

# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO **ACADEMY SPIRIT**

Vol. 48 No. 10

March 14, 2008

## 10 Academy members climb ranks

Congratulations to the following master sergeants who were recently selected for promotion to senior master sergeant:



- Terry Best-Rennahan
- Bret Bridgewater
- Mark Crespo
- Benjamin DelMar
- Marino Duran III
- William Fields
- Bryan Haan
- Sean Medsker
- Alvena Salley
- Spenger Zamy

## Honor Guard takes 1st

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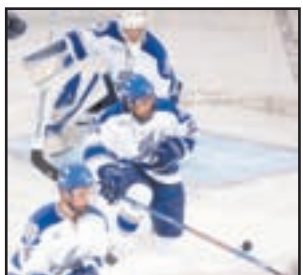
## Worry not ... spring is near

Page 14



## Falcons to fight in Final Five

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Graphic by Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins

## Under the looking glass

The Academy was thoroughly inspected this week during the Unit Compliance Inspection. More than 150 inspectors from the Air Force Inspection Agency and Air Education and Training Command evaluated the Academy's compliance with instructions, policies and programs. The results of the inspection will be announced at a mandatory UCI outbrief Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the Arnold Hall theater.

# Astro relishes 50-year mark

By Ann Patton  
 Academy Spirit staff

Congratulations, Astronautics.

The Academy Astronautics Department celebrated its half-century anniversary March 7.

"For 50 years, space dominance has grown exponentially more vital to American security and prosperity. Today's joint and coalition warfighters depend upon space professionals and the capabilities you bring to the fight," said Gen. T. Michael

Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff, in a letter to the department.

"America awaits your continued breakthroughs."

Alumni, faculty and friends of the department dropped into the astro lab and classes and visited with each other, present-day faculty and cadets during the day. The celebration culminated with an evening banquet, a display of cadet-built hardware and Academy reminisces in Doolittle Hall.

Retired Col. Roger Bate, the first permanent professor



Photo by Mike Kaplan

**Retired Gen. Phil Erdle administers the oath of office to newly-promoted Brig. Gen. Roger Bate.**

of astronautics, received an overdue promotion to brigadier general. recognizes General Bate's service as a permanent professor and department

"The promotion formerly

**See ASTRO, Page 4**

# Grad pilots space shuttle into orbit

An Air Force Academy graduate made his first trip into space Tuesday at the controls of the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

Col. Gregory Johnson, Class of 1984, is the pilot of the STS-123 crew which launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center early Tuesday.

NASA's STS-123 mission is a 16-day

flight which involves the International Space Station and several other country's space agencies.

"We have three major portions of our mission: to get Garrett Reisman up and to get Leo [Eyharts] down, to take up the Japanese Logistics Pressurized Module, and deliver that to the space station and, finally, to assemble the Special

Purpose Dexterous Manipulator and leave that up on the space station as well," said Colonel Johnson.

Joining Colonel Johnson on STS-123 are mission commander Dominic Gorie, Mission Specialists Robert Behnken, Mike Foreman, Rick Linnehan, Garrett Reisman and Japan Aerospace

**See SHUTTLE, Page 3**

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# The PITO Model: Something in there for you

By Master Sgt. J. R. Erb  
Superintendent, Policy and Directives Division

Five years into my first enlistment, I was selected for staff sergeant. In order to prepare me for more responsibilities, the Air Force sent me to the Airman Leadership School at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Not only was this my first experience with enlisted Professional Military Education, it also served as my introduction to Air Force Force Development.

Later in my career, I attended the Non-commissioned Officer Academy at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., as a part of my professional development. The Air Force was preparing me for my future role and responsibilities as a Senior NCO. I was placed on a career path and provided a deliberate system to develop me as an enlisted leader.

Well, what does that have to do with the Academy and developing leaders of character?

Fast forward to June 2003 and two assignments later. I arrived at the Academy prepared for my first special duty assignment as an Academy Military Training. Our Academy was working through dramatic changes as the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James Roche, mandated an Agenda for Change. Eight months later, the Academy rolled out the Officer Development System. ODS made strides to focus and orient on the operational Air Force and defined competencies for each cadet year class.

As an enlisted Airman, this concept was not foreign to me. Through PME, I knew the Enlisted Force Structure defined specific responsibilities for each enlisted rank, as well as relationships between ranks. As I looked through the ODS, one of the models jumped out at me — the PITO model. PITO stands for the four developmental stages of leadership expected of cadet, which are personal, interpersonal, team and organizational. It was easy for this NCO to relate to roles and responsibilities being tied to rank.

Fast forward again to 2008. ODS is going through a revision, and my boss asked me what I thought about updating the PITO model. Some ideas came to me, and I immediately started drawing on a napkin down at the



Graphic by Mark Watkins

Arnold Hall food court. Realizing I might be in over my head, put together a team from four different mission elements. Eventually our team, with some help from the graphics shop, turned that napkin into what you see published today: PITO 2008.

Our team saw a few opportunities to improve the model from the 2004 ODS pamphlet. Those familiar with the 2004 version will recall a “stair step” model with solid lines between the class years. Notice on the 2008 version we moved to a swerving color scheme with blurred lines. This helped us illustrate several things.

First, the revised model deliberately uses a color scheme to show how each class, while focused primarily on a specific level of leadership, will also maintain all previous levels of leadership. As an Airman, part of mastering my primary responsibilities was mastering dress and appearance. As a Senior NCO, dress and appearance is still a critical part of my leadership, but it has become second nature, and I can focus on more advanced leadership competencies.

Second, the swerving effect of the colors illustrates each class is not confined to their level of leadership. A fourth class cadet may have the opportunity to operate outside the personal realm of leadership and start developing more advanced competencies.

Imagine telling freshman quarterback Sean Carney in 2004 that he could only operate at the personal level of leadership! By swerving the colors, we demonstrate how people (like Cadet Carney) can and should operate in realms above the current rank. A Cadet First Sergeant is a 2nd Class Cadet, but the job is to take care of the entire organization, not just a team.

We see this constantly in the enlisted corps, especially with the high ops tempo of this day and age. As Airmen and NCOs deploy, our junior members step-up and get the job done. In this way, we are preparing ourselves for the next level of responsibilities.

What a lot of people don't realize about the model is, it is not “for cadets only.” We updated the competencies at each level to bring them in-line with current Air Force doctrine. Any leader or follower can take something away from them. I challenge you to dig into the competencies of all four class years. I think you will find solid leadership skills that are relevant to you, your peers and your subordinates. They are grounded in our Air Force Core Values and tied to Air Force policy. No matter what part of the Air Force team you serve on — officer, cadet, enlisted or civilian — take a look at the Academy's PITO model. There is something in there for you.

## ACADEMY SPIRIT

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## What's your favorite way to relax?



“I relax with archery. Anytime I'm not working I shoot or work on my bow.”

Mr. Kurt Geist  
Academy Archery Club member



“I run to unwind. Each afternoon I make it a priority to take a 3 to 10 mile run. It helps to maintain a balance in work and exercise and is a tremendous stress reliever.”

Lt. Col. Jeffery Riddlebarger  
70th Flying Training Squadron



“I exercise, run and train with weights. At lunch and after work, I'm on the Santa Fe Trail.”

Ms. Sharon Hawkes  
Aeromedical Squadron



“When the weather permits, I like to take a long run. Otherwise a good book and a cup of cocoa helps me to unwind.”

Mrs. Chantile Stovall  
Air Force spouse

# Shuttle

From Page 1

Exploration Agency astronaut Takao Doi. Reisman will replace current station crew member Léopold Eyharts, who has lived on the outpost since early February.

Endeavour's cargo will help continue the station's assembly. The Japanese Experiment Logistics Module-Pressurized Section will hold experiment samples, maintenance tools and other spare items. The Special Purpose Dexterous Manipulator, or Dextre, can be attached to the station's robotic arm to handle smaller components typically requiring a spacewalking astronaut. At the tip of each arm is a "hand" that consists of retractable jaws used to grip objects. STS-123 is the longest shuttle mission to the station and will include a record five shuttle spacewalks at the orbiting laboratory. During those spacewalks, Colonel Johnson will be giving his mission specialists a hand outside the space shuttle.

"As a pilot, you know, I feel really lucky to be a robotic arm operator, and we do have robotic arm ops that are separate from the spacewalks themselves," said Colonel Johnson. "We're also going to do a walk-off of the station robotic arm. Both ends can grapple so we're going to do a walk-off where we're holding on this side. Then we grab something else and then release this, and then you can use this side so that's kind of a cool maneuver. We're going to do one of those. I'll also be a transfer guy and so I'll help Takao,

the loadmaster. My biggest challenge in that whole operation is to make sure that I do it the right way because I know there's going to be a specific way to do this, and I'm going to make sure that I know how to transfer things. Keeping track of the piece and parts is really important when you're in the space business."

The Academy grad's biggest tasks in space are going to be two of the mission's major events: rendezvous and docking. Colonel Johnson brings the skills learned at NASA and from the 3,500 flying hours he has in 40 different aircraft types to the task.

