fire, some even at point blank range, the charge was successful.

A more current example associated with the Air Force might be a mission briefing presented by the squadron commander immediately before the start of a lengthy combat mission. The mission might involve multiple fighter and tanker aircraft in a carefully choreographed and sequenced array of important actions in support of U.S. Army ground troops.

The complexity of that type of mission demands that much more detail be included beyond that offered by Colonel Roosevelt, but still the speaker's essential goal is clear communication. The "communicator" needs to ensure clarity of purpose, and provide motivation and inspiration toward success.

To develop cadets' skill to communicate effectively in the written and spoken word, the Academy focuses its development of communication on four dimensions that are most relevant to the professional demands of an Air Force officer.

**Content:** the ideas or arguments that represent the substance of the communication. They are fully developed, well-reasoned, and well supported. Factual accuracy is essential, as is accurate attribution.

**Organization:** how the content elements are ordered and connected to each other. A well organized presen-

tation should have a logical flow. One point should lead clearly to the next.

**Style:** the form of oral and written expression that is most appropriate for the audience and occasion. The presenter should speak or write fluently, confidently, and in an engaging manner. There should be a strong connection between the presenter and reader or listener.

**Responding to the audience:** reflects the need to "close the loop" by making certain that the listeners successfully understood the presentation. Encourage questions and comments and then address with confidence, respect and accuracy.

As cadets progress through their four years here, the frequency, breadth, and depth of oral communication called for provide each cadet with extraordinary opportunities for practicing and improving oral communication.

The era of electronic media has not diminished the importance of good written communication skills; if anything, it has reinforced the need to develop those skills even more. Electronic means have enabled a much faster method of transmitting and receiving administrative communication, tasks, reports, and directives. Especially because of that speed and convenience, it is essential to know the audience, to know and obey the conventional rules of spelling and grammar, and to polish an organized set of thoughts that the writer wishes to communicate.

The foundation for both oral and written skills rests in the three core English courses that build an increasingly sophisticated abilities as well as depth of thought. In English 111 (Introductory Composition and Research) cadets are expected to master basic research methods and express the results of that research

clearly, comprehensively, and with a progressively deeper level of thought. In English 211 (Literature and Intermediate Composition) the level of writing rises with the reading and appreciation of the best authors. The capstone core course, English 411 (Language, Literature, and Leadership) provides cadets with the best examples in the literature and rhetoric of war as models for their own essays and speeches that they present in the course.

"Good writing and speaking skills – a reflection of depth of thought, organization of ideas, and the capacity to express those ideas with power and eloquence – are absolutely essential to officership," said Col. Kathleen Harrington, permanent professor and head of the Department of English and Fine Arts.

Col. Neal Barlow, chair of the Engineering Division, judges that "effective written and oral communication are essential to success in the engineering profession. In fact, demonstrating that our cadets can 'communicate effectively' is an ABET requirement."

"We do this by assigning, assessing, and evaluating written and oral communication over and over again in their engineering course work, with special attention given to our research and capstone design courses," he continues. "We have gotten great external validation that our program is on track by the cadets' record of success at winning student paper presentation competitions and by how well they do when briefing their USAF research and design project customers."

By presenting cadets with many opportunities to write and speak, giving them guidance and feedback on how best to handle content, organization, style, and audience response, they develop the poise, self-confidence and effectiveness necessary to serve as successful Air Force officers.

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# How up-to-date is your list of medications?

By Chuck Roberts  
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Public Affairs

LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Germany (AFNS) — Just as you wouldn't go commissary shopping with last year's grocery list, the same principle holds true for showing up at a medical appointment with an out-of-date list of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and related health products such as vitamin supplements and herbal teas.

But why bother writing all of that down when it should already be on file? And besides, doesn't someone always review the meds you are taking when you show up for your medical appointment anyway?

"There are many good reasons for bringing a list of all the medications, supplements, etc., you take when you visit your healthcare provider, and each one of these reasons ensures you receive the safest care possible," said Col. Curt Hansen, the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center pharmacy chief and the pharmacy consultant for Europe Regional Medical Command.

**Benefits include:**

- Providing your healthcare providers the most complete and up-to-date record of what you're taking to assist them in prescribing the safest and most effective medication specifically for you.
- Preventing an adverse reaction by ensuring a new drug isn't prescribed that might interact with a medication or supplement you're taking at home, but is not listed on your medical record.
- Improving the quality and time spent talking with your doctor about your care. By providing a list of what you're actually taking, it allows your provider

“ There are many good reasons for bringing a list of all the medications, supplements, etc., you take when you visit your healthcare provider, and each one of these reasons ensures you receive the safest care possible.”

