



USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 49 No. 6

February 13, 2009



Aces
Academy leaders honor top academic performers
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Seeking remains
Academy NCO says there's no greater honor
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Engaging speakers set to take center stage
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Local staff, volunteers serving entire community
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Photo by Mike Kaplan

Take that!

Falcon forward Josh Frider applies aggressive pressure on the University of Connecticut goalie. Falcon head coach Frank Serratore says UConn may be the toughest defense the Falcons have faced all year. See Page 15 for more coverage of Falcons hockey action.

Academy boasts scholarship winners

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

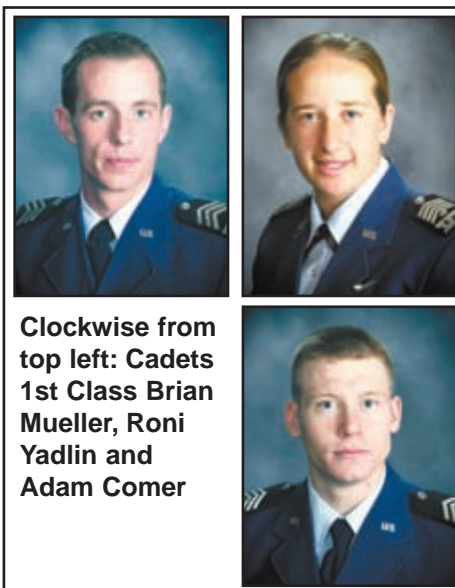
Three first-class cadets have been named recipients of prestigious scholarships for graduate study in England next year.

Cadet 1st Class Brian Mueller, Cadet Squadron 5, has been awarded the Marshall Scholarship. He will pursue a master's degree in science and security at King's College in London.

Cadet 1st Class Roni Yadlin, Cadet Squadron 30, will pursue a master's in philosophy in international relations at Oxford University with her Bart Holaday scholarship.

Cadet 1st Class Adam Comer, Cadet Squadron 37, has been awarded a Gates Scholarship, allowing him to study at the University of Cambridge.

He is the Academy's first recipient of the Gates award, presented by the Gates Cambridge Trust created by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to enable outstanding graduate students from outside the United Kingdom to study at



Clockwise from top left: Cadets 1st Class Brian Mueller, Roni Yadlin and Adam Comer

the University of Cambridge. The Trust seeks to elect about 100 new scholars annually, from any nation, and candidates compete at the national level.

"I was completely shocked and surprised. I thought the interview went terribly, and I walked out of the interview certain that my chances of being awarded a Gates Scholarship were over," Cadet Comer said. "I am still trying to come to

terms with all of it."

The Academy double ACE (two semesters with straight A's) and mechanical engineering major will study the optimization of fuel injectors of gas turbine engines in an effort to improve efficiency and potentially reveal how chemical and physical differences of certain biofuels affect the optimization process.

The Marshall Scholarship, named for General of the Army George C. Marshall, provides students with opportunities at any university in the U.K. and applicable to any field of study. About 40 Marshall Scholars are selected each year.

Cadet Mueller is the 10th Marshall recipient from the Academy and is a political science major with a minor in Chinese.

He plans to study the security dynamics and consequences behind the possible militarization of outer space. The science and security program attempts to bridge the gap between technology and policy by illustrating the

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Retiree appreciates total team effort

Editor's Note: The below letter to the editor is in response to the feature story in last week's *Academy Spirit* entitled: "Total team effort comforts family in time of need"

The story described the combined efforts of Air Force members from F.E. Warren and others deployed to the United Arab Emirates, to the medical treatment provided at Memorial Hospital here in Colorado Springs, to the logistical support from the staff at the nearby Ronald McDonald House. All involved were instrumental in bringing comfort into the lives of a young Air Force couple who'd lost one of their twin girls born at Memorial Hospital, Nov. 11, 2008, just two days after her birth.

Dear Mr. Carter,

This note is to express our thanks and appreciation for the outstanding article that

you wrote in the Feb. 6th issue of the *Academy Spirit* in reference to the Air Force family being second to none.

The article on Staff Sgt. Roman Alvarez and his wife Jamie and their needs at the time of birth with the twins, was very compassionate and insightful.

There are many in our Air Force family who stepped forward and became very visible at the time of need. I specifically refer to the squadron personnel at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. The chain of command all kicked into high gear, with the commander, first sergeant, section chief and down the line of command, all involved in assisting with the serious situation. The expeditious action taken to return Sergeant Alvarez from deployment and immediate leave to visit his wife was as if they were

taking care of a family member.

Their concern continued with the daily monitoring of the health complications of the mother and babies at the hospital. The Air Force Family's humanitarian concern was very much in display when Sergeant Alvarez's military superiors all drove down from Cheyenne, Wyo., to Pueblo, Colo., for the funeral of Amaya.

I earlier mentioned "our Air Force family." I am a retired Air Force sergeant and always knew that our family had a big heart, but had never seen it in action with such compassion until now.

Staff Sgt. Roman Alvarez is our grandson.

Benjamin Palomino
USAF Retired

Control destiny through sound decisions

By Senior Airman Shane Dunaway
36th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Controlling your own destiny is a term often associated with sports, meaning a team only has to win to make the playoffs.

In life, "making the playoffs" can take on a different meaning — progression in your career or even your life.

Everyone loves to use the phrase, "We're undermanned," but in some instances, it doesn't have to be this way.

The stone-cold fact is we lose a multitude of Airmen every year, whether it's due to vehicle-related fatalities, off-duty mishaps or UCMJ violations. In most cases, especially in regards to the UCMJ, these losses are preventable.

Think about the number of people

we lose each year to infractions such as driving under the influence or sexual assault. Those people ultimately made the choice to break the rules, but where was someone who could've confiscated their car keys or recommended a cab? Where was the person who should've said, "You need to quit feeding that Airman shots," or "It's probably not a good idea for you to go back to that Airman's room."?

I'm not saying we all need to be glorified babysitters, but we do need to be better wingmen.

What happened to having the common decency and courtesy to be there for someone when they need the help?

What happened to respecting your fellow Airmen — the ones who fight alongside you against the Global War on Terror every day?

What happened to our integrity — doing the right thing even when no one else is looking?

Put yourself in the shoes of someone who has ever been affected by an incident involving alcohol. Imagine the grief you could potentially cause the next time liquid courage tempts you to drive. The next time you're feeding an Airman drinks in an attempt to capitalize on a negative situation, ask yourself, "Would I want this to happen to my sister, brother, mother or friend?"

We all need to take a moment and realize we're all part of the same team — "One team, one fight," and if we keep hurting each other or ourselves, we'll never accomplish the mission at hand.

Control your own destiny. Continue winning and progress forward in this fight we all share.

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.



Character Corner Under the Spotlight

By Capt. Olin Pluemer
Center for Character Development

As former NBA basketball star Karl Malone once stated, "We are all role models. It is up to us to decide whether we are good ones or bad ones."

This brings us to a situation that all men and women serving in uniform have faced, past and present. Not only are we often judged as role models but also as ambassadors to our service and our country to any and all who may be watching. A service member's voice and actions carry more weight than most people realize (service members

included), and the public trust, once damaged, is often difficult and time consuming to repair.

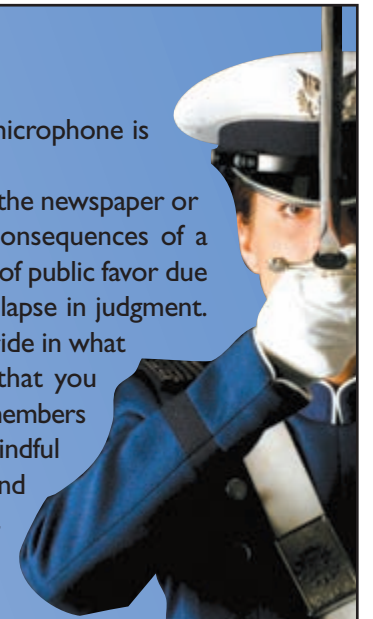
This takes on an even more urgent role overseas as soldiers, sailors, and Airmen represent the face of America during not only the global war on terror but also during relief missions and other deployments abroad.