"The pilot and commander are the rendezvous kind of guys. That's pilot stuff," said Colonel Johnson. "You have two kinds of astronauts. You have the pilots, and then you have the smart ones, and I'm a pilot. Moving the vehicles around in space, in the air and also in the vacuum, is why we're hired. Rendezvous is a really exciting part for me as a pilot. The plan is to get the space shuttle from some different orbit to the exact same orbit of the space station. We approach the space station in a very predictable manner, and then we stop 600 feet below and do the rendezvous pitch maneuver. Then we join up on the space station itself. We're approaching it at many feet per second starting off but when it finally ends, we're approach at about one inch per second, not really super fast because we want to make sure that the shuttle docking system is exactly aligned with the



Photo courtesy NASA

**Astronaut Gregory Johnson, STS-123 pilot, dons a training version of his shuttle launch and entry suit in preparation for an emergency egress training session in the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility at Johnson Space Center. United Space Alliance suit technicians Drew Billingsley (right) and Ryan Carabaja assisted Colonel Johnson.**

space station docking system."

The Academy's newest spacefarer also had advice for those looking to follow him into space.

"Anyone who would apply to the astronaut corps should love what they're doing as the baseline skill set that got them in there," said Colonel Johnson. "With me it was being a pilot, and I loved being a pilot. I loved being a test pilot and so being an astronaut was not my end point in, you know, either, I achieved success by being an astronaut or if I don't get picked I'm not successful. I loved my career as a pilot, and it was a bonus to be selected as an astronaut. So I would hope

that no one would apply to the astronaut corps in that being the only thing that they're really going after."

You know, children often ask me, they say, 'Well, how do you become a fighter pilot or how do you become an astronaut...?' And I say, 'Love what you're doing and do it very well.' And most of the astronauts you'll find, we have a great veterinarian on our flight, and we have a couple great scientists on our flight. There are teachers in the office. There are medical doctors as well as pilots, and I think the common thread between all those disciplines is that they love what they're doing and they do it very well."



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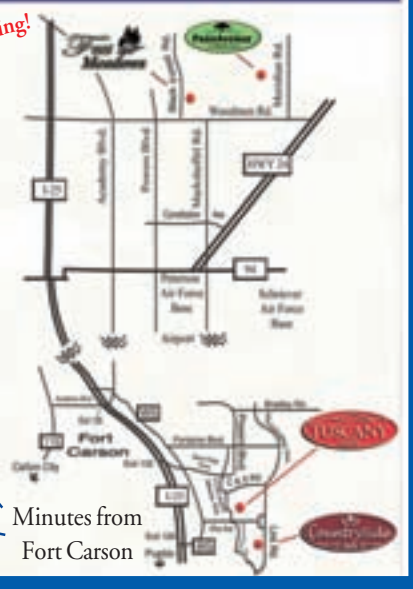
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## Astro

From Page 1

head during the Academy's formative years," said Col. Marty France, the current astronautics chairman.

The Academy Astronautical Department is the oldest collegiate astro department. It also reigns as the nation's only undergraduate satellite program.

Retired Col. Francis "Joe" Hale headed the department in 1962 and taught aerospace engineering. After a rocketry class in Fairchild Hall during the celebration day, he observed basic scientific principles are pretty much the same.

As for the cadets, "I can't really say they've changed either."

Colonel Hale was inducted into the Missile and Space Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2006.

Retired Colonel Randy Liefer, Academy Class of 1977, taught in the department for 10 years.

"Cadets are getting more mature," he said. "It's now also a coed school. We were rude and crude back then."

For him, the department has had startling advances since his cadet days.

"The ability to design and build a satellite got changed dramatically," he said.

Since the satellite capstone program was instituted, cadets have designed, built, tested and launched FalconSATs 1, 2 and 3. FalconSAT 4 was designed but not funded, and FalconSAT 5 is scheduled for launch in Kodiak, Alaska, in 2009.

Besides strengthening its satellite program, the department continues to develop its FalconLaunch sounding rocket series, working to design a rapid responsive rocket capable of carrying a small military or scientific payload to an altitude of 100 kilometers. Last year's rocket made it to Mach 3.5 and 15,000 feet from a NASA facility.

Retired Major Gen. Jerry White said the department has kept pace with the needs of the Air Force.

"It has always been on the front edge of Air Force space technology," he said.

The former faculty member has also kept pace with the Academy's department.

Along with General Bate and retired Col. Don Mueller, he co-authored the text "Fundamentals of

Astroynamics" now in use in astronautics classrooms.

"I had the best of both worlds," said retired Col. Jack Anthony.

Now a project manager for geographic positioning systems at Northrup Grumman Corporation in Colorado Springs, he is a member of the Class of 1978 and a former faculty member.

"I'm excited to be part of the 50th anniversary," he said. "Cadets are just as special as they were when they first showed up in 1955."

Astro majors are close to his heart. "They step up to many challenges and spend many long nights for projects and technology understanding."

Dr. Rob Brown, Academy Class of 1986, has taught in the astro department for seven years.

He, too, enjoyed the anniversary celebration.

"I liked hearing about how far we've come. I know just in the 22 years since I graduated from this department, we're doing so much more," he said. "To think that our department started before Sputnik launched and now we're sending satellites up, that's pretty cool."

Teaching suits him because he enjoys working with the cadets, who represent the future of the Air Force.

"Working in the private industry, the bottom line is profit. Here the bottom line is something much more important."

Cadet 2nd Class Shankar Kulumani is an astro major and is aiming for a career as an Air Force astronautical engineer. He too liked being involved with the anniversary.

"I learned some interesting stories from former instructors on the development of the FalconLaunch program," he said. "Several former instructors have tried to shape the program to include more exotic fuels and an overall increase in the cool factor. This struggle continues as current cadets attempt to influence the program."

He had praise for present and former faculty members.

"Most instructors are graduates and have a very real sense of the Academy life and seek to maintain the integrity of this experience," Cadet Kulumani said.

Cadet 2nd Class Krista Lepire had the pleasure of



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Major Gen. Jerry White served as distinguished guest speaker during the department's anniversary celebration.

showing off the tracking station inside the astro lab during the anniversary.

She plans to work on a research project next year for the Pentagon on space-based solar power as a clean alternative power source.

Cadet Lepire feels humble in light of the astro department's history.

"My sense of my place seems so small compared to the greatness around me. I could see the making of history as we move toward bigger and better rockets out of FalconLaunch and more technical and innovative satellites out of FalconSAT" she said.

"It's so hard to see myself fitting into the long line that has come before. I want to envision that what I do as a cadet will be of significant impact in the future, and then I see how much has already come before."

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# B-1B destroys al-Qaeda torture compound in Iraq

By Tech. Sgt. Joel Langton  
Air Forces Central Public Affairs

ZAMBRANIYAH, Iraq (AFP) — A B-1B Lancer aircrew destroyed an al-Qaeda torture compound and prison with six guided bomb unit-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions at 2:07 p.m. Monday in Zenbaraniyah.

The bombing marked a change of fortunes for the village, where local villagers began standing up to the terrorists a little more than a month ago in the former al-Qaeda hotbed south of Baghdad.

The 500-pound-class Global Positioning System-guided bombs struck the torture compound in a coordinated effort with Multi-National Division Center officials and Iraqi forces.

"This (airstrike) removes the last remnants of al-Qaeda from this area," said Army Lt. Col. Mark Solomon, the 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Squadron commander.

The compound consisted of three buildings along with several small shelters near the back of the compound. The facilities had been used for torture, with handcuffs hooked to the walls with bare wires plugged into outlets nearby. Several of the walls were blood splattered. There were also several interrogation manuals Soldiers found when they captured the compound.

One community member, who escaped from the facility, said it was a new day for the village as he looked into the bomb craters.

"We all feel good," Aubid Abdalla said. "It's a dark past that is gone."

Mr. Abdalla, a former Iraqi army intelligence officer, was encouraging local citizens to give coalition efforts a chance, when he was kidnapped. He spent 15 days in the facility and saw a young boy and an old man killed while he was held prisoner.

Less than an hour afterward, after

the B-1B's precision deliveries destroyed the al-Qaeda torture facilities, Mr. Abdalla said the event had changed him.

"I'm a lot happier now," he said. "It was like my mother gave birth to me again."

Senior Airman Joseph Aton, a joint terminal attack controller assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, directed the final clearance in the B-1B's deliberate JDAM weapons delivery process.

"It was great to be part of this," Airman Aton said. "You can tell the people were happy to have this place gone and it was awesome to make a

difference for them."

The effort was a joint effort between officials from the Multi-National Division-Center, the Combined Forces Air Component Commander's Combined Air and Space Operations Center, the 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force's Air Expeditionary Wing, which flies the B-1B in the area of responsibility and Sons of Iraq, who helped provide security.

As coalition forces left the area, villagers stood on the side of the road cheering and clapping to be rid of this remnant of al-Qaeda.



Photo by Cadet 1st Class Erik Gonsalves

## Soaring to the top

The Academy's cross country soaring team has been named the 2007 National Inter Collegiate Champion. The Academy overcame tough competitors like Pennsylvania State University, Colorado State University and Ohio State University. The announcement of the win came from a report released by the Collegiate Soaring Association, an affiliate of the Soaring Society of America. The championship is its ninth since 1995 for the 12-member Academy team.

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**OPENS FRIDAY, MARCH 14**

# Stealth fighter honored at Wright-Patterson

By Derek Kaufman  
88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force-industry team responsible for providing program oversight to the F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter aircraft said farewell during a ceremony here Tuesday.