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Landstuhl Regional Medical Center pharmacy chief  
Pharmacy consultant for Europe Regional Medical Command

to quickly and accurately compare it with your previous medical history.

— Improving familiarity with your medications. Patients who keep an up-to-date list of their medications with them gain familiarity with their medications and how to take them. This knowledge is reinforced when you immediately update the list due to a change in the medications, vitamins or supplements you're currently taking.

— Saving your life. In addition to the reasons listed above, if you are ever in an emergency where your records aren't available, having a printed copy of your meds in your wallet will inform your providers about what you're taking and prevent the possibility of a severe reaction with new drugs used in your treatment.

"It's about helping people help themselves," Colonel Hansen said. "It's critical that patients provide a list at each appointment, especially when you consider all the possible sources where drugs and other products

can be obtained— your doctor, the commissary, the base exchange and the economy — it's easy to see how any of us could forget something we're taking that may adversely affect our medical care."

**Safety points to consider are:**

- Become familiar with your medications and how to take them. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about your medications and supplements to reinforce your knowledge and to obtain answers to your questions.
- Keep your medication list updated and accurate.
- Have your list with you, especially each time you travel or go to the clinic, hospital or emergency room.
- If you are too sick to do so yourself, ask a family member or friend to show the medication list to your healthcare providers
- By participating in your healthcare, you can help prevent medication errors.



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# 'Tags' help protect base exchange benefits

DALLAS (AFNS) — With a mission of providing quality merchandise and services at competitively low prices while generating earnings to support Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is enlisting the support of the latest in loss prevention technology to protect military families' exchange benefit.

Electronic article surveillance systems, for example, are on the front lines of AAFES officials' efforts to deter shoplifting and prevent unpaid merchandise from leaving the store.

Base Exchange and Post Exchange management, based on local conditions and experience, in conjunction with supporting loss prevention personnel, identify specific items to be "tagged" with electronic article surveillance devices. These "tags" are deactivated at the cash register when the merchandise is paid for. Manufacturers have joined other businesses by placing "tags" inside the packaging of many items to further

reduce shoplifting. New "tags" have also been deployed that sound an alarm if someone attempts to remove it without the proper device.

Prior to reaching the checkout, products are monitored by advanced closed circuit television systems that can coordinate the movement of 10, 20 or even 100 unblinking "eyes in the sky." In fact, this network of strategically positioned, microprocessor-driven, closed-circuit cameras are controlled by a central console that allows loss prevention associates to pan side-to-side, tilt up and down or even zoom in closely to examine activity.

"Every loss prevention method we use has the common goal of discouraging theft before it even happens," said Gerald Danish, the AAFES vice president of loss prevention. "Of course, visible reminders like security 'tags' and camera systems not only deter criminal behavior, but also identify and document it. So, even if the equipment's presence doesn't prevent

a crime, the resulting video and/or alarm are almost always invaluable in the resulting prosecution."

In the event shoplifting is suspected, AAFES loss prevention associates turn the issue over to local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act, which began March 1, 2002, allows AAFES to enact a flat, administrative cost (civil recovery) of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise.

"AAFES associates are stewards of the dividend this command is charged with generating," Mr. Danish said. "Activities that diminish exchange shoppers' return on investment can, and do, negatively impact military families' quality of life. Fortunately, our team is leveraging the latest crime fighting tools available to further strengthen the exchange benefit troops, and their families, have come to depend on."

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# Academy's Area Defense Counsel finds new home

## Academy Spirit staff report

The Area Defense Counsel, which provides Air Force members independent legal representation, recently moved into the basement of Harmon Hall, suite B-12, just around the corner from the command post.

The ADC consists of two attorneys, Capts. Lindsay Contoveros and Louis Eldredge, and a defense paralegal, Staff Sgt. Natasha Sloan.

The defense team aims to provide the best possible legal defense services in accordance with the Air Force Military Defense Counsel Charter. The ADC provides a variety of services, including: assisting members with responses to letters of reprimand, Article 15 proceedings, reports of survey and rights advisements. It also helps people with referral enlisted and officer performance reports, as well as representation for flying eval-

uation boards, discharge boards and courts-martial actions.

The ADC also advises cadets on honor boards, cadet sanctions recommendation panels, military review committees and other cadet discipline issues.

"All Airmen and cadets should know that the ADC consists of an exceptionally well-qualified defense team that does one thing – represents the interests of clients to the best of their abilities," said Captain Eldredge. "Bottom line, everyone subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice has certain rights. The job of the ADC is to ensure that each of its clients knows, understands and gets the full benefit of those rights."

An ADC is available at almost every Air Force installation. Each ADC has its own office, staff, budget, and a separate chain of command from anyone else

on base. The staff exists solely to represent the interests of its clients within the bounds of ethics and the law.