Whether it is fair or not, all of us serving in uniform are under the scrutiny, but the proper reaction has always been very simple. As with our first core value, integrity, our actions and appearance should also be managed as if no one is looking. This is only reinforced by the technology of today

where the closest camera or microphone is only a cell phone away.

One only needs to pick up the newspaper or surf the Internet to see the consequences of a public figure who has fallen out of public favor due to a not-so-private misstep or lapse in judgment. As a rule, you need only take pride in what you accomplish and the way that you come across to others, service members or not, in plain sight or not. Be mindful of your status as an emissary and you'll never need to worry about the glare of the spotlight.

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



Do you have a special Valentine?

"My husband, Nico. I've known him my whole life. He's my Valentine because he puts up with me."



Gidget Bay,
Budget Analyst
Department of
Finance

"My husband Andre and daughter Makaela. We always send each other things for Valentine's Day."



Mandy Hope,
Department of
Admissions

"My wife, Susan. We've been married 22 years and are high-school sweethearts. I will definitely give her a Valentine."

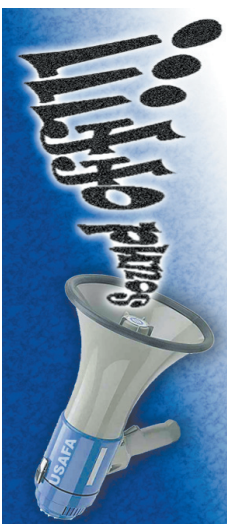


Scott Koenig,
Personnel Systems
Specialist

"I usually send my mom a Valentine to our home in Phoenix."



Cadet 2nd Class
Steven Meyer,
Cadet Squadron 28



10th MDG earns 'excellent' during inspection

*Academy Hospital
officially
becomes clinic*

By 10th Medical Group staff

The 10th Medical Group cheered as it received the results from the week-long Air Force Inspection Agency Health Services Inspection.

The HSI team validated the effectiveness of both the group's peacetime and wartime missions and benchmarked the Military Treatment Facility with all other MTFs in the Air Force medical service. The 10th MDG scored an overall "Excellent" rating.

"I could not be more proud of the men and women of the 10th Medical Group," said Col. Alan Berg, 10th MDG commander. "This inspection proves we are providing high quality medical care to our beneficiaries."

Along with the nine-person HSI team, an additional team of three surveyors from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care assessed the quality and safety of the care provided by the Academy clinic.

The AAAHC surveyors had a busy week visiting each of the outlying facilities, interviewing both staff and patients, and reviewing hundreds of documents.

This survey provides the 10th MDG the opportunity to be assessed by its civilian counterparts.

Although the survey results will not be available for 45 days, it seemed the AAAHC surveyors were impressed

with the care the 10th MDG provides.

Of particular note was the Ambulatory Surgical Center, a state-of-the-art surgical facility that the team stated compares favorably to any ASC in the civilian community.

This HSI, combined with the accreditation survey from the AAAHC, marks the official end of the 10th MDG's designation as a hospital and a new beginning as a clinic.

Even with this new status as a clinic, the 10th MDG maintains most of the capability it had as a hospital, and it is not sitting still.

A new 64-slice CAT scan is being installed and there's daily evidence of improvements being made as part of the ongoing \$22 million renovation project, according to Colonel Berg.

Peterson AFB requires early DBIDS registration

By 21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Beginning March 2, people entering Peterson Air Force Base will need to present an ID card that has been registered in the Defense Biometric Identification System or DBIDS.

Registration is currently under way. People can get their cards registered at the Academy's Pass and ID Office or at the commissary from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

The new system will instantly pull up identification card information to validate authorized personnel. Everyone who has a DoD ID card will need to register it in DBIDS prior to March 2. Traffic delays associated with the full introduction of this system at Peterson are expected, but members entering the base can help mini-

mize those delays by registering their DoD ID card early and having the IDs of everyone in their vehicle available when approaching the gate.

Authorized Peterson users are encouraged to register at one of three locations.

Peterson's West Gate Visitor Control Center: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Peterson Base Exchange satellite pharmacy through Feb. 28: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Building 350 near Military Personnel Section: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Users may call ahead to 556-6660 or 556-5740 to inquire as to what the estimated wait times might be.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch

Airman 1st Class Ashley Buchanan, 10th Security Forces Squadron, registers Zerelda Hamilton's ID card for the Defense Biometric Identification System at the Academy commissary Tuesday. People can get their cards registered at the Academy's Pass and Registration Office or at the commissary from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

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Scholarship

From Page 1

consequences of scientific development on foreign policy. Cadet Mueller is unsure where he will pursue another degree during his second year in the U.K.

"I was extremely shocked and speechless, yet humbled that I had been selected among such a competitive group of my peers," he said. He was informed of the award the evening following the interview.

"I almost started jumping up and down out of pure excitement after hearing the news," he said.

Cadet Yadlin, an astronautical engineering major, said she has always had a passion for politics and international relations.

She chose to take advantage of "this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" and study in a field outside her academic arena. The daughter of a former Israeli Air Force pilot and captain of the Academy's women's intercollegiate soccer team hopes the combined study will help her to use space technology and space exploration as a means of building relationships between countries and to use space as a realm of peace and cooperation.

The Holaday Scholarship is sponsored by The Dakota Foundation which seeks to foster entrepreneurship in North Dakota and New Mexico. It is awarded annually to a graduating Academy cadet and bears the name Bart Holaday, a Rhodes Scholar who believed Oxford University provides an invaluable global perspective for its location, international student body and premier faculty.

Cadet Yadlin said she felt excited yet felt part disbelief and relief as well.

"I was obviously extremely excited about the prospect of studying in England and can't wait to start that next chapter of my education and life," she said.

Cadet Yadlin's disbelief is in realizing that from the pool of impressive candidates she was selected.

"I felt relief because all my hard work in preparing for the scholarships had amounted to such great results," she added.

Cadet Comer anticipates applying what he will be learning to good use in his Air Force career by conducting combustion research and reducing the Air Force's fuel costs and carbon footprint.

Cadet Mueller plans to use his degree and cultural and educational background to educate and inform policy officials on the potential long-term consequences of placing weapons in outer space.

Cadet Yadlin hopes to use her international relations studies to further peaceful relationships with other countries. She is slotted to attend pilot training after graduation as well.

All the scholarship recipients have long lists of

achievements and activities at the Academy, including academics, sports, overseas cultural immersions and research projects, among others.

All also credit their families, fellow cadets and Academy faculty for allowing them to pursue their interests and encouraging and believing in them.

It won't be all work and no play in the U.K. for these Academy go-getters. Cadets Mueller and Yadlin plan to get involved with British soccer. All enjoy travel and meeting new friends, natural diversions for overseas study breaks.

"I am humbled to have been selected as a Marshall Scholar and will be very honored to represent not only the Academy but also the United States. While studying in England," Cadet Mueller added. "I'm looking forward to absorbing as much English culture as I possibly can while imparting a positive impression of the United States on the British citizens."



Lt. Gen. Robert Elder, commander, 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and Joint Functional Component commander for Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., speaks to cadets on Air Force issues during a Wednesday visit to the Academy.

Photo by Mike Kaplan

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Cadets get with the program

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Academy cadets took second, third and fourth place in Saturday's 2009 Inter-Service Programming Contest between the Academy, Marines, Navy and USCGA.

The inter-service programming competition required writing computer programs to solve a variety of problems. For example, one problem required the determination of whether two rectangles intersected or not. In another problem called "walk," a farmer lost his glasses in a field and a cadet's program had to create a route for the farmer to search for his glasses. Other problems dealt with placement of commas, factorization of numbers, and optimization of resources for the game "Civilization."

"The three teams all competed at the same time," said Cadet 3rd Class Andrew Whitmey a Cadet Squadron 30 computer engineering major from Dana Point, Calif. "It was a timed contest with the other teams at the other academies working at the same time. We used a communal webpage to post the competition problems, and they were released

at the same time."

The three teams competed against each other as well as against those from the other academies.

Participating in the competition as Team 1's Cadets 3rd Class Andrew Whitmey, Brian Hayes and Sean Coombs; Team 3's Cadets 2nd Class Michael Nettis, Robbie Winchester and David Musielewicz; and, Team 4's Cadets 2nd Class Alex Larson and Alex Roosma.