More than 350 Airmen, base employees, industry partners and family members gathered for one last close-up look at the F-117, which made its first flight in 1981.

Three F-117s and Airmen from the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., were on hand to enable Air Force Materiel Command and Aeronautical Systems Center officials an opportunity to reflect on the jet's legacy. The ceremony concluded with a fly-by of one jet painted red, white and blue on its belly.

"The United State Air Force developed, in partnership with industry, an airplane that has served this nation remarkably well over a quarter of a century," Gen. Bruce Carlson, AFMC commander said.

The Air Force decided to retire the F-117 fleet because a new generation of stealth aircraft including the B-2 Spirit, F-22 Raptor and soon-to-be-fielded F-35 Joint Strike Fighter have better capabilities, and because the F-117 is expensive to fly and maintain, General Carlson said.



Photo by Staff Sgt Joshua Strang  
**General Bruce Carlson, Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, conducts interviews with the local media during the F-117 Nighthawk Farewell ceremony Tuesday at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The ceremony concluded with a single ship flyover.**

"Taking them out of service will allow us to use that money to recapitalize the Air Force," he said.

The F-117s will be placed in storage at an airfield in the Tonopah Test Range, Nev., where the jets flew in total secrecy and only at night until November 1988.

In 1991 during Operation Desert Storm, F-117s flew nearly 1,300 sorties over Iraq and Kuwait without a single combat loss, General Carlson said. Nighthawk pilots flew only two percent of the total combat sorties but struck 40 percent of the most highly defended,

strategic targets.

"It was a remarkable contribution to that war and all done over one of the most hostile air environments in the history of the world," he said.

Lessons learned operating and maintaining the F-117 contributed significantly to the development of the new mix of U.S. stealth aircraft which now have vastly superior capabilities, General Carlson said.

"This airplane was the foundation for low-observable technology in the United States of America," he said.

The F-117 is nearly completely covered with a radar absorbing material which is laborious and expensive to maintain. After each mission, maintenance specialists closely examine the aircraft's special coating to identify any needed repairs. If required, coatings are reapplied, allowed to cure, and re-inspected, said Col. George Torres Jr., the commander of Holloman Air Force Base's 49th Maintenance Group.

"We can do a quick turn and get these aircraft up very quickly to support operational training requirements," said Colonel Torres. But in combat situations, extra time and attention are the rule of the day to ensure the F-117's stealth characteristics are intact.

"The aircraft won't go out until it's ready," Colonel Torres said.

Few people realize the F-117 has no defensive systems or radar, said Col. John Forsythe, the 49th Operations Group commander. "We depend exclusively on the stealth provided by our maintainers."

Holloman AFB's pilot and maintenance teams will launch their last "4-ship" of stealth fighters on April 21, Colonel Forsythe said. A portion of the fleet will be rapidly recallable to fly again, if ever needed.

The 49th Fighter Wing's focus will then turn to getting ready to receive the Air Force's newest stealthy jet, the F-22 Raptor.

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# Academy captures Mock Trial Championship for second time in three years

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

The most successful mock trial season in recent memory continued for the Academy as the cadet mock trial team captured first place in the American Mock Trial Association's Great Southern Regional Tournament held in Dallas, Texas, Feb. 23-24

Competing against 21 teams from 12 colleges and universities, Academy trial advocates outperformed their opponents in a fictional criminal case involving the sentencing of a convicted drug user who attacked a child protective service agent.

The Academy team, led by Cadet 1st Class Cameron Linder, was comprised of seven cadets who assumed the roles of the attorneys and witnesses. The team competed in four rounds over the two days of competition portraying the prosecution and defense in two rounds each. Each round lasted three hours. Following the Academy in the 21-team field was the University of Texas (Austin), Southern Methodist University and the second University of Texas (Austin) team.

"Mock trial is an excellent opportunity for our cadets to hone their communication and critical thinking skills," commented Major Rieder, officer-in-charge and head coach of the team. "Although many mock trial participants never go on to become lawyers, the skills they develop are used across the spectrum of the operational Air Force since advocacy is something we all do every day."

Adding to the thrill of the first place finish — the Academy's second in three years — two cadets received individual awards at the competition. Cadets 1st Class Cameron Linder received Best Attorney and Best Witness awards, a rarity in mock trial competition and Kasey Wilson also won a Best Attorney

Award. Other key team members included Cadets 1st Class Chris Stanton, Megan Mueller, James Corless, Amanda Tamosuinas and Cadet 2nd Class Parker Hicks.

"You can know the law and have the skills needed to compete, but if you can't think on your feet and adjust immediately to what the other team does, then you won't do well in mock trial," said Cadet Stanton. "Even when you don't know what you are doing, you have to be able to look like you do. Presentation is half the battle, and thinking on your feet is a big part of that."

For the past 10 years the Academy Mock Trial has been trying to establish a name for itself. For the last four years, they have done a creditable job of that but were still an underdog.

"The Air Force and the Academy in particular are not known for good law programs," said Cadet Stanton, a legal studies major from Crestview, Fla. "By winning Nationals, we will have firmly established ourselves as a team to be reckoned with. Winning helps get our name out there and helps get us more funds both from the Academy itself and from the Association of Graduates."

"Recognition at this tournament will help us to continue to represent the Academy on the National Mock Trial scene in years to come," said Cadet Stanton.

The case was academic, but if you didn't know better, you would think the case was real.

"All the rules we follow are real," said the cadet who will train as an aircraft maintenance officer at Langley Air Force Base, Va., after graduation. "All the procedures we use are real. The case is fictional, but it's built around real life cases and issues that are tried in the courts of America every year. This is as close as you get to real life. The only thing that is extremely unreal is the



Courtesy Photo

Mock trial participants included (left to right) Cadets 1st Class J D Corless, attorney, Kasey Wilson, attorney, and Cadet 2nd Class Parker Hicks, attorney/witness. Back row from left: Cadets 1st Class Amanda Tamosuinas (in white shirt), witness, Chris Stanton (standing), attorney/witness, and Cameron Linder, attorney/witness.

time scale. We try a whole case in three hours when this case could take several months to resolve in an actual court.

"Any class which teaches a person to make oral arguments, give a brief in front of peers, speak and think on your feet, or do research and then present a project to be peer reviewed, teach a person skills that are needed in Mock Trial," said the cadet. "Many courses from technical engineering and math courses to political science, English and law courses all help us prepare for mock trial because each of these teaches us how to think analytically and to prepare to defend our answers. Some classes do this more than others, law classes especially, but each class at the Academy contributes to these ideas."

History, English, political science, military science studies, biology, math, operations research and legal studies are represented on the team.

Preparations and practice for a mock trial are time intensive. Their practice schedule goes from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday, from September through April.

People who did speech and debate, acting and drama, mock trial or public speaking events in high school usually

come to mock trial with the essentials of the competition already down. They just need to pick up the specific rules and case matter, as well as fine tune their skills.

"We have try outs in the early fall to establish skill levels, and then the judge advocate officers in the law department, as well as the senior members of the team will teach classes throughout the fall to educate and train the new members of the team on how to be a good Mock Trial team," Cadet Stanton said.

The thoughts and feelings that doing well at the mock trial generate?

"Pride more than anything else," the cadet said. "A lot of work goes into being a good mock trial team. When the Academy's name is read off as the first place team at a tournament, I am proud to say that I am on that team, and it gives me a sense of satisfactions and the sense of a job well done. Mock trial is a contest of the mind. Physically beating someone in a boxing or football match is very satisfying but knowing that your mental ability and your teams strength and ability to solve problems on the spot is better than the other teams', that feeling and sense of accomplishment is rewarding."

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# Airmen complete first Air Advisor Course

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol  
Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs

FORT DIX, N.J. (AFP) — Air Force Expeditionary Center's Expeditionary Operations School officials here developed an Air Advisor Course for Airmen who will be training Afghan and Iraqi military forces and graduated the first 59 students March 7 here.

In less than six months, school officials created the "train the trainer" course for Airmen going to those countries to instruct foreign military members.

"The Air Advisor Course is a fast-paced, team-oriented course designed specifically for Airmen deploying to support Air Force combat air advisor operations in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Senior Master Sgt. James Schmidt, the course director. "In this course, we provide training in two phases — combat skills and cultural awareness."

In the combat skills phase, Sergeant Schmidt said students are trained in offensive and defensive driving skills, introductory convoy procedures, combat first aid and advanced combat firearms training using the M-4 and AK-47 rifles and the M-9 pistol.

"The cultural awareness training hones in on host nation-specific understanding of where these Airmen will be deploying in either Iraq or Afghanistan," Sergeant Schmidt said. "For example,

they receive mission overview training, an understanding of the host nation air force organization and its capabilities, and conversational language training in Arabic or Dari."

Capt. Wes Venters, a behavioral scientist from U.S. Air Force Academy and a student in the course deploying to Iraq, said language training was one area he found especially helpful.

"The language training essentially helps us to communicate with the people of Iraq and Afghanistan," Captain Venters said. "As air advisors, we'll be working a lot with the Iraqi population and more specifically the soldiers."

"We'll also go over there and work in a joint environment," Captain Venters said. "Knowing we'll be working directly with the Army, I could see a lot of the training paralleled with what the Army teaches. That's good because when we go over there and get into the joint environment and are asked to be on a fire team or something related to that, we'll know what to do. We're certainly better prepared as Air Force air advisors."

