

# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO

# ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 49 No. 10

March 13, 2009

## Promotions

Congratulations to the following Academy members selected for promotion to the next higher grade.

To lieutenant colonel

Joseph Deichert  
George Youstra

To major

Matthew King  
Dylan Williams  
Paula Kelly  
Vincent Smits  
Amanda Gookins  
Nathan Kartchner  
Matthew Leblanc  
Brandon Lingle  
Meredith Ortiz  
Jason Ross  
Traci Sarmiento  
Evelyn Schumer  
Nathan Stackhouse  
Matthew Thomas  
Robert Young  
Anthony Sampson  
Micheal Nading  
Eric Haler  
Elaine Bryant  
Kirk Olson  
Steven Thomas  
Laura Terry  
Daniel Visosky  
Alfred Ascol  
Carlos Assaf  
Adam Ressler  
Patrick Smiley  
Linda Thorstenson  
Stuart Whitney  
Lindsay Contoveros



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

## Hard hitting

Freshman Daniel Starr (blue) and junior Seth Gunn trade shots in the 139-pound weight class during the 2009 Wing Open Championships Sunday at Clune Arena. Starr became the first freshman to earn a 2009 Wing Open title. See Pages 12 and 13 for more coverage on the event.



## Falcons advance

Air Force Academy surprises Colorado State to garner first-ever MWC tourney victory.

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# FalconLaunch 7 rocket test-fired

## Academy Public Affairs

Cadets and faculty conducted a successful static test fire of the Academy's FalconLaunch 7 rocket today.

The rocket was secured

in a concrete test stand for the test, which was conducted in the Academy's Jacks Valley training area.

"What we are testing today is the igniter, which is brand new and we made it

in-house," said Cadet 1st Class Brad DeWees, FalconLaunch 7 project manager. Secondary test objectives included testing avionics packages and refining launch procedures.

The rocket burned through 100 pounds of solid fuel propellant in 4.5 seconds, as planned. Significant amounts of data were gathered and are being analyzed for implementation on this year's FalconLaunch 7 rocket.

Today's rocket is the latest in a series of FalconLaunch rockets. The rockets are designed, built and tested by senior cadets as part of a year-long capstone course in astronautical engineering.

"The big goal is to let cadets learn space by doing space," said Cadet DeWees.

The program, now in its seventh year, is a multi-disciplinary team of cadets and faculty whose mission is to learn the engineering and design process through application. Although the course is run by the Department of Astronautics and the majority



Photo by David Ahlschwede

Department of Astronautics faculty and Astro majors run through the checklists and set-up procedures for Tuesday's static test fire of the FalconLaunch 7 rocket. Pictured, left to right are: Capt. Luke Sauter, Dept. of Astronautics; Maj. Sandra Wilson, Dept. of Astronautics; Cadet 1st Class Matt Robbins and Cadet 1st Class Adam Hillier, both of the FalconLaunch-7 cadet cadre.

See ROCKET, Page 6

# Hard work, humble attitudes yield dividends

By Ken Carter  
Editor

If everyone made it to the top there wouldn't be one.

Every Air Force unit needs entry-, mid- and upper-level enlisted, officers and civilian members to successfully complete its mission.

However, if young enlisted members are determined to one day join what one might call the "3-percent club," (2 percent of the total enlisted force at the rank of senior master sergeant and 1 percent at chief respectively) there's no better way to climb the ladder of success than to follow the guidance of those who've ascended ahead of them.

Recently, we polled seven Academy master sergeants: Todd Farlee, James Hiatt, Jackie King, Pernel Parker, Paul Pohnert, Jeremy Rennahan and Marc Schoellkopf soliciting their guidance to today's Academy Airmen who have (or who want to develop) what it takes to, one day, serve in the top enlisted spots in their future Air Force. Their counsel had both overlapping and unique themes. Overall, the guidance from

these recent senior master sergeant selects goes something like this:

Realize your career begins day one at basic training and you are immediately accountable for your actions.

Join enlisted groups/professional organizations.

Remember you are critical to the mission no matter what your career field is and others count on you to perform to meet the mission.

Remember there is no "I" in "team." You are an Airman in the Air Force family and together, we achieve great accomplishments, milestones and goals.

Take time to display your appreciation to those who have helped you reach your achievements.

Believe in yourself and give thanks and reverence to the Good Lord for all the gifts and blessings in your life

Surround yourself with people who are doing great things, and take notes.

Take every opportunity to lead and constantly move for personal experience and growth.

Give 110 percent to the task at hand no matter how small or critical to the mission.

Seek out those in positions above

you who you want to strive to be like and do it early.

Challenge yourself daily. Don't ever be afraid to take a risk or try something outside your comfort zone.

Always remember why you are here. Our job is to do the mission and take care of people

Always do the right thing, take care of the mission/people and the Air Force will take care of you.

Manage your career. Find out early what you need to be competitive and fill those squares.

Be accountable and hold others accountable.

Never settle for status quo, take ownership in a program and always hand it off better than you received it.

Get out and volunteer in base and community events. Don't just participate; lead the way.

Listening is only the first step along this path to career success. Applying meaning to what you hear follows ... then acting in a way that's best suited for your personal success. Good luck future senior NCOs and practice what you've read by thanking these current senior selects for taking the time to mentor.

## ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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### Submissions

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

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

Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the *Academy Spirit* editor at 333-8823.

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



## Airman's Roll Call: Women's History Month

SAN ANTONIO (AFNS) — This week's Airman's Roll Call focuses on Women's History Month and the accomplishments women have made in the Air Force.

Women's History Month officially started in March 2000 by order of former President Bill Clinton when he signed a presidential proclamation highlighting women of the past and future.

He encouraged all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities, and to remember throughout the year the many contributions of courageous women who have made this nation strong.

For more information about Women's History Month, read this week's Airman's Roll Call.

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors and provide additional face-to-face communication.

To subscribe to an e-mail version of the product, visit [www.af.mil/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/subscribe). Airman's Roll Call is one of 30 featured Air Force products that can be received via e-mail.

## Character Corner Recent reflections from a 4th classman

Seven months and 22 days ago, my life was changed forever. I entered the Air Force Academy as a lowly basic cadet and began my journey to becoming an officer in the Air Force.

At the time I did not fully understand what I had just sworn my life to, nor did I understand that this new culture, full of standards, customs and traditions, was more than just another job, but that it was an entire way of life. I have acquired a strong sense of humility and have matured in many ways.

I now place a much larger emphasis on having character and strong morals than I used to. Character,

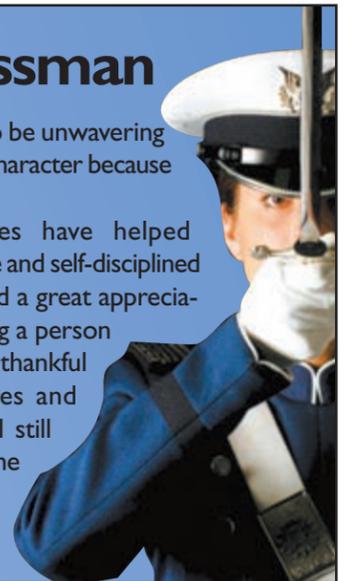
to me, has become more than just a set of traits or qualities a person possesses, but rather a set of defining principals and values by which a person lives his or her life. Character is a person's set of standards which he holds himself to and allows his life to be defined and characterized by. I also understand the importance of having character when a person devotes his life to a profession that places the lives of other men and women in his own hands.

The men and women who I will one day be responsible and accountable for will expect me to hold myself to the same set of high standards I hold

them to. They will expect me to be unwavering in my values and absolute in my character because their lives could depend on it.

My Academy experiences have helped mold me into a more responsible and self-disciplined person. In addition, I have gained a great appreciation for the importance of being a person of morals and character. I am thankful for these valuable experiences and hold comfort in the fact that I still have much left to learn in my time here.

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



## Is this area undergoing climate change?

"Enjoy the excellent running and hiking weather while you can. It is warm this winter."



Capt. Chad Tossell  
Psychology  
Department

"Not entirely. Colorado is well known for its 'interesting' weather."