Communications between a client and the ADC, to include the defense paralegal, are covered by the attorney-client privilege; everything said to the ADC is strictly confidential.

"The Judge Advocate General ensures that the ADCs have the independence and training to represent their clients zealously – for that is the most essential part of the ADC's job," Captain Eldredge said. "The ADC underscores the strength of a fair military justice system."

In order to maintain the confidentiality of their customers, the ADC sees clients by appointments only. For more information or to set up an appointment, call the ADC at 333-2481.

# Air Force activates Global Strike Command

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials officially stood up a provisional Global Strike Command recently at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

The provisional command will be temporarily located at the Washington, D.C., base with supporting detachments at Air Combat Command and Air Force Space Command.

Its charter is to lead preparation activities for the establishment of a major command that will consolidate nuclear operations under a single organization.

Brigadier Gen. James M. Kowalski assumed command and is responsible for implementing the organization's program action directive, which outlines necessary actions to standup the new Global Strike Command. This includes assisting in identifying a final location, and identifying manpower and resource requirements that will transfer to the newly established command.

The provisional command will also work closely with officials from Headquarters Air Force Strategic

Deterrence and Nuclear Integration Office (A10), Air Combat Command, Air Force Space Command, Air Force Materiel Command and U.S. Strategic Command as Global Strike Command members refine their roles and responsibilities.

Air Force Global Strike Command (Provisional) is a temporary unit that will not have any manpower authorizations and will be inactivated upon the standup of the permanent command. Headquarters Air Force and major

command staffs provided temporary personnel to fill a core headquarters element of 55 members who are subject matter experts capable of developing the functional requirements for Air Force Global Strike Command.

"There is an incredibly rich tradition of operational competency in this mission, and our Air Force has done a lot of work to restore our focus on deterrence," General Kowalski said. "We look forward to laying the foundation needed to stand up Global Strike Command."

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## CS-4 honors new commander-in-chief

*Fightin' Fourth  
represents Air Force Academy  
at 56th presidential inauguration*

Story and photos by Ken Carter  
Editor

WASHINGTON – Eighty-three cadets representing members from all four current Academy classes traveled by air this week from the Academy

to the nation's capitol with one primary mission in mind – to march a little more than 1.5 miles after landing.

This would be no ordinary march, however. Overseeing recent cadet marching practice on the Terrazzo, perfecting dress, cover, interval and distance has been a top priority for Tech. Sgt. Porter Gee, the squadron's Academy Military Trainer.

The AMT knew what it would take to get the job done and he and Air Officer Commanding Maj. Jill Whitesell worked closely with their cadet squadron commander and others to ensure their

unit was polished to perfection.

"It's about discipline and focus," Sergeant Gee told Cadet Squadron 4 following yet even more marching practice Monday afternoon at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. "It's massively important that we maintain our focus ... with photo flashes, mothers and fathers waiving [along the inaugural parade route honoring President Barack Obama] ... we have to remain focused the entire time."

The personal highlight for the 17-year Air Force veteran was to see his squadron represented. "With 40 squadrons at the Air Force Academy, to be the one picked to come here and actually participate in this magnificent event is really a big boost to my ego, my heart and my squadron as a whole," said the sergeant from Houston.

Cadet 1st Class Tim Black, CS-4 cadet squadron commander, says all the hard work has paid off.

"There was a lot of planning and coordination back at the Academy to get ready for this whole event," he said. "We've been marching anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour a day for the last week and half."

Cadet Black says he's completely honored and very excited to be doing this for a "monumental event in history."

"To be able to be a part of this is a huge thing," he said. "One day to be able to have a grandkid on my lap and say, 'I led the squadron through D.C.' would be pretty awesome."

While in the Washington area, members of Cadet Squadron 4, along with numerous Academy permanent-party members, made the most of every opportunity to explore the area. Informative stops along the way included the Air Force Memorial, the Smithsonian, the U.S. Capitol including the Rotunda, and more.



**Top:** Cadet Squadron 4 practices an "eyes left" Monday on a frozen field at the U.S. Naval Academy before rendering their first official salute to President Barack Obama the following day.

**Above:** Tech. Sgt. Porter Gee, center, and Maj. Jill Whitesell, left, inspect cadet uniforms Monday to ensure everyone looked their best for the inaugural parade the following day.

**Right:** Near the base of the Air Force Memorial, Fightin' Fourth members reflected on their service's history.





Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad McNeeley

Surrounded by each service's senior enlisted advisor, including Chief Master of the Air Force Rodney McKinley, President Barack Obama addresses the audience at the Commander-in-Chief's ball at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20. The ball honored America's servicemembers, their families, the fallen and wounded warriors.

