



USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO **ACADEMY SPIRIT**

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Cadet up for senior class award

Page 4



Language Lab goes high tech

Page 6



Women's History Month Georgia O'Keeffe

Page 9



Falcons head to NCAA tourney

Page 16



Photo by John Van Winkle

Peak performance

Cadet 3rd Class Nate Moeller, Cadet Squadron 1, works on the roof of a Habitat for Humanity home. Cadet Moeller is one of 65 Air Force Academy cadets giving up their spring break this week to build homes for the needy in Santa Fe, N.M.; Cody, Wyoming; El Paso, Texas; and Beaumont, Texas. See story Page 15.

Enlisted organization reinvents itself

By Butch Wehry
 Academy Spirit staff

The Academy recently split up technical sergeants and staff sergeants from the senior airmen and below to ensure not all of the base's junior enlisted were out of their work centers for enlisted group activities.

A portion of the organization that was named the Rising 6 has been reformed into what is now the Falcon 56. This organization is comprised of Academy NCOs in the ranks of staff sergeant, staff sergeant selects and technical sergeants.

"An Airmen's Council is in the planning stages," said Academy Command

Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis.

He expects the new organization to be more than a fund raising or booster organization.

"Time is a finite resource, and we need to make sure when supervisors allow their staff sergeants and technical sergeants to attend these activities, they are for a positive cause," said the Academy's top enlisted leader.

He looks to squadron leadership to fully support their NCOs in attending these activities in order for the base to make continued improvements in quality of life, enlisted professional development and heritage, and community support.

"This is a key part of the whole-

person concept upon which we select our hard-chargers for further promotion, recognition and special duty opportunities," the chief said. "Our Air Force experience is far more than just doing a job and going home — it's about those extras that make us unstoppable and above all others."

As with other Academy private organizations, he is looking to Falcon 56 to:

- To help him tackle some of the quality-of-life issues associated with living, working and playing at the Academy and identify recommended solutions.

- To work collectively with chiefs,

See **FALCON 56**, Page 5

Cadet's USB work headed for space

Groundbreaking 'Plug and Play' interface work allows universal payload communications

By Julie Imada
 Dean of Faculty staff

When Cadet 1st Class Keith Rizza graduates in May and heads off to pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., his resume will be padded with kudos from the Air Force Research Lab, National Aeronautics and Space Association and the Navy's research lab.

According to the Academy's Space Physics and Atmospheric Research Center director, Dr. Geoff McHarg, the cadet's work on an electrical interface for AFRL's 'Plug and Play' space USB project is "groundbreaking." Doctor McHarg said the software and hardware interface work accomplished by Cadet Rizza allows the individual payloads of a

See **USB**, Page 3

INSIDE

Commentary	2
News	3
Features	14
Sports	16
Community	19
Classifieds	20

What is that medal?

By Lt. Col. Andreas Wesemann
Chief, Policy and Directives Division

I was wearing my service dress at a Quarterly Awards Luncheon, when I was asked what this “unknown ribbon” was below my Humanitarian Service Medal. I responded that this was the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. While this individual was a fellow long-time volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, he was unaware that this medal even existed. I discovered by talking to several others that day that no one else had even heard of this medal. How unfortunate it is so few know about this medal. So what is this Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal?

The MOVSM, one of nine Defense Service Awards, was authorized by Executive Order 12830 to be awarded to all members of the United States Armed Forces and their reserve components who perform outstanding volunteer service. This service must be of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. Any military member, subsequent to 31 December 1992, may be eligible for this award. The following requirements must be met to qualify for the MOVSM:

1. The service must be to the civilian community, to include the military family community.
2. The service must be significant in nature and produce tangible results.
3. The service must reflect favorably on the Service Member's Military Department and the Department of Defense.
4. The service must be of a sustained and direct nature.

While there is no specific minimum time or period of service required, approval authorities shall ensure the volunteer service to be recognized meets the special recognition afforded the medal.

The Department of Defense Regulation 1348.33-M states that: “The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time, not a single act or achievement. Further, it is intended to honor direct support of community activities. For the purposes of this award, attending membership meetings or social events of a community service group is not considered qualifying service, while manning a community crisis action telephone line for a sustained period of time is considered qualifying service. The overall level of volunteer participation and impact of an individual's community service is key to determining whether the award of the MOVSM is justified.”

Since the MOVSM is given for community service over time, multiple awards of the MOVSM during a single tour of duty are not authorized. However, if an individual gives a sustained level of volunteer service through successive tours or extended tours at the same location, then consideration may be given to awarding a MOVSM for each extended period of service.

One final important qualification: the community service must be voluntary in nature. It cannot be detailed, tasked, nor performed as part of a military mission, such as a unit project like Habitat for Humanity if it is performed as a unit service project.



On 2 July 1996, the Secretary of the Air Force delegated the approval authority for the award of the MOVSM to Group Commanders.