Mr. Dennis Rogers  
Academy Public  
Affairs

"When it snows one day and is in the 70s the next, something must be wrong."



Cadet 2nd Class  
Matt Plourde  
Cadet Squadron 22

"Absolutely. We have daily changes in temperatures, one day in the 70s and the next it is snowing. I keep winter and summer clothes in my closet all year long."



Mrs. Amy Fuentes  
Air Force spouse



# First chief master sergeant of the AF passes away

By Senior Master Sgt. Sean E. Cobb  
Office of the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Paul Wesley Airey died Wednesday in Panama City, Fla.

“Chief Airey was an Airman’s Airman and one of the true pioneers for our service,” said Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff. “He was a warrior, an innovator, and a leader with vision well ahead of his time. His legacy lives today in the truly professional enlisted force we have serving our nation, and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude.”

“Chief Airey is the most respected enlisted Airmen in the history of the Air Force,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley. “When we speak of

today’s Airmen standing upon the shoulders of giants as they reach for the sky and stars — it was upon Paul Airey’s shoulders they stood. We will truly miss his leadership, counsel and friendship.”

The first CMSAF was always a leader. During World War II he flew as a B-24 radio operator and additional duty aerial gunner. On his 28th mission, then-Technical Sergeant Airey and his fellow crewmen were shot down over Vienna, Austria, captured, and held prisoner by the German air force from July 1944 to May 1945. During his time as a prisoner of war he worked tirelessly to meet the basic needs of fellow prisoners, even through a 90-day forced march.

Chief Airey was born in Quincy, Mass., on Dec. 13, 1923. At age eighteen, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Airey quit high school to enlist

in the Army Air Forces on Nov. 16, 1942. He later earned his high school equivalency certificate through off-duty study.

Chief Airey held the top enlisted from April 3, 1967 to July 31, 1969. During his tenure he worked to change loan establishments charging exorbitant rates outside the air base gates and to improve low retention during the Vietnam Conflict. Chief Airey also led a team that laid the foundation for the Weighted Airman Promotion System, a system that has stood the test of time and which is still in use today. He also advocated for an Air Force-level Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy. His vision became reality when the academy opened in 1973, becoming the capstone in the development of Air Force Senior NCOs.

Chief Airey retired Aug. 1, 1970.

# Travel alert: Stay safe south of border

By Academy Spirit staff

While millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year, including cadets and other Academy members, violence in the country has increased recently.

A March 4 travel alert from the State Department says that spring break travelers March 20 March 29 must understand the risks of travel to Mexico, how best to avoid dangerous situations, and who to contact if one becomes a victim of crime.

Common-sense precautions such as visiting only legitimate business and tourist areas during daylight hours, and avoiding areas where prostitution and drug dealing might occur, can help ensure travel to Mexico is safe and enjoyable, advises the report.

“The greatest increase in violence has occurred near the U.S. border. However, U.S. citizens traveling throughout Mexico should exercise caution in unfamiliar areas and be aware of their surroundings at all

times. Mexican and foreign bystanders have been injured or killed in violent attacks in cities across the country, demonstrating the heightened risk of violence in public places,” the alert says.

In recent years, dozens of U.S. citizens have been kidnapped across Mexico. Many of these cases remain unresolved. U.S. citizens who believe they are being targeted for kidnapping or other crimes should notify Mexican officials and the nearest American consulate or the Embassy as soon as possible, and should consider returning to the United States.

U.S. citizens should make every attempt to travel on main roads during daylight hours, particularly the toll (“cuota”) roads, which generally are more secure.

Occasionally, the U.S. Embassy and consulates advise their employees as well as private U.S. citizens to avoid certain areas, abstain from driving on certain roads because of dangerous conditions or criminal activity, or recommend driving during

daylight hours only, advises the State Department report.

When warranted, U.S. government employees are restricted from traveling to or within parts of Mexico without prior approval from their supervisors. When this happens, the embassy or the affected consulate will alert the local U.S. citizen Warden network and post the information on their respective websites, indicating the nature of the concern and the expected time period for which the restriction will remain in place. U.S. citizen visitors are encouraged to stay in the well-known tourist areas of the cities.

Travelers should leave their itinerary with a friend or family member not traveling with them, avoid traveling alone, and should check with their cellular provider prior to departure to confirm that their cell phone is capable of roaming on GSM or 3G international networks. Do not display expensive-looking jewelry, large amounts of money, or other valuable items.

Mexican drug cartels are engaged in an increasingly violent conflict - both among themselves and with Mexican security services - for control of narcotics trafficking routes along the U.S.-Mexico border. In order to combat violence, the government of Mexico has deployed troops in various parts of the country. U.S. citizens should cooperate fully with official checkpoints when traveling on Mexican highways.

Some recent Mexican army and police confrontations with drug cartels have resembled small-unit combat.

The U.S. Mission in Mexico currently restricts non-essential travel to the state of Durango and all parts of the state of Coahuila south of Mexican Highways 25 and 22 and the Alamos River for U.S. government employees assigned to Mexico.

The situation in northern Mexico remains fluid; the location and timing of future armed engagements cannot be predicted.

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# Fire officials: Wildfire season expected to be active

By **Brian Pille**  
Academy Fire Prevention Office

Academy fire officials are attempting to get information in the hands of everyone in the community to ensure the highest degree of safety both on and off Academy property.

With Fort Carson's wildland fire fresh in the memory, it emphasizes the tinderbox fire conditions that can exist during the year throughout Colorado.

Fire agencies classify fire danger in five categories: low, moderate, high, very high and extreme.

People may also hear a warning from the National Weather Service called a Red Flag Warning. A Red Flag

Warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now, or will occur shortly. A Red Flag Warning is normally issued when strong winds combine with our low humidity and warm temperatures to create explosive fire growth potential.

What can Academy residents do to make their work and living environment safer when high fire danger conditions exist? The answer is below:

- Use caution when using charcoal barbecues and ensure the coals are extinguished with water after use, be sure keep a fire extinguisher or garden hose nearby

- Be aware of where you park your vehicle; hot exhaust pipes and catalytic converters can easily ignite

the dry, dead vegetation if you park your vehicle off road

- Always properly dispose of smoking material
- Be aware that open burning or campfires are not allowed anywhere on Academy property
- Prohibit the use of pyrotechnics in military training scenarios
- Keep matches and lighters in a safe place away from children

Call 911 if you see smoke or fire anywhere on the Academy. Early intervention is the key to a successful wildland fire strategy. As always, if you have any questions about this or any other fire safety concerns, call the Fire Prevention Office at 333-2051.

## Retirees can give to Air Force Assistance Fund

Academy's AFAF  
campaign runs  
March 20 – May 1

By **Retired Chief Master  
Sgt. William D'Avanzo**  
Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Even if retired, Airmen still can give to the Air Force Assistance Fund. Retirees can contribute through a

one-time gift of cash or check or by payroll deduction from their retired pay.

The Academy's annual AFAF campaign begins March 20 and runs through May 1.

Airmen who haven't given to the AFAF since retiring now have a chance to once again help the four charities: the Air Force Village Foundation, Inc.; the Air Force Aid Society, Inc.; the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; and the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc. These organizations help with emergency aid, educational needs or help secure a retirement home for

widows or widowers of Airmen in need of financial assistance.

There are four ways to give:

- Complete an AF Form 2561 available at [www.afassistancefund.org](http://www.afassistancefund.org) and donate by cash, check or payroll deduction from your Air Force retired pay — you must print and physically sign and then pass form to your installation AFAF key worker;

- Mail contributions — cash/check/money order — and contributors' forms to Air Force Assistance Fund, HQ AFPC/DPSIMF, 550 C Street West Ste 37, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4739. Note that

contributions mailed to AFPC will not be counted toward any particular installation's goals or totals;

- Mail contributions directly to the affiliate(s) of your choice at the addresses in the campaign brochures and also found on the AFAF Web site. Note that contributions mailed directly to affiliates cannot be counted toward any installation or Air Force goals or totals; or

- Mail completed Payroll Deduction Plan form directly to DFAS, Cleveland Center, ATTN: Code FR, P.O. Box 99191, Cleveland OH 44199-1126.