Tech. Sgt. Darnell Gordon, an air surveillance technician from the 552nd Operations Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., said although he has deployed and trained for deployments in his 15-year career, the Air Advisor Course shined some new light on things he hasn't done before, such as

extensive weapons training.

"It helps for those of us in the Air Force who aren't trained continuously in combat-related activities," he said. "The weapons training we received gave us a better familiarity with our weapons systems. We're not going to be experts, of course, but if something happens we can always fall back on our training from having that familiarity."

Now more prepared for the air advisor mission is Lt. Col. Chris Lyons. He is a student in the course from Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Ill., and will be deploying to Afghanistan.

"It is a great combination of focused classroom, field, range and obstacle course instruction to prepare us for the jobs we will be doing in Afghanistan," Colonel Lyons said. "The language and cultural training helps us better communicate with and understand our Afghan counterparts while the combat and field training keeps our warrior skills at their peak."

Sergeant Schmidt said the course wasn't easy for the students.

"Students must be mentally and physically prepared to perform various types of rigorous combat scenario-based physical tasks in this course," he said. "With any class you may have minor issues that come up but you deal with them and continue on. All students were able to critique each class they attended. Any



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Staff Sgt. Saul Bookman goes through the combat first aid obstacle course Feb. 29 on a range on Fort Dix, N.J., taught by Expeditionary Operations School officials.

items that we felt could be adjusted based on student input — we did."

Sergeant Schmidt said the continuing mission of the course will be to make sure Airmen are ready for the air advisor mission.


"We'll continue to provide deploying air advisors the skill sets they need to adapt to an ever-changing deployed environment," he said.

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# Honor guard takes 1st place in drill meet

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

The Academy Cadet Honor Guard took second place in the regulation phase of the competition and 1st place overall in the exhibition phase of the Southern California Invitational Drill Meet in Anaheim, Calif., March 1.

The team competed against eight college teams. The Academy Color Guard competed against 20 different entries, and the four-man exhibition team competed against 22 teams.

They also placed second in the 4-man exhibition category and first in the Color Guard category.

"Regulation drill is the basic drill that every unit does," said Cadet Squadron 2's Cadet 1st Class Kyle Smaagard, honor guard director of operations. "It is simple marching drill and includes flanking commands, column movements and various other commands. It is designed to test the commander on their quick thinking and decisiveness."

Exhibition drill was the flashy, fun part at the competition. It included throws and fancy marching movements. It is the performance part of the competition, the stuff that everyone likes to see, Cadet Smaagard said.

The Honor Guard brought home five trophies out of a possible six events. In years past, they have always brought back

a similar number of trophies, depending on how many events they entered in.

Due to their greater experience, the upperclassmen in the color guard and the four man exhibition team trained intensively for a month or two for this particular competition.

"The Cadet Honor Guard strives to represent the Academy as best we can," said Cadet Smaagard. "We consider it our duty to always set the example and be the image of what the public expects the military to be."

SCIDM has a large group of Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Course units that participate in the competition.

"To many of them, the Air Force Academy or another service academy is where they would like to attend college," he said. "They look up to us, not only for the excellent performance that we can put on, but also as role models. We do not pride ourselves on winning trophies. We mainly go to competitions and performances merely to spread public awareness and appreciation for the Academy. We expect our team to uphold the Air Force value of Excellence In All We Do, and I believe that we did so at this competition."

Competing in performances is only one of the things the Academy Cadet Honor Guard does.

"Our duties include raising and lowering the flag every day, marching



Courtesy photo

The Academy Cadet Honor Guard took first place overall in an exhibition at Southern California's Invitation Drill March 1. The National Invitation Drill Meet will be hosted at the Academy on April 19.

the colors at cadet formations and parades, posting the colors at various dinners and events at the Academy and out in the public, doing saber arches for military weddings at the cadet chapel, and doing various performances like Cub Scout Blue and Gold ceremonies and other similar events and parades out in the community," Cadet Smaagard said.

The next competition is April 19 when the Academy Cadet Honor Guard hosts the National Invitational Drill Meet.

"We do not compete at this event, but due to popular request, we always put on some type of performance after the competition is over," he said. "This year we plan to do a four-man performance, as well as a 16-man performance."



## CHALLENGER

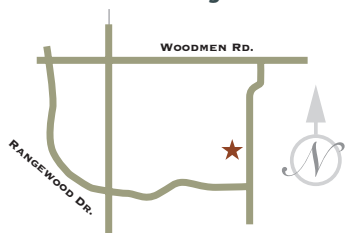
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# Women's History Month Featured Artist: Edmonia Lewis

**By Capt. Don Salvatore**  
Director, Equal Opportunity

In keeping with this year's Women's History Month theme, "Women's Art, Women's Vision," There is an important female artist you may not know of. Her name is Edmonia Lewis, and her contributions to the art world have inspired millions, both male and female, since the mid-1800s. She traveled the world, developing her talents and demonstrating the skill and vision women continue to bring to the visual arts.

According to *Britannica.com*, Edmonia Lewis was born in 1845 in Greenbush, N.Y. Being the daughter of an African-American man and a woman of African and Chippewa descent, she faced social troubles from the start. Lewis was orphaned by the time she was four years old and was taken in by her aunts who still lived among the Chippewa. Her aunts called her "Wildfire." This name was indicative of the undeniable energy the creative young girl possessed. Her artistic talent manifested early, and she was able to earn admission to the preparatory department of Oberlin College in Ohio in 1859.

This was a dangerous era for African-Americans, particularly for females. In 1863, Edmonia was accused of theft and of poisoning two fellow students. An angry mob attacked her

before the trial could convene. She escaped without permanent injury and was later acquitted of the crimes. She decided to move to Boston immediately, where she began her career as a sculptor. She produced one of her most impressive works in 1864 in the form of a bust of Col. Robert Gould Shaw. Colonel Shaw died while leading African-American troops in the assault on Charleston, S.C. Lewis sold enough copies of the piece to allow her to travel overseas. She eventually settled in Rome and joined a group of female artists.

This group, including noted American artists Charlotte Cushman and Harriet Hosmer, provided a safe and inspirational environment for Lewis to hone her craft. While a part of this enclave, Lewis improved her considerable skill in shaping plaster and soon graduated to sculpting marble. These talents helped her earn a measure of respect in Europe that would not have been afforded her in her home country.

A few years after Lewis arrived in Rome, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. She was so moved by the reality of freedom she sculpted two of her most inspired works, "Freed Woman and Her Child" and "Forever Free" between 1866 and 1867. "Forever Free" is a particularly striking piece, standing over 40" tall and made of solid marble. The piece

depicts a freed slave couple holding lengths of broken chain and looking skyward in thanks. It now resides in Washington D.C. at the Howard University Gallery of Art.

Unlike many artists who go woefully unrecognized during their lifetime, Edmonia Lewis was able to enjoy both critical and popular acclaim during her most productive years. She focused on sculpting biblical figures during the mid-1870s, and consistently stunned the art world with her eye for detail and practiced discipline. She further challenged the era's misgivings about the intelligence of blacks by articulately explaining her techniques and motivations during exhibits. Her sculpture of the Death of Cleopatra even earned a spot at the prestigious Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. She went on to sculpt busts of prominent figures of her time such as Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln and Horace Greeley. She made clear her admiration for these heroes of national unity and freedom by expertly rendering their iconic features in everlasting marble.

Unfortunately, the majority of Lewis' work did not survive the years of moving and changing hands. Lewis herself became lost to obscurity after retiring. The details of her final days are no longer known. It is widely believed she lived out her remaining years in



Courtesy graphic

Rome and passed away between 1909 and 1911. Although her final personal details are lost, her legacy carries on through her inspiring art work. These pieces are still thrilling audiences in art galleries around the globe.

Edmonia Lewis' unique perspective gives us a glimpse into her world while the universal themes in her work give us insight into our own. In her body of work, we find sentiments that transcend generation and gender, rank and race. This article can only give brief introductions of her life and contributions, so it is encouraged that people go online or visit the local library to find out more about this fascinating artist. Inspiration can be found in her story.

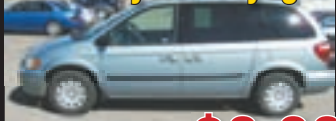
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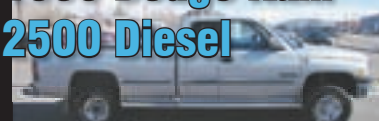
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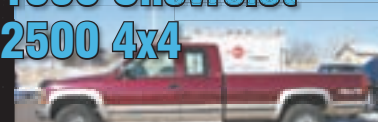
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# Operation Purple Camps coming in June

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

Operation Purple Camps are coming to the Peterson Air Force Base's Airman and Family Readiness Center in June, and early sign-ups may be a good idea.

The National Military Family Association developed these free summer camps in response to the need for more support for military children, especially those whose parents are or will be deployed.

The Peterson camp at Winter Park's Snow Mountain Ranch for 7 to 11 year-olds is July 6 to July 11; Outer Edge camps for 10 to 17 year-olds at Larkspur's

Ponderosa Conference Center are June 2 to June 8 and June 20 to July 5.

"As far as the waiting list goes, they can't say if there will be one or not," said 10th Mission Support Squadron's Donna Chavez.

Last year, there were more than 700 campers on the waiting list.