## President Obama vows not to waver in America's defense

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama pledged a “prudent use” of military power as the nation works toward “ushering in a new era of peace” in his inaugural address to the nation Tuesday.

“Our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint,” he said from the west side of the Capitol here after taking the oath of office as the 44th president. An estimated 2 million people crowded the National Mall and surrounding area to hear his address.

The use of these principles will allow America to develop greater understanding of other nations and greater cooperation against common threats from them, he said.

“We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan,” Obama said. “With old friends and former foes, we’ll work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet.”

Obama said Americans will not apologize for their way of life, nor waver in its defense. “And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you,” he said.

America is a country of doers and risk-takers; it is an immigrant country where each generation worked hard to provide for the next, he said.

“For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life,” Obama said. “For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West, endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.

“For us, they fought and died in places like Concord and Gettysburg, Normandy and Khe Sahn,” he continued. “Time and again, these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions, greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.”

Americans today must continue this journey, he said. It is time for hard decisions and a time of change. “Our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions, that time has

surely passed,” he said. “Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.”

Obama rejected the idea that the nation has to choose between its safety and its ideals. “Our Founding Fathers — faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine — drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience’s sake.”

In the United States, all languages are spoken, all religions are practiced, and all good people are welcomed, he said. “And because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace,” he said.

Obama reached out to the nations of the world in his speech. He told them that America “is a friend of each nation, and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more.”

He also spoke to the Muslim world, saying America seeks a new way forward, based on mutual interest and respect.

“As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains,” the president said. “They have something to tell us, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington [National Cemetery] whisper through the ages. We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves.”

He called on all Americans to shoulder that burden of service. He said it is the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies.

“Greatness is never a given. It must be earned,” he said. “Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted — for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame.”

The faith and determination of Americans can

serve the nation well in a time rife with challenges.

“Our nation is at war against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred,” the president said. “Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age.”

Americans have lost their homes, their jobs, their businesses, and health care is too costly, he said. Schools are failing too many, and the American energy policy plays into the hands of the nation’s enemies.

“These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics,” he said.

These are disturbing, but more disturbing is a sapping of confidence and the fear that with this decline the next generation must lower its sights, he said.

“Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real,” the president said. “They are serious, and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America: They will be met.”

While the challenges of this age are new, the values which have seen the country through in the past will best serve the nation, Obama said. “Honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism — these things are old, but these things are true,” he said.

America must return to these truths, he said. “What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task,” Obama said.

“This is the price and the promise of citizenship,” he said. “This is the source of our confidence, the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.”

If Americans seize this responsibility, then the challenges will be surmounted, he said.

“Let it be said by our children’s children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God’s grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations,” Obama said.

# Volunteers prepare taxes at no cost

Puzzled by the tax law or which credits and deductions to take? Need assistance with your tax return? You may want to visit the USAFA VITA Center in Arnold Hall. The IRS-sponsored VITA Program offers free tax help for military members and their families, active duty or retired.

IRS-trained volunteers can help you with special credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Rebate Recovery Credit for which you may qualify. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, we also offer free electronic filing of your federal and state returns.

Starting Monday, the USAFA Tax Center will be open Monday through Thursday to provide tax assistance and preparation from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required, so please call 333-3905 to schedule your appointment.

The military has a strong VITA Program. Military members and their families worldwide receive free tax preparation assistance at offices within their installations. VITA sites provide free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families. Volunteers are trained and equipped to address military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits, and the effect of the new EITC guidelines. Last year the USAFA tax center prepared 1,309 returns, saving military members more than \$125,247 in filing fees, and securing \$719,794 in federal and state income tax refunds.

## VITA Benefits

**Taxpayers get their refunds faster:** Due to the vagaries of mail service and IRS processing times, military members can expect to wait 45 or more days from the day they mail their returns to the day they see their refund checks. In contrast, electronic filers can expect to have their refund deposited in their bank accounts as early as nine days after their return is transmitted to the IRS, no matter where they are in the world!

**Direct deposit of refunds:** This automatic system takes the hassled and delay out of dealing with refund checks, especially for those who are transferring or who are deployed and don't have easy access to their banks.

## Documentation needed to have tax returns prepared:

- Proof of eligibility/identification: Military ID card Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration.
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return.
- Wage and earning statement (s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-M, from all employers.
- Interest, dividend, and brokerage account statements from banks and financial institutions (Forms 1099), and the cost basis for any stocks or mutual funds sold.
- Mortgage interest statements (Form 1098).
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available.
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit.
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number and address.

**Accuracy:** The accuracy rate for e-filed returns is 99.5%! As many as 12 people will handle the average paper return (from preparer to postal staff to IRS staff) and the error rate is as high as 20 percent. The e-filed return is sent from computer to computer, with fewer humans handling the return, making fewer mistakes. This leads to fewer tax headaches for Airmen!