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While choosing the best name for your baby,  
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Judith M. Brinkman, MD  
Meredith Cassidy, MD  
Doranna Christenson, MD  
Amy Dille Clauss, MD  
Julie Lynn Davis-Best, MD  
LeeAnn A. Hammond, MD  
Javine Horani, MD  
Maureen O'Brien Jordan, MD  
Bret Alan Kort, MD  
Andrea M. Lerch, MD  
Michael Muench, MD  
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# Spring break — Academy rests, recharges

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

To military strategic studies and Japanese Language instructor Maj. Koji Takeoka, spring break means cadets can take rest and recharge for the rest of the semester during this time.

“Especially for freshmen and their families, they can meet and spend time together,” said the Japan Self Defense forces officer from Nara Prefecture.

“Many cadets can participate in trips abroad and have a unique Academy international program experience that will enhance their Air Force careers and lives,” he said.

His own plans for travel were iffy.

“It depends on my situation since we may have to move to another house in base housing because of renovations,” Major Takoka said. “I want to travel and explore more around the beautiful state of Colorado.”

The economy doesn’t bother the Japanese officer.

“I already decided I would make an



Maj. Koji Takeoka

effort to understand and experience America during this assignment instead of saving money.”

## Dollar goes further in China

Cadet 1st Class Daniel Jackson has plans that will take him far beyond his hometown of Colorado Springs.

Cadet Squadron 5’s military history major is going on a two-week Olmstead Trip to revisit southwest China for spring break.

“I definitely need it,” Cadet Jackson said. “I’ve just been so bogged down in the day-to-day busy work for weeks now that I’ve fallen into a routine of eat, sleep, and work that I need to break



C1C Daniel Jackson

out of.”

He is working on a book about a fighter squadron that operated there in World War II and wanted to see the place for himself.

“Tengchong, the ultimate destination near the Burma border, was the subject of a fierce siege during which American airplanes were called upon to breach the massive city wall so that Chinese troops could take the city. The mountains surrounding the town became the highest battleground in World War II,” the die-hard military history major said. “I am looking forward to seeing places I’ve heard veterans talk about and paying

my respects at grave markers for the Americans who died during the campaign.”

Could the state of the world economy favorably impact his plans?

“The economy in China is doing even worse than in America, so the dollar’s purchasing power will be even stronger.”

## A time to visit relatives

As a librarian, Ms. Mila Gaetano tends to take vacation in the fall or winter.

The community center library director from Yorktown, Va., sees spring break as a necessity.

“As a child of divorced parents, it was always a time to spend with my father, since I was only able to see him during breaks in the school year,” she said. “For many children, it is a time to visit relatives they might not be able to see otherwise. “I expect to see more families coming into the library to pick out materials to take on trips for their break, or as a place to spend time during their break.”

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Source: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos027.htm>

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Cost: \$180 (\$155 before 4-3-09)

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Cost: \$180 (\$155 before 4-3-09)

**Flying in Space** Entering GRADES 6-8  
JUNE 15-19, 8:30-11:30 am or 12:30-3:30 pm  
Cost: \$180 (\$155 before 4-3-09)

**Mars 2076** Entering GRADES 7-9  
JUNE 20-24, 8:30-11:30 am or 12:30-3:30 pm  
Cost: \$180 (\$155 before 4-3-09)

**Space Engineering Odyssey (SEO)** Entering GRADES 9-12  
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# Academy band named best in DoD

By Master Sgt. Steven Przyzcki  
Academy Band

The U.S. Air Force Academy Band was recently named the top military band in the Department of Defense.

The John Philip Sousa Foundation awarded the Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands to the Academy Band and its commander, Lt. Col. Larry Lang.

This international award is the highest honor that any military concert band can receive. All applicants are required to meet very specific and

rigorous eligibility criteria resulting in a very competitive process.

"The committee fully recognizes this organization reflects the highest core values of the U.S. Air Force through excellence of all content requirements. The Air Force Academy Band is to be commended for its outstanding work for not only the Air Force, but the U.S. military," said retired Col. Lowell Graham, chairman of the Citation of Musical Excellence Committee of The John Philip Sousa Foundation.

The committee evaluated several aspects of the Academy Band's recent work, including reviewing recordings of

the band from the past year, and several DVD selections from live performances as well as from the "Summon the Heroes" project produced for Veteran's Day by Senior Master Sgt. Larry Hill, band superintendent. Adjudicating took place at the International Midwest Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago in December.

"The Howard Citation is a great honor, and it was a great finish to a great year," said Sergeant Hill. "This past year was full of triumphs for the Academy Band as it told the Air Force story throughout the nation with unwavering dedication to our Air Force and

to our country."

The Academy Band will continue its tradition of performing throughout the world with events in 2009 scheduled across the United States and in four foreign countries.

Colonel (retired) George Howard, for whom the citation is named, served as commander and conductor of The USAF Band in Washington D.C. from 1944 to 1963. He was elected president of the American Bandmasters Association in 1956 and became an honorary life member in 1984. From 1986, he served as honorary life president until his death in 1995.

## Rocket

From Page 1

of the cadets are astronautics majors, cadets from mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and management also participate.

The goal of the course is to, within the period of one year, design, build, test, and launch a rocket to reach the edge of space. Cadets also learn from the design and testing of each previous year's rocket, just as next year's group of FalconLaunch cadets will do when they start work on FalconLaunch 7.

FalconLaunch 7 hopes to design and build a

"boosted-dart." A new concept for the program, a boosted-dart builds on the experience of previous years. This will be the first staged rocket for the FalconLaunch program.

The team plans to use a motor case similar to the one tested in the initial "boost" phase of this year's flight. The second stage, the glide stage, occurs once the motor case burns out, leaving a small "dart" to coast up to peak altitude.

FalconLaunch 7 is scheduled for an April launch

from the Army's White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. With a full fuel load for its 5,000-pound thrust rocket engine, FalconLaunch 7 is designed to reach an altitude of over 330,000 feet.

The FalconLaunch program's end-goal is to provide the Air Force and Department of Defense with a cost-efficient, responsive method of delivering small scientific and engineering payloads into an altitude of 250,000 to 300,000 feet.



Photos by David Ahlschwede

Left: Cadet 1st Class Adam Hillier preps the FalconLaunch 7 rocket for the static test-fire, which is shown above. A full launch of the rocket is slated for April from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

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# Heritage and application of air, space and cyberspace power — A Knowledge Outcome

By Col. John Abbatiello  
HAASCP Outcome Team Chair

When our dedicated young men and women graduate from the Air Force Academy, our Nation expects a return on its investment. The Academy's Outcomes, as listed earlier in this series of articles, clearly define those institutional expectations. As one of the Academy's six Knowledge Outcomes, the Heritage and Application of Air, Space and Cyberspace Power develops an understanding of the Air Force's mission: "To fly, fight and win ... in air, space and cyberspace." It fulfills the expectation that Academy graduates appreciate the profession of arms in which they will serve.

In the HAASCP Knowledge Outcome, USAFA courses and programs explore fundamental questions such as:

How has the USAF employed airpower in the past and how has that experience led to current employment?

What are the military applications of space operations and how have they evolved over time? What does "fighting in cyberspace" really mean and how does it contribute to national defense? How has the doctrine of air, space and cyberspace employment changed over time and how is this doctrine connected to the Air Force mission, its organizations, and its capabilities and limitations?

In many ways, this outcome represents nothing new for USAFA.

We've always taught cadets about the Air Force's proud heritage—from the accomplishments of the Air Service and Army Air Forces during the World Wars through the increasing capabilities of our independent Air Force during the Cold War, Space Race and global war on terror. Over the years, this institution also instilled in cadets a solid understanding of current operations. Academic courses, military training, and summer programs—especially those programs involving exposure to operational Air Force bases—provided cadets with an appreciation of the Air

Force capabilities they should expect to witness after graduation.

In one significant departure from the past, however, we strive to develop this and the other outcomes at a higher level. Our efforts during the last two years—to define our outcomes clearly—provided the additional benefit of "educating our educators." We are learning about what Academy training and education experiences outside of our own departments and agencies contribute to cadet understanding of HAASCP. Course and program directors developing all of our cadet outcomes actually consult with each other and seek ways to enhance connections between the courses.