"That's one of the reasons Colorado was selected to host four weeks of camp this year," Ms. Chavez said. "It will allow more than 500 children of deployed service members to attend a camp this year. With the overwhelming turnout last year and Operation Purple being more familiar to folks this year, registration turn out could be larger."

Applications are only accepted online.

The information and referral family life education specialist wants to ensure folks know to go online at [www.NMFA.org](http://www.NMFA.org) when registration opens March 24 and download whatever forms are needed and submit them as soon as possible.

"Last year they were completely full in less than two weeks," Ms. Chavez said.

Ms. Tracie Modrell, military liaison and volunteer coordinator for Operation Purple Camp, has additional information on the camps. For more information, contact her at 282-8351, 325-6716 or [tracie.modrell@us.army.mil](mailto:tracie.modrell@us.army.mil).

Each camp is open to children of service members of any branch of service, active duty, National Guard or Reserve, as well as children of members of the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

Camps are free for all eligible children through a partnership with the Sierra Club Foundation and support from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.

NMFA is the only nonprofit organization that represents families of all ranks and service, prepares spouses, children and parents to better deal with the unique challenges of military life.

# Instinctive action by Bagram Airman prevents catastrophe

By Tech. Sgt. James Law  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFPN) — An Airman's quick action following an explosion of a jet fuel starter Feb. 26 that sent shrapnel across the Bagram Air Base flightline averted a possible explosion of an F-15E Strike Eagle.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Billie was working on the flightline near a fellow Airman prepping an F-15E when the small motor that starts the fighter's engines blew up.

The jet fuel starter imploded and pieces of the machine flew across the flightline.

"I went out to help the crew chief on

the jet clean up the area and find out how much damage had occurred," said Sergeant Billie, an F-15E crew chief with the 335th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit here. "When I came upon the scene, I noticed there was a lot of shrapnel on the ground."

Instinctively, Sergeant Billie looked up into the engine's exhaust to check the damage and noticed flames flickering in the engine compartment. Sergeant Billie, an F-15 crew chief for eight years, said he had never personally witnessed flames in the engine before.

"I had someone come over and verify, just to double check, because you don't want to jump to conclusions," Sergeant Billie said.

With the flames confirmed, Sergeant Billie immediately ran over and grabbed the hose off the Halon fire extinguisher while simultaneously instructing another crew chief to charge the bottle. Charging the bottle is a process of removing a safety pin and pushing the charging handle forward to pressurize the hose.

Sergeant Billie yelled out to approximately eight Airmen in the vicinity to clear the area. He ran back to the aircraft, pointed the hose into the exhaust and sprayed the bottle's contents onto the fire before it turned catastrophic.

"The first thing that crossed my mind was the live explosives," said Sergeant Billie, who is deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. "My

thoughts were we need to put this fire out now."

Sergeant Billie said F-15 crew chiefs are trained to deal with this situation, but because it is not a frequent occurrence, it is imperative to remember the training and react without hesitation.

"His actions were outstanding," said Senior Master Sgt. Donald Poormon, the 335th EAMXU F-15E assistant superintendent. "He acted perfectly and you couldn't ask for better."

Brig. Gen. James Hyatt, the former 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, recognized Sergeant Billie with a commander's coin at a meeting with the wing's group commanders and chief master sergeants.

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# AFSC Spotlight *Childhood path to Academy bandmember*

**By Butch Wehry**  
Academy Spirit staff

Her parents tell her she sang nursery rhymes before she talked. She started playing the piano at age 5.

When her brother would play what he had learned at his lesson, she would walk up to the piano and repeat what he had played without the music. That's when the family decided it was time for her to have lessons.

"I remember hearing recordings of the oboe and wanting to play it, but was told I had to start on clarinet, so I played clarinet for two years before starting oboe at age 12," said Tech. Sgt. Sarah Balian.

Thus began the journey to Air Force Specialty Code 3N271, premier band craftsman and oboe player for the Academy Band.

Born in Bristol, England, and raised in Charlottesville, Va., she plays oboe, English horn, pennywhistle, bass recorder, native American flute, duduk (an Armenian double reed instrument), piano and alto sax.

She holds a bachelor of music performance degree and a bachelor of arts in French Studies degree from Northwestern University, where she studied with Chicago Symphony oboist Ray Still.

She has also studied with Roger Cole and with André Berthéas at the Université de Paris.

This unique Airman was a member of the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra from 1997-1999 and the Boulder Philharmonic from 2002-2004. She is currently a member of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and is on the performance faculty at Colorado College.

Sergeant Balian has also performed with the Colorado Symphony, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Richmond Symphony and the Ash Lawn Opera.

The 9-year Air Force veteran has also branched into singing.

She joined Air Force Academy Band in 1999 and plays principal oboe in the concert band and Academy Winds woodwind quintet.

"I am not a singer by trade, but have had the opportunity to sing quite a bit with the band; harmony vocals with the concert band and a few a capella tunes we recorded for a CD," she said. "Singing is fun

and a great addition to playing the oboe. That's one great thing about our job; we are able to become very versatile musicians and wear many different hats - it makes the performances more interesting for the audience."

Now she is also learning Irish dancing for the band's spring tour.

"It's never boring," said the NCO. "As far as what I like to sing, these days it's whatever my twin daughters like. *You Are My Sunshine* is a favorite."

She listens to just about anything that's well done, from bluegrass to opera.

"I came straight here from Lackland in 1999 and have been here ever since. The band career field is unique in how we hire, instead of training after basic military training, the Air Force auditions pre-trained civilian musicians for open slots before they go to BMT," she said. "After winning an audition, we go to BMT and then come straight to the band, no tech school."

She found herself among band people who went to all sorts of great music schools like Julliard and Eastman, as well as several who hold doctorates.

As one of two premiere bands in the Air Force, the Academy Band is a permanent assignment. It is possible to do an entire career here, like her husband, Scott, did.

She said her job means lots of behind-the-scenes work.

"First, the musical aspect; practicing, preparation, instrument maintenance, making reeds and our collateral duties," Sergeant Balian said. "Each member of the band has additional duties that help keep the band in motion. We book tours, we have a supply area, a library and a publicity shop. In addition to playing in the Concert Band and Academy Winds, I run the Chamber Recital Series and work with media relations.

There have been performances she personally feels good about.

"There was an English horn recital two years ago, a concerto with the band at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, a Boulder Philharmonic concert with a great English horn," she said. "But as far as audience impact goes, playing for the Navajo code talkers on the Navajo reservation in Arizona was an amazing experience. We played a piece written by a band member that talked about their contribu-



Courtesy photo

**Academy Band member Tech. Sgt. Sarah Balian began playing the oboe at 12 years of age. Now she sings and plays several musical instruments.**

tions during World War II. Seeing them there in uniform was unforgettable."

For now, happiness seems to come from work and family. One benefit of her permanent assignment in Colorado Springs is that it gives her a good chance to establish contacts outside the Air Force.

"I've been married for 4 years," she said. "My wonderful husband, Scott, a bass player, retired from the band several years ago. We have beautiful 4-month-old twin daughters, Grace and Violet."

The Academy Band has had three groups from the band deploy - one is currently in theater. The deployed groups provide a valuable service by entertaining the troops and giving them a taste of home.

"They also interact with the local people and play concerts for children," the sergeant said. "There's a possibility that a woodwind group may deploy in a year or so. We would carry out a community relations mission by performing and doing clinics in universities. Leaving my family would be difficult, but based on feedback from those band members who have deployed, I know it would be an amazing experience."

The band has various performing groups, and they all play both locally and nationwide.

"We tour three to four times a year with the concert band for a maximum of two weeks at a time, as well as twice with our small groups for about a week each time,"

Sergeant Balian said. "Locally, we support the Air Force Academy's mission by performing for cadet functions, formations and ceremonies. We also perform public concerts on a regular basis."

Has she been bitten by showbusiness?

"I once heard Bela Fleck say that you should only be a musician if you can't picture yourself doing anything else. This is how I feel about it. Music will always be a part of my life," she said. "We often have a chance to meet the audience members after performances. They are very generous in sharing their feelings about what they've heard, and each one always has an interesting story to tell. Some are musicians, some are veterans, some are both. It's great to know when you've touched someone with your music - it's the most rewarding part of the job!"

Is she addicted to the personal thoughts and feelings that move through her after a totally successful show?

"Feeling that a show has been successful can happen on a couple of different levels feeling good about how you've performed is one, and knowing you've connected with your audience is another," said the multi-talented Airman. "When you accomplish both, it's really magical - the group can feed off of the musical energy of the other performers on stage, as well as the energy from the audience. After a concert like this, it takes awhile to wind down."

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# Spring making its way here



Hungry robin chicks enjoy mom's return. Naked bird chicks can without fear the mother will desert the whole nest.

**By Ann Patton**  
Academy Spirit staff

Cheer up.

Spring comes to the Academy Wednesday at 11:48 p.m.

The winter-weary can take heart signs of the season are showing up, and more are on the way.

Shirt-sleeve temperatures this week, for example, are a tantalizing hint of warm weather ahead.

A sure sign of spring, the robins are back and singing in fine form. Brian Mihlbachler, Academy natural resource planner, said bluebirds, which also summer along the Front Range, are returning in force, as well as ducks and geese. He expects swallows to return in about two weeks.

