



# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO **ACADEMY SPIRIT**

Vol. 48 No. 2

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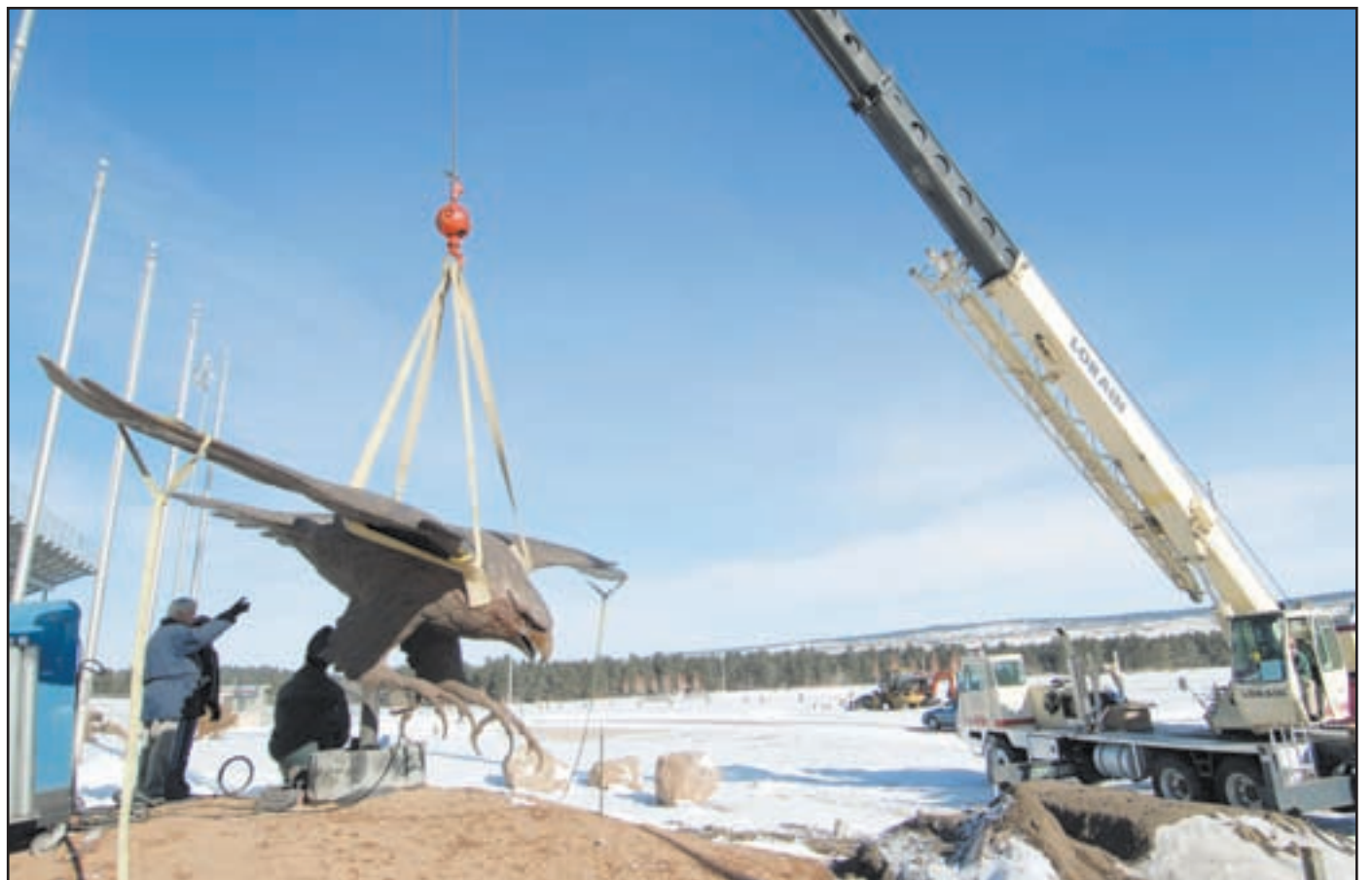


Photo by Dave Armer

**Falcon finds home**

Workers battle freezing temperatures Thursday to position the largest falcon statue in the United States, in front of Falcon Stadium. The bronze sculpture, valued at \$400,000, has a wing span of 24 feet and weighs 10,000 pounds. It was created by Jon Hair, a sculptor for the U.S. Olympic Team, and given to the Academy by Irwin "Ike" Belk, who funded similar giant mascots at other colleges. Mr. Belk is a former department store president, state senator, United Nations delegate and sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The statue will be dedicated at the start of the 2008 football season.

## AF honors veteran Academy firefighter



Photo by Ann Patton

Academy deputy fire chief Ken Helgerson looks forward to every day as a firefighter.

By Ann Patton  
 Academy Spirit staff

Academy deputy fire chief Ken Helgerson has been named outstanding Air Force Civil Engineer Manager of the year.

"It certainly was surprising," he said. "Firefighters traditionally don't win."

Lt. Col. Deborah McMurtry, 10th Civil Engineer Squadron commander who nominated Chief Helgerson, was also surprised.

"Competition for this award is very tight and to have one of our firefighters leading the way in the CE community speaks volumes about the caliber of individuals we have here at the

Academy," she said.

"I am extremely proud of him. Ken epitomizes the Air Force's core values and serves as a mentor, leader and role model for all Airmen on the Academy."

Chief Helgerson served as a firefighter during his Air Force career before coming to the Academy two years ago.

As deputy chief, he manages personnel, budget, strategic planning for exercises and risk management. He also takes the lead during major emergency incidents.

Chief Helgerson compiled a long list of accomplishments for his award, which he will receive in February at Boling  
**See HONOR, Page 4**

## Scholarship-winning cadet eyes the sky

By Ann Patton  
 Academy Spirit staff

Cadet 2nd Class Andy Davis believes his two biggest accomplishments so far are becoming a soaring instructor pilot and being a member of the Academy aerobatic team.

He can add another. Cadet Davis has been named winner

of the Taryn Robinson Scholarship and will throttle up during spring break at the Tutima Academy of Aviation Safety in Salina, Calif.

"I have always been an adrenaline-seeking person," he said. "There is nothing better than looking out of an aircraft and seeing down."