Cadet First Class Andrew West's deployment experience during Operation Air Force last summer in Southwest Asia, clearly illustrates these connections. According to Cadet West, "Overall the Air Force Academy does a great job of introducing you to the Air Force before you are a lieutenant." He cited his summer training programs as well as academic coursework as keys to understanding how the current Air Force operates. West said, "Living over a month in tents was not a big deal" after his experience in Basic Cadet Training and Global Engagement. From his USAFA coursework, West appreciated the "knowledge of current events and a historical understanding of the region, its culture and issues," all of which "empowered [him] from day one."

To further illustrate these connections, let's trace the development of one thread within the HAASCP outcome: Space Power. During Basic Cadet Training, cadets watch a motivational video about USAFA graduates who served their nation as astronauts. In Military Strategic Studies 200, they learn about how space has influenced military thinking, especially in nuclear war and space theory. In Engineering 101 and Engineering Mechanics 220, cadets develop an appreciation for the design process, a process vital to creating complicated space systems.

During Operation Air Force, cadets may experience the workings of an operational space wing and



witness firsthand how the Air Force employs space assets. Back to school in their second-class year, cadets take History 302, where they study how space capabilities and nuclear missile technology influenced US strategy during the Cold War. Finally, in Astro 410, Introduction to Astronautics, first-class cadets learn about the space environment, orbital constraints, and the integrated role of space systems in national defense today.

Again, our recent efforts in outcome development serves as a "force multiplier" in that our educators and trainers know these threads and can exploit them, systematically building upon the preceding course of instruction in order to improve cadet learning experiences.

Some may ask, "So what? Why devote time and effort to understand these things?" Imagine an Academy graduate preparing to fly a combat mission or guiding a satellite to a new orbit in support of a vital operation. That officer may find comfort in knowing that a long line of Airmen have served the nation before them ... that they are part of a proud heritage of excellence. That Academy graduate will also appreciate that what they do is part of a complex network of capabilities, capabilities interconnected in order to defeat America's enemies in air, space and cyberspace.

Like all of USAFA's Knowledge Outcomes, HAASCP strives to ground graduates in "essential Knowledge of the Profession of Arms and the human and physical words."

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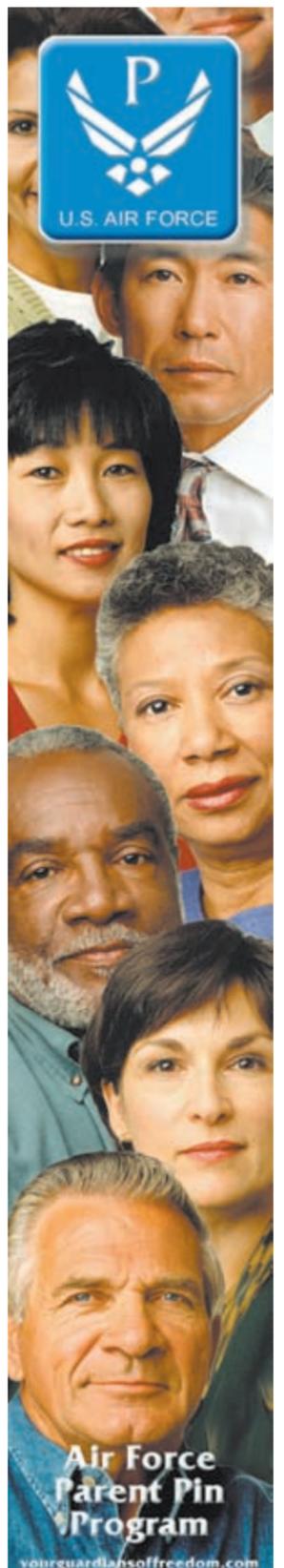
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# Challenging mission for Academy weather team

By Ryan Hansen  
Air Force Weather Agency Public Affairs

With an area of 18,500 acres, an elevation gain of 2,800 feet and Pikes Peak only 15 miles to the southwest, staying ahead of the weather here can be difficult.

Add to that an airfield that relies heavily on weather conditions that allow pilots to land by looking outside the cockpit and you have arguably one of the most challenging weather missions in the Air Force.

Facing these diverse conditions everyday from sunrise to sunset are the members of the 306th Operational Support Squadron weather flight. This team of eight contractors, through the airfield services element and mission weather element, are dedicated to providing the Academy family with the best weather information possible.

"We have someone in our office at 3:30 in the morning to work with the 25th Operational Weather Squadron and determine what the day is going to look like," said Skip Evans, weather flight chief for the 306th OSS. "Once we get a good read on things we start preparing our mission execution forecasts."

The group has a far-reaching mission that is truly unique in the Air Force. It includes weather support to the Academy and its more than 4,200 cadets, the 10th Air Base Wing and its 2,100 personnel, and the 306th Flying Training Group, which has more than 50 weather-sensitive aircraft.

"Nobody in the Air Force has this kind of mission," said Ruth Willems, who works in the airfield services element. "But I really like it and I'm glad to be at the Academy doing my part to help these future pilots."

Providing support to the Academy means keeping the superintendent, commandant, air base wing commander

and the flying training group commander in the know on any potential weather issues. This includes not only day-to-day support, but also athletic events, commandant's challenge activities and various field training exercises.

Unlike most Air Force bases, the focus and mission of the Academy is strictly on academics and supporting the cadets.

"Most Air Force bases exist to support the airfield," said Mr. Evans, a retired chief master sergeant and has spent a career in Air Force weather. "We exist to support the academic environment."

While it may not be number one on the priority list, the Academy airfield is still a very important part of the base. It has a traffic count of more than 145,000 flights a year by seven different air frames like sailplanes for the cadet's soaring program, Cessna trainers for cadet flight training and UV-18A Twin Otters that are used for the cadet parachuting program.

"Obviously gliders and parachutes have to land here if they're in the air, so it's absolutely critical that we stay ahead of the weather," Mr. Evans said.

Helping the flight provide the most up-to-date weather information are quite a few high-tech systems. This includes access to Doppler weather radar, a mesonet consisting of 12 high-wind alert system weather stations, a satellite communications lightning detection system and an automatic meteorological station.

"This is probably one of the most challenging places to forecast that you can find," said Jeff Rosbach, a forecaster with the mission weather element. "Weather systems simply get lost in the mountains."

Another concern for the flight is lightning. Colorado Springs is the lightning capital of Colorado and the Academy averages more than 400 lightning warnings a year.

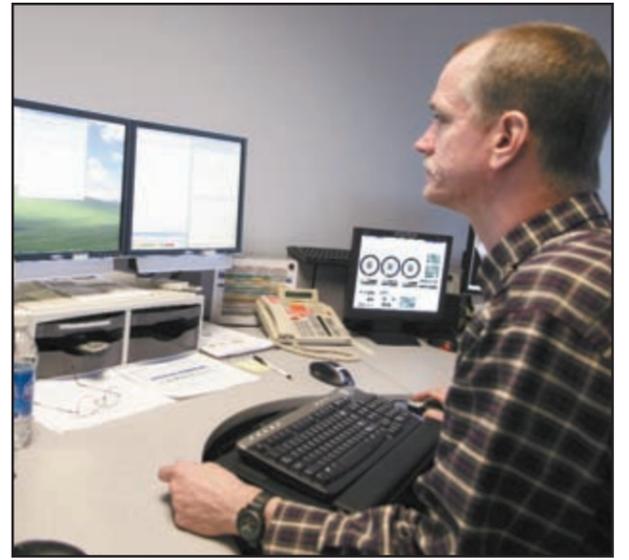


Photo by Ryan Hansen  
**Jeff Rosbach, a forecaster with the 306th Operational Support Squadron weather flight at the Air Force Academy, prepares a mission execution forecast.**

And as if the mission isn't far reaching enough, Academy officials have plans to add unmanned aircraft to the mix within the next year or so.

So even with its unique mix of aircraft, ongoing extra-curricular activities and constantly changing weather conditions, the weather flight truly enjoys their mission, its diversity and is always up to the task.

"It's good to be able to lay a solid foundation with these pilots," Mr. Rosbach said. "For those men and women this is the best place for them to learn to fly. Here they really get to see how the weather affects their aircraft."