He added grasses are greening, the first being bluegrass followed by smooth brome prevalent on the Academy. Sand lilies and primrose are two of the earliest wildflowers on the Academy and are expected to appear shortly.

Popping up green already are leaves for spring tubers, such as daffodils, iris and tulips in Colorado Springs.

The ice is retreating on Academy lakes.

More good news for fishermen: Stocking begins in March and continues through September.

"When" is probably one of the best-kept secrets on the Academy, and Mr. Mihlbachler refuses to tell.

Although fish are active all year round, they are especially so in spring and summer.

The Academy's pine forests are welcoming some new family members. Academy forester Diane Strohm said 1,000 pine seedlings are going into the ground shortly.

"This is the best time to plant," she said.

Other sure signs of spring are also on the way. Bears will begin to come out of hibernation from late March into April in what Mr. Mihlbachler called a "walking hibernation," before beginning to feed.

"They're trying to re-acclimate themselves and getting on their feet," he said.

Bears will begin to chow down in earnest by mid-May.

Baby birds are expected to hatch in April and May. Mr. Mihlbachler urged people who see a naked chick to put it back in the nest, if possible.

The myth a mother bird will abandon a nest if it is touched by humans is just that. A myth.

"Birds don't have a good sense of smell," he said.

The Academy is home turf for about 200 mule deer, 30 elk and 80 wild turkeys.

The deer and elk will birth their youngsters in late May and early June. If people see a fawn by itself with no sighting of the mother, Mr. Mihlbachler said they should leave it alone since mothers park their young in a safe place while they go off to feed.

"They're not abandoned," he said of the fawns.

Turkeys pretty much hang together during most of the year but in the spring they break out in small groups while their chicks are young.

Pollen tubers on the Academy's Ponderosa pines will be ready to burst in early June followed by immature cones, Ms. Strohm said.

Warm spring days also have a flip side.

Ms. Strohm said warm weather also brings out the Ips beetle. The bark insect pupates in June, and, when mature, they attack pine trees.

She also cautioned the fire danger this spring is shaping up to be higher than normal. One red

flag warning for fire danger has already appeared for the Front Range.

"We may be looking at an elevated fire hazard at least through the beginning of summer," she said.

Springtime in the Rockies always struggles to shed its winter garb.

"March and April are our snowiest months," said Skip Evans, Academy meteorologist with the 306th Operations Support Squadron.

He pointed out the mean snowfall on the Academy for March is 8.1 inches, the maximum 23 inches. The maximum 24-hour snowfall averages nine inches.

April brings a mean snowfall of 6.8 inches and a maximum of 19.4 inches. The 24-hour maximum snowfall for the month is 14 inches.

"We will continue to see bouts of chinook west winds and strong northerly winds with cold frontal passages," Mr. Evans said. "We will also see occasional gusty winds associated with convective precipitation, snow or rain."

Evaporative cooling cools the air enough to change the precipitation from rain to snow.

"Spring is simply an extension of winter but with milder temperatures and heavier snowfall amounts with higher water content," he said.

Mr. Evans is not discouraged with the chance of more wintery weather.

"April showers bring May flowers," he said. "At our elevation those showers are primarily snow showers, but the result is the same—bringing May flowers."

To treat the winter blues, Ms. Strohm and Mr. Mihlbachler prescribe the out-of-doors.

"Get out and enjoy the sunshine," said Ms. Strohm.

"Take a hike," said Mr. Mihlbachler.



Courtesy Photo

be returned to their nest safely



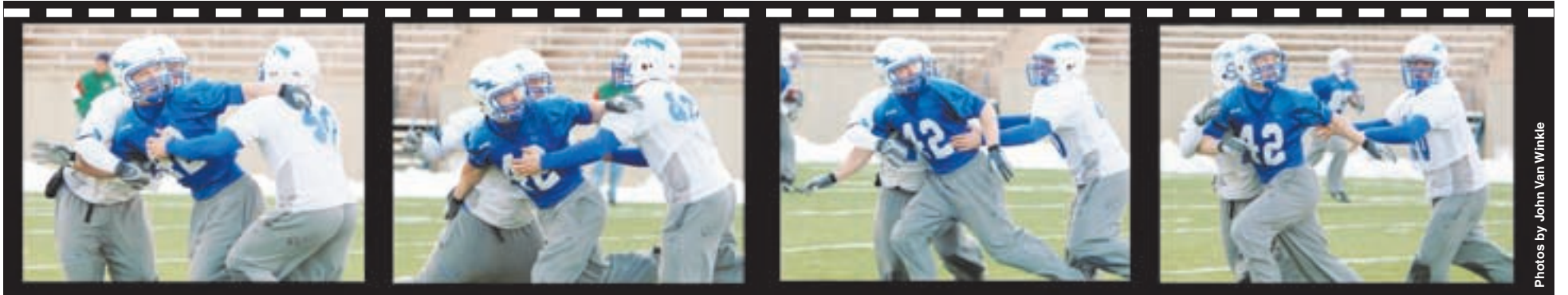
Courtesy Photo

Emerging greenery foretells the eventual sweetness of daffodils.



Photo by Ann Patton

Ice on the western cove of the Academy's Dead Man's Lake will soon retreat. Fish stocking runs from March through September.



Sophomore fullback Jared Tew #42 tries to break free of linebackers in double coverage during a passing drill.

Photos by John Van Winkle

## Falcons enter spring season with new, younger team

By Troy Garnhart

Associate Athletic Director for Communications

The 2007 Air Force football team distinguished itself as one of the best in school history, posting a nine-win season and going to a post-season bowl game. The team also finished second in the conference with a school-record six Mountain West Conference wins, posted the biggest win by a service academy at Notre Dame in over 40 years and putting together the second-largest turnaround in school history and best since 1958 with a five-win improvement from the previous year.

The 2008 squad may also have a special place in history as it enters the spring season.

This edition of the Falcons may be one of the youngest teams in school history. The Falcons return only eight starters from last season plus its kicker/punter.

"We only have eight returning starters which may be the fewest anywhere in the country. When you also look at who we lost, it's significant," Air Force second-year head coach Troy Calhoun said. "We lost just about all our skill guys on both sides of the ball. This is probably one of the youngest teams the Academy has ever had. There is definitely going to be some rebuilding done."

Calhoun hopes that this year's group can learn from that tremendous 2007 squad. "There is a baseline there in terms of guys knowing it's possible, but also it will be very difficult. There is a lot of hard work involved, and they saw that as well."

Unlike last year, the Falcons will not be looking at an entirely new system which should help the young team in its development. Like every spring, coaches will be on the lookout for surprises.

Perhaps no position will get more attention than quarterback. Gone is four-year starter Shaun Carney, who is one of the most prolific players in school history. Gone with Carney are career numbers of 2,561 rushing yards, 31 rushing touchdowns, 5,391 passing yards, and 39 touchdown passes. Carney is the Air Force career leader in total offense, rushing attempts, and touchdown passes. In addition, no quarterback in Air Force history has started more games than Carney's 44.

Several players will vie for the opportunity to replace Carney as the signal caller. Senior Shea Smith enters the spring No. 1 on the depth chart followed by junior Eric Herbort. In addition, sophomores Ryan Campbell, Ben Cockran and Will McAngus will be in the picture. Smith has the most experience, playing in six games in 2007 and rushing for 39 yards

while hitting four of 12 passes for 45 yards, all in the bowl game. No other player has a career pass attempt.

"There are some baby steps we will not have to take this year since it's not a new system and that will help," Calhoun said. "We'd like to have someone step up and separate themselves. We will not be afraid to play two players if necessary until someone does get some separation."

The running back positions are similar.

Starting tailback Jim Ollis, along with Chad Smith and Kip McCarthy and fullback Ryan Williams were all lost to graduation. Ollis finished second on the team in rushing last year with 682 yards. He topped the 100-yard mark three times last season, including the final two games of the year. Ollis rushed for a career-best 162 yards in the regular season finale against San Diego State. Smith, McCarthy and Williams were all solid when healthy.

Senior do-everything wide receiver/tailback Chad Hall is also gone. Hall notched one of the greatest individual seasons in school history last year with earning MWC offensive player of the year honors. Hall rushed for 1,478 yards, the second-most in school history, caught 50 passes for 524 yards and set the single season school record for all-purpose yards with 2,683, more than 800 yards over the previous record.

The bulk of the load will fall to sophomore Savier Stevens and junior Brenton Byrd at the tailback spot. Senior Todd Newell enters the spring as the starter at fullback while senior Ty Paffett will replace Hall at the WR-Z position.

Stevens rushed for 148 yards and averaged 4.1 yards per carry as a rookie. Byrd rushed for just 39 yards on 13 carries. Paffett rushed for 123 yards and caught three passes a year ago. He was outstanding in the season finale against San Diego State with his first-career 100-yard rushing game. He rushed for 105 yards on seven carries and scored a career-best three touchdowns. Newell rushed for 63 yards on 14 carries last year.

"Paffett is a guy that brings great strength, speed and competitiveness. He really played with a lot of confidence when November rolled around last year," Calhoun said.

The team could get a boost from a two-way player as well. Defensive back Reggie Rembert, who was a kickoff returner last season, will spend part of the spring working on both sides of the ball. Rembert averaged 22.8 yards per return to rank ninth in the MWC.