I hope that many more individuals who give of themselves will take the time to meet with their supervisors and tell them what volunteer service they have performed while stationed at the Academy. The Department of Defense thinks that volunteer service is of such importance that it deserves special recognition equivalent to our other combat and achievement awards. If you know of someone who has earned this award, or if you yourself have given qualifying service, type up the letter! Anyone, regardless of rank, position, or level of responsibility, can earn the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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Lt. Gen. John Regni —
Academy Superintendent
Maj. Brett Ashworth —
Director of Public Affairs
Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins —
NCOIC, Internal Information
Butch Wehry — Senior Staff Writer
whalen.wehry@usafa.af.mil
Ann Patton — Staff Writer
elizabeth.patton.ctr@usafa.af.mil
Denise Navoy — Graphic Designer

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

Character Corner Consider This!

By Chaplain (Maj.) George Youstra
Center for Character Development

This little portion of the paper always contains some words to inspire us about the importance of character in our lives. I'm sure I could wax eloquent about the subject again. However, there are many people throughout history that are much smarter than me. What would they say to you if they could reach out through history?

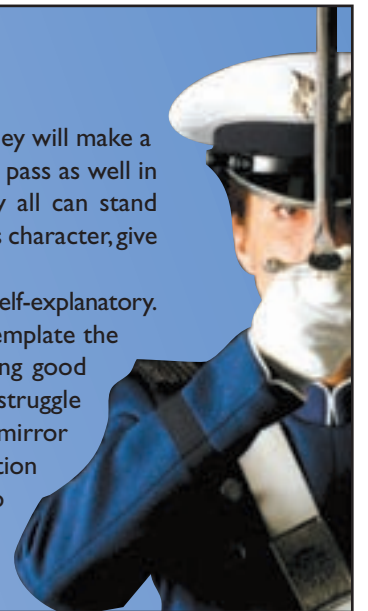
Meditate on these thoughts this week. Character is the sum and total of a person's choices. — *P.B. Fitzgerald*; The happiness of every country depends upon

the character of its people, rather than the form of its government. — *Thomas C. Haliburton*; Character is like the foundation of a house—it is below the surface. — *Anonymous*; Those who command themselves, command others. — *William Hazlitt*; Character is not made in crisis—it is only exhibited. — *Robert Freeman*; I have conquered an empire but I have never been able to conquer myself. — *Peter The Great*; The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken. — *Samuel Johnson*; There never will exist anything permanently noble and excellent in the character which is a stranger to resolute self-denial. — *Sir Walter Scott*; Few persons

are made of such strong fiber that they will make a costly outlay when surface work will pass as well in the market. — *E. M. Bounds*; Nearly all can stand adversity, but if you want to test one's character, give them power. — *Abraham Lincoln*.

Some of these sayings are pretty self-explanatory. Others will cause you to truly contemplate the deeper meaning of the author. Having good character in our lives is a constant struggle of self-evaluation. I challenge you to mirror your life and character in the revelation of the thoughts listed above. How do you measure up?

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



What do you miss about being a kid?



“I loved to play sports, all sports. I want to be in there doing something. Now I have to watch it on TV.”

Chet Derezinski
Retired Air Force member



“I don't really miss anything. I was usually in trouble, and my dad made sure I got what was coming to me.”

Dennis Kirkelie
Retired Air Force member



“As a child, I didn't have to worry, and I miss being able to eat anything I wanted.”

Barb Riley
Spouse of retired Air Force member



“I miss not having to worry about things, like having a roof over my head and getting the presents under the tree.”

Denise
Spouse of retired Army member

USB

From Page 1

satellite to communicate with each other regardless of who built the components.

The component, called an Applique Sensor Interface Module, was part of Cadet Rizza's cadet summer research project at AFRL during the summer of 2007. He continued his work on the interface code and hardware when he returned to the Academy.

Cadet Rizza's small micro-processor controls the individual payloads, and his highly-specialized software allows for individual payloads to be changed and relocated to different ports, all the while maintaining the ability to communicate between the components and with ground control.

"ASIM translates communications into the universal space plug interface," Cadet Rizza said and added that the effort to create a new 'Plug and Play' interface for use on FalconSat 5 has been an effort which required working "from the ground up."

He was disappointed when he learned that due to power requirements, his ASIM work will not be on FalconSat 5, but he said he hoped a cadet in the future will take his work, improve upon it, and ultimately have it included on a future FalconSat launch.

And while FalconSat 5 will not be launched with ASIM, the cadet can take satisfaction in knowing his efforts are scheduled to be included on several other space missions. Doctor McHarg said Cadet Rizza's work will be on satellites for AFRL as well as the Navy's Research Lab's atmospheric density satellite. His work will also be taken by NASA to the International Space Station for space exposure experiments.

The smaller size of the ASIM and its memory capabilities will allow multiple types of data to be collected,



Photo by Lewis Carlyle

Cadet 1st Class Keith Rizza works on the hardware for his ASIM 'Plug and Play' space USB software and hardware. Cadet Rizza's software is scheduled to be part of mission operations for several space missions including conducting experimental work on the International Space Station.

stored and communicated back to scientists. It will also make shorter scientific space missions possible without taking up too much payload space on shuttle missions.