The \$5,000 scholarship is a gift of the General Aviation Manufacturers

Association. It honors the memory of 2nd Lt. Taryn Robinson, Academy Class of 2005, who died from injuries sustained in a flight training accident in 2006.

This is the second year the scholarship has been awarded to an Academy cadet.

Tutima Academy offers courses in stall/spin recognition and recovery,  
**See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 4**



# ACADEMY SPIRIT CHIEF'S CORNER

## Heritage uniform links AF past to present

By CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley

**Editor's Note:** The Academy is one of three locations to conduct fit and wear tests of a new Air Force Heritage service coat. Feedback will determine whether the uniforms will be on clothing sales store hangers. The fit test is Feb. 11-15 in the Arnold Hall banquet room. Participants will try on a service coat and complete a survey. Their data and measurements will determine wear test participants who will wear the new service coat on a regular basis in the performance of their duties between June and September 2008.

As Airmen, we have many opportunities to represent our Air Force to the American public, our sister Services and Allies. Many of these opportunities are formal occasions where we don our service dress uniform for joint school graduations, promotions, retirements, memorial services, host nation celebrations or community events in Downtown, U.S.A.

As the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, I have the chance to attend many formal events with my peers from our sister services. I am always proud to stand beside them, wear our uniform well, and represent you - our great Airmen. I look forward to the day when I stand tall in a new service dress uniform with a



CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley

stronger military image, one that will make a powerful statement about who we are - America's Airmen who fly, fight and win in any domain. The proposed heritage jacket will give us a uniform with more historical significance, better functionality, and most importantly, will embody the warrior spirit that defines us as Airmen serving in the Profession of Arms.

From the Berlin Airlift, B-26 and B-29 bombing runs over North Korea during the Korean War and the "Shock and Awe"

air campaigns of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Air Force remains at the forefront of the fight. Since everything we are and accomplish today has root in our war fighting history, it's only right our uniforms should reflect this heritage.

A new service dress uniform also links with our efforts to cultivate a Warrior Ethos throughout every facet of the Air Force. Among these efforts, we are expanding basic military training to give Airmen skills to set up and defend expeditionary air bases, we recognize our Airmen's ground combat actions with a new Air Force Combat Action Medal, and we now have an Airman's Creed to embody and articulate our warrior spirit.

As I travel throughout our Air Force talking with Airmen, I see warriors who are leading the charge in the Global War on Terror. Despite long hours, extended deployments and a myriad of challenges, our Airmen continually prove they have the grit and determination of the Airmen who fought the wars before us. A new heritage service dress uniform will say to the world what we already know - we are proud Airmen linked to a combat-forged past, and Air Force warriors prepared for today's challenges and future battlefields.

I'm looking forward to wearing our new heritage service dress uniform - and I hope you are, too.

### ACADEMY SPIRIT

Directorate of Public Affairs mission:  
To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

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The *Academy Spirit* also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by e-mail: pa.news paper@usafa.af.mil.



**United States Air Force Academy Mission:**  
To educate, train, and inspire men and women to become officers of character motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation.

## Character Corner On the other side of the ball

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Bob Leivers  
Center for Character Development

The Center for Character Development staff is constantly looking for positive examples of character in action.

Normally, examples show up in ordinary actions of life; returning the incorrect change at the cadet store, driving the proper speed limit on base or assisting your roommate in preparation for an inspection. Occasionally, we find character when we're not even looking. My wife Debbie and I noticed it at the Armed Forces Bowl.

Before the California Golden Bears traveled to

Fort Worth as a team, three of their star players skipped a team meeting. Apparently, within college football the usual punishment for missing such a meeting is to be held out of the next game for a quarter.

As you may recall, Air Force jumped out to a 21-0 first quarter lead. Debbie and I were sitting directly behind the California bench and noticed the 'suspended' players lobbying their coach to put them in before the game got out of hand—he didn't. The California coach showed his character by sticking to his word and made the players stay out until the second quarter.

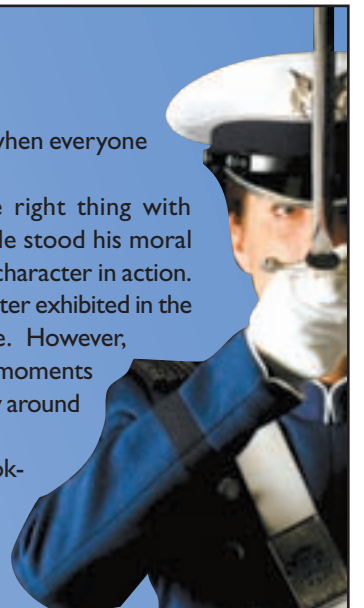
At the Academy we're told character, particularly integrity, is doing the right thing when no one is

watching, and doing the right thing when everyone is watching.

The California coach did the right thing with everyone watching and lobbying. He stood his moral ground and is a positive example of character in action.

We expect to see proper character exhibited in the lives of cadets, faculty and staff here. However, it's particularly refreshing to notice moments when character is displayed in society around us.

I encourage you to be on the lookout for good character; you might be surprised how often you find it.



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

## Where would you go if you could go anywhere to escape the cold weather?



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Melissa Donovan  
and son Maddox  
10<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron

"I would choose North Carolina over anywhere. That's my home"



Mrs. Sylvia Emmons  
Spouse of Air Force retiree

"Italy or anywhere in the Mediterranean. I just got back from the Caribbean."



Kevin Hawthorne  
Academy U.S. Post Office

"Anywhere south, like Florida."



Mr. Martin Sobieraj  
10<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron

"I wouldn't go anywhere else. I'm from Texas. I came here for the cold."



# Academy grads taking F-22 controls

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Bouchard  
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFPN) — The first Air Force pilots selected to fly the F-22 Raptor without previous fighter experience entered the 63rd Fighter Squadron for the Raptor Lead-in course Jan. 14 here.

The four pilots are 1st Lt. Austin Skelley and 1st Lt. Ryan Shelhorse, Academy graduates from the Class of 2005, and 1st Lt. Marcus McGinn and 1st Lt. Dan Dickinson.

Prior to arriving at Luke Air Force Base, the four pilots were part of a pool of eight candidates hoping to be selected

as the first students to go directly to the F-22. F-22 pilots currently flying the airframe had previous flying experience in other fighter aircraft.