"We're providing real-time information, doing our part to keep the cadets safe," Ms. Willems said. "And we have one of the best views in the Air Force."

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# Cadet's dreams compete for life choices

*To serve or to seek fame is an even tougher call when there's a passion for both.*

*For many, the choice would be an easy one.*

*However, when one has two loves, it's been said breakin' up is hard to do.*

By Ken Carter  
Editor

Many will never fulfill even one personal "dream" in life. Then there are those whom some call blessed.

For one Academy cadet, choosing which of a pair of dreams to pursue is a tough call as he's on the threshold of achieving both ... but, sooner or later, something's gotta give. Growing up in Auburn, Ind., in the mid 90's in a home filled with a love for music was just the beginning for a then 10-year-old boy who today is facing a very difficult choice head on. Self taught, due to a lack of money in the household to pay for formal lessons as a child, Cadet 3rd Class Phillip Mills has become an extraordinarily accomplished pianist who has garnered the friendship (and respect) of his mentor and hero, Jim Brickman. When Mr. Brickman received an Internet link from a third party he was so impressed with Cadet Mills' You-Tube performance of Brickman's original work "If You Believe", the metaphoric stage was set.

The literal stage was set Feb. 28 for the now 24-year-old management major to join Mr. Brickman and perform live at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins, Colo., before an appreciative crowd in the nearly 1,200 seat theater. With eyes closed, Jim Brickman fans never missed a note as Cadet Mills offered his rendition of Brickman's hit, "Timeless."

"At age 17, after hearing my first Jim Brickman song (Angel Eyes) on the radio, I told myself 'I will learn to play like that guy' and decided just to begin teaching myself," Cadet Mills said. "Playing my little 40 key Casio keyboard was the first thing I did when I woke up and the last thing I did before going to bed. I practiced around four hours a day, just trying to 'get it right.'"

Formerly an enlisted KC-135 crew chief assigned to McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., the now Cadet Squadron 38 member's passion struck a chord with Air Force chapel staff members around the globe. "Even during desert deployments, luckily, the chaplains would allow me unrestricted chapel access to practice, as they saw it was my true passion," he said.

The chapel provided a spiritual environment for the growing artist to express his God-given talents. That's the way a couple insiders describe his accelerated savvy on the keyboard after having played just seven years. The cadet's love for music and natural talent started early and leans toward the super natural according to his mother, Raynell



Photos by Ken Carter

**Cadet 3rd Class Phillip Mills shares a light-hearted moment with pianist Jim Brickman and accompanying vocalist Anne Cochran during the Fort Collins stop of Mr. Brickman's tour.**

Mills. "He has been blessed by God," said the accomplished guitar player in her own right who has pledged her life-long support no matter what dream her son follows. "He was born premature and it was feared he may have grown up blind," she said by phone Feb. 25 from the cab of the 18-wheeler she operates throughout the northeastern United States today. "But I believe he is anointed by the Lord to do what he does. He's also an amazing sax player."

"I love to play anything with a flowing, soothing rhythm..." Cadet Mills said, "... songs with multiple chords changes. An unusual fact about the music I play, unusual for pianists at least, is I do not like playing classical music."

Cadet Mills' relationship to Jim Brickman, a world-renown recording artist, connected with such artists as Martina McBride, Michael Bolton and Michael W. Smith, has evolved over more than four years.

"On a musician-to-musician level, I've known Jim about a year," Cadet Mills said. "However, back around November 2004 I went to one of his concerts, my first ever, the day before my first deployment. I couldn't even talk when I shook his hand. He is the reason, the drive, and the inspiration making me want to play piano. When I got to my deployed location, I sent an e-mail to his fan club — but couldn't say what I wanted exactly. His fan club sent him the message, and he personally sent me an e-mail back and said I could e-mail him anytime. We've stayed in touch ever since."

The Fort Collins opportunity with, "The Jim Brickman" is a "dream come true, really," Cadet Mills said. "Never in a million years would I ever think I'd perform in front of a lot of people during his show, it's beyond surreal! I owe him so much for the opportunity."

All the hype, glitz and glamour connected with potentially becoming a well-known entertainer come with their share of tough decisions for the aspiring pilot approaching his junior year. "My musical dream is to be a touring, recording piano player ... to travel around the country and the world performing for people. I believe that

music really soothes and allows people to relate with anything in their lives. I'd love to be a part of that."

Every album has a flip side.

Ever since he can remember, Cadet Mills has dreamed of being an aviator. "Training to be a soaring instructor pilot here has heightened that goal even more," he said. "I love it. I worked hard to get here, including four years prior enlisted service, and I'm really close to achieving that goal. If I get a pilot slot, I'm a lifer!"

He has what he calls an "amazing opportunity" at the Air Force Academy where he's on the path to becoming an Air Force officer, pilot, while earning a "great education," on one hand, and the influence and guidance of a world-renown fellow musician on the other.

Decision day is on the sophomore's radar — to play piano professionally or stay in the Air Force and fly, that is the question.

"So many people say I can do both, but I can't really," the cadet said. "If it were only possible to graduate from here, commission, and be allowed to go Guard instead of active duty that would be the ultimate. Although I'd have to give up flying, I'd still have my education and be an officer which is important to me. That would constitute a third dream but that one's not possible."

Cadet Mills' childhood East Side Junior/Senior High School music teacher in Butler, Ind., Kim Randinelli, also says, "He's a natural with God-given talent. Phil was a role model for other students who was very precise in everything he did," she said. "He was also always very different from most — always there and always ready to learn."

Whether her former student takes on the long-term role as an Air Force aviator or professional concert pianist, is not for her to speculate. "It really doesn't matter what you do in this world; it only matters that you do what you're passionate about," she said. "Phil is going to have to do some serious soul searching to find out what makes him happy for himself?"

Whether Cadet Mills ultimately ends up in a cockpit or on a piano bench, for now, at least, it appears he's sitting in just the right place.



**Cadet 3rd Class Phillip Mills offers his rendition of Jim Brickman's original hit, "Timeless."**

# Falcons shine in hard-hitting Wing Open Championships

*Despite a loss, freshman Nick Cataldo was named the Outstanding Boxer*



Junior Cory Tintzman delivers a knock-out punch to win his second Wing Open title in the heavyweight division against sophomore Mike Chambers.

Photo by Ken Carter



By Valerie Perkin  
Athletics Communications

The 2009 Wing Open Championships certainly lived up to its billing.

With several outcomes being decided in dominating fashion and others going bell-to-bell, the Air Force boxing team concluded a stellar afternoon of competition at the 51st-annual event Sunday at the Academy's Clune Arena. Seven Falcons earned repeat titles, including a pair of three-time champs.

After unopposed sophomore Matthew DeMars earned the 112-pound title, the 2009 Wing Open officially got underway with the 119-pound bout. Senior Jesse Horton came out strong in the first bout of the afternoon, defeating freshman Rainer Caparas early in the second round. It is the second Wing Open title for Horton, who missed the fall training period as an exchange student in Japan.

Fellow senior Harvey White lived up to his nickname of "The Hitman", as he dispatched freshman Nicholas Watts in the second round of the 125-pound finals. White picked up his third Wing Open championship in as many years, as he improved to 4-0 this year against his fellow cadets.

In a meeting of Wing Open champions, the 132-pound bout went into the final bell, with seniors Dave Simon and Dean Chuva in the ring. Simon was the defending champion in that weight class, while Chuva had won the 2008 Wing Open, regional and national titles at 112 pounds. Each boxer held an advantage at different times throughout the three two-minute rounds and this bout became the first to go to the judges for decision. The judging appeared as even as the bout, with Chuva being awarded the title by split decision.

Daniel Starr became the first freshman to earn a 2009 Wing Open title, as he claimed a split decision victory over junior Seth Gunn in the 139-pound bout. The boxers traded shots during the round, with both connecting on scoring punches in the process.

In the showcase of 147-pound boxers, senior Nathan Liptak and sophomore Michael Dunn stepped into the ring for the only rematch on the card. Liptak, who had competed in just two bouts this season, successfully defended his Wing Open title in a split decision over Dunn.