Cadet Rizza's success is just one of the many highlights and professional benefits of the Academy's cadet summer research program.

"Rizza will go out into the Air Force, from an

officer's standpoint, with real experience... This is what the research centers at USAFA give to cadets," Doctor McHarg said. He added the summer and academic research experiences will also give cadets the ability to see how policy and science are "ultimately intertwined" and will lead them, as future decision makers, to continue to invest in Air Force research efforts.

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Meents candidate for Lowe's Senior Class Award

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Academy senior catcher Josh Meents is one of 30 candidates for the Lowe's Senior Class award in college baseball.

"It is very exciting to be considered for such a meaningful award," said Cadet 1st Class Meents. "The best part of the Lowe's Award is that it is not based simply on field performance and athletic ability."

The award spans much more than being a jock. It also weighs character, grades and community service.

Cadet Meents has been selected as one of 30 collegiate baseball players who have combined excellence in athletics, academics and community service. The award presented annually to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I Student-Athlete of the Year in eight sports focuses on the "Four C's" of classroom, character, community and competition.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the award was launched in 2001 to honor the attributes of college basketball seniors who fulfill their entire athletic eligibility and pursue their degree. Since that time, Lowe's, an official corporate partner of the NCAA®, has expanded the award to include other NCAA sports, including baseball.

Through easy and tough semesters he maintained a 3.5 grade point average.

"It came down to being disciplined and organized," said Cadet Squadron 19's operations research major from Braidwood, Ill. "When you get back from practice at 8 and you're tired and want to just go to bed, you have to force yourself to look at what is due the next day or later that week and get it done. When you're

so busy it's easy to overlook small homework assignments or projects, but just being organized and using good time management can go a long way."

Cadet Meents is the lone three-year letterwinner on the Falcon baseball squad. He enters the 2008 season having played in 106 career games. The cadet started 38 of 43 games at catcher as a junior and started 30 of 36 as a sophomore. As a sophomore, he hit seven home runs, ranking second on the team.

"The baseball team is having the best season it has had since I arrived here," the cadet said. "We are currently 7-9 with big wins against Ohio State, Mississippi State, and Northern Colorado. We will begin a 12-game home stand beginning on April. Being the only 4-time letterman on the team, and seeing the team grow and change, this season has been more gratifying than I could have imagined."

Other things he has done have intrinsic meaning to him, like the Midnight Walk for Cancer in Marysville, Calif.

"I spent the summer playing for the Yuba-Sutter Gold Sox," said the award candidate. "This team was very involved in the community and my first weekend this opportunity was brought to our attention. Having a mother that had gone through breast cancer played a large part in motivating me to join in on this great event. At first, I also thought it would be a great way to hang out with the guys on the team and get to know them better, but by the end of it, I realized how much this event, and our presence, meant to the community as a whole."

He has been named to the conference all-academic team three times. The senior has been active in his squadron serving several positions, which include squadron assistant director of operations, logistics



Courtesy photo

Senior catcher Josh Meents, (8) prepares for a pitch at a recent Falcons baseball game.

officer, and element leader. He has also been active in the community participating in welcoming home soldiers at Fort Carson who were deployed to Iraq, and visiting children with illness at hospitals. The cadet was also active as a Squadron Class Representative for the Combined Federal Campaign charity.

Nominating officials noted his visits to children with illness at hospitals

"It's always tough to see children in such a tough situation," he said. "But that's what makes it rewarding. It is a very humbling experience to see unfortunate, innocent children going through something so tough. Their positive state of mind and joy in seeing us there is well worth the time we spend there. Spending only

Continued on next page

HEROES CARING FOR HEROES



Health care heroes making a difference

TriWest salutes the dedicated doctors providing care to TRICARE beneficiaries in Colorado and across the TRICARE West Region. To view messages of appreciation from America's military family, please visit www.triwest.com/DrDay.



Falcon 56

From Page 1

Top 3 and first sergeant councils to further enlisted professional development and enlisted heritage.

Chief Davis expects Falcon 56 to increase community support and involvement across the Academy and in the Colorado Springs area.

The decision to make the change was in January. The primary concern was that it made it impossible for individuals to attend meetings on a regular basis whose work center is comprised of mostly technical sergeants and below.

"Taking all of these individuals away from their work sections for monthly meetings or volunteer activities posed a hardship on the work sections," said Tech. Sgt. Cory Blackburn, Academy Personnel Directorate's Major Command career enhancement programs NCOIC. "This made it especially difficult for the indi-

vidual to commit to the council. We also agreed that it's important to be in an organization amongst our peers."

Falcon 56's goals are to provide a forum to share ideas, educate each other, mentor Airmen, motivate and equip junior enlisted people with knowledge and opportunities to excel while at the Academy.

"We want to make a difference on the Academy and in the community," Sergeant Blackburn said. "We have a few specific programs we are working to improve; the Airman's Attic and the NCO induction ceremony. Our purpose is to enhance morale and esprit de corps between junior enlisted and other Academy people, provide a forum for members to network, share experiences and expertise and assist each other with Academy projects."