"We'll take a look at Rembert playing both ways," Calhoun said. "If we can get

him to where he can help us by learning five or six running and passing plays that could benefit us."

The offensive line was a nice surprise last year and will need the same this year. The unit lost first-team all-conference center Blaine Guenther and tackle Chris Monson to graduation. The unit returns second-team all-conference junior guard Nick Charles and senior Keith Williams at tackle to bolster the left side of the line. Juniors Peter Lusk (guard) and Chris Campbell (tackle) enter the spring as the starters on the right side. Senior Andrew Pipes is expected to start at center.

"For us to have a quality year, those guys are going to have to be stallions," Calhoun said. "Lusk and Campbell were both very solid last year, but they need to be better this year. It's time for Campbell to become a quality football player for us. He worked very hard in the weight room which will pay off"

The receiver positions are in good hands.

Tight end Travis Dekker returns for his senior year after a stellar junior campaign where he caught 25 passes for 382 yards and two touchdowns. Dekker's 25 catches were more than the tight end position combined over the last four years and were also the most by any tight end at the Academy since 1989. Backup tight end Keith Madsen also returns. He had five catches for 49 yards and two scores last year.

Senior Spencer Armstrong and junior Sean Quintana return at receiver. Quintana had eight catches for 67 yards last year while Armstrong had three for 68 yards after missing the first half of the season due to injury.

Air Force's defense was must improved last year from previous years. The Falcons' 3-4 system helped them improve in nearly every area. Calhoun said that the improvement was good, but that the team will use some four down lineman looks in 2008 to continue to pressure the opponent's offense.

Part of that philosophy is born from what will be the strength of the 2008 squad. The defensive line returns six of its top seven from a year ago. Senior Ryan Kemp and junior Ben Garland anchor the defensive end positions. Kemp had 54 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss and four quarterback sacks last year. Garland added 31 tackles and three quarterback sacks. Senior Jake Paulson and sophomore Rick Ricketts will add depth and talent at defensive end. Returning starter Jared Marvin will anchor the nose guard position with help from Stephen Larson. Marvin had 27 tackles last year.

"Kemp and Garland are the most

productive defensive linemen we have," Calhoun said. "We need Paulson to play at a much higher level, and he's capable of it. Marvin has a huge heart, is a great worker and is very smart. This group is the strength of our defense."

Two of the biggest losses of last year's defense are from the linebackers corps. Seniors Drew Fowler and John Rabold

*Continued next page*

### Returning Falcons



Tyler Weeks - RG



Keith Williams - LT



Reggie Rembert - CB/WR



Ben Garland - DE



# Air Force sweeps Bentley in quarterfinals

## Wins advance Falcons to AHA Final Five

By Dave Toller  
Athletic Communications

Air Force swept Bentley in two games in the best of three Atlantic Hockey Association Quarterfinal series March 7 and Saturday at the Cadet Ice Arena.

Air Force scored seven goals in the second period en route to a 9-2 win over Bentley in the first game March 7, and posted a 3-1 win Saturday.

Air Force, 19-11-6 overall, extended its unbeaten streak to seven games and advanced to the Final Five for



Photo by Dave Armer

Sophomore forward Matt Fairchild scrambles for the puck near the Air Force goal in the Atlantic Hockey Association quarterfinal matchup against Bentley March 7. Air Force beat Bentley March 7 and Saturday, 9-2 and 3-1, advancing to the Final Five.

the second consecutive season. Air Force is the No. 3 seed and will face second-seeded Rochester Institute of Technology Saturday at 7:35 p.m. EST at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester, N.Y. Bentley's season is over with a 9-21-6 record.

Nine different Falcons scored in game one, and sixteen of the 18 skaters registered at least one point, all four lines scored, including three goals by defensemen, and no Falcon had more than three points in the game.

The game was tied at 1-1 at the end of the first period. Josh Schaffer opened the scoring for Air Force at the 9:01 mark when he tipped in a point shot by Greg Flynn. Two minutes later, Bentley's Pat Percella scored from Bobby Preece on a tough angle shot from the left side. Late in the first period, Air Force killed off nearly one minute of a 5-on-3 Bentley advantage to keep the score tied.

The second period was all Air Force. The Falcons scored three goals in a span of 2:04 in the first five minutes of the period. Derrick Burnett scored on the power play at the 2:50 mark from Brett Nylander and Jeff Hajner. Scott Kozlak's ninth of the season gave the Falcons a 3-1 lead at the 4:18 mark. Just 36 seconds later, Sean Bertsch scored for a 4-1 lead with a wrister from the top of the right circle.

Following his goal, Calvi was replaced by Nick Moise in goal. AFA greeted Moise by scoring less than two minutes later on the power play. Mike Phillipich put back a rebound from Matt Charbonneau at the 7:22 mark.

Air Force took a 6-1 lead at 9:33 when Nylander scored from Hajner and Burnett with a one-timer from the right circle. Blake Page scored on an odd-man rush at the 13:05 mark, followed by Flynn, who gave the Falcons an 8-1 lead with a 5-on-3 power-play goal at 16:37.

Each team scored once in the third period to make the final margin 9-2.

Air Force outshot Bentley, 36-18, in the game. The Falcons were 3-for-8 on the power play while Bentley was

0-for-7. Andrew Volkening made 16 saves for Air Force.

"Everything that could possibly go wrong for them did tonight," head coach Frank Serratore said. "We were clearly the better team tonight. But all this means is we have a one-game lead in the series. The goals don't carry over into tomorrow. This is a series, and our guys know that. Bentley is proud team and we know that tomorrow is going to be much tougher. Our objective was to win the first game and we accomplished that tonight."

Saturday, Air Force scored two goals in a span of 36 seconds in the first period. Brent Olson scored a 5-on-3 power-play goal at the 9:27 mark, and 36 seconds later Greg Flynn scored a 5-on-4 power-play goal for a 2-0 lead.

Hajner gave the Falcons a 3-0 lead in the second period with a power-play goal.

Air Force held the 3-0 lead until late in the third period when Bentley made the game interesting. After unsportsmanlike conduct penalties were called on Hajner and Bentley's Jaye Judd, Bentley scored on a four-on-four situation. With 1:22 left in the period, AFA's Schaffer was called for checking from behind, giving Bentley a power-play. Air Force kept the puck deep in the Bentley end to kill off some valuable time. With 32 seconds left, Bentley pulled its goaltender for a two-man advantage. With 17 seconds remaining, Bentley's Canzoneri won a faceoff in the offensive end, and Gumaer blasted a slap shot from the slot that was saved by Volkening to seal the win.

Air Force outshot Bentley, 46-22, in the game. AFA was 3-for-9 on the power play while Bentley was 0-for-7.

Mercyhurst will play Sacred Heart today at 7:05 p.m. in the first game of the Final Five in Rochester. The winner of that game will face top-seeded Army on Saturday at 4:05 p.m. That game will be followed by Air Force and RIT in the other semifinal contest at 7:35 p.m. The winners meet in the championship game Sunday at 7:05 p.m. The winner of the tournament receives an automatic berth to the NCAA Championships.

## Falcons

From previous page

leave big shoes to fill. Fowler posted back-to-back 100-tackle seasons and is a two-time all-conference honoree. Rabold was among the conference leaders in tackles for loss last year with 17.5 to go along with a team-high 5.5 quarterback sacks. Rabold also had four fumble recoveries and forced three fumbles.

Juniors John Falgout and Clay Bryant, along with senior Brandon Reeves and sophomore Ken Lamendola will compete for the inside spots. The most experienced of the group may be Lamendola. Sophomore Patrick Hennessey will contribute, but will miss part of the spring due to injury. Hennessey led the special teams in tackles last year with 10.

The outside linebacker unit is led by Hunter Altman, who had 62 total tackles, including 10 for loss and five sacks last

year. Sophomore Andre Morris Jr. will also be a factor. Morris started one game last year and played in all 13. Sophomore William Kuechler and junior Myles Morales will also compete for playing time.

"Altman was feast of famine last year. We need him to be more consistent for us this year," Calhoun said. "He continues to work hard and should be a solid player."

The secondary was also hit hard by graduation. Honorable mention All-American and first-team all-conference honoree Carson Bird and fellow starter Garrett Rybak take with them 60 career starts at cornerback. Bird recorded six interceptions last year while Rybak had a pair. The secondary also lost three-year starter Bobby Giannini to graduation. Giannini had 76 tackles, had an interception and had three forced fumbles in 2007.

Senior Kevin Rivers and Rembert will enter the spring as the starters at corner. Junior Devon Ford and sophomore Elliott Battle will also factor in. Rembert is the most experienced, playing every game last year. Rivers was a special teams ace and saw some action as a backup corner. Battle and Ford were junior varsity players last year.

Senior Aaron Kirchoff returns at free safety. He played in every game last year, starting three. Junior Chris Thomas is a returning starter at strong safety. Thomas was second on the team in tackles last year with a career-high 110. He also had 9 tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks and a team-best 10 pass breakups. Senior Luke Yeager and junior Luke Hyder will be backups.

"Reggie needs to play at a different level for us. He'll have to play like a veteran," Calhoun said. "Rivers needs to be very good for us, and Thomas needs to continue to play the way he has for us to be successful."