"There were six different problems, so that my team split them up, two problems for each person, and got to work," Cadet Whitmey said.

The hardest problem he personally tried to solve was the "Civilization" problem. "It involved creating an algorithm to maximize output of a specified resource around a city placed on a grid," the cadet said. "Each grid location had a certain capacity to produce a specific resource, so that our job was to write the program that would maximize the output of the specified resource by placing 'population units' on certain squares."



Photo by Dr. Wayne Brown

Cadets 2nd Class David Musielewicz, Robbie Winchester and Michael Nettis work a problem during Saturday's 2009 Inter-Service Programming Contest.

He and his teammates volunteered for the competition.

"We all love programming and needed the practice for the Computer Science 220 class," he said

In this sort of competition, the team members needed an ability to solve problems, not just the knowledge of the programming language syntax. To quickly complete the problems faster than the other teams, competitors needed to have a lot of practice specific to algorithm creation and problem solving, not to mention plenty of soda pop ... and maybe an Oreo or two.

"I enjoyed the 'Comma' program the most; it was an Oxford comma detector used to scan through a supplied text file and find 'likely' or 'possible' Oxford commas and give their locations in the file," Cadet Whitmey said. "I understood how I was supposed to solve the problem, and I carried it out in a short amount of time. However, I got the problem wrong because of certain test cases I hadn't thought of. Oh well!"

He said just being in CS 210 last semester prepared him for the contest. "I didn't take any extra steps to prepare for the contest," the cadet said.



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Dental health month promotes regular checkups

By Dr. David Tornberg

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Clinical and Program Policy

February is National Children's Dental Health Month — a perfect time to make sure your kids have regular dental checkups and brush their teeth every day. According to Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, dental decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease. It is five times more common than asthma, seven times more common than hay fever, and completely preventable.

As parents, it is our responsibility to make sure our children are safe and healthy. Immunizations and "well baby" check-ups eliminate most preventable diseases, but infants and children are still affected by the most common preventable disease — dental decay.

Oral Health

Schedule your child's first visit to the dentist early. You should take your child to the dentist by the time his or her first tooth appears, or by the first birthday, so the dentist can check for early tooth problems and explain how to care for your baby's teeth.

Healthy Habits

The American Dental Association recommends the following oral hygiene guidelines:

After each feeding, wipe the baby's gums with a clean gauze pad. Begin brushing your child's teeth when the first



**CHILDREN'S
DENTAL HEALTH
MONTH**

tooth appears. Clean and massage gums in areas that remain toothless, and begin flossing when all the baby teeth have appeared, usually by age 2 or 2½.

Never let your children fall asleep with a bottle in their mouths containing milk, formula, or fruit juice.

If your children need comfort between regular feedings, at night, or during naps, give them a clean pacifier recommended by your dentist or physician. Never give your children pacifiers dipped in any sweet liquid.

Do not fill bottles with sugar water or soft drinks.

If local water supply does not contain fluoride, ask your dentist how your children should get it.

Visit the dentist regularly. If you think your children have dental problems, take them to the dentist as soon as possible.

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Stamina — A Skills Outcome

By Col. Billy Walker
Stamina Outcome Team Lead

It's been called by many names: endurance, guts, heart, or determination. History's greatest military commanders have recognized its importance and implored its necessity in war and peacetime military operations. By whatever name and whatever definition, one thing is for certain ... Stamina is an essential warrior attribute.

For our purposes, stamina is defined as the capability of sustaining prolonged stressful effort — the ability to persist with focus and intensity even when faced with adversity and fatigue. To lead effectively, every officer is expected to maintain the physical fitness and mental toughness to perform during times of duress. Therefore, stamina training programs are integrated into the Academy

curriculum, where the programs develop, enhance, test and measure the stamina of cadets.

The Academy experience emphasizes stamina development in both the physical and mental realms. The physical version, also known as endurance, is the ability to exert the body for extended periods of time. Mental stamina is the individual's ability to persist and maintain emotional control and sharp mental faculty when placed in stressful situations and while fatigued.

The Academy's integrated course of instruction (COI) addresses both forms of stamina by requiring each cadet to develop a personal commitment to lifelong physical fitness, as well as the mental toughness, perseverance and confidence to overcome adversity.

As soon as they arrive, cadets are immersed in myriad experiences intended

to test and develop their stamina. From in-processing through graduation, stamina is required to successfully navigate the challenging daily schedule of calls. This is by design, as each day the stamina of every individual cadet is enhanced.

Physical stamina is specifically developed through mandatory physical fitness testing, PE classes and competitive athletics, in the form of intercollegiate, intramural or club athletics. Each cadet takes the Cadet Physical Fitness (PFT) and Aerobic Fitness (AFT) tests once per semester which provide direct stamina assessment data. In the case of the PFT, the timed, sequential nature of the test's anaerobic components require an overall level of stamina to complete successfully. PE classes such as Water Survival and Unarmed Combat II expose cadets to stressful situations where they will be required to call upon their stamina to enable them to perform at expected levels.

Cadet 3rd Class Kirsten Lorch, a recent swimming student, referred to the mile swim as an event that she anticipated with great trepidation.

"Honestly, I was a bit scared at being required to swim an entire mile non-stop. I've always been a distance runner, so I consider myself someone with healthy stamina, but translating that into the aquatic environment wasn't something I was sure I could accomplish. Although it took 52 minutes, finishing it gave me a great sense of confidence that, when required, I had the mental and physical stamina to finish a task I was not initially comfortable with."

This is precisely the result desired by the outcome team.

While more difficult to objectively assess, mental stamina is clearly developed



as well. Everything from Basic Cadet Training, to Commandant's Challenge, to Recognition, tests one's mental and physical stamina. And anyone who has pulled an "all-nighter" studying for a physics final knows the stamina required for that enjoyable evening.

Accomplishing the total COI, the accumulation of all cadet academic, athletic, character, and military graduation and commissioning requirements, in a jam-packed and highly structured four-year block of time is a daunting experience. To do so, cadets must endure an inherently challenging daily schedule requiring great stamina.

"To persevere as a cadet, to constantly juggle the COI requirements, day after day, week after week, for four years, requires tremendous mental and physical stamina and self-discipline; simulating the stamina and discipline required of our armed forces during combat," said Associate Athletic Director for Physical Education Jeff Heidmous, a member of the schedule of calls development committee.

Stamina is a necessary characteristic for all military members, and is absolutely crucial to the demands of military leadership. The U.S. Air Force requires robust leaders who have the capacity to lead from the front for prolonged periods, in environments that span the full spectrum of military operations. By providing a vigorous, challenging curriculum and training program, the Academy ensures that its graduates have developed and internalized the stamina necessary to be effective leaders of character for the nation.



Photo by Dave Armer

Swimming in a soaked, heavy uniform during water survival surely tests stamina.

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Leadership honors cadet academic Aces

By Dean of Faculty Staff

Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born hosted a remarkable group of cadets at her quarters last week. Joining her in honoring the fall semester "Dean's Aces" (4.0 semester grade point average) were the superintendent, vice superintendent, commandant of cadets, athletic director, character and leadership chair, and command chief. Of 4,497 members of the Cadet Wing, only 24 cadets earned an A in every class, including physical education.

The list below gives the names of all Aces. Five classes were represented, as well as several intercollegiate athletes and high-ranking members of the cadet chain of command. The list encompassed 13 different majors including three from Aeronautical Engineering, and two each from Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Biochemistry.

Six Aces attended the U.S. Naval Academy last semester as exchange students and one Ace joined the Long Blue Line, following in the footsteps of his father ('85 USAFA graduate). Several Aces earned previous recognition, with Cadet 1st Class George Sondecker becoming only the fourth quadruple Ace. C1C Brad Dewees, C1C Jeremy Didier, C1C Katharine Kalamaroff, and Cadet 2nd Class Nicholas Carter are three-time Aces, while C1C Adam Comer and Cadet

3rd Class Eric Robinson earned recognition as two-time Aces.

Among the five graduating with the Class of 2009, one will report to pilot training, two will become developmental engineers, one will serve as a physicist, and one will become an intelligence officer.