**No Need for Refund Anticipation Loans:** RALs are short-term loans from commercial tax preparers or other sources, aimed at taxpayers desperate to get their refunds as soon as possible. In the past, these loans often charged exorbitant fees and interest; depending on the amount and length of the loan, interest rates could reach as high as 980% APR! Recent changes in the law and DoD Regulations do not permit RALs for military members if the total interest rate, including fees, exceeds 36 percent. And while 36 percent is significantly lower than rates in the past, the availability of VITA make these loans unnecessary, since military members can have their refunds deposited in their bank accounts in one to two weeks at absolutely no cost.

## VITA Limitations

**Eligibility:** The Air Force VITA program is sponsored by and run under the Air Force's Legal Assistance program. Consequently, only those clients eligible for legal assistance services can be served by the tax center.

**Prioritization:** The AF VITA program is primarily intended to serve junior active duty Airmen and their families, as well as USAFA cadets, with other eligible clients

assisted as resources, and program limitations permit.

**Scope:** The IRS VITA program is not a full-service tax program. While the military part of the IRS VITA program is granted some additional authority to prepare tax returns for military families, the USAFA Tax Center must strictly adhere to IRS guidelines for VITA. For example, we cannot prepare any business returns (no Schedule C's for example) other than for family childcare providers using a Schedule C-EZ. We cannot prepare a return for multiple rental properties, but can prepare a Schedule E for a former principal residence that is now being used as a rental. In addition, we should not prepare any returns with complex Schedule D's for significant buying and selling of stocks and bonds. If military members are actively trading securities they have the ability and/or resources to do their own taxes or should seek professional assistance.

## Rebate Recovery Credit

The Rebate Recovery Credit is a one-time benefit for people who didn't receive the full economic stimulus payment last year and whose circumstances may have changed, making them eligible now for some or all of the unpaid portion. Generally, a credit adds to the amount of your tax refund or lowers the amount of taxes owed. Therefore, the amount you receive for the recovery rebate credit will be included as part of your refund, as shown on your tax return.

People who fall into the categories below may be eligible for the recovery rebate credit this year:

■ Individuals who did not receive an economic stimulus payment.

■ Those who received less than the maximum economic stimulus payment in 2008 because their qualifying or gross income was either too high or too low.

■ Families who gained an additional qualifying child in 2008.

■ Individuals who could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return in 2007, but who cannot be claimed as a dependent on another return in 2008.

The recovery rebate credit is claimed on the Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. Unlike the economic stimulus payment, the recovery rebate credit will be included in your tax refund for 2008 and will not be issued as a separate payment. You need to know the amount of your 2008 economic stimulus payment to determine if you are eligible for the Recovery Rebate Credit, so please bring that information with you to your appointment at the tax center.

## Filing Late

There is still time to file for those who have not yet filed an income tax returns for 2005, 2006 and/or 2007 to claim a refund. Generally, if a taxpayer is due a refund for withholding or estimated taxes paid, it must be claimed within three years of the return due date (including extensions) or the taxpayer loses the right to that refund. The same rule applies to a right to claim a tax credit such as the Earned Income Credit. Penalties and interest do not apply in years in which a taxpayer is entitled to a refund. The USAFA Tax Center can assist members in completing tax returns and claiming refunds for 2005 and 2006, but these returns cannot be electronically filed and must be mailed to the IRS.

Questions regarding military income tax benefits and requirements can be addressed to the USAFA Tax Center at 333-3905 or a JAG legal assistance attorney at 333-3940. The IRS web page at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) also has a wealth of information for military taxpayers including a very useful Q&A section that may address your particular issue. Information contained herein is valid for the 2008 tax year. This article was prepared with information from the IRS web site and Office of the Navy Judge Advocate General, Legal Assistance Division (Code 16).

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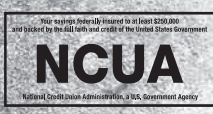
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# Fan voting for Hobey Baker Award opens

Three Falcons:  
Flynn, Lamoureux and  
Volkening, on the  
ballot

## Athletic Communications

As college hockey heads into the second half of the season, it's time for the fans to help determine the winner of the Hobey Baker Award as the game's top player.

The highly popular fan-voting phase is available by visiting [hobeybaker.com](http://hobeybaker.com). Click on the Vote for Hobey Baker icon and follow the prompts to make your selection from this year's outstanding crop of college hockey players.

This first phase of fan balloting will run through March 8, 2009. Phase two of fan balloting will then begin on March 20 from the list of Top 10 Hobey Baker finalists. The fans' vote accounts for a full 1 percent of the total ballot in each phase in selecting this year's award recipient.