The 156-pound weight class featured a pair of first-time finalists in senior Rudy Bowen and freshman Tyrus Korecki. Bowen took the control of the ring early in the bout and refused to relinquish his advantage. By unanimous decision, Bowen claimed his first Wing Open title.

In another contest featuring two first-time finalists, freshman Nick Cataldo and senior Austin Almand brought the entire crowd to its feet at the final bell of the 165-pound bout. The two boxers traded punches throughout the six-minute bout, as Cataldo and Almand vied to gain the upper hand. In



Photo by Lis Carter

Members of the Air Force boxing team trade punches during the Wing Open Championships.

the end, the decision came down to the judges, as Almand earned a hotly-contested split decision victory over the crowd-favorite freshman.

The youngest class of Falcons earned another victory when freshman Mike McLain upset defending Wing Open champion and senior Lucas Gagliardi in the 175-pound bout. Despite his youth, McLain was able to stop Gagliardi's attack and respond with several sharp counterpunches to claim his first-ever title and improve to 5-0 against his fellow cadets.

Senior Boyce Loomis picked up his third consecutive Wing Open championship at 185 pounds, when his spot-on punches caused the referee to stop his bout with freshman Logan Brandt less than one minute in. Loomis dominated the round from his first step out of the corner, connecting with Brandt and causing the referee to administer three standing eight counts before a minute had passed. It is the second straight year that Loomis has earned a Wing Open title before the first bell.

Senior Andrew Catoire concluded his Wing Open boxing career the way he started ... with a title at 195 pounds. He held off classmate Kevin Williams in a spirited bout. Despite having only joined the program in January, Williams was evenly matched with the Catoire, a four-year member of the program, during the opening minutes of the bout. As the third round progressed, Catoire's experience became the more evident, as he delivered several key scoring blows. At the final bell, the majority of the judges awarded Catoire the title, which will accompany his 2006 title.

## RESULTS FROM WING OPEN FINALS

112-lbs.: Matt DeMars (unopposed)
119-lbs.: Jesse Horton rsc-2 Rainer Caparas
125-lbs.: Harvey White rsc-2 Nicholas Watts
132-lbs.: Dean Chuva split dec. Dave Simon
139-lbs.: Daniel Starr split dec. Seth Gunn
147-lbs.: Nathan Liptak split dec. Mike Dunn
156-lbs.: Rudy Bowen unan. dec. Tyrus Korecki
165-lbs.: Austin Almand split dec. Nick Cataldo
175-lbs.: Mike McLain split dec. Lucas Gagliardi
185-lbs.: Boyce Loomis rsc-1 Logan Brandt
195-lbs.: Andrew Catoire maj. dec. Kevin Williams
Hywt.: Cory Tintzman rsc-1 Mike Chambers
Outstanding Boxer: Nick Cataldo

In the night's final bout, junior Cory Tintzman, the defending champion, stepped into the ring with sophomore Mike Chambers for the heavyweight showdown. Always a crowd favorite, the two boxers came out swinging, but Tintzman quickly earned the advantage with several hard punches. With just seconds left in the first round, Tintzman delivered the final blow that caused the third standing eight count of the round. It is the second victory in as many years for Tintzman.

In an unprecedented outcome, the judges and coaching staff awarded Cataldo the Clune Outstanding Boxer Award. It is the first time in the 30-year history of the award that it was not awarded to a Wing Open champion.

The winners from tonight's Wing Open will form the nucleus of the team that will represent the Academy at the 2009 National Collegiate Boxing Association regional and national meets. Since head coach Eddie Weichers' arrival at the Academy 33 years ago, Air Force has won 28 of 29 regional titles and 18 of 29 national titles.

Photos by Dave Ahlschwede

**Bottom left to right:**  
Senior Dean Chuva (silver) defeats classmate Dave Simon in the 132-pound bout.

Senior Jesse Horton wins his second Wing Open title, defeating freshman Rainer Caparas in a referee-stopped contest at 119 pounds.

Referee Tom Cleary gives a standing eight count to sophomore Mike Chambers in the heavyweight division.

# Hot-shooting Lobos too much for Lady Falcons

By Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth  
Academy Public Affairs director

LAS VEGAS — A hot-shooting New Mexico women's basketball team toppled Air Force 84-41 in round one action of the Mountain West Conference tournament Tuesday.

The #9 seeded Falcons couldn't keep up with the talented and deep Lobos, the #4 seed, who hit 50 percent of their shots from the field, compared to 32 percent for Air Force.

The Lobos bench outscored the Falcons 37-8 and the Falcons could not match the Lobos streaks which included 13 and 10 point runs in the first half, and 14-, nine-, and 10-point runs in the second half.

Despite scoring the game's first five points, the Falcons could not equal the Lobos firepower. After the Falcons' hot start, the Lobos responded with 13 unanswered points thanks to a barrage of three-pointers, primarily from Amy Beggin, who scored 18 first-half points on six of eight shooting from the floor including four of six from three-point range.

The Falcons fought back behind the inside play of Liz Dunsworth and Kim Kreke who combined for 15 of the Falcons 23 first-half points. But the Air

Force was outrebounded by the Lobos 22-9 in the first half and went into the intermission down 43-23.

"We know Air Force plays hard. Sometimes they don't have as much height or as much talent as some of the teams, but they're always going to give 100 percent," said New Mexico Coach Don Flanagan. "They really played hard. We had to match that intensity."

Air Force coach Ardie McInelly's halftime talk sparked the Falcons, as they came out with more aggression in the first five minutes of the second half. However, the Lobos depth proved to be too much for the Falcons. That along with 15 Falcon turnovers and 16 offensive rebounds by the Lobos proved to be Air Force's undoing.

"We ran out of gas, ran out of people, but we certainly didn't run out of heart," Coach McInelly said. "Because of that, I love our kids."

Dunsworth paced Air Force with 12 points, with Kreke chipping in nine while pulling down five rebounds. Raimee Beck also collected five boards and dished out five assists.

The loss didn't dampen the Falcons pride in the season. Though they finished the year 4-26 with wins over Chadron State, Barry University, North Carolina Central and Navy, McInelly was proud



Photo by Ken Carter

Academy Freshman Anna Gault looks for an open teammate during first-round action in the Mountain West Conference tournament.

of the seniors and excited about next year.

"Our seniors will be very successful. Our team will continue to be successful even though we didn't have a successful season. But these young women, they come out and they work hard every single

day. I'm very proud to be their coach," said an emotional McInelly after the game.

Looking ahead to next year, the Falcons return all but two players from this year's roster, including leading scorer Beck. Kreke and Brooke Cultra are the only graduating seniors.

# AF bats come alive in win over Colorado Christian

By Nick Arseniak  
Athletic Communications

The slumbering Air Force bats awoke in a big way, as the Falcons racked up 22 hits in an 18-4 win over Colorado Christian March 4 at Falcon Field. The win improves AFA to 3-3 on the season and dropped the Cougars to 7-9.

Five Falcons registered multiple hits, led by juniors Matt Alexander and Addison Gentry. Alexander went 5-for-6 with four doubles and six RBIs. Gentry was 4-for-6 with a three-run home run and five RBIs.

Air Force entered the game with 25 hits in its first five games of the season and a sub-.200 average. The 22 hits raised the team batting average 73 points.

Several other Falcons also contributed with big days at the plate. K.J. Randhawa went 3-for-3 with four runs and reached base all five times. Daniel Walker went 3-for-4 with three runs and a triple. Vai Schierholtz added two hits and a double.

The game was close early on with CCU leading 2-1 after the top of the third. Air Force then erupted for four runs in the third and five in the fourth and took control of the game. After a scoreless first, the Falcons plated runs in every inning afterwards.

Air Force used seven pitchers in the game. Freshman left-hander Andrew Loyd (1-0) picked up his first-career win, pitching two innings of relief.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Addison Gentry tags out a Colorado Christian University player at first base during their 18-4 win on March 4.

Starter Casey Allen went two innings, allowing one run. Mike Kazakoff, Matt Barattino, Michael Ceci, Jason Griggs and Michael Ruvolo also pitched for the Falcons.