During the course of the event, General Born commented on the remarkable accomplishments of the cadets not only in academics but in military training, professional obligations, and athletics. Eighteen are on the superintendent's list (having earned the dean's, commandant's, and athletic director's pins), and five others are on the commandant's list. Additionally, five of the ACES participated in intercollegiate sports and two held group-level positions last semester.

Following the dinner, Quadruple

Ace C1C George Sondecker commented that he greatly appreciated the Deans' support and the support of the Academy's permanent party. He further said, "It is always a tremendous privilege to be a part of such a talented group of cadets.

Cadet 4th Class Dustin Hayhurst said, "I greatly enjoyed listening to the stories told by the senior leadership and I had a wonderful evening."

C4C Riley Livermore expressed similar thoughts saying, "I had an enjoyable time talking with the senior leadership," and, "It was a wonderful experience



Photo by Dave Armer

Cadet Aces gather recently to be honored by Academy leaders.

that I hope to do again."

These cadets truly epitomize "Excellence in all we do" as tremendous role models, and as future leaders of character for the Air Force and the nation.

Cadet	Class Year	SQ	Major	Cadet	Class Year	SQ	Major
Dekker, Travis	2008	23	Biochemistry	Becker, Jared Daniel	2011	24	Aeronautical Engineering
Comer, Adam*	2009	37	Mechanical Engineering	Lystrup, Robert	2011	10	Biochemistry
Dewees, Bradley**	2009	22	Systems Engineering Management	Parker, Daniel	2011	11	Electrical Engineering
Didier, Jeremy**	2009	37	Political Science	Robinson, Eric*	2011	5	Mathematics
Kalamaroff, Katharine**	2009	39	Physics	Schmidt, Frank	2011	22	Electrical Engineering
Sondecker, George***	2009	20	Mechanical Engineering	Hayhurst, Dustin	2012	9	
Carter, Nicholas**	2010	9	Aeronautical Engineering	Kurz, Jeremy	2012	36	
Gannett, Paul	2010	29	Economics	Laurent, Kelly	2012	10	
Kline, Derrick	2010	34	Foreign Area Studies	Livermore, Riley	2012	26	
Koslow, Michael	2010	14	Operations Research	McLain, Michael	2012	28	
Parker, Harold	2010	27	Biology	Reeder, Rachel	2012	35	
Sukut, Thomas (at USNA)	2010	20	Astronautical Engineering	Zarbock, Christopher	2012	30	Aeronautical Engineering

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

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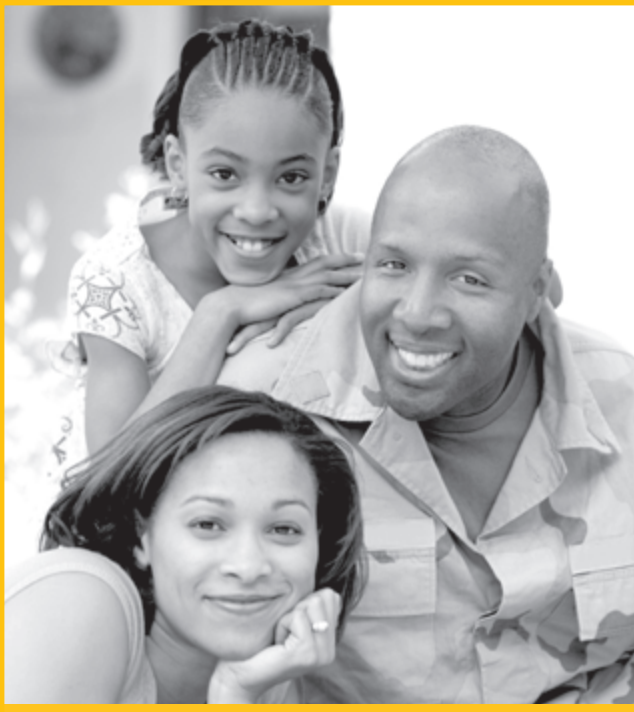
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NCO seeking remains says, 'nothing more rewarding'

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

An Academy NCO is off on his third recovery mission to Southeast Asia in mid-February where he will help seek remains of military people from the Vietnam War.

"It's easy for a military member to understand the commitment we make to our country when we enlist," said Master Sgt. Greg Meinert, 306th Operations Support Squadron's aircrew life support NCOIC. "The motto 'Till

they are Home' demonstrates the resolve of this country that no matter how long, no matter what it takes. We will continue the promise to bring home every American POW/MIA. Those missing have made it easy for me to give my time and effort to this mission because they gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

His 93 year-old grandfather continues to tell him stories of back when he was in WWII. An uncle served in Korea and another uncle served three tours in Vietnam.

See SEEKING, Page 16



Courtesy Photo
Master Sgt. Greg Meinert carefully searches for remains.

Deployment history to be removed from boards

By Richard Salomon
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Air Force officials here recently announced that 45-day deployment history data will be deleted from duty qualification briefs for officer selection and pre-selection and from senior noncommissioned officer evaluation briefs.

This total-force initiative will apply to all active-duty members, Reserve and Guard personnel.

"These changes will impact management level reviews, as well as officer and enlisted central selection boards," said Lt.

Col. John Giles, chief of promotions and evaluations at the Pentagon.

The deployment data will be removed from senior NCO evaluation briefs with the February 2009 senior master sergeant promotion board. It will also be removed from the June 2009 lieutenant colonel (line of the Air Force) and medical service corps promotion boards when the system modifications are complete.

For the Reserve, the change will go into effect with the April 2009 (chaplain, line of the Air Force judge advocate general) major and lieutenant colonel board. For the Guard, the change will occur with the colonel's Federal

Recognition Review Board that convenes in March 2009.

"Many factors have led to the recent change in policy, especially since deployments now take many forms across the Air Force," Colonel Giles said.

In addition to "traditional" deployments, such as long-term deployments to the area of responsibility, some career fields such as space and missile and unmanned aircraft system operators do not typically deploy but provide daily support operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In addition, many global mobility Airmen, as well as Guard and Reserve Airmen, do not spend 45 consecutive

days in the AOR (a minimum requirement for documentation), but often deploy for more than 45 cumulative days within a calendar year.

"All of these are valid and important deployments, but they are documented elsewhere in officer selection records and senior enlisted selection records," Colonel Giles said.

This documentation includes decoration citations, bullets on officer and enlisted performance reports, promotion recommendation form statements, letters to officer promotion boards and more.

For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775.

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Generals reflect on importance of diversity

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — “We’re not all that different,” Maj. Gen. Larry Spencer says of diversity. The trick to finding that out, however, is talking about it.

General Spencer, deputy assistant secretary for budget, thinks that’s what a lot of African-American History Month is all about.

“People get scared to talk about diversity,” the Washington, D.C.-native said. “But once we open up and discuss our differences, we find out that we have more in common than we may have thought. We all want to succeed in life; we all want to provide for our children. Talking about our diverse backgrounds gives us a chance to learn about each other and from each other.”

Maj. Gen. Darren McDew, the Air Force public affairs director, said that diversity is a source of strength for the Air Force.

“Diversity means bringing different ideas to the operation,” General McDew said. “If you think about it, that’s the strength of America. America was a lot of folks from a lot of different places who came together to bring strength to a new operation.”

The two generals, while both African-American, have followed two very different career paths.

General Spencer entered the Air Force in the late ‘70s as an enlisted information manager before cross-training into finance. He then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering technology from Southern Illinois University. He earned his commission through officer training school, and eventually held a variety of command assignments. As the Air Force budget director, he is responsible for planning and directing the Air Force budget that totals more than \$136 billion annually. General Spencer

handles all things financial for the Air Force, from buying its aircraft to ensuring its people get paid.

General McDew graduated from the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va. There he found himself immediately in the minority as he knew he wanted to join the Air Force despite most graduates joining the Army. Besides, the general’s father was an Airman; he would be too. General McDew soon earned his pilot wings and flew a variety of airlift and tanker aircraft before holding several command positions and even served as a Senate liaison officer and Air Force aid to the president. In his current assignment, he advises the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force on public affairs matters, plans and executes communication processes, and is responsible for 3,000 bandsmen, broadcasters, multimedia and public affairs professionals.