Three Falcons are on the initial ballot. Greg Flynn, Andrew Volkening and Jacques Lamoureux are among the players nominated for college hockey's most prestigious individual honor. All three rank among the best in the nation in numerous statistical categories.

Flynn, a defenseman from Lino Lakes, Minn., is the top scoring defense-



Photos by Mike Kaplan

Falcon hockey players Andrew Volkening, Jacques Lamoureux and Greg Flynn.

man in the nation, averaging 1.20 points per game. In 20 games this season, Flynn has 24 points on four goals and 20 assists. He ranks 20th in the nation in points by all players and is the only defenseman in the top 35 in the nation. Volkening, a goaltender from Genoa, Ill., ranks sixth in goals-against average (1.63) and ninth in the nation in saves percentage (.932). His 15 wins are tops in the nation. He leads Atlantic Hockey in all three categories. Volkening also has three shutouts this season and eight for his career. Lamoureux has spent most of the season as the top scorer in the nation and is currently third in the nation in scoring with 1.50 points per game (17-13-30) and goals (0.85) in 20 games. He leads the nation with 11 power-play goals

and five game-winners.

In 2007, former Falcon Eric Ehn became the first service academy player ever named as one of 10 finalists for the Hobey. Ehn was then named to the "Hobey Hat Trick" as one of three finalists for the award. The nation's second leading scorer in 2006-07, Ehn was invited to the Hobey Baker awards ceremony at the Frozen Four in St. Louis, but North Dakota's Ryan Duncan won the award.

Award criteria include candidates mimicking the exceptional character traits exhibited by the award's namesake, Hobey Baker, a World War I flying star better known as America's greatest amateur athlete in his day. Award candidates must demonstrate strength of character both on and off the ice, contribute to the

integrity of his team and display outstanding skills in all phases of the game. Consideration should be given to scholastic achievement and sportsmanship.

Key Hobey Baker announcement dates for 2009 include:

- Top 10 list of candidates: March 19
- Hobey Hat Trick of three finalists: April 2
- Hobey Baker Award winner: April 10

The 2009 Hobey Baker Award winner will be announced from a field of three Hobey Hat Trick finalists April 10 during the NCAA Frozen Four Championships in Washington, D.C. The 29th annual award announcement honoring college hockey's top player will be televised live during prime time on ESPNU.

# Academy football coach agrees to five-year contract

Officials of the U.S. Air Force Academy Athletic Association and Academy head football coach Troy Calhoun agreed on a new five-year contract that runs through the 2013 season, Academy officials said Wednesday.

Director of Athletics Dr. Hans Mueh said the AFAAA has also agreed to new contracts for the football assistant coaches, and details of all the contracts are still being worked and are going through the Academy process.

"We are delighted that Coach Calhoun has agreed to another five-year contract as the head football coach," Dr. Mueh said. "We have structured a program of compensation that will continue to reward Coach Calhoun and his staff for long-term commitment to Air Force football. He and the entire football staff are the perfect role models for our future Air Force leaders and represent the best ideals of college football in America."

Calhoun is 17-9 in two seasons at the Academy and has led the team to back-to-back bowl games, playing in the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl versus California in 2007 and vs. Houston in 2008. The Falcons



Photo by Dave Armer

Head Coach Troy Calhoun

finished 8-5 this season and placed fourth in the Mountain West Conference with a 5-3 mark. Calhoun's 17 wins in two seasons are the second-most ever for a service academy head coach in his first two seasons. He led the Falcons to a fourth-place MWC finish this

season after being picked sixth in the preseason polls. Last year, Calhoun led Air Force to a second-place finish after being picked seventh. The +7 combined improvement over the last two years is the best in the conference.

In his first year at Air Force, the 1989 Academy graduate led the Falcons to a 9-4 overall record, which ties as the most wins ever by a first-year head coach, along with the legendary Ben Martin in 1958. Calhoun led the team to six conference wins, which is the most ever by an Air Force first-year head coach, breaking the mark of four set in 1984. Calhoun was named MWC and the AFCA Region 5 Coach of the Year for 2007.

Calhoun began his coaching career at the Academy, then after serving his military commitment, was an assistant at Ohio University, later becoming the offensive coordinator. He was the offensive coordinator at Wake Forest before joining the National Football League with the Denver Broncos from 2003 to 2005. He was the offensive coordinator for the Houston Texans in 2006 before returning to his alma mater in 2007 as the sixth head coach in school history.