Colorado Christian used eight pitchers in the game. Reliever Aaron Orr (0-1) took the loss, allowing four runs. Starter David Hendricks went two innings,

allowing one unearned run.

Ceci and Jake Byorth made their AFA debuts in the game. Byorth doubled to center in his first-career at bat.

The Falcons return to action today through Sunday playing a three game set at New Mexico State.

## Calhoun to visit troops

Air Force Falcons head football coach Troy Calhoun will join four other FBS head football coaches in travelling to the Middle East to visit U.S. troops this spring on the second annual Under Armour Coaches Tour.

Coach Calhoun will join Mack Brown of Texas, Jim Tressel of Ohio State, UCLA's Rick Neuheisel and Houston Nutt of Mississippi, along with former Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville on the tour. The group will meet and greet American military personnel in Afghanistan, Qatar and the

United Arab Emirates.

## Beck honored

LAS VEGAS, Nev. - Air Force sophomore guard Raimee Beck was named to the Mountain West Conference 2008-09 Women's Basketball All-Conference Team, announced Monday by the conference office. Beck

earned honorable mention honors.

Beck led the Air Force in scoring, averaging 13.2 points per game. She leads the conference with 72 three-point baskets and 36.6 minutes played per game. The Blackfoot, Idaho, native has reached 20-plus points seven

times this year.

## Fencers qualify

The Academy's fencing team had three fencers qualify for the 2009 NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Championships. Juniors Peter French and Daniel Trapani and freshman Simone Barrette all received nominations to the NCAAs at

# Falcons top Colorado State in MWC tourney

*Balanced scoring, raucous crowd lead to first-ever tourney win*

By Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth  
Academy Public Affairs director

LAS VEGAS – Air Force picked an opportune time to win its first conference game of the season when they downed the Colorado State Rams in first-round action of the Mountain West Conference tournament Wednesday in Las Vegas.

The 71-67 win also marked the first-ever MWC tournament win for the Falcons after losing their previous nine tournament games and earned them the right to take on the #1 seed BYU Cougars in the second round.

The win comes on the heels of a winless regular season in MWC play. However, the Falcons have fought hard, losing their previous five games by five points or less each.

The Falcon fans turned the Thomas & Mack Center into their home court with raucous cheering section. Two thunderous Anwar Johnson dunks, one early in the game and the other to ice it, got Air Force fans on their feet and brought a Clune Arena-like feel to Las Vegas.

“I think we’ve been so close the last three or four games, and really in every game the last nine or 10,” said Falcon coach Jeff Reynolds.

Early it appeared the Falcons season was going to end on the campus of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. The Rams stormed out to a 17-8 lead early in the first half thanks to an 8-0 run in a 1:31 span, but the Falcons fought back thanks to shooting nearly 62 percent from the field to cut the lead to 33-30 at halftime.

“We’ve been battling those kind of runs all season. Predominantly, we’ve been down in the first half,” said Air Force guard Andrew Henke. “Everyone made some big shots in the first half to keep that lead close.”

Free throws and rebounding were the stories of the first half as the Rams attempted 12 more free throws and collected six more rebounds than Air Force. The Falcons strong bench play kept them in the game, scoring 18 points in the half.

The Falcons’ 41 second half points were an MWC tournament opening round record, and their 61 percent shooting for the game ranks third in MWC tournament history.

“I think it’s just more of a confidence thing because the way our offense is set up is for our shooters,” said Air Force guard Evan Washington in describing the Falcons hot shooting. “We have some of the best shooters in the league.”

Washington, Henke, Johnson and Grant Parker all scored in double figures to lead a balanced Air Force attack. Washington also pulled down seven rebounds to pace the Falcons.

Reynolds summed up the Falcons never-say-die attitude.

“You know, that’s what the Academy is about,” he said. “It’s a tribute to the kids for what they did today.”

Colorado State coach Tim Miles also commented on the character of the Falcons.

“I’m proud of these guys to hang in there and keep getting better and better,” Miles said. “You got a first-class operation with Coach Reynolds in charge and obviously the Academy. I just was appreciative of their effort, the way they came out and executed their stuff. I’m happy for those guys.”



Photo by Ken Carter

Falcon guard Evan Washington lays one up for two points in the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas Wednesday against Mountain West Conference rival 8th seeded Colorado State. The Falcons went on to upset the Rams and earned their first tournament win as a member of the MWC with a 71-67 victory.

# Crozier places 2nd at NCAA West Regional

By Melissa McKeown  
Athletic Communications

GREELEY - Led by a runner-up finish from captain Stephen Crozier, the Air Force wrestling team placed sixth at the 2009 NCAA West Regional, hosted by Northern Colorado. Northern Iowa captured its 24th consecutive regional title, finishing with 94 points edging out second-place Wyoming (92.5 points).

Following a 5-0 win over Northern Colorado’s Brandon Kammerzell in his opening bout at 174 pounds, Crozier, seeded fourth, faced off against top-seed Jarion Beets of Northern Iowa in the semi-finals. While Beets scored the first takedown of the match, Crozier responded with an escape and a takedown to grab the lead. After an escape by Beets, the score was tied 3-3, before Crozier notched another takedown just before the end of the first period.

Crozier went on to dominate the second period, scoring six unanswered points, including a three-point near fall. Beets scored the first two points of the final

period, but Crozier registered a reversal to take a 13-5 lead and held on to the 14-5 major decision after adding a point for riding time.

In the championship bout, Crozier matched up against Wyoming’s Shane Onufer, seeded second in the tournament and ranked 18th in the nation. Onufer took the early lead and never looked back, taking a 6-3 advantage after one period and a 9-4 lead at the end of two periods. Crozier was unable to score a takedown in the match, dropping the 14-6 major decision to move into the true second-place match against South Dakota State’s Scott Elliott, seeded third in the tournament.

Crozier scored the lone takedown of the opening period against Elliott to take a 2-0 lead, while a reversal and a pair of near falls in the second period gave Crozier an 8-0 advantage. Elliott closed out the second period with a reversal of his own, but would not score again in the bout. With a third-period reversal and an extra point for riding time, Crozier captured the 11-2 major decision over Elliott to capture second place. It was Crozier’s second-



Photo by Ken Carter

Stephen Crozier (top), captain of the Air Force wrestling team, competes against a Northern Iowa wrestler during the 2009 NCAA West Regional. Air Force placed sixth in the competition.

consecutive runner-up finish at the West Regional, as he placed second at 165 pounds last season.

Also placing for Air Force was Derek Gillespie, who took fourth place at 133 pounds.

Gillespie, seeded fourth in his weight

class, opened the tournament with a match-up versus top-seed Cory VomBaur of Wyoming. After dropping a 10-2 major decision to the eventual champion, Gillespie took on third-seed Trent Sprenkle in the consolation semi-finals. Despite trailing by one in the final.

Penn State on Thursday to March 22. The three qualified at the NCAA Western Regional Championships this past weekend at Stanford University.

French qualified in the individual men’s epee championship by winning the gold medal bout against Stanford’s

Kevin Mo. Trapani followed suit taking third place to secure his spot at the national championships. Both earned all-region honors, and it is the third time in French’s and the second in Trapani’s Academy careers that they will travel to the NCAA Championships. Qual-ifying in individual

women’s epee, Barrette finished in third place among the 10 collegiate competitors. She also earned all-region honors and will make her first national appearance at the NCAAs, Thursday to March 22.

## Lacrosse team falls

WESTPOINT, N.Y. - In its fifth-straight contest away

from home, the Air Force lacrosse team fell to service academy rival Army, 14-9, Saturday afternoon at Michie Stadium. The Falcons drop to 2-3 on the season with the loss, while the Black Knights move to 3-2 on the year.

Sandtorv led Air Force scorers with three goals, for

his second multiple-goal output of the season, while Gnazzo had a career-high two scores. Senior captain Griffin Nevitt added a goal and an assist, and Colin Lockhart notched the final Air Force score with the only man-up goal of the game for either team.

# 10th MDSS donates fuzzy comfort to trauma victims

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

The 10th Medical Support Squadron is aiding crime victims with fuzzy, cute and comforting new friends.