The Raptor Lead-in course is a five-week opportunity for the four new pilots to experience flying a high-G, high performance aircraft with an instructor in the back seat before taking the stick of the \$169 million, single-seat F-22 by themselves, said Maj. Daniel Munter, a 56th Training Squadron instructor pilot.

“This course is designed to be an intermediate step to (the pilots) taking the F-22 up for the first time and being successful,” Major Munter said.

Pilots and other instructors from the

56th Fighter Wing have been working since early 2007 on this course, which is not necessarily designed to teach the pilots how to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon, but rather to give them experience in a high-G environment while familiarizing them with other aspects of fighter aviation which were unavailable to them during their previous training.

After undergraduate pilot training, the eight newly-graduated pilots were sent to Randolph AFB, Texas, for the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Course. That course familiarized them with fighters via the T-38 Talon trainer aircraft. By the end of IFF, the final four were selected to become F-22 pilots.

By learning to push the envelope in

the F-16, the Raptor Lead-in course is designed to help them be successful in the maneuvering dynamics of the F-22, Major Munter said.

One of the major benefits to their F-16 familiarization is the similarities of the two aircraft, specifically the side-stick controls. Other aircraft in the Air Force inventory are controlled with the controls between the pilot’s legs. The fly-by-wire system is unique to these two fighter aircraft.

Other items the students will learn more about while at Luke AFB include night flying, day and night landing, air-to-air refueling and increasing their ability to perform the anti-G straining maneuver.

See F-22, Page 5



Photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Rogers

F-22 Raptors fly in formation. The Air Force’s first four pilots to go directly to the F-22 without previous fighter experience are currently training at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., in preparation for taking on the F-22.

## UCI Tip of the Week

By Master Sgt. Joseph Isaac  
Inspector General, Superintendent,  
Compliance and Evaluations

Attention to detail is the key to excelling in the upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection.

That includes ensuring all authorized waivers to Air Force Instruction guidance meet certain criteria.

According to guidance from the IG web page:

“Several supplements to AFI’s designate a local waiver authority (i.e., group

commander, squadron commander, etc.) for major command guidance. In cases where local waivers are authorized, simply documenting the guidance is waived in a local supplement does not meet the intent of the authority. A separate waiver memorandum, signed by the waiver authority, must be on file and reviewed on a regular basis. This insures the guidance to be waived is appropriately highlighted and the waiver authority has an opportunity to change the guidance should circumstances change.”

All mission elements and their delegates need to document all waivers appropriately.



# CHALLENGER

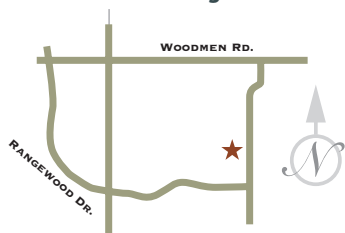
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## Honor

From Page 1

Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

Among his kudos, he successfully provided leadership for the Academy's 70 firefighters during 963 emergencies and is credited with saving seven lives during the last fiscal year.

Chief Helgerson is only one of two in the Department of Defense to teach national fire accreditation courses. He also took the lead for a source selection team for a \$170 million CE contract and identified technology to protect firefighters resulting in the addition of thermal imaging cameras.

Chief Helgerson reorganized the Academy into 11 fire demand zones and slashed fire response times by 22 percent.

A humanitarian, he hosted four Cadet for a Day youth from the Make-A-Wish Foundation and organized and participated in charitable events for the Children's Hospital Burn Center.

"Ken is the King Arthur of the 21st century and mentor/leader of the highest caliber to both Airmen and the community," Colonel McMurtry wrote in his nomination document.

Chief Helgerson always wanted to join the military and be trained as a professional firefighter.

"It was the perfect balance of serving my country and having a job I could look forward to," he said. "It seemed to be just the perfect job."

The hard part is stretching a decreasing staff number over increasing responsibilities.

"Firefighters are involved in every Academy emergency," he said.

The upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection in March will be no sweat for firefighters.

"We always get no second chances, and we're ready to go all the time."

Chief Helgerson gives high marks to his fellow Academy firefighters for their

teamwork.

"We focus on things ending the right way and not who was responsible for what," he said.

When he is not fighting fires or planning for the next exercise, Chief Helgerson and his family can usually be sighted in Colorado's mountains. The family of four, which includes two teenage sons, make treks for snowboarding, skiing, hiking and mountain biking.

For now, Chief Helgerson wants to stay put where he is.

"I've truly found the perfect job. This is a unique installation and always surprising," he said.

## Scholarship

From Page 1

aerobatic proficiency, low-level aerobatic mentorship and formation aerobatic flight.

Sean Tucker, founder of Tutima, expects Cadet Davis will take to the air for 25 sorties and complete the spin curriculum.

"He will learn to control the airplane on all axes," Mr. Tucker said. "He will be a safer and more composed pilot."

Cadet Davis is looking forward to the experience. "Flying powered aerobatics compared to glider aerobatics is much more fast-paced. The flying that I will do will help my situational awareness while flying glider aerobatics on the Academy," he said.

Cadet Davis' record speaks for itself.

"We nominated him because of his performance on the aerobatic team and his dedication to the 94th Flying

Training Squadron," said Capt. Erich Kunrath, assistant director of soaring instructor pilot training.

"He consistently finished first among his 2009 teammates and second overall at all three aerobatic contests during the fall 2007 semester."

Cadet Davis has also earned the Top Stick Award and has flown 60 orientation rides for basic cadets, with a record of 94% of the class of 2011. He has served as 94th FTS superintendent, advanced soaring NCO, director of tours and orientation rides and weather cadet-in-charge for all spring break training TDYs and three aerobatic competitions.

"Andy works hard in each position he's given in the squadron. He's dealt with several challenges and found something positive in each case," Captain Kunrath said. "He's an example to other IPs in both his flying and instructing abilities."

Captain Kunrath added Cadet Davis shows plenty

of confidence and skill when flying aerobatics but remains humble about his abilities.

"We consider it a privilege to train with him because he is the best of the best," Mr. Tucker said. "Discipline, pride and response to the opportunities sets cadets apart."

Cadet Davis is looking forward to sharing his experience with fellow cadets following his return from spring break.