## Ice Hockey

Air Force (15-6-1, 12-3-1 AHA) hosts Army (7-12-3, 6-7-3 AHA) at the Cadet Ice Arena in a two-game Atlantic Hockey series, today-Saturday. The faceoff is at 7:05 p.m. each night. Both games will be broadcast live in Colorado Springs on KCSF AM 1300 and on the Internet at [www.GoAirForceFalcons.com](http://www.GoAirForceFalcons.com).

## Football

Senior kicker Ryan Harrison was named the all-Colorado special teams player of the year by the Colorado Chapter of the National Football Foundation, announced this week. Harrison, along with center Andrew Pipes and offensive linemen Nick Charles and Chris Campbell were also named first-team all-

Colorado. Defensive end Jake Paulson and Chris Thomas were each named to the first-team defense while linebacker Ken Lamendola and outside linebacker Hunter Altman were named to the second-team defense. Harrison set a school record with 24 field goals this season, breaking the mark of 19 he shared with Dave Lawson

(1974) and Dave Adams (2000). Harrison, who is second all-time at the Academy with 43 career field goals, was a semifinalist for the Lou Groza National Placekicker Award and was a second-team all-Mountain West Conference selection. He finished second in the conference in scoring with an 8.3 per-game scoring average. Harrison led the

league and ranked third in the nation in field goals with a 1.85 average per game.

## Wrestling

OMAHA, Neb. - Joshua Smith led a group of Falcon wrestlers Saturday at the Glen Brand Open, hosted by Nebraska-Omaha. Smith captured the title, the first of his career, in the 174-pound weight class. Smith



# Falcons have strong showing at All-Comers Meet

## Athletic Communications

The Air Force track and field team officially opened the 2009 season Jan. 16 with the annual Air Force All-Comers Meet. The Falcons accounted for five first-place finishes, including four from the women's program.

The Falcons picked up two victories in the longer distances, as Auriele Fain won the mile race with a time of 5:26.53 and Katherine Ward finished first in the 3000-meter run with a time of 11:04.62. Melissa Beerse won the pole vault with a clearance of 12'11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", while Sara Neubauer posted the longest distance (48'6") in the shot put.

Fain, who also placed fourth in the 800-meter run (2:25.35), was one of four Falcons to finish within the top seven of that race. Classmate Elyse Willard



Sebastian Ortiz leads a pack of Air Force runners in the men's 3000m run enroute to a third-place finish in a time of 9:14.66.



Kellen Curry wins the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.16 during the Air Force "All-Comers' Meet" Jan. 16, opening the 2009 Track and Field Season.

finished third with a time of 5:34.73, while junior Becca Burditt and freshman Katherine Carroll placed fifth (5:56.68) and seventh (6:02.15), respectively. Willard also joined Ward in the 3000-meter run, finishing second with a time of 11:19.19. Danielle Snider placed fifth in that event with a time of 11:55.21.

Like Fain, Beerse led a number of Falcons to top finishes in the pole vault. Finishing second, Kimber Shealy cleared a career-best 11'11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to improve her fifth-place standing in the program record books. Tawny Lambuth matched her personal-best clearance of 11'5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (seventh all-time) to finish fourth.

Paige Blackburn finished fifth in the shot put with a distance of 42'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - a mark that is the seventh-best distance in Academy history. Nicole Elliott finished fifth in the 60-meter hurdles with a season-opening time of 9.30, while Jordyn Stoddard posted a distance of 35'0 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to place third in the triple jump.

On the men's side, Kellen Curry won the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.16. Curry was one of three Falcons to finish within the top four. Junior Joel Nolan clocked a time of 8:47 to take third, while Bryce Bergman finished fourth in 8.59.

Nolan also led Air Force on the pole vault, clearing 16'0 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to finish as the top collegiate finisher and third overall. Marshall Wills, Hatton Updike and Brandin Bear tied for fifth on the event, with matching heights of 15'1".

Tyler Stanley paced Air Force to three of the top-four finishes in the 800-meter run. Stanley placed second with a time of 1:56.48, while Andy Schweitzer and Alex Zubey finished third (1:58.06) and fourth (1:58.61), respectively.

Justin Tyner picked up a third-place finish in the mile, crossing the finish line in 4:35.55, while Sebastian Ortiz and

Jonathan Rock finished fourth (9:14.66) and fifth (9:20.72), respectively, in the 3000-meter run.

In the throws, Dan Paladino finished second in the weight throw with a distance of 54'5", while senior Kirk Devine placed third with a throw of 53'5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". David Nan finished fifth with a throw of 51'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". A trio of freshman highlighted the shot put results, led by Kyle Schwochow who threw 45'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to take fifth. James Cole and Robert Drye finished sixth (44'6") and seventh (44'0 $\frac{1}{2}$ "), respectively, in their collegiate debut.

Air Force travels to Lincoln, Neb., for its first road meet of the season Saturday. For the third straight season, the Falcons will compete in the Big 12-Mountain West Conference Challenge at the Bob Devaney Center.