The first meeting as the Falcon 56 had more than 30 individuals. "We want to see more," Sergeant Blackburn said. "We welcome all staff sergeant, staff



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins

Staff Sgt. Kevin Kelly, Directorate of Personnel and other members of the Falcon 56, unloads items donated to the Airman's Attic.

sergeant-selects and technical sergeants who want to be a part of a great organization and make a difference here."

Falcon 56's community involvement

includes Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Stand Down and the Pikes Peak Rodeo. They also provide assistance with the base picnic.

Meents

Continued from previous page

a few minutes with these children seems small to us, but when you see the smile on their face you realize how memorable it is to them."

From a list of 30 nominees, a national media committee will select ten finalists for the Lowe's Senior Class Award in mid-April, 2008. Those names will be

placed on the official ballot for a nationwide vote that will include coaches, media and fans. The award winner will be announced and recognized at the 2008 NCAA Men's College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

"If I were to win this award it would certainly give me a large sense of accomplishment," Cadet Meents said. "It is something to pull out and say that all my hard work really did pay off. It's always nice to be recog-

nized for your hard work. I also know that winning this award will not only give me a sense of accomplishment, but the people around me as well. Seeing how proud my parents are of me when I am mentioned in something like this is a great time in itself."

After post-graduate education the cadet will become a scientific analyst at Los Angeles Air Force Base.

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New center gives cadet high-tech language lab

By Angela Brehm and Dr. Miguel Verano
Department of Foreign Languages

The Language Learning Center at the Academy's Department of Foreign Languages recently underwent a facelift.

With 102 computer stations, to include 97 student stations, each capable of supporting two students, and five instructor stations, the LLC can now accommodate up to 194 students per period with video capability in multi-system formats.

A new Language Lab Management System enables students to watch or listen to authentic materials in their target language, make voice recordings, and learn vocabulary and grammar with on-line games and worksheets.

Instructors can assign tasks electronically, monitor student progress and communicate with their whole class or with students individually through their computer work stations. It is possible to limit access to Websites to ensure students stay on target.

Many of the foreign language graded reviews and quizzes are now given on-line in the LLC, facilitating access to multimedia and assuring quick turnaround on grading and feedback.

"We could not have done it in such a short time and so well without our technology group, headed by Lt. Col. (Scot) Allen, the base interior designer, Robin Witek, the contracting team led by Jim Berns, and our project manager, Andrzej Pudlo. Everyone pulled together to accomplish this complex project—demolition, flooring, furniture, hardware, and software. Three separate contracts and in-house assistance had to be coordinated to make it all work. Amazingly, the whole project was completed within two months, and the language students can now enjoy a state-of-the-art language lab," said Col. Gunther Mueller, head of the Department of Foreign Languages.

The LLC supports cadets who study one of the eight languages offered at USAFA: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Portuguese (new since Fall, 2007), Russian and Spanish.



Photo by Denis Rogers

Cadets take advantage of the newly-updated Language Learning Center. The center can now accommodate 194 cadets per period.

DoD anti-tobacco campaign invades military markets

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFP) — The Department of Defense isn't just blowing smoke about its tobacco cessation campaign. "Quit Tobacco. Make Everyone Proud" is making its presence felt with enthusiastic marketing initiatives in 13 U.S. metropolitan markets containing 28 major military installations.

The campaign positions military members as role models, particularly to

children, as a motivation to quit using tobacco. On the "Quit Tobacco" Web site, users can get information; develop a personalized plan for quitting; play games; listen to podcasts; connect to federal, military, state, local and on-line cessation programs; and communicate privately with a trained cessation counselor seven days a week from 8:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m. (EDT).

"Kicking the habit can be tougher than

a lot of people think," said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. S. Ward Casscells in a recent blog on www.health.mil. "Aside from the obvious nicotine dependency, psychological barriers may be just as difficult to overcome. The 'Quit Tobacco. Make Everyone Proud' campaign is designed to help servicemembers quit by reminding them to do it for themselves and the people they love."

The social marketing initiative for the tobacco cessation campaign targets 702,000 military active duty people, junior enlisted E-1 through E-4s. Marketing and advertising placements include major Web presence on www.military.com, mobile and stationary billboards, direct mailings to 160,000 active duty people, radio public service announcements and paid ads in Military Times and Stars & Stripes newspapers.

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Chief master sergeant of the Air Force visits Kunsan Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Alice Moore
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFPN) — The chief master sergeant of the Air Force spoke with Kunsan Air Base Airmen about recapitalization, modernization and quality of life for Airmen and their families Monday here.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley also discussed force shaping challenges and emphasized why it's important for Airmen at all levels to look for better and smarter ways to accomplish the mission.

"We've been on the road toward recapitalization and modernization because our aircraft average 24.5 years of age. One aspect of funding recapitalization and modernization was a downsizing for the force," he said. "So as we downsize, we also need to find ways we can be more efficient. If we're doing processes we really no longer need to do anymore, we should find ways to stop doing them. These efficiencies will make us a better Air Force."