"I will bring back a greater understanding of just how far someone can push himself in doing something they have a passion for," he said.

The best part of being at the Academy for him is friends.

"The friendships that I have made here will stay with me for the rest of my life."

After graduation Cadet Davis, not surprisingly, wants to attend pilot training. He has his sights set on the F-16.



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# Making the grade a learning experience for all

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

The numbers are in, and Academy cadets are making the grade and making it better.

For the fall 2007 semester, the percentage of cadets wing-wide with a 3.0 or higher grade point average out of a possible 4.0 rose from 41.9 percent to 43.1 percent from fall 2006.

Fall scores for freshmen showed the greatest improvements over the previous year. The number of fourth-degrees earning a 3.0 or higher rose from 29.4 percent to 37.5 percent, and their overall GPA rose from 2.61 to 2.75.

The number of freshmen with an average less than 2.0 decreased from 19.4 percent for fall 2006 to 11.2 percent in 2007.

"As educators, we are always thrilled when a performance measure indicates increased student learning," said Dean of Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born.

The big question is: Why are grades up?

General Born said it is too early to attribute specific causes to the increase in freshman GPAs, but faculty are conducting a study into potential causes for changes in academic performance.

The fall data will serve as one more data point in that study.

Unlike their counterparts in civilian universities, Academy freshmen must learn to meet the military requirements as well as navigating a steady stream of challenging academics.

New in the curriculum this year for Academy fourth-degrees is a one credit-hour course called First Year Experience.

Freshmen receive guidance in developing and applying appropriate study and time management skills, plus transitioning from a high school/enlisted military environment to the Academy's learning-focused university environment.

General Born said the faculty is "encouraged with the feedback we are



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Members of the Class of 2011 mull over classroom assignments in the McDermott Library.

getting from them concerning the new FYE course as the vast majority is finding it to be a positive experience."

She also pointed out the cadet leaders are placing an increased emphasis on the sanctity of academic study time.

"Ultimately, credit goes to the cadets themselves who earned the better grades."

Faculty and staff are naturally pleased with the fall semester grade outcomes.

"The faculty is part of a much larger team on the Academy who are delighted with the Cadet Wing's academic performance last semester," General Born said.

"We truly believe that 'their success is our success.'"

## F-22

From Page 3

This last item is key, Major Munter said. While the T-38 Talon is quick and maneuverable, it may have pushed the pilots to experience six Gs, or six times the force of gravity. While flying the F-16, the pilots will experience up to nine Gs, making their transition to the

F-22 easier to handle.

This course is exactly what instructors at Luke AFB are used to doing, said Brig. Gen. Noel T. "Tom" Jones, the 56th Fighter Wing commander.

"You will get a lot of experience here from a fighter perspective and an intelligence perspective that's very transferable to the F-22," he said to the four pilots.

For the new pilots, the opportunity to fly the high-performance F-16 before going on to the Air Force's most

advanced fighter is something they all look forward.

"Learning to fly an advanced fighter from world-class instructors is going to be a great opportunity for our class as we transition to the F-22," said Lieutenant Skelley, a native of Casa Grande, Ariz.

After completing the course here, the pilots will go on to the 43rd Fighter Squadron at Tyndall AFB, Fla., where after more than two years of training, they will take on the F-22.

military family career fair >>

THE CHAMBER COLORADO SPRINGS

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# Steer clear of plows to make their job easier

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

Danny Brock's work at the Academy would be less stressful if drivers would be more careful.

"Base drivers are in too big of a hurry to get around a snow plow," said the CH2M Hill Academy Service's roads, grounds and equipment supervisor. "Drivers are pulling out in front of a plow; attempting to pass a plow on the right."

The worst snow hasn't even arrived yet and Mr. Brock is readying for his third snow season.

"People need to slow down during a snow event," he said. "Should there be a delayed reporting day, wait the extra two hours before reporting to work to give the snow crew more time. Do not think

the plow operator can see you; operate around the plows with the assumption that the operator does not see you.

"Plow operators are continually reminded to be on the lookout for the other drivers. The base population needs to be educated that a plow takes longer time to stop due to the weight. A plow also has a greater turning radius than a car."

Mr. Roger Fladung, 10th Civil Engineer Squadron safety specialist, reports comments from plow and vehicle operators that may chill even the most ardent road warriors.

How to stop 50,000 pound truck?

"As I was plowing Community Center Drive a vehicle decided he could make a turn in front of me before I reached the intersection he was at. As he tried to take off he just sat there spinning in the middle

of the intersection, now it became my problem on how to stop the 50,000 pound truck I was driving," said Mr. Chales Lopez, snow plow operator.

"I was plowing South Gate Blvd around 7 a.m., making my second pass. I was driving down the center of the road to pick up the snow I had piled up on my first pass. I looked in my mirror and there was a driver trying to pass me in what remained of the left hand lane. I had to roll down my window and wave him back to stop him from passing me. There was heavy traffic in front of me so if he had passed, me he wouldn't have gained anything," said snow plow operator Mr. Shane Beauseau.

"We had a crew doing snow removal in one of the cadet parking lots. Pedestrians and vehicles would travel in the blind

spots of the equipment. They were working with no regard for their own safety. It would have been tragic if some one had been hurt or even killed by a piece or heavy equipment," said Mr. Shane John Romero, snow plow operator.

"Snow plow operators report a lot of near misses," said Mr. Fladung. "This year we have had more than 60 near misses between snowplows and the public. We also have had two accidents involving snowplows and the public."

Driving a snowplow is one of the toughest jobs around," said the safety specialist. "Drivers must maneuver a 27-foot truck with a 10-foot plow through streets, while dealing with foggy windows, swirling snow, slippery roads, icy intersections and everyday traffic. So please, give 'em a brake."

# Stuck in snow not the way to go

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

Early this month a 60-mile stretch of Interstate 70 was closed in both directions in the high country west of Denver and left thousands of people stranded. It was closed for 20 hours due to heavy snow and the possibility of avalanches.

That's why the Academy Safety Office is pushing winter emergency kits in vehicles.

"I have kept one in my vehicle for more than 30 years and the intent has always been to prepare for the worst case possible," said Mr. Phil DeRemer, Academy safety deputy director.