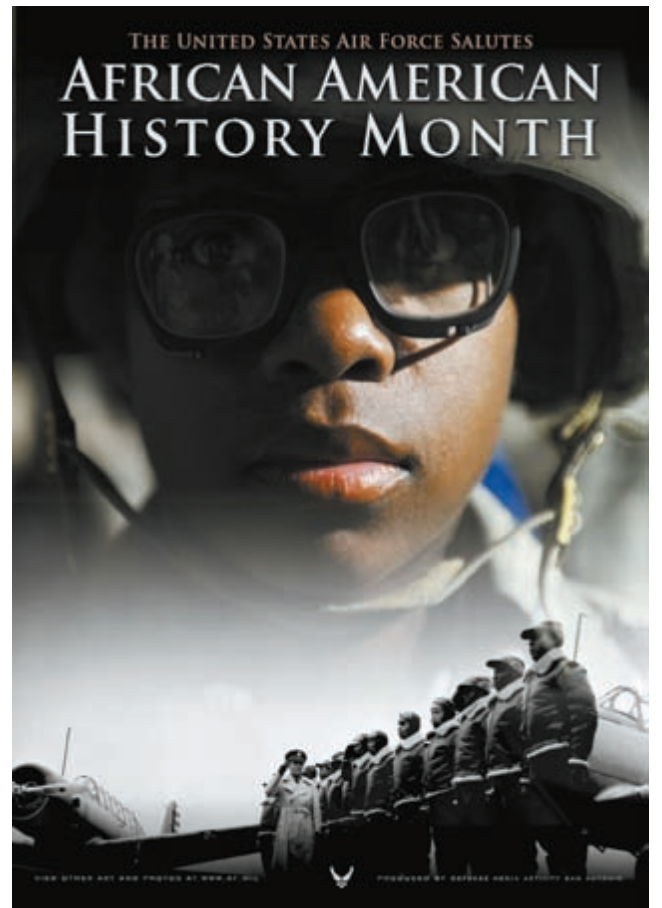
As varied as their backgrounds have been, they both agree that the diversity of Air Force people is what makes the service work - that no matter where a person comes from, what their beliefs are, or what their race or ethnicity is - they can add something to the mission.

“You wouldn’t line up 11 quarterbacks or 11 linemen on a football field to make a play,” General Spencer added. “You need diversity. People have their own unique backgrounds and skill sets that help them accomplish the mission. We need all those talents and only when we work together do we find success.”

Both generals found the opportunity for educational benefits a rewarding aspect of joining the Air Force. General McDew received an Air Force ROTC scholarship while General Spencer earned his degree going to night school.

After joining the Air Force full-time, both generals noticed how success in the military had nothing to do with their backgrounds or skin color.

“Our Air Force is a great ‘meritocracy,’ as I like



to call it,” General McDew said. “If you do your job well, you will be rewarded. You get out of the Air Force as much as you put into it. What’s made the Air Force so great is that there have been Airmen who have given it their all, no matter what their race, ethnicity or religion. They earned success based on merits of their actions.

“If we’re to be as successful in the future, we’ve got to get people to appreciate the notion that just because you don’t think the way I do, it doesn’t mean you don’t add value to our Air Force,” General McDew added.

Within his own career field, General Spencer stresses to his people that while mentorship is important, they should strive to mentor members from various ethnic groups.

“It gets people out of their comfort zone when they find a mentor who doesn’t look like them or was raised the way they were,” he said. “Having a mentor who is a different ethnicity or one with different religious beliefs provides perspective for Airmen. That mentor can help them solve issues in ways they might not have thought about.”

The diversity of Airmen and civilians has long been one of the keys to success for the Air Force and stands to be a decisive element in the future, General McDew said.

“I’ve had the opportunity and privilege to command and every time, diversity has helped out in the success of those commands,” he said. “I like to bring in civilians, members of the Air National Guard, Reserves, and active duty to form a team where everyone gets a chance to contribute and know that their part of the mission is valued. And what they bring is appreciated. That is always success in my mind and what diversity means to me.”

Air Force Academy 2009

African-American History Month Events

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today

10th Medical Group foyer

African-American displays, exhibits and tribute to Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen (including an original member)

Tribute to African-Americans in jazz/poetry

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today

10th Medical Group Dining Hall

African-American theme meal: “Soul Food”

2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday

10th Medical Group Dining Hall

Healthcare Lecture Series Part 1: “Addressing Health disparities of African-Americans and Other Minorities in Colorado”

2 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25

10th Medical Group Dining Hall

Healthcare Lecture Series Part 2: “Workforce Diversity/Cultural Competence: One of Colorado’s Goals for Addressing Health Disparities”

6:30 p.m. Feb. 26

Arnold Hall Ballroom

Celebration Dinner: “History: A Torch for the Future”

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Engaging speakers set to take NCLS stage

By Maj. Olivia Nelson
Center for Character Development

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday.

The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the

Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday's presentations.

The theme of this year's NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making."

Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

Among the NCLS Keynotes:

Hit by a car bomb in Baghdad on Memorial Day 2006, CBS reporter and author Kim Dozier crossed the line from reporting on troops to living both their tragedy and their triumphs. She lost her crew, the Army captain they were filming, and was seriously injured herself. Her presentation, "Breathing the Fire: Fighting to Report & Survive the War in Iraq," discusses this challenging time, the people who cared for and inspire her, and her journey from bomb victim to survivor.

Air Force veteran and former NASA Flight Director Gene Kranz worked extensively on Projects Mercury and Gemini, and served as Flight Director for the Apollo 13 mission. His lecture, "Failure is Not an Option," will take listeners through the history of early manned spaceflight and the lessons learned that allowed the mission teams to take America to the surface of the moon and safely return.

Hall of Fame football coach and three-term Nebraska Congressman Tom Osborne and his wife, Nancy, founded the "TeamMates" mentoring program which provides support and encouragement to school-aged youth. His lecture, titled "Many Ways to Serve" takes listeners through the gamut from Congressional service and military service, to service to young people through mentoring and coaching.

Invited:

Though geared primarily toward USAFA cadets, staff and faculty, as well as visiting undergraduate students and university faculty, NCLS is also open to the following:

- USAFA Association of Graduates
- Local military/DoD ID Card Holders
- Federal, State, County and City Government Employees

Access:

Eligible parties who miss the registration deadline may attend (presentations only) based on the following access requirements:

- *Cadet Area Badge Holders* – All access. Badge holders may attend any speaking engagement regardless of venue.

- *DoD ID Card Holders* – Partial access. Unescorted card holders may attend any speaking engagement at the Arnold Hall venues. DoD card holders must meet the requirements for non-DoD attendees below to attend presentations within the Cadet Area.

Those wishing to attend may access the event schedule, including specific times and locations for keynote speakers, at www.usafa.edu. Click on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the page to link to event information and to register.

Bus Transportation:

Buses will provide transportation for registered

attendees beginning each morning prior to the first presentation and running periodically throughout the day. Buses depart the Falcon Club and make stops at the Rampart Lodge, Fairchild Hall and Arnold Hall. The first bus of the day departs Falcon Hall at the following times:

Thursday – 8:10 a.m.

Feb. 20 – 7:40 a.m.

Feb. 21 – 8:40 a.m.

Registered attendees who arrive at the Falcon Club after the initial departure time may call the NCLS Transportation Hotline at 333-7005 to receive transportation to the venue.

Only registered attendees will be allowed to board the bus and access the Cadet Area.



Blessings

Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for Military Services for the United States visited with the Roman Catholic Community and Academy leaders last week. He also presided over the Sacramental Celebrations in the Academy Catholic Chapel. Above, the archbishop blesses Cadet 2nd Class Daniel Tortuga while Cadet 1st Class Matthew Pineda observes.

Photo by Mike Kaplan

USO

Local staff aims for enjoyment of all



Story and photos by Ken Carter
Editor

Military members and their families throughout Colorado Springs looking for a “home away from home” need look no further than nearby Fort Carson.

Not far from Gate 1 off Hwy 115, they’ll find a spectacular facility featuring great food in their snack bar, an Xbox 360 game room, a billiards table, a state-of-the-art WIFI Internet café, a movie theater room, a conference room, a children’s room and, most importantly, down-home friendly volunteers who offer warm welcomes to service members and their families.