The kicking game will again be in the feet of senior Ryan Harrison, who will handle the kicking and punting duties. Harrison set a school record with 19 field goals last year and was among the league leaders in punting with a 42.9 yard average. His kickoffs were a weapon for the Falcons as well, as he had a conference best 32 touchbacks last year.

Calhoun stressed leadership as a key component for the team as it enters spring drills. Leadership was a big factor in last year's success and is a natural at the Academy.

"Leadership starts with the coaches. We need to provide leadership," he said. "Then it comes from the players. We need to be at our best in this area. We need to be tough and possess all the intangibles that help you win. We also need to find guys that will be consistent every day in practice. We need guys we can count on and that's what spring practice is for, to find those guys."

INTERCOLLEGIATE		Hockey		Lacrosse		Women's Gymnastics		Benjamin Gunn Men's 200 backstroke, 7th																			
<b>Men's Basketball</b> March 5 at AFA Falcons 57 TCU 36		March 7 and 8 at AFA Falcons 9-3 Bentley 2-1		March 8 to 9 at Denver, Colo. Pioneer Face-off Classic Penn 13 Falcons 10 Brown 13 Falcons 7		March 8 at Ypsilanti, Mich. Eagle Invitational Eastern Michigan 192.475		Kai Yamashiro Men's 200 backstroke, 8th																			
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MDG	5	2																									
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CW	1	5																									

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**Please Recycle**

**5K on St. Patrick's Day**  
Downtown Colorado Springs

**Saturday March 15!**

Race day registration Starts at 9am  
Races start at 10am  
Kid's Fun Run at 11am  
Parade at Noon

Register at **Runners Roost** or online @ [www.csgrandprix.com](http://www.csgrandprix.com)

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**Air Force Parent Pin Program**

[youguardiansoffreedom.com](http://youguardiansoffreedom.com)



**Road closure**

Sijan Drive will close today for repairs, and parking will be diverted to the lower Sijan parking lot during construction. A temporary gate will be set on east Faculty Drive to coincide with the event. The project involves paving, landscaping, curbing, lighting and steps. Completion is anticipated by the end of May. All work is weather dependent.

**Athletic facility closures**

The Hall of Excellence, located in the Falcon Athletic Complex, closes for minor construction Monday to May 17. Additionally, the indoor tennis courts will be closed for refinishing March 24 to 30.

**Nutrition Month observed**

In celebration of National Nutrition

Month, the Academy Health and Wellness Center offers:

**5k runs;** Tuesday and March 25, 4 p.m., at the Santa Fe Trail located near the HAWC: HAWC staff will provide refreshments and run times at the turnaround point and end of the run route. Prizes will be awarded to the top two male and female finishers.

For more information, call 333-3733.

**AFRF offers options**

The Airman & Family Readiness Flight presents:

**-Resume writing;** March 26, 9 to 11 a.m.: Provides information on different types of resumes and cover letter styles and how to improve resumes.

**-Writing effective accomplishment statements;** March 26, 11 a.m. to noon: Learn how to write effective accomplishment statements that clearly reflect your expertise and how to get a resume noticed.

**-AF Civil Service class;** March 27, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Provides information on how to prepare and apply for a civil service career.

**-Newcomer's Base Red Carpet Tour;** March 28, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Offers an informative, fun-filled base tour that gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals all there is to see and do at the Academy.

**-Bundles for Babies;** April 2, 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.: Expectant active duty Air Force personnel and spouses are invited to attend this class, which offers information on budgeting for a baby, calming a baby, coping with stressors and Air Force Aid Society programs. Eligible families will receive a "baby bundle." Dads are encouraged to attend. All other expectant parents are welcome to attend, but will not receive a layette bundle.

**-Military Spouse Portable Career & Virtual Assisting Training;** April 2 and 3, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Virtual Assistants are military spouse self-employed professionals who provide off-site support services to their clients from home. The class will be held at the Peterson Air Force Base Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information, call Jeannie at 333-3168.

**-Smooth Move;** April 3, 3 to 4 p.m. or April 10, 4 to 6 p.m.; Lessen the stress of an upcoming move by learning innovative ways to make it a smooth one. This is a mandatory class for all Academy personnel who are experiencing a permanent change of station.

For more information or to register for a class, call 333-3444.

**Money Makeover Live**

Dave Ramsey's The Total Money Makeover Live! will be held April 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Fort Carson Special Events Center, Bldg. 1829. The event is free to all military I.D. card holders and Department of Defense civilians and tickets are limited. For more information or to sign up, call the Academy Airman and Family Readiness Flight at 333-3444.

**Toastmasters sought**

The Academy is starting a Toastmaster International chapter and is seeking those interested in attending. Those interested must submit their names, and once all the names are collected, a demonstration meeting will be scheduled with the regional director. To submit your name or for more information, contact Master Sgt. Angela Evans at [angela.evans@usafa.edu](mailto:angela.evans@usafa.edu) or Master Sgt. Donald Comp at [donald.comp@usafa.edu](mailto:donald.comp@usafa.edu).

**OSC offers auction**

The Academy Officers' Spouses' Club offers a "Gardening in the Rockies" live auction Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Falcon Club. Those interested in attending must bring a small garden item to donate to the auction and must RSVP by Saturday at 10 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact Deb Coppock at 574-1485 or [kedekeka@aol.com](mailto:kedekeka@aol.com).

**Living history display**

The Academy History Department hosts 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group Wednesday. A 10th Mountain Division World War II veteran will speak to the History 368 class, and the LHDG will set up a display in the Cadet Library from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call Lt. Col. Nathan Watanabe at 333-3728.

**Scholarships offered**

The Academy Officers' Spouses' Club offers 2008 Merit Scholarships for high school seniors and non-military spouses of O-3 equivalents and below. Eligibles include dependents or spouses of active duty stationed at the Academy, dependents or spouses of retirees eligible for membership at the Academy Club, dependents or spouses of active duty on remote tours, dependents or spouses of POW/MIA or deceased Academy affiliates and dependents or spouses of civilian employees eligible for membership at the Academy Club. The application period runs through March 31. Applications are available at the

Academy Education Office, area high school counseling centers and the Academy Thrift Shop. For more information, call Sally Mueh at 599-0694 or Carrie Oliver at 488-9625.

**Nominations wanted**

The Academy is seeking nominations for the 2008 Air Force Academy Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented annually by the Superintendent to a military person, civilian or group whose contributions (not as part of their official duty) have had a distinct impact on the morale or well-being of the Academy. Anyone who has contributed significantly and directly to the morale or well-being of the Academy through the generous donation of time, resources or influence is eligible. Nominations must be submitted by April 1 to HQ USAFA/CMA, 2304 Cadet Dr., Suite 3200, USAF Academy, CO, 80840-5002. Nomination packages must include a single page with biographical data to include name, rank, organization or company, telephone number and mailing address, in addition to a typed narrative justification, not to exceed one page, describing the nominee's accomplishments. For more information, call Steve Simon at 333-8827.



**Running series steps off**

The 10th Annual Grand Prix of Running series kicks off Saturday with the "5k For St. Patrick's Day" run in downtown Colorado Springs. More than 1,400 runners are expected on the flat course that ends in Acacia Park. There will be Irish music and refreshments available at the finish line, plus a "Leprechaun Fun Run" for children 12 years old and younger. Registration for the 5k and children's run is available at [www.csgrandprix.com](http://www.csgrandprix.com). People can also register at the Runner's Roost store at 107 E. Bijou St. The runs will be followed by the 25th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade at noon.

**Scholarships offered**

As part of the Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade, Aleut Management Services, in coordination with the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Division, sponsors scholarships awarded to deserving family members of U.S. military servicemembers killed or wounded in action while in a designated combat zone. The scholarships are awarded to family members who have been accepted into an accredited college or university, or who are current college students seeking support for either a traditional degree-seeking program up to and including master's degrees, or for vocational/career and technical education. Applicants must be committed to attend during the 2007/2008 academic year.

For more information or for a scholarship application, contact Brian Binn at (719) 575-4325 or [brian@cscc.org](mailto:brian@cscc.org), or Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade Event Manager, Brenda Carender at (719) 262-7160 or [brenda.carender@aleutmgt.com](mailto:brenda.carender@aleutmgt.com).



**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 - 6:30 p.m.

**Protestant Services:**

**Sunday**

Traditional - 9 a.m.

Gospel - 9:45 a.m. - Multi-purpose Room

Contemporary - 11 a.m.

**Jewish Services**

Fridays - 7 p.m.

**Buddhist Services**

Wed. - 6:30 p.m. - Vast Refuge Dharma Hall

**Muslim Prayer**

Fridays - 1 p.m. - Muslim Prayer Room,

**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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE LENT/EASTER		
<b>COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL</b>		
<b>March 20</b>	Catholic Brunch	10:30 a.m.
	Protestant Gospel Service	11:15 a.m.
	No Catholic or Protestant Religious Education	
<b>March 21</b>	<b>CADET CHAPEL</b>	
	<b>Catholic</b>	
	<b>March 20</b>	
	Holy Thursday	6 p.m.
	<b>March 23</b>	
	Easter Mass	10 a.m.
	<b>March 30</b>	
	Mass	10 a.m.
	<b>Protestant</b>	
	<b>March 23</b>	
	General Easter Service	11 a.m.
	<b>March 30</b>	
	General Protestant Service	11 a.m.
For information regarding services or special events call the chapel at (719) 333-3300.		



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