He advises keeping an emergency kit in the vehicle with these items: blankets/sleeping bags, cellular telephone or two-way radio, windshield scraper, snow brush, flashlight with fresh extra batteries, extra winter clothes, shovel, tow chain, matches, traction aids like a bag of sand or cat litter, emergency flares, jumper cables, snacks, water, road maps and a vehicle breakdown safety triangle.

The safety expert is telling people to stay in the vehicle. Do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards.

"You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow. Display a trouble sign by hanging a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna and raising the hood," said Mr. DeRemer. "If you are in a ditch or

other hard-to-see location or in a position to surprise other traffic as they come around a curve, alert others to your location with a safety triangle or flare. Turn on the vehicle's engine for about 10 minutes each hour and run the heat to keep warm.

Also turn on the vehicle's dome light when the vehicle is running as an additional signal.

People should also be aware of health risks like carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation.

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Do minor exercises to keep up circulation such as clapping hands.

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The American Legion Family  
www.legion.org



# Carbon monoxide: winter's silent killer

By Brian Pille  
Academy Fire Inspector

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that kills nearly 500 U.S. residents each year, five times as many as the West Nile virus, according to the National Center for Environmental Health at the Center for Disease Control.

CO poisoning is a persistent and tragic public health problem that can be eliminated, if people are aware of its danger and take some simple steps to protect themselves, and their families.

CO poisoning is most common during the winter

months, when furnaces are most used, but also when the second leading source of CO poisoning, vehicles, are most likely to kill or injure people who warm them up inside garages.

**The Academy Fire and Emergency Services wants you to:**

- Have your heating system, water heater and other appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install battery-operated CO and smoke alarms in your home.
- Locate CO alarms outside the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area.
- Locate smoke alarms on each level of the house

and inside every bedroom.

• Replace smoke and CO alarm batteries when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall and check batteries monthly.

• Leave your home immediately and call 911 if an alarm sounds.

• Seek medical attention immediately if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, lightheaded or nauseous.

**When using fireplaces:**

• Have flues and chimneys inspected before each heating season for leakage and blockage by creosote or debris.

• Open the damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. Never close the damper if the ashes are warm. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.

• Store ashes in a fire resistant container and cover it with a lid. Keep the container outdoors and away from combustibles.

**When using space heaters:**

• Place the heater on a level, hard and noncombustible surface, such as ceramic tile floor – not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.

• To prevent the risk of fire, never leave a space heater on when you sleep or place a space heater close to any sleeping person. Turn it off if you leave the area.

• Use a space heater tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters will have the most up-to-date safety features that older space heaters may not.



Photo by Brian Pille

Carbon monoxide is formed by incomplete combustion of carbon or a carbon-related material, including gasoline. CO poisoning is most common during winter.

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## Keep in touch with The Academy





# AFSC Spotlight A firefighter at heart

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

As Staff Sgt. Aaron Duggins watched a neighbor volunteer firefighter in a parade when he was a pre-adolescent in Flint, Mich., the thought hit him that he wanted to do that too.

At 17 years-old he joined a local volunteer fire department until the U.S. Air Force Specialty Code 3E771 fire protection craftsman.

Firefighters work 24-hour shifts on duty, with 24-hour rest period off duty.

His work area is deceptively contrasting; fire trucks in one area, kitchenette, cushy sofas and TVs in another. Anyone who thinks he's got a posh job may want to take another look: he must be ready to put his life on the line with a telephone call.

"I work mainly from Fire Station 2 located on Academy Drive near the Base Hospital," said the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire and Emergency Services Flight's fire protection crew chief. "We receive a 15 minute break in the morning to grab coffee and a quick bite to eat, but are not permitted to sit down and watch the television. We have a busy work/training schedule that typically lasts from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. After lunch we resume work and

training until 3 p.m., followed by mandatory physical training that lasts until around 5 p.m."

From 5 p.m. until 6:30 a.m. the following morning they're permitted to relax and watch the television.

"We find ourselves playing competitive video games in one-on-one and team-based situations during the relaxed hours of the evening," Sergeant Duggins said.

They never know when a frantic call will come in. The Academy fire and emergency services flight routinely responds to I-25 for motor vehicle accidents, fires and has the potential to respond to HazMat emergencies. They have also helped Colorado Springs Fire Department during past fires.

Close camaraderie at Academy fire stations may start with the 13-week training course at the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.

"An Airman's physical strength is tested to the brink at Goodfellow AFB," he said. "Airmen also undergo a substantial amount of classroom training that covers first aid, vehicle fires, structure fires, hazardous materials response, and aircraft fires and egresses."

Academy firefighters accomplish hundreds of hours of annual emergency medical training, confined space rescue,

high angle rescue, motor vehicle firefighting, motor vehicle extrication, structural firefighting, aircraft firefighting and aircraft crew egress.

Sergeant Duggins has spent nearly five of his more than seven years in the Air Force checking out the lights, horn, siren, fire truck body, engine, transmission fluid and other aspects of the specialized firefighting equipment.

His wife, Cathi, 11 year-old son, Tren, and five-year old daughter, Christina, are with him. They expect their third child in late April.

"I've been doing this for so long that I'm able to appropriately relax at work during the evenings without losing sleep or being overly anxious," he said.

Some of Academy's five fire departments run significantly fewer calls each year than Fire Station 2.

"We have the benefit of running hundreds of medicals and motor vehicle accidents that many base fire departments do not have," he said.

It could be easy to stereotype base firefighters.

"We are ordinary people who have simply been called upon to help others in times of need," Sergeant Duggins said. "We act without giving much thought to it, and feel that many other Airmen would do the same if they were put in our situation."



Photo by Butch Wehry

**Academy firefighter Staff Sgt. Aaron Duggins holds Air Force Specialty Code 3E771. He said knowing he can make a difference in a hurting or needy person's life makes what he does worthwhile.**

Does an Academy firefighter's turf demand more than other Air Force people?

"A few years ago I would have told you 'yes,'" he said. "However, our Airmen are more fit in today's Air Force with the Fit-to-Fight policy. The key is maintaining superb physical strength, cardiovascular endurance and mental toughness."

What makes being a fire fighter worthwhile?

"Knowing I make a difference in a hurting or needy person's life," Sergeant Duggins said.