“Our longstanding tradition of bridging the gap with the American public and our military families is accomplished through the United Service Organizations facilitating a place to relax, decompress and enjoy the amenities of five-star treatment,” said Center and Program Manager Phil Martinez.

The USO staff’s primary goal is to gain exposure for the facility, open only since September, to get the word out to surrounding installations and the Air Force Academy that all are welcomed.

“We will continue to invite more volunteers to become part of our wonderful team dedicated to giving back to our troops,” Mr. Martinez said, and that giving back is intended to benefit all U.S. service members and their loved ones.

For many years, in the interest of morale boosting, the USO has catered to military members around the globe through big-name entertainment, most notably, the legendary Bob Hope. That tradition continues at home and abroad with special guests dropping into the Fort Carson facility as recently as Tuesday. Basketball and baseball Hall of Famers Rick Barry (HOF 1987) and Goose Gossage (HOF 2008) hung out with soldiers fielding questions, sharing their views on the importance of supporting U.S. troops fighting the Global War on Terror, signing autographs, and for a couple hours, assimilating into the military way of life. These



Pvt. Noe Sanchez leads the way for a group of Fort Carson Soldiers seeking handshakes and autographs from USO guests and Hall of Famers Rick Barry, left, and Goose Gossage.

legendary athletes were visiting soldiers and their families through the local USO right on the heels of country music star Darryl Worley and comedy sensation Carlos Mencia.

Rick Barry knows more than a little about the secrets to family success and said, “Seeing how families have to deal with troops being gone for extended periods of time and what an incredible sacrifice they make leaves me very grateful for their service.” Mr. Barry, the father of four boys who’ve all

gone on to play professional basketball, also appreciates the intense challenges within the profession of arms. When asked about his underhand free-throw technique throughout his basketball career, with a success rate as high as 94.7 at one point, he said, “It’s the only part of the game (free throws) where a player can be selfish.” His record-breaking success with the technique that

many laughed at made him one of the toughest all-round players in the history of the sport.

Mr. Gossage, who also recognizes tough when he sees it, refers to baseball as, “just a silly game.” He says visiting Vietnam era veterans, meeting members of the Wounded Warrior program and travelling to visit troops in combat zones, including bunkers in Kosovo, has helped him keep life in perspective. “Being in bunkers with 18-year-olds prepared to fight for America is really shocking.”

Although neither Mr. Barry nor Mr. Gossage was thrilled about the political climate that can lead nations to declare war, they were both passionate about expressing their appreciation for those who voluntarily put themselves in harm’s way to defend our nation’s freedom.

Among those hearing the sports icons speak was Army Pvt. Thomas Byrd. “There’s an aura, a mystique, in hearing what these guys had to say. After hearing them, from their perspectives as hall of famers, you can put a lot of stock in what they say.”

Despite opening its doors as recently as Sept. 26, more than 16,000 visits have been tallied in the still sparkling facility that also features wide-screen TV and leather furnishings among many other perks.

According to Air Force Academy Class of 1983 member and the Director of the Denver and Fort Carson USOs Joe Aldaz, he’s working to get more cadets aware of the facility as well.

“We’re working, particularly with various people in Academy athletics, to try and set up evenings where entire teams can come down for a couple hours and enjoy this great facility,” he said.

With a relatively small staff overseeing the operation, Mr. Martinez has nothing but praise for the more than 130 volunteers who serve the troops locally. Volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization, and part of a worldwide force of more than 44,000 volunteers,” he said.

There’s plenty more up the sleeves of the USO staff in the way of future programs and more invited guests. To find out more, visit the USO Web site at: usofortcarson.org or call Mr. Martinez at 719-306-1898.



Youngster Nickolas Weber connects with Hall of Fame Pitcher Goose Gossage for an autograph. Later Nickolas garnered another prize, the Big League legend’s autographed jersey, after winning a drawing at the USO hosted event Tuesday at Fort Carson.

Air Force drops contest to San Diego State 55-37

By Athletic Communications

The Air Force women's basketball team dropped a 55-37 Mountain West Conference game to San Diego State in front of a season-best crowd of 2,023 Saturday afternoon at Clune Arena. The Falcons dropped to 4-18, 0-9 while the Aztecs improved to 16-5, 7-2.

The duo of Quenese Davis and Paris Johnson combined to score 37 points for SDSU. Davis led the Aztecs with 22 points, seven assists and seven rebounds. Johnson scored 15 to go with five rebounds and three blocked shots.

Air Force was led by Raimee Beck and Kim Kreke. Beck scored 14 points, had four rebounds and was 7-of-8 from the free throw line. Kreke scored six points and recorded 14 rebounds.

Fueled by a loud contingent of cadet fans, the Falcons played one of their best games in conference play, hanging tough with the MWC's second-place

team. Air Force led for much of the first-half until SDSU went on an 8-1 run over the last three minutes of play to lead 22-17 at the half.

The Falcons played stellar defense in the first-half limiting the Aztecs to 35.7 percent shooting from the field. Air Force also didn't allow SDSU to take advantage of turnovers as the the Aztecs were limited to just four points off turnovers.

Despite a tough shooting night (20.8 percent from the field), Air Force stayed in the game by getting to the free throw line and out-rebounding San Diego State 39-29. The Falcons got to the line 18 times, making 14.

Air Force got within four points of SDSU at 39-35 with 5:37 left to go, but the Aztecs pulled away late.

The Falcons got some much-needed offense off the bench by Stevie Puentes. Puentes scored eight points to go with three rebounds and hit her first two three-point attempts. Liz Dunsworth added five points and five rebounds.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede
Kim Kreke makes a strong move to the hoop for two of her six points.

Wyoming paddles AF in regular-season finale

By Melissa McKeown
Athletic Communications

In their final dual meet of the season, the Air Force men's and women's swimming and diving teams were swept by visiting Wyoming Saturday afternoon at Cadet Natatorium.

The Falcon men, who finish the season with a 7-12 dual record and 1-4 mark in the MWC, dropped a 167-133 decision to the Cowboys. Meanwhile, while the women fell to the Cowgirls, 178-109, to end their dual slate with a 6-14 overall record and 0-8 conference ledger.

For the women, captain Jane Hwang had a strong showing in her final home meet, winning both the 100 breast and the 100 freestyle. Hwang's mark of 1:06.17 in the 100 breast was a personal-best, and ranks sixth all-time in the Air Force record books.

The Falcons also scored a first-place finish in the 200

butterfly, with Katharine Ernst clocking in at a personal-best 2:10.68 to win the event. Ernst also posted the second-fastest time in the 100 fly, registering a mark of 1:00.05.

Betsy Scarberry recorded a second-place finish in the 500 free, while also placing third in the 1000 free. Jenna Dolata added a second-place showing in the 200 breaststroke for the Falcons.

Alison Ceranski and Cassie Fletcher were the top performers for Air Force in the 50 free and 100 free, respectively, with both finishing third. Meanwhile, Lauren Shetley led the women's divers with a third-place finish on the 1-meter springboard.

meter springboard.

On the men's side, the Falcons continued their recent run of victories in the 200 medley relay to open the meet, as the team of Kai Yamashiro, Justin Day, Chris Morin and Robert Dawson registered a close win with a time of 1:32.50.

Air Force also added four individual men's victories in the meet, including a pair by seniors Yamashiro and Day. Yamashiro took first place in the 200 backstroke with a mark of 1:52.07, while Day was the winner of the 100 breaststroke, clocking in at 56.78. Yamashiro and Day also added second-place finishes in the 100 back and 200 breast, respectively.

Benjamin Gunn took first place in the



Photos by Mike Kaplan
Falcon men earned a first in the 200 medley versus the Cowboys.

200 IM, clocking in with a time of 1:55.17. Gunn also added a second-place finish in the 200 butterfly, while placing third in the 200 backstroke. Sean O'Keefe added the final individual win for the Air Force men, finishing just over five-tenths of a second ahead of Kyle Wemhoff in the 500 free.

In the men's 1000 freestyle, Corydon Butler closed out the race strong, finishing second with a mark of 9:56.56. He also added a third-place finish in the 500 free, with a mark of 4:47.89.