Along with downsizing, Chief McKinley addressed concerns regarding uniform changes. He discussed the new airman battle uniform and the upcoming virtual uniform board.

"It's 2008 and the ABU isn't required to be worn until 2011. I think across the Air Force, Airmen can't wait to get the



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley speaks to Airmen from the 8th Fighter Wing during an Enlisted Call during his Monday visit to Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Araceli Alarcon

ABU. That's great news," he said. "Airmen want to be able to take it out of the dryer and put it on and not have to send it to the cleaners. This can cost about eight bucks for full dry-cleaning service. Airmen can take the ABU out of the dryer and put it on. That gives time and money back to our Airmen."

Chief McKinley also said Air Force officials will conduct the first virtual uniform board in May.

"We haven't had a uniform board since August 2005. However, right now every Airman can go to the virtual uniform Web site and provide input on what uniform changes they think the Air Force should make," he said. "We'll compile all that data and then hold our uniform board to determine the right improvements."

The chief also took the time to address quality-of-life concerns during his visit. He said senior leaders remain

committed to taking care of Airmen and their families.

"We all believe quality of life is important," Chief McKinley said. "We have committed a lot of money over the years to make sure we provide the highest quality of life for our Airmen and their families possible."

The Air Force's No. 1 enlisted Airman also spoke about the importance of supervisors.

"Supervisor can help improve their Airmen's quality of life by patting their Airmen on the back and saying 'thank you' for a job well done," the chief said. "Quality of life is more than just dollars. Caring is free, so I advise all supervisors to get out there and show our Airmen that you care about them. Find out about their family and how they're doing. See how they're doing with their educational pursuits and recognize them when they're doing a great job. When they're not doing a great job, pull them aside tell them what they're doing wrong and get them pointed in the right direction. I think all of that leads to helping our Airmen out and letting them know we truly care about them."

Chief McKinley serves as the personal adviser to the secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale and proper utilization and progress of the enlisted force.



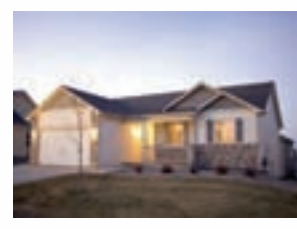
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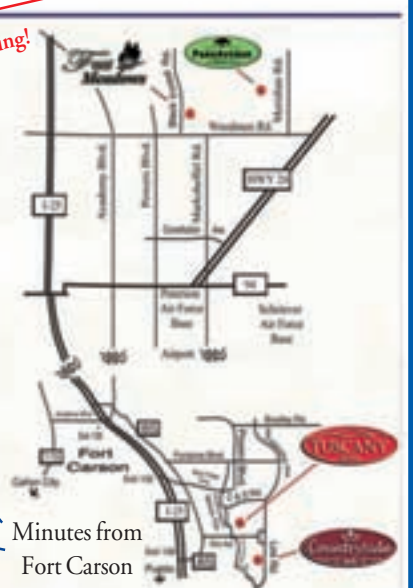
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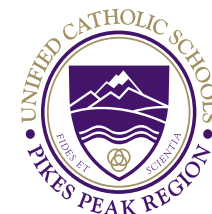
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Women's History Month Featured Artists: Georgia O'Keeffe (1887 – 1986)



Courtesy Library of Congress
Georgia O'Keeffe circa 1918

By Capt. Don Salvatore
Director, Equal Opportunity

Few artists exemplify this year's Women's History Month theme of "Women's Art, Women's Vision" quite like Georgia O'Keeffe. Her paintings fused varying textures, vivid colors, realistic figures and surreal imagery to convey her personal interpretations of the world. She had the ability to translate pure feeling from the dreamscape of her mind's eye to the reality of the canvass.

The artist was born on November 15, 1887, in Sun Prairie, Wis. She grew up on a small farm with six siblings. Though there were plenty of chores to do and not a lot of money, her parents were able to provide art lessons for their daughter while she was still very young. She soon began attending a rural school where her teachers nurtured her talent and enthusiasm for the arts. She graduated from high school in 1905 and followed her passion to the Art Institute of Chicago. She remained there only a year before joining the Art Students League of New York. Here, she learned the discipline of

Imitative Realism, wherein the artist tries to recreate images as they actually see them.

Ms. O'Keeffe proved to be quite skilled in this style of art. Her talents were recognized in 1908 when her untitled painting, commonly referred to as *Dead Rabbit with Copper Pot* earned the League's prestigious William Merritt Chase award. Although she was earning acclaim, she found Imitative Realism too literal to be creatively satisfying. She had a thirst for expression and wanted more freedom to communicate new ideas. Soon after earning the award, O'Keeffe took a four-year break from making art. She used this time to search for a purer form of expression and was finally able to find it at a summer course for art teachers at the University of V.A.