## PMEL, for whom the wires hum

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

The 10th Mission Support Group's Logistics Readiness Division's Precision Measurement Equipment Lab is called "PMEL" for short and the base would go hay-wire if the staffers made an error.

They interface with organizations on base that own test measurement and diagnostic equipment ranging from the Academy Hospital's patient safety gear to the 306th Flying Training Group's aircraft test equipment used to maintain trainer aircraft.

They work with 10th Security Forces Squadron's speed enforcement equipment, K9 dog health monitoring

equipment and weapons inspection gauges used to determine wear and maintain safe firearms.

They work with the support test equipment used by the faculty, cadet wing faculty and research personnel in the performance of education and research for the engineering and science disciplines and 10th Communications Squadron's vital communications maintenance equipment.

They quietly troubleshoot, repair, overhaul, modify, test and calibrate a variety of standard and nonstandard electronic test and measurement equipment.

For electronic measurement equipment mechanic Mr. Jerry Sahnd, it

began when he left Cincinnati 28 years ago and, like most of his co-workers, attended Lowry Air Force Base's Air Force technical training school.

### Above average

"The Academy PMEL has an outstanding performance record," Mr. Sahnd said. "Air Force PMELs are required by regulation to be certified by the Air Force Metrology Headquarters every two years. The Academy PMEL has a perfect record of always being awarded their laboratory certification in 40 years of existence at the Academy."

"To my knowledge, there has never been a piece of test equipment calibrated or maintained by the Academy PMEL that was found to be the cause of an equipment failure which led to personal injury or failure to meet an organization's mission requirements," he said.

### Serving

As he aligned, troubleshooted, repaired, inspected, calibrated and certified test measurement and diagnostic equipment, Mr. Anthony Cruz was making comparisons to working standards using authorized Air Force, Department of Defense and commercial maintenance and calibrations procedures traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

"I know that I am serving my country and ensuring safety and precise

measurement abilities for our military force," said the 24 year Air Force technician from Guam.

### A sense of family

Mr. Ken Butcher learned his job long ago at a 12 - month Lowry AFB course.

"For years it was considered the best metrology training facility in the world," said the PMEL technician. "Many foreign services sent senior officers and engineers to our school."

"I look back on my career and am proud of the base-to-base reputation PMEL has earned as being a career field full of intelligent, capable, responsible people," said Mr. Butcher. "We are a career field that is small enough that a sense of family has always been prevalent."

### Love the diversity

Ms. Elizabeth Melton's job as electronic measurement equipment mechanic inspector covers a variety of standard and nonstandard electronic measurement equipment that has been repaired, adjusted and calibrated; to insure work completed by measurement mechanics are done correctly and meets all program requirements.

"What makes you proud of the work you do is that precision measurement equipment is used by almost every organization on base," said Ms. Melton, from Elmont, New York.



Courtesy Photo

**Mr. Ken Butcher calibrates the DC voltage on a 5700A calibrator.**





## Tops in Blue performs

Tops in Blue will perform free at Arnold Hall Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. A second performance, primarily for cadets, will be Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before the shows. Saturday night's performance is open to everyone and all seating will be first-come, first-served. Arnold Hall seats 2,800. Cadets, Prep School students and Academy officials will have priority seating on the main floor of Arnold Hall for Sunday's performance, with any remaining lower level and all balcony seats available to the public. Tickets are not needed for either show. Parking for Saturday's show will be in the Field House parking lot with free shuttle transportation provided to and from Arnold Hall. Limited public parking will be available in the west Harmon Hall or Visitor's Center parking lots. All parking for Sunday's show will be in the west Harmon Hall or Visitor's

Center parking lots. No Academy transportation will be provided for Sunday's performance. For more information, call 333-2928.

## OSC luncheon coming

The January Officers' Spouses' Club luncheon is Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Falcon Club. The event includes a cooking demonstration by Chef Mike from the Falcon Club. For more information or to RSVP, call Deb Coppock by Sunday at 574-1485 or e-mail [kedekeka@aol.com](mailto:kedekeka@aol.com).

## Welcome home on horizon

The Academy Airman and Family Readiness Flight and the 10th Air Base Wing present a welcome home event Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Milazzo Center. The event, open to all Academy members and their families, recognizes Academy Airmen who have returned from deployment since July 2007. For more information, call the A & FRF at 333-3444.

## Quarterly Awards

The Academy's Fourth Quarter Awards Luncheon will be Thursday at noon in the Falcon Club. The cost is \$10 for club members and \$11 for non-members. Dress for military is uniform of the day and smart casual for civilians. To RSVP, call a unit first sergeant today.

## SnoFest nears

The 18th Annual SnoFest will be Friday-Jan. 27 at Keystone Resort. Friday is designated as a family day/goal day for Academy military members and as a liberal leave day for civilian employees who are attending the first day of SnoFest. Civilian employees may use accrued leave, earned comp time or credit hours to participate in these events. Administrative leave is not authorized. Participation is encouraged, but supervisors must decide when or if personnel can be released from duty based on mission considerations. All tickets for SnoFest activities are available through the Outdoor Recreation Center/ITT offices. For lodging, call 1-800-258-0437 and mention group code GV7SNFE.

## National prayer luncheon soon

The Academy's National Prayer Luncheon will be Feb. 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Falcon Club. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Cecil Richardson, Deputy Chief, Air Force Chaplain Service. Cost is \$5 and dress is uniform of the day. For more information or for tickets, call 333-3300 or contact a unit first sergeant.

## HAWC offers classes

The Academy Health and Wellness Center offers:

**Tobacco cessation;** Feb. 5, noon-1 p.m.: Provides information to those trying to quit smoking or chewing tobacco.

**A Lighter Side of Cooking;** Feb. 19, 5-6:30 p.m.: Demonstrates how to prepare healthy and delicious dishes. Attendees receive free recipe cards for the presented meal, a health heart cookbook and a sample of the prepared food. The theme is soul food.

For more information or to register for either class, call 333-3733.

## Heart Link arrives

The next Heart Link program is Feb.

6 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Milazzo Center. The program is for Air Force spouses, especially those new to the military. Heart Link provides information about Air Force life, a greater awareness of the Air Force and Academy mission, customs, traditions, protocol and the resources and services available from key base agencies. A complementary lunch and refreshments will be served. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 333-3444.