During "Operation Bear Hug" the squadron donated 134 teddy bears to the Colorado Springs Police Department during the March 4 commander's call in the 10th Medical Group dining room. The unit also gave a helping paw to a dog rescue group.

"It gives them something to hold on to," said Kathy Rowlands, CSPD coordinator of volunteers to squadron members of the bears.

First responders keep a small stock of them in squad cars to give to children and senior citizens as comfort when they must be taken out of traumatic situations such as wrecks, fires, abuse, domestic violence and loss of a spouse.

"It's great to reach out to the needy in the community, and it's a great morale booster," 10th MDSS commander Lt. Col. Michael Burke said of the unit's volunteer efforts.

Every month between 20 and 30 unit members adopt a program to benefit others. Last year the squadron donated 1,500 hours in volunteer time.

Past projects have included collecting coats for the Salvation Army, gathering food for Care & Share and bikes and toys for the Bob Telmosse holiday give-away, construction of a healing garden at Ronald McDonald House, planting young trees on the Academy, Habitat for Humanity projects and grounds preparation for the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Boo at the Zoo.

Before being donated, the bears underwent scrutiny for attachments which might have presented hazards, such as buttons a child could choke on.

"We had to strip them bear naked," Colonel Burke joked.



Photo by Ann Patton

Master Sgt. Lynn Barron, 10th Medical Support Squadron, readies teddy bears for pick-up by the Colorado Springs Police Department. For a community service project, the 10th MDSS collected 134 of the bears which are used to comfort trauma victims.

During a bake sale last month in the 10th MDG lobby the 10th MDSS raised \$900 to benefit the Rocky Mountain Great Dane Rescue, which fosters and cares for Great Danes in need of a new home.

Marcia Edginto, along with her Great Dane Sphinx which she fostered and later adopted, was on hand to accept the check.

"This will buy a lot of kibble," she said with a smile during the acceptance.

Colonel Burke estimated squadron members sold "about a million calories" in support of the effort.

Master Sgt. Lynn Barron feels fortunate in her life and

enjoys helping others.

"I love it because I can help out people who are less fortunate," she said of getting involved with the unit's projects.

Squadron community outreach program coordinator Cindy Cope feels the same way.

"I believe in giving back," she said. "Volunteering is from the heart."

She praised squadron members for their enthusiasm and willingness to help others.

"Once they get that first taste of volunteering, they get crazy involved."



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**Student summer employment**

The Air Force Academy is offering student employment for temporary jobs this summer. Current positions include: clerk (GS-0303-01) starting at \$9.57 per hour; food service worker (WG-7408-03) starting at \$11.32 per hour; and, laborer (WG-3502-01) starting at \$9.22 per hour. Announcements are posted at <http://www.usajobs.gov> and will remain open through March 31. Mail completed applications to: Summer Program Team, 5136 Eagle Drive, USAFA, CO, 80840-2803 or FAX to: 719-333-3741. Candidates must be at least 16 at the time of appointment and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.

**Tax assistance**

Puzzled by the tax law or which

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

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

The Academy Tax Center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday to provide tax assistance and preparation. Call 333-3905 to schedule an appointment.

**Women's Golf Association welcome**

The Eisenhower Women's Golf Association is holding a free welcome coffee Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. (snow date March 25) at the golf course. The group offers weekly Wednesday play, and players can play as often as schedules allow. For more information call 282-4105 or 598-1330.

**ISOPREP/Passport/Visa**

Photographs: Each Friday through March, the Team DenMar Photo Lab, located in Fairchild Hall (Suite 1J3), will provide walk-in photography services to any faculty member or cadet requiring ISOPREP/Passport/Visa photographs. This service is for members requiring an official government passport, Visa, and ISOPREP photos, and cannot be used for personal use passports. Members can simply come to the photo lab and receive support without an appointment. The service will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis from 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4 p.m. Pre-filled work orders are available at the lab customer service desk. Standard studio services, including head and shoulder portraits and full-length special duty photos will continue to be offered Monday through Thursday on an appointment basis only. Call 333-3430/3431 or e-mail the lab's org box at [HQ\\_USAFA/PAVSCP](mailto:HQ_USAFA/PAVSCP) (photography work orders) for more information.

**Teachers sought**

Leisure time instructors in all levels

of piano and Mexican cooking (tamale, salsa and tortilla making) are being sought for Academy programs. Contact Linda Crom, 333-2928 for details.

**A&FRC offerings**

The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following this month:

**Medical records review**

March 30; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

**Teen job search workshop**

Saturday; 8 a.m. to noon and Tuesday; 4 to 6 p.m.

(Must attend both days)

Workshop consists of job search information, volunteer opportunities, application/resume writing techniques, interviewing tips, and local employer panel. Open to dependent children of active duty, retiree, Reservists and DoD civilians only. Minimum attendance age is 14. Call Jeannie Lopez at 333-3168/3444 to register.

**Troops to teachers**

Wednesday; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This workshop provides information for military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher. Learn how you can make the transition.

**Newcomer's orientation/information fair**

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

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

**TAP seminar**

March 24-27; 7:30 am to 4:30 p.m.

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

**Newcomer's red carpet tour**

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

This informative base tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals much of what there is to see and do at the Air Force Academy.

**Internet job search**

March 31; 8 to 11 a.m.

This 'how-to' e-network course will

cover online networking sites, netiquette, and making online connections. Popular networking sites such as Facebook, Linked-In, Twitter and others will also be featured.

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



**Fort Carson blood drive**

Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom has created a continued need for blood. Type O is the universal blood type. This means that in forward areas, Type O blood must be available because it can be given to injured service members immediately, before it is possible to determine their blood type.

The Armed Services Blood Program from Ft. Bliss is able to quickly move blood donated locally to wherever it is needed without having to buy it from commercial sources. This year, Fort Carson will be hosting an ASBP Blood Drive Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Special Events Center. Those wishing to donate blood should go online at [www.militaryblood.dod.mil/bliss](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/bliss) to schedule an appointment.

Everyone is welcome to donate providing they healthy (, over the age of 17, weigh at least 110 pounds and not have donated blood in the last 56 days. "Healthy" means that you feel well and can perform normal activities.

For more information contact the Ft. Bliss Blood Donor Recruiter at 915-568-5365.

**Women in Mining presentation**

The Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Northgate Blvd. and I-25, is offering "Women in Mining" as a family exploration day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The Augusta Tabor portrayal stars at 10 a.m. followed by an Edwardian tea and another performance at 1:30 p.m. The event will also feature miniaturist displays, pioneer kitchen accessories, quilting, weaving and more. Customary admissions apply. For reservations call 488-0880 or visit [www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org) for more information.



**CADET CHAPEL**

**Catholic Masses:**

**Sunday**

Confession - 9:15 a.m.

Mass - 10 a.m.

**Wednesday**

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament - 5:30 p.m.

Confession - 5:30 p.m.

Mass - 6:30 p.m.

**Weekday**

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

**Protestant Services:**

**Sunday**

Traditional/Liturgical - 9 a.m.

Contemporary - 11 a.m.

**Jewish Services**

**Friday**

Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.

**Buddhist Worship**

**Wednesday**

Traditional Mahyana Service -6:30 p.m.

**Muslim Prayer**

**Friday**

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

All Other Faiths

Call 333-2636 for more information

**COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL**

**Catholic Masses:**

**Saturday**

Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.

Mass - 4 p.m.

**Sunday**

Mass - 9 a.m.

Religious Formation - 10:15 a.m.

(September - May)

**Tuesday-Friday**

Mass - 11:30 a.m.

**Protestant Services:**

**Wednesday**

Wednesday Night Live - 6 p.m.

Dinner followed by Religious Education

(September - May).

**Sunday**

Evangelical - 10:15 a.m.

Gospel - 11:30 a.m.

**Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:**

Contact Tech. Sgt. Longcrier at 333-6178

[Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu](mailto:Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu)



Photo by Arnie Spencer

**'Good vibrations'**

The Beach Boys with original band member Mike Love perform one of their Top 40 hits during a sold out concert of 2,739 people at Arnold Hall March 6. The group performed for nearly two hours during the evening, entertaining the crowd with songs like "California Girls," "Fun, Fun, Fun," "Surfin'," and "Good Vibrations." The Beach Boys were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.