Dawson was the Falcons' top performer in the 50 freestyle, placing second with a time of 21.41, followed by Karl Mohrmann in third place. Freshman Nate Roesler led the Falcons in the 100 fly, placing second with a time of 51.49, while Mohrmann finished third in the event. Mohrmann also added a third-place showing in the 100 freestyle to lead Air Force in the event.



Jane Hwang holds three school records. Here, she is swimming the 100 breaststroke — her time of 1:06.11 ranks #6 on the Academy's All-Time Top-10 List.

Men's basketball

Roman Martinez tied his season high with 20 points and New Mexico handed the Air Force Falcons their 11th straight loss, 76-66 Wednesday night. Tony Danridge, coming off a career-best 26-point game against UNLV, added 16 points for the Lobos (16-9, 7-3 Mountain West Conference), who trailed 37-33 at halftime despite scoring the game's first 15

points but benefitted by going inside and drawing fouls in the second half.

Track and Field

The Air Force track and field team returns to the Academy to host its largest regular season meet of the year. The 19th Annual Air Force Invitational is today and Saturday at the Cadet Field House. The two-day meet, which will feature 16 different schools, begins

at 2 p.m. today.

Schedule of events:

Today's action begins with the men's weight throw and non-seeded pole vault. The shotgun for the first track event, the qualifying rounds of the 400-meter dash, is slated for 2:30 p.m. Saturday's action begins at 9:30 a.m., with the men's and women's long jump. The finals of the women's 5000-meter run will

commence at 10 a.m.

Lacrosse

The Air Force lacrosse team opens the 2009 season Saturday and Sunday at the Wounded Warrior Project's "Face Off for a Cause" in Jacksonville, Fla. The Falcons will face third-ranked Maryland Saturday at noon at UNF's Hodges Stadium. Meanwhile, Air Force will wrap up the weekend Sunday against

Presbyterian, with a 1 p.m. contest at Ponte Vedra High School. The Teams...

- Air Force will be opening its season with this weekend's matchups.
- Maryland, ranked third in both the USILA coaches poll and Nike/Inside Lacrosse media poll, opens its season today versus Presbyterian before taking on Air Force Saturday.

Lamoureux's hat trick leads Air Force to win

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Jacques Lamoureux's second hat trick of the season led Air Force to a 4-1 win over UConn in an Atlantic Hockey Association game Saturday at the Academy's Cadet Ice Arena. A crowd of 3,206 extended AFA's school-record sellout streak to six games. The sellout was also the ninth of the season, setting an Academy record for all sports. The men's basketball team also had eight sellouts in 2006-07.

With the series sweep, Air Force remained in first place in the league with a 19-7-2 overall record and a 16-4-2 AHA record. The Falcons are one point ahead of second place RIT. UConn fell to 6-22-1 overall and 5-15-1 in the league.

The game was scoreless until early in the second period when Lamoureux scored at the 1:43 mark. Scott Mathis took a shot from the left point that was saved

by Beau Erickson. Lamoureux cleaned up the rebound and zipped a wrist shot over the shoulder of Erickson for a 1-0 lead. Less than two minutes later, UConn answered on the power play. Chris Waterstradt took a shot from the center point that was saved by Andrew Volkening. However, the puck slid under his right arm and was free in the crease. Matt Pedemonti scored his second of the series on the back door.

Lamoureux broke the 1-1 tie at 5:32 of the third period on the rush. Brad Sellers tipped a loose puck in the neutral zone to Lamoureux on the blue line. The center skated down the right side, made a move to get Erickson out of position and slid the puck into the net

for a 2-1 lead. Air Force then scored two empty-net goals in the final minute. Air Force was on the power play when UConn pulled Erickson in favor of the extra skater. With 58 seconds left, Lamoureux scored his third of the game into the empty net from Michael Mayra and Josh Frider. Then, with nine seconds left and UConn with an empty-net, Greg Flynn gave the puck to Sean Bertsch who scored his second of the series and sixth of the season.

Air Force outshot UConn, 36-20, in the game,

including a 14-5 advantage in the third period. Air Force was 1-for-5 on the power play while UConn was 1-for-3. Erickson made 32 saves while Volkening made 19.

"It was a hard fought game," head coach Frank Serratore said. "UConn is so much better than their record shows. They might be the best defensive team we've played against all year. They played us dead even and didn't give us a lot of chance. We were fortunate the puck popped loose and Jacques scored early in the third. That is a team I would not look forward to playing again. You know what I liked about our team, we didn't wish our way through the final 10 minutes. We worked and played our way through it. I really liked our approach. The guys were focused. The turning point was a blocked shot Phillipich late in the game. If he backs off, that puck could have gone in, but instead our captain made a play. The third period tonight might be the best we played all year. The fourth line was our best line of the weekend with Weisgarber, Bertsch and Phillipich. There was a lot of energy in the crowd and they got to see a very good game. And then at the end, the class of Greg Flynn dropping the puck off to Sean Bertsch. What an unselfish play and that tells you a lot about the kind of man Greg Flynn is."

Air Force is on the road with a two-game AHA series at Bentley today and Saturday in Waltham, Mass.



Photos by Mike Kaplan

Jacques Lamoureux battles UConn for possession of the puck.



Falcon goalie Andrew Volkening makes the save.

Friday Night Fights wrap up

From Athletic Communications

RENO, Nev. – The Air Force boxing team closed out its Friday Night Fights season with 14 hard-hitting bouts Feb. 6. That was the final preparation night for the annual Wing Open Tournament, which begins next week in the Upper Boxing Room. This week, however, 24 boxers stepped into the ring for one more chance against their fellow cadets.

Michael Mizes opened the night with a victorious decision over Jesse Horton in a 132-pound weight class. Dean Chuva evened his FNF record with a decision over classmate Dave Simon in a 133-pound bout. Nick Cataldo decided Dalton Hall at 168 pounds, while Justin Lee took a decision from Luke Dugger at 167 pounds.

Between those two bouts, Nathan Liptak earned the judges' decision over classmate Sean May in a 156-pound bout. Liptak was named the Academy's Boxer of the

Week, using good movement, defense and combination punches in his victory. Liptak and May combined for what the coaches called 'one of the classiest boxing matches of the year.'

In the 180-pound bout, Lucas Gagliardi took a decision from Mike McLain, while Bailey Ball decided Seth Gunn at 147 pounds. In the 156-pound contest, the only bout that didn't go to the final bell, Michael Dunn defeated Jeffrey Witt when the referee stopped the bout in the third round. Matthew DeMars decided Nicholas Watts in the night's 125-pound contest.

Jumping to the heavyweight division, Mike Chambers decided Garrett Gilbertson, while Tyrus Korecki won his FNF debut in a 160-pound decision over Ryan Wilkinson. Fred Johnson won the 198-pound bout over newcomer Kevin Williams, while Evan Lomeli decided Tom Meyer at 183 pounds. Jon Andresen closed out the night with a 185-pound decision over Logan Brandt.

Results from Reno Invitational

- 132-lbs.: Michael Mizes (CS-24) dec. Jesse Horton (CS-11)
- 133-lbs.: Dean Chuva (CS-24) dec. Dave Simon (CS-40)
- 168-lbs.: Nick Cataldo (CS-13) dec. Dalton Hall (CS-12)
- 156-lbs.: Nathan Liptak (CS-40) dec. Sean May (CS-37)
- 167-lbs.: Justin Lee (CS-39) dec. Luke Dugger (CS-29)
- 180-lbs.: Lucas Gagliardi (CS-09) dec. Mike McLain (CS-28)
- 147-lbs.: Bailey Ball (CS-04) dec. Seth Gunn (CS-22)
- 156-lbs.: Mike Dunn (CS-01) rsc-3 Jeffrey Witt (CS-04)
- 125-lbs.: Matthew DeMars (CS-14) dec. Nicholas Watts (CS-31)
- 160-lbs.: Tyrus Korecki (CS-20) dec. Ryan Wilkinson (CS-31)
- 198-lbs.: Fred Johnson (CS-16) dec. Kevin Williams (CS-39)
- 183-lbs.: Evan Lomeli (CS-21) dec. Tom Meyer (CS-01)
- 185-lbs.: Jon Andresen (CS-06) dec. Logan Brandt (CS-31)
- Hywt.: Mike Chambers (CS-14) dec. Garrett Gilbertson (CS-05)

Air Force returned to action Thursday when it began the preliminary round of action for the 2009 Wing Open Tournament.