Her instructors introduced the philosophy that art should be used to express the artist's personal ideas rather than merely recreating the sights around them. Ms. O'Keeffe immediately embraced this new concept and reacquired her hunger to create new art. She spent the next few years teaching this new approach in the Amarillo, Texas, public school system. The charcoal drawings she rendered between 1914 and 1915 are currently considered some of the most innovative American art works of that period. Ms. O'Keeffe began to feel find her voice through this new medium and it emboldened her to stretch her boundaries as an artist.

Around this time, a world-famous photographer and art enthusiast named Alfred Stieglitz took notice of Ms. O'Keeffe's work. He was so impressed

with her drawings that he included them in an exhibit at his gallery in N.Y. At first, only ten of her pieces graced the gallery walls, but within the year Ms. O'Keeffe earned solo-exhibit status. Mr. Stieglitz' respect for Ms. O'Keeffe and her work only grew and in 1918, he gave her the financial backing to allow her to paint full-time for a year. The pair lived together and eventually fell in love. They got married in 1924 and remained so until Mr. Stieglitz passed-away in 1946.

Soon after Ms. O'Keeffe began working as a full-time artist, she created a series of large paintings that featured close-ups of various flowers. She earned both critical and popular acclaim for these works, and they remain her most recognizable offerings even today.

Ms. O'Keeffe moved to New Mexico around 1949. The Southwestern landscape was a source of great inspiration for her. Earthy colors and Western themes such as horses, longhorn skulls and Native American figures dominated her paintings throughout this era. She painted and drew heartfelt tributes to her beloved countryside until the 1980s. Failing eyesight eventually forced her to abandon painting for clay work, which she enjoyed until her death in 1986.

The aspect of Ms. O'Keeffe's character some find most interesting was her artistic integrity. She understood the relationship between the artist and their art. Each piece takes on its own personality and guides the artist in brining it to life. Author Jack Cowart quoted one of Ms. O'Keeffe's friends as



Courtesy graphic

saying, "O'Keeffe admitted carrying shapes around in her mind for a very long time until she could find the proper colors for them. When found, those colors would release an image from her mental catalogue and allow it to become a painting." This shows how fiercely she wanted her works to be honest, true representations of her ideas. She went so far as to grade her efforts using combinations of her signature, her initials and various symbols to denote how satisfied she was with the piece. Those failing to make a satisfactory grade were destroyed outright.

Georgia O'Keeffe's uncompromising quest for pure expression yielded some of the most influential art works of the Twentieth Century. She constantly challenged herself to discover and perfect fresh techniques. Her paintings are extremely personal, but feature images that have inspired others for nearly a century. She pioneered new paths of expression for other artists and found an outlet for her own wondrous imagination. Her works, her vision have reshaped the art world and given supporters something to treasure for years to come.

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Airmen train Iraqis to save lives

By Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFP) — Nine Iraqi firefighters graduated the Basic Firefighter Skills Course here as Airmen of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Fire Department trained the newest graduates Monday at Ali Base.

The six-week course teaches students “the basics of fighting fires, search and rescue and lifesaving skills,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Horne, the 407th ECES fire chief.

Hazim Nadoom, an Iraqi who has been translating the course for the firefighters since 2006, said the course is working.

“We have a guy from two classes ago who was able to save a little baby and a 3-year-old in a house fire because of this training,” he said.

Years before those children were saved, Air Force and Iraqi firefighters responded to a hospital fire here. It was discovered (the Iraqi firefighters) “training and equipment were minimal,” according to an Enabling Forces Assessment dated Nov. 24, 2006, which is a compilation of interviews and information about the need to form a training relationship between the two fire departments.

The program was stood up by Air Force firefighters who were deployed to Ali Base, and the training has continued since. The program has two main agendas — one is to train the firefighters on the basics, and the second is to give the Iraqis equipment donated from fire departments in the United States.

The Iraqis attend six, three-hour training blocks, including courses such as basic fire principles, putting out live fires, or “live burns,” and medical training, all of which are found in a new recruit’s first weeks of training at the Department of Defense Fire Academy.

“Out in town, these guys are just hired and then learn how to fight fires on the job; they don’t attend an academy,” said Tech. Sgt. Robert Bogle, the 407th ECES Fire Department assistant chief of training. “Most of these guys have more than a year’s (worth of) experience fighting fires, but they may not understand exactly what they’re fighting or how to fight it safely.”

So eight to 10 local firefighters, chosen from more than 1,400 in the area, travel by bus to attend the training to “take these skills back to those in the fire houses, so they can impact all the firemen who can’t make a class out here,” said Sergeant Bogle, who’s deployed from Lincoln Air National Guard Base, Neb.

As for the basic principle of firefighting, “we are using very old techniques still, and it’s great to learn the latest techniques on how to save people and put out fires,” Mr. Hazim said.

Although the Iraqis’ techniques may be old and their equipment nearly non-existent, this doesn’t mean the Air Force firefighters can’t learn from their foreign counterparts.

The assessment detailed the cross-flow of information saying “Iraqi firefighters utilize hand tools and have taught the U.S. Air Force firefighters very effective extraction skills using locally available tools when reacting to emergency situations.”