## Air Force Ball nears

The Air Force Association, Lance P. Sijan Chapter, Headquarters Air Force Space Command and other local units, host the annual Air Force Ball at the Broadmoor Resort Feb. 15. Entertainment is by Tops in Blue. A social hour begins at 6 p.m. in Colorado Hall and dinner starts at 7 p.m. in the Broadmoor's International Center. Academy people can purchase tickets from Eddie Lee on the 2nd floor of the Academy Visitor's Center. Tickets range from \$15-\$100 depending on grade and affiliation with the military and the Academy. Tickets must be paid for with cash or check. For more ticket information, contact Mr. Lee at 333-7648 or [eddie.lee@usafa.af.mil](mailto:eddie.lee@usafa.af.mil). The last day to buy tickets is Feb. 1. For more information on the Air Force Ball, visit the Sijan Chapter website at [www.afasijan.com](http://www.afasijan.com). The Broadmoor offers a special room rate of \$155 for the evening. For reservations, call the Broadmoor at (719) 577-5775 and use group code AFB08.

## A & FRF offers options

The Airman and Family Readiness Flight offers these seminars and workshops:

**-Resume writing;** Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.: Provides information on different types of resumes and cover letter styles and how to improve resumes.

**-Writing effective accomplishment statements;** Wednesday, 11 a.m.-noon: Learn how to write effective accomplishment statements that clearly reflect your expertise and how to get a resume noticed.

**-AF Civil Service class;** Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-noon: Provides information on how to prepare and apply for a civil service career.

**-Career tracks;** Jan. 29-30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.: Course assists military spouses with assessing and evaluating skills, values and interests; building an effective "tool kit" through a career plan, education and volunteerism; conducting an efficient job search through research, networking, career fairs, interviewing and resume writing; and gives employer feedback on what organizations specifically look for in a candidate. People must be registered to attend.

For more information or to register for a class, call the Airman and Family Readiness Flight at 333-3444 or 333-3445.

## Services survey underway

Air Force Services is conducting a customer feedback survey so it can evaluate and improve how they serve military members and their families. Customers can complete an online survey at [www.usafservue.com/2008feedbacksurvey](http://www.usafservue.com/2008feedbacksurvey) or fill out a paper survey while visiting a 10th Services Division activity through Jan. 31. All active duty and TDY personnel assigned to the Academy, Guard or Reserve

members, family members 18 years of age and older, DoD civilians and eligible Air Force contracted personnel, retirees and family members are eligible to complete the survey. For more information, call Wayne Ebert at 333-2822.

## AFAS grants available

The Air Force Aid Society is accepting applications for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program, which provides \$2,000 grants to sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members; stateside spouses of active duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists and surviving spouses of deceased personnel for their undergraduate studies. Applications are available at the Academy Airman and Family Readiness Center, 6248 West Pine Loop or online at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org). Applications must be submitted by March 7. Awards are announced in June 2008. Use of funds is limited to tuition, books, fees or other curriculum-required materials.

## Tax volunteers needed

The Academy legal office needs Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Representatives for the 2008 tax season. All Academy enlisted, officers and civilians are welcome. For more information or to volunteer, contact Tech. Sgt. Timothy Johnston at 333-3940 or [timothy.johnston@usafa.af.mil](mailto:timothy.johnston@usafa.af.mil).

## Paralegals sought

The Air Force wants motivated Airmen for retraining into the Paralegal Career Field. There are immediate openings for Airmen in the junior enlisted ranks, and some senior NCO positions. Paralegals provide support to commanders, first sergeants and other key personnel on a broad spectrum of legal matters. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Barbara Lamb at 333-3642 or Master Sgt. James Pautler at 333-3940.



## Walk with dinosaurs

The World Arena presents *Walking With Dinosaurs: The Live Experience* Wednesday-Jan. 27. Viewers can see 15 life-sized dinosaurs walk and roar in the show modeled after the BBC TV series *Walking With Dinosaurs*. Military members are eligible for a \$10 discount on all \$48 and \$35 tickets for the 7 p.m. shows Wednesday, Thursday and Jan. 25 and the 7:30 p.m. show Jan. 26. For tickets, call Kimberly at (719) 477-2116. For more information, visit [www.dinosaurslive.com](http://www.dinosaurslive.com).

## Relay for life

The 2008 American Cancer Society Relay for Life kickoff is Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. at Sky Sox Stadium in Colorado Springs. To celebrate the new kickoff event, registration for the Relay for Life is \$25. Food, fun and prizes will be provided. For more information, call Brian Kellione at (719) 636-5101.



### CADET CHAPEL

#### **Catholic Masses:**

##### **Sunday**

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

(or by appointment)

Mass - 10 a.m.

##### **Weekday**

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

##### **Wednesday**

Catholic Adoration - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Mass - 6 p.m.

#### **Protestant Services:**

##### **Sunday**

Traditional - 9:00 a.m.

Hill Fellowship - 11:00 a.m.

#### **Jewish Services**

Fridays - 7 p.m.

#### **Buddhist Worship**

Wed. - 6:30 p.m. - All Faiths Room

#### **Muslim Prayer**

Fridays - Noon - Muslim Prayer Room, Chapel Basement

### 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.

(Sept. - May)

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

Mass - 11:30 a.m.

#### **Protestant Services:**

##### **Saturday**

Contemporary - 6 p.m.

##### **Sunday**

Traditional - 8 a.m.

Gospel - 11:15 a.m.

Religious formation - 9:30 a.m.

(Sept. - May)

#### **Military Academy Pagan Society**

Third Thursday - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

(For more info, call TSgt. Longcrier at 333-6187.)

For more information, call 333-3300.



# Anderson & Co. slow down Runnin' Rebels

By Jerry Cross  
Athletic Communications

Senior Tim Anderson scored a game-high 27 points to lead Air Force past UNLV, 65-53, Saturday in a Mountain West Conference game in Clune Arena before 5,146 Clune-atics.

The Falcons improved to 9-6 overall and 1-1 in the conference play and won their conference home opener for the fifth consecutive season. It was the bluesuiters sixth straight victory over the Runnin' Rebels here. UNLV fell to 12-4 overall and 1-1 in the MWC. The loss snapped the Rebels five-game winning streak.