• Presbyterian opens its season Friday afternoon versus Maryland before taking on Air Force Sunday.

Women's gymnastics

The Air Force women's gymnastics team travels to Durham, N.H., for the Fox Run Invitational Saturday. The Falcons will face Bridgeport, New Hampshire and Yale at the Lundholm Gymnasium on the UNH campus. It will be Air Force's

second meet of the season against Bridgeport and New Hampshire.

Women's basketball

The Air Force women's basketball team dropped a 79-33 Mountain West Conference game at New Mexico in front of a crowd of 7,923 Wednesday night at University Arena (The PIT). The Falcons dropped to 4-19, 0-10 while the Lobos improved to 17-6, 6-4. Air Force was led by Raimee

Beck who scored 11 points. Brooke Cultra added seven points and Kim Kreke led the Falcons with nine rebounds. Stevie Puentes scored three points and grabbed three rebounds. New Mexico hit seven of its first eight shots to start the game and jumped out to a 14-4 lead. Air Force meanwhile struggled to get its offense going, shooting 12 percent from the field in the first half and trailed 41-11

at the break. The Falcons return to action Saturday hosting Utah. Tipoff is at 2 p.m.

Lowe's Award

Air Force senior hockey player Mike Phillipich is one of 10 finalists for the Lowe's Senior CLASS award, recognizing student-athletes who have combined excellence in athletics, academics and community service. Phillipich, a right winger, is in his second season as

the team's captain. A systems engineering management major, he carries a 3.77 overall grade point average and a 3.87 GPA in his major. He has been on the dean's list every semester and is a three-time academic all-conference selection. The most valuable player of the Atlantic Hockey Association Tournament in 2007, Phillipich has played in 124 career games and has scored 87 career points.



Seeking

From Page 10

"It's hard to imagine what it was like for them going through what they went through," said the 18-year Air Force veteran from Milwaukee.

It's easier to imagine what he is heading into. Sergeant Meinert was also on recovery missions with the Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Acting Accounting command with Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines in Laos in 2006 and 2007.

A typical JPAC recovery team is made up of 10 to 14 members, led by a team leader and a forensic anthropologist. The team leader is responsible for the overall safety and success of the mission, while the civilian anthropologist directs the excavation of the site much like a detective oversees a crime scene. Other team members include a team sergeant, linguist, medic, life support technician, forensic photographer, and an explosive ordnance disposal technician.

"At the beginning of a recovery, the anthropologist sections the site into grids with stakes and string," said Sergeant Meinert. "Then, each section is excavated one at a time. This allows the team to precisely track what the team finds and where they find it."

To help with what can be a massive soil removal effort, the team may hire anywhere from a few to more than 100 local workers. Every ounce of soil dug from the site is sifted by hand through quarter-inch wire screens. The screens allow team members

to catch even the smallest pieces of remains, artifacts or personal effects. Sites are discovered by interviewing local witnesses.

"As a life support investigator I look for life-support equipment to include any piece of gear associated with a pilot that would indicate his presence within a crashed aircraft. Items such as parachute parts or helmet pieces can be critical in determining if a pilot was in the aircraft at the time of impact and if the crash was survivable," he said.

Multiple life-support items may indicate the number of individuals associated with a crash site. Life support items along with any remains that are found are sent back to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, for further identification.

The senior NCO will spend up to 70 days with JPAC Det. 2 in Hanoi where he expects to be living in some field conditions.

"We get issued a tent, sleeping bag and other supplies," Sergeant Meinert said. "We have to bring a 30-day supply of food with us. JPAC will send people out to the site to set up a temporary kitchen to cook food. Depending on the site, we may stay in a guest house. However, we still need to supply our own food, though occasionally the staff will cook breakfast and dinner for us."

The volunteer for this assignment said, "In our career field we are given the opportunity to go through a Life Science Investigation Class. After completing this course we are able to go on Class-A



Courtesy Photo

Master Sgt. Greg Meinert examines unearthed findings with great care.

mishaps as part of a Safety Investigation Board and also get on these recovery missions through JPAC. This is a very rewarding mission. It is a special feeling that we can bring closure to a family who has lost a loved one in a past conflict when we can find remains. I have been fortunate to go on a third mission."

He shared yet more personal thoughts and feelings.

"After my last mission I was on a motorcycle trip and meet some Vietnam Vets, I thanked them for what they have sacrificed for their country and I also told them of my last mission and that we were able to find some remains and bring them home," he said. "Words cannot explain

the thankfulness they expressed knowing that they were not forgotten and that we are doing missions like this to bring everyone home. That is why I do these missions. I feel it is my duty, not as a member in the military but as an American.

"I have been in the military for a long time, I have been all over the world and have seen and done many things," he added. "But nothing has been more rewarding than being a part of something this special. Being able to talk to family members who have come out to the site to see what we are doing and the appreciation they have for us is amazing. I can only return the favor by helping to bring their loved ones back home to them."

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History month

February is African American/Black History Month. The Academy Equal Opportunity office is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to plan events and make this year's celebration a success. The committee is open to everyone. Call Gina Moore at 333-4258 for more information. The theme for 2009 is The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas.

National prayer luncheon

The 10th Air Base Wing National Prayer Luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. Feb. 23 in the Milazzo Center. The featured speaker will be Chaplain, (Maj. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, chief of Air Force chaplains. Lunch will be catered by Red, Hot and Blue Barbeque and tickets are \$5 per person. Contact the Community Center Chapel staff at 333-3300 for information or tickets.

Dance lessons

Weekly ballroom dance lessons, one

hour each for one more week, 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.

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.

AAFRC offerings

The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes.

Contact the A&FRC at 333-3444 for any questions and/or registration.

Group pre-separation counseling

Held every Monday (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.

Mock interviewing workshop

Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Preparing for your next career move? Feeling a little rusty on your interviewing skills? Sign up for the next best thing to the real thing, mock interviewing with real HR reps.

Civil service class

Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Learn how to submit a resume, search for positions, and apply for Air Force Federal Civil Service employment.

Newcomer's orientation & information fair

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

Mandatory orientation for all newly assigned USAFA personnel. Spouses are welcome to attend. Event held at the Milazzo Center.

Medical records review

Feb. 23; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have representatives from the Disabled American Veterans review medical records.

TAP seminar

Feb. 24-27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Newcomer's red-carpet tour

Feb. 27; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

An informative base tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals many things to see and do here.

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.



Mardi Gras

The Taste of New Orleans, an authentic Creole and Cajun cuisine restaurant in Old Colorado City, is proud to celebrate its Grand Opening - Mardi Gras style. The Old Town Plaza merchants will be joining the taste of New Orleans in celebrating Mardi Gras at the heart of Old Colorado City on the corner of 25th Street

and West Colorado Avenue. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22. A special costume contest will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 21 and prizes awarded for the best and most creative Mardi Gras costume. Charles Irwin, president of the Old Colorado City Merchants Association, will preside as the Grand Marshall for the celebration.

Music galore

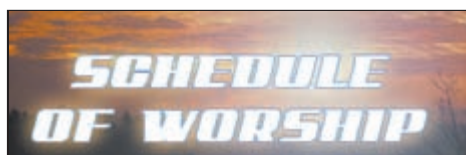
Sunday at 2 p.m. the Falconaires will present a performance featuring the 2009 Colorado High School All State Jazz Band at the Pikes Peak Center. Free tickets are available at the Pikes Peak Center and World Arena box offices.



Photo by Arnie Spencer

No slumber party

The cast of Pajama Games took command of the stage in the Arnold Hall Theater Saturday before an appreciative audience. Following the show, several season ticket holders remarked, it was a most enjoyable event and they can't wait for the Beach Boys next month.



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.

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. Longcrier at 333-6178

Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu

ACADEMY AWARDS

Air Force Academy Awards

Live! February 27th, 6 p.m.
Location: Falcon Club
Cost: \$30.00 (\$28.00 for club members)
See your 1st Sergeant for Tickets

Service



Community

Legacy

Stability