“Air Force firefighters are taught to consider their safety first. If you become another casualty you’re in no position to help anybody else,” Sergeant Bogle said. “(During the class) we spend a lot of time on safety and how to wear their gear properly, because they don’t have this at their fire houses. It’s all new and unfamiliar to them.”

For safety reasons and so the Iraqis can use their new training, the Air Force firefighters here try to find departments back home to donate their excess equipment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

An Iraqi firefighter participates in a “firefighter challenge” March 24 at Ali Base, Iraq. The Iraqis had to pass the challenge in under 8 minutes to graduate the Basic Firefighter Skills Course, conducted by members of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Fire Department.

“They are fighting fires in coveralls and plastic helmets,” he said. “It’s the most important thing they need, and they just don’t have enough for the 1,400 firefighters protecting the 750,000 people who live here.”

“With the limited equipment and fire protection in buildings, it’s really an up hill battle for them,” the chief said. “That’s why we’re depending on local fire departments back home, the ones who get refitted with all new gear and send us their excess.”

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B-1B achieves first supersonic flight using synthetic fuel

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Air Force News Agency

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — A B-1B Lancer from the 9th Bomb Squadron here became the first Air Force aircraft to fly at supersonic speed using an alternate fuel March 19 in a flight over Texas and New Mexico.

The fuel, a 50/50 blend of synthetic and petroleum gases, is being tested as part of an ongoing Air Force program to help the environment and to use a fuel produced domestically.

Air Force officials are in the process of evaluating and certifying this alternative fuel, which is derived from natural gas using the Fischer-Tropsch process, for use in all Air Force aircraft.

“The goal is to have every aircraft using synthetic fuel blends by 2011,” said Maj. Don Rhymer, assigned to the Air Force Alternative Fuels Certification Office. “By 2016 we hope at least 50 percent of this fuel will be produced domestically.”

Air Force officials previously have

tested the fuel blend in the B-52 Stratofortress, the first aircraft to use the fuel, and the C-17 Globemaster III. The supersonic flight by the B-1B occurred over the White Sands Missile Range airspace in south-central New Mexico, but the flight took off from Dyess AFB.

Within the federal government, the Air Force is the single largest user of aviation fuel, using an estimated 3 billion gallons per year. Each time the price of oil goes up \$10 per barrel, it costs the Air Force an additional \$600 million for fuel. The FT process gives the Air Force a cleaner, more cost-efficient fuel source.

Synthetic fuel created using the FT process costs an estimated \$30 to \$50 less per barrel than its petroleum counterpart.

Still, saving money is not the only reason the Air Force is looking to use synthetic fuel.

“A lot of people are quick to point to the cost-efficiency of alternative fuel,” Major Rhymer said. “But this innovative domestically-produced fuel will also



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

Senior Airman Hector Gonzalez and Airman 1st Class Jeffery Pollitt conduct an operational check on a B-1B Lancer March 19 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. A B-1B from Dyess AFB became the first aircraft to fly supersonic speeds using a 50/50 blend of synthetic and petroleum fuel over the White Sands Missile Range airspace in south-central New Mexico.

help alleviate our dependence on foreign energy sources.”

Alternative fuels can be produced from domestically available hydrocarbon products like natural gas, coal and shale, and then gasified and converted into any number of liquid fuel products.

These fuels are also proven to burn cleaner, reducing combustion-related emissions and particulates in the air — all without compromising performance.

“There was no noticeable difference flying with this fuel,” said Capt. Rick Fournier, the B-1B synthetic fuel flight mission commander. “I would have no problem flying an aircraft using this fuel in peacetime or combat.”

It’s great to be part of an Air Force initiative that is also helping the environment, Captain Fournier said. “Using a fuel that is cheaper and cleaner ... what could be better?”



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Workers on road to renovation, construction and demolition

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Douglass Valley is on its way toward renovation and new construction, and in Pine Valley the countdown toward the area's demolition has begun.

In May 2007 the Academy transitioned a total of 1,207 homes to privatized housing. FC-Hunt, a partnership between Forest City Military Communities and Hunt Building Companies, was selected to revamp Academy housing.

The development plan includes 34 new homes, the demolition of 811 homes and the renovation of 301 homes. Currently 92 homes require no work. The total end number will be 427 homes.

Demolition began in December 2007 in Pine Valley, and the first renovated homes will be available for occupancy in late June, with all renovations set for completion by July next year. New home construction will begin next month with the first completed homes ready by September.

"Residents are advised to stay out of fenced areas for their own safety and for liability issues for the property owner," said Kelly Sieber, housing specialist with the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron.

A grand opening ceremony and open house to celebrate the reintroduction of homes in Douglass Valley is being planned for the July 4 weekend this year with food, fun and tours.



Photo by Ann Patton

Roofers put on the crowning touch in Douglass Valley.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFPN) — North American Aerospace Defense Command is celebrating a milestone this year, 50 years of a rich and colorful history between two countries that formally acknowledged a mutual commitment to defend their citizens from air attacks.