Anderson scored 21 points in the second half, including a stretch of 14 consecutive, for Air Force as the Falcons took control of the game midway through the stanza and never let up.

"If they're going down you try to get more shots up," Anderson said. "Other guys were hitting, too, so that made it easier for me. It opened things up. We had to come out with more energy and at times we showed that."

The Falcons used a 14-6 run midway in the first half to break open a two-point game to take a 32-20 lead with just less than three minutes remaining in the half.

Air Force opened the second half with an 8-2 run to push a 32-25 halftime lead to 40-27, three minutes into the half. Anderson scored the final three points of the run to begin his streak of 14 straight and 16 of 19 for the Falcons to help open up their biggest lead

of the game, 56-39, with 7:22 remaining in the game. The Rebels were never able to get the deficit under 10 points the rest of the way.

The Falcons hit a season-best 61.8 percent from the field, including a 66.7 clip on 10 of 15 shooting in the second half. Air Force hit 47.4 percent from three-point range on nine of 19 shooting.

Anderson led the way, hitting eight of nine from the field. For his performance, the El Paso, Texas, native was named MWC Player of the Week for the second time this season.

"It's hard when everyone's focused on you," Air Force head coach Jeff Reynolds said about Anderson's game. "Tonight some other guys stepped up and made some shots."

Keith Maren chipped in with one of his best performances of the season, scoring nine points, grabbing a team-best six rebounds and handing out a career-best six assists. His six assists are the most by a Falcon this season. Evan Washington added seven points and Andrew Henke and Matt Holland scored six points each.

UNLV was led by Curtis Terry, who scored 12 points. Wink Adams added 11 points and five rebounds while Corey Bailey and Joe Darger each added nine points. The Rebels hit just 36.2 percent from the field, including a 29.2 clip from three-point range.

"Air Force was sharp and we weren't," UNLV head coach Lon Kruger said. "They had their way offensively. Jeff (Reynolds) had his team primed to play and compete really hard, which they always do."



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede  
Falcon junior forward Matt Holland jostles for position with UNLV guard Rene Rougeau. Holland scored six points on two 3-pointers.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede  
Falcon senior Alecia Steele drives around Wyoming's Hanna Zavec. The two forwards led their respective teams in scoring. Zavec tallied 27 while Steele netted 22.

## Cowgirls roundup Falcons, 75-59

By Nick Arseniak  
Athletic Communications

Falcon seniors Alecia Steele and Jamie Davis combined to score 37 points but it wasn't enough as Air Force lost to #20 Wyoming, 75-59, in Mountain West Conference action Wednesday night in Clune Arena.

Wyoming (15-1, 3-0 MWC) hit a season-high 12 three-point baskets.

Hanna Zavec and Jodi Bolerjack combined to score 43 points to pace the Cowgirls who hit 50 percent of their three's and made 56.6 percent of their shots from the floor.

"We lost this game because of defensive breakdowns," Air Force head coach Ardie McInelly said. "They happened when we miscommunicated and didn't cover somebody and they're wide open in the key and shooting uncontested jumpers."

Zavec, who scored Wyoming's first 11 points of the game, and 16 of her team's 17, finished with a season-high 27 points. The senior was 11-of-13 from the field and 4-for-5 from long distance. Bolerjack was 5-of-8 from behind the arc and finished with 16 points. Colorado Springs native and Palmer high school standout Dominique Sisk added nine points.

"The other thing is we got beat on penetration,"

McInelly added. "We were trading 3-pointers for 2-pointers and you're just not going to win games doing that."

Steele returned from an ankle injury suffered two games ago against Utah and tied a season-high of 22 points to go with a game-high eight rebounds. The Oklahoma City, Okla., product was a perfect 6-for-6 from the free throw line.

Davis, who earned her first start of the season, scored a career-high 15 points, making 6-of-11 from the field.

"My teammates were doing what they had to do so I could get open," Davis said. "The penetration was there. They cleared out. If I needed to kick, they were there."

Air Force (6-9, 0-3 MWC) shot 40.4 percent from the field and had a stellar day at the free-throw line, making 92.9 percent of its attempts (13-of-14). The bluesuiters committed a season-low nine turnovers.

The Falcons kept the game within single digits for most of the first-half, but it was Wyoming's three-point shooting that made the difference. Air Force was 0-for-6 from long-distance, their first game this season without a three, snapping a string of 25-straight with a three.

The Falcons return to action Saturday, against New Mexico at 2 p.m. in Clune Arena.

### Trio honored

Three Falcons were recognized by the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame for their achievements in 2007. Football's Chad Hall was named the CSHOF Male Athlete of the Year. The selection committee also awarded Hockey player Eric Ehn and football coach Troy Calhoun with special citations.

### Racquetball returns

The Academy Fitness and Sports Center presents its annual DoD singles and doubles racquetball tournaments. Singles is Jan. 26 and 27 and doubles is Feb. 16 and 17. Entry fees are \$15 for singles and \$30 for doubles teams. For more information call Dave Castilla at 333-4078.

### INTERCOLLEGIATE

#### Men's Basketball

Jan. 12 at AFA  
Falcons 65 UNLV 53

Jan. 16 at Laramie, Wyo.  
Falcons 64 (OT) Wyoming 62

#### Women's Basketball

Jan. 12 at Las Vegas, Nev.  
UNLV 58 Falcons 48

Jan. 16 at AFA  
#20 Wyoming 75 Falcons 59

### Hockey

Jan. 11 and 12 at AFA  
Falcons 5-3 RIT 2-4 (OT)

### Boxing

Jan. 11 at AFA  
Friday Night Fights  
168 lbs. \*Daryn Nelson, dec.  
\* Boxer of the Week

### Wrestling

Jan. 12 at Alamosa, Colo.  
Falcons 22 Adams St. 21

### Track and Field

Jan. 13 at AFA  
Air Force All-Comers Meet  
(Shot Put)  
Sara Neubauer, 48'6"\*\*\*  
(Pole Vault)  
Melissa Beerse, 12'5 1/2"\*\*\*  
\*Falcon records

### Swimming

Jan. 12 at Denver, Colo.  
Denver 146 Falcons (Men) 92  
Denver 132 Falcons (Women) 96