Right: Christina Burke competes in the weight throw with a toss of 12.36 meters.

Left: Melissa Beerse competes in the pole vault, finishing in first place with a vault of 12' 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The Falcons accounted for five first-place finishes, including four from the women's program.

opened the day with a fall, pinning Cody Kersten of Iowa Central Community College in a time of 1:45. Smith followed that victory with an 8-5 decision over Iowa State's Chris Pursel, before notching his second fall of the day. This time the pin, in a time of 1:37, came against Lindenwood's Josh Hauk, who had won both of his first two bouts by fall. In the championship

bout, Smith took on Billy Lewis of Iowa State and escaped with a 3-1 victory. Air Force is back in action Saturday at the Borah Duals, hosted by Western Colorado in Gunnison, Colo.

### Women's gymnastics

PITTSBURGH — The Air Force women's gymnastics team collected five top-10 finishes, en route to a fourth-place finish at

the Pittsburgh Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 17, in Pittsburgh. Abbey Rogers, competing in her hometown, paced the Falcons on two events. Rogers increased her season-high totals in three events, while leading the team on the parallel bars and balance beam. She tied for seventh on the bars with a score of 9.625, while scoring a 9.725 on the beam to also tie for

seventh on that event. Rogers' balance beam score is just .050 shy of her career high. In addition to tying for 10th on the vault (9.650), she tied for third in the all-around with a total of 37.100. Jenna Dudley, who matched Rogers' all-around score of 37.100, posted the best individual event finish of the night. Dudley tied for third on the floor exercise with a career-best

score of 9.750, increasing her score by .225. The rookie, in her first road competition of the year, also improved her personal-best score on the uneven bars at 9.550. Air Force remains on the road for its next meet, traveling to Davis, Calif., today. The Falcons will face off against Mountain Pacific Sports Federation foe, UC-Davis, at 7 p.m. PST.



### Grand reopening

The Stripes Lounge, complete with a newly installed bar, will hold a grand reopening at 3:30 p.m. today in the Falcon Club. The club will offer heavy hors d'oeuvres with a \$5 cover charge for non-members. Two club members will receive \$50 gift cards. The evening will also offer an enlisted membership drive where new members will have the cover charge waived and have the chance to receive a \$100 gift card. Call Senior Master Sgt. Amy Cook at 333-0050 with questions or for more information.

### Dance lessons

Weekly ballroom dance lessons, one hour each for four more weeks, continue Wednesday at 7 p.m. Learn the swing,

foxtrot, slow waltz and rumba dance steps. Cost is \$70 for couples and \$40 for an individual. Call 333-2928 for more information or to sign up.

### Teachers sought

Leisure time instructors in all levels of Piano and Mexican cooking (Tamale, Salsa and Tortilla making) are being sought for Academy programs. Contact Linda Crom, 333-2928 for details.

### National Eye Care Month

Community Programs is conducting 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 Centers. 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 season should contact: [scott.irving@usafa.edu](mailto:scott.irving@usafa.edu) or call at 719-333-3013 or toll free at 1-800-379-1455 extension 3013. If no answer, leave a message.

### 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 Wednesday - 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.

### Horse cents

The Academy Equestrian Center is offering a winter deal for serious riders. The basic cost is \$150 for the first horse and \$100 for each additional horse per month, per family. Arrangements for the Winter Lease Program are by appointment only with Jeanne Springer at 472-8639 or e-mail [jeanne.springer@usafa.af.mil](mailto:jeanne.springer@usafa.af.mil).

### A&FRC offerings

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

**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.

**Disabled American Veterans medical records review**

Monday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review medical records.

### Volunteer program

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

### 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.



### 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).



#### 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 - 9:30 a.m.  
Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m.  
(September - May)

##### **Tuesday-Friday**

Mass - 11:30 a.m.

##### Protestant Services:

##### **Wednesday**

Wednesday Night Live - 6 p.m.  
Fellowship followed by Religious Education (September - May)

##### **Saturday**

Contemporary - 6 p.m.

##### **Sunday**

Traditional - 8 a.m.  
Gospel - 11:15 a.m.

##### Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:

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



Photo by Ann Patton

### Cupid rules

Cadet Treats is offering gift baskets for sale for Valentine's Day. Purchases however, are not limited to cadets. Customers can choose from ready-made or custom ordered baskets. Cost ranges from \$30 - \$60. Custom baskets required at least one week notice. The shop in Arnold Hall is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Friday. To order drop by the shop next to the food court, call 333-3908, FAX 333-2617 or e-mail [cadettreats@usafa.af.mil](mailto:cadettreats@usafa.af.mil).

# Service