Although NORAD originally stood up at Ent Air Force Base, Colo., on Sept 12, 1957, the official agreement between the Canadian and U.S. governments that created the command wasn't signed until May 12, 1958.

NORAD officials say the command is perhaps one

of the best examples of how two countries have worked closely together for so long in a positive, mutually-beneficial relationship that continues today.

The longstanding, successful relationship has evolved over the past 50 years to remain as relevant today during these times of terrorist threats as it was half a century ago during the Cold War. NORAD remains a powerful symbol of two countries working together to defend the citizens of both countries from those who would harm us, they said.

"The success of NORAD is due to the thousands of men and women over the past 50 years who dedicated themselves to the service of defending Canada and the United States," said Mike Perini, NORAD public affairs director.

"Today, the men and women of NORAD are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days week, 365 days a year guarding the things we value most: our loved ones, our liberties and our peace of mind," he said.

This anniversary is an occasion to reflect on the history of the command and to recognize its evolution in response to new and changing threats and emerging technologies. It is also an opportunity to honor the

strong bi-national relationship, the valor of the men and women who serve, and the important role of the many partners, including local communities, who support homeland defense, officials said.

NORAD is planning months of activities throughout the year to celebrate this milestone. Some of the activities include:

- A gala Golden Jubilee Ball May 12 in Colorado Springs, Colo.;
- Aircraft and displays at major air shows across Canada and the United States;
- A public essay contest. The winner will have an opportunity to attend the Golden Jubilee Ball and tour NORAD facilities at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo.
- A photo contest for people who have served or who currently serve with NORAD. Their dependents also may submit photos. This winner also will have an opportunity to attend the Golden Jubilee Ball and tour NORAD facilities at Cheyenne Mountain.

Visit NORAD's 50th Anniversary Web site at www.norad.mil/50/ for more information on plans and activities.

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Home daycare providers open homes, hearts

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Jennifer Bell goes to work in Douglass Valley the minute she opens her front door.

When the first of her four daycare children arrives, it's nearly non-stop for the rest of the day.

Mrs. Bell is one of 16 home childcare providers licensed by the Academy. She cares for two infants and two toddlers.

"It doesn't feel like a regular job," she said. "I'm a principal, a janitor, a cook and a teacher. I wear lots of different hats during the day."

Nine of the Academy's home providers live on base and six off base.

Home daycare is a far cry from plunking a baby in a crib with a bottle or emptying a box of toys in front of a toddler.

"It's not about peanut butter and television," said Linda Smith, Academy family childcare coordinator.

Not only do Academy providers plan and coordinate two meals and two snacks throughout the day, they also provide learning experiences.

With breakfast out of the way in the morning, Mrs. Bell's daycare children enjoy free play before the required snack at 9:45 a.m. From 10:30 a.m. to noon, she directs learning activities, which may include phonics, art projects, baby sign language or, weather permitting, short walks outside.

The daughter of a librarian, Mrs. Bell makes sure story time is part of the curriculum.

"You can never read enough books," she said.

After lunch, it's naptime until 3:30 p.m. when children enjoy a snack, help tidy up and "get ready for Mom and Dad."

Mrs. Bell makes sure there is also plenty of time for fun. A walk outside could net pine cones for an art project. In the summer, Academy home daycare children enjoy the exercise program Fit for Fun in the park and, in the fall, a trip to the stables for a fall festival.

When cold weather kept her children inside, Mrs. Bell scooped up snow and brought it inside so the children could make snowballs.

Providers also get children together for play dates and field trips.

Three mornings a week she loads up her four

daycare children and her daughter, Olivia, 5, into the van and takes Olivia to part-day enrichment.

The logistics, for her, are easy. She has two infant strollers strapped together with three 8-inch ropes for the other children to hang on to.

"We look like a bus coming down the sidewalk," she said.

Mrs. Bell provides more than daycare for children. She brings reassurance to parents their children are secure and well-cared for.

"We lucked out in many ways," said Master Sgt. Lynn Brown with the 10th Medical Operations Squadron whose son, Clayton, 2 months, stays with Mrs. Bell.

"He's getting lots of individual attention, and it makes me feel more relaxed at work. I'm thoroughly pleased with where he is."

Tech. Sgt. Annette Owens, with the 10th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, agrees.

"She loves them like they're her own," she said of Mrs. Bell, who also cares for Sgt. Owens' children, Kylan, 2, and Justice, 6.

Sergeant Owens also appreciates the differences in ages of children in the household, which includes, besides Olivia, the Bells' two sons, Nicholas, 11, and Christopher, 14.

"It's like a family and more homey and comfortable."

Jason Meuschke, whose son, Kiefer, 4, stays with Mrs. Bell, also appreciates the home environment.

"Here is someone who will be able to take care of him if he's sad or work with him and his potty-training and learning good manners," he said. "When we met Jennifer, we know right away we'd found our provider."

He added he and his wife, Staff Sgt. Holli Meuschke, who is deployed, feel like they are leaving Kiefer with an old friend.

It's all in the family for the Bells when it comes to daycare children. When not in school, the Bell children lend a hand.

Dad, Tech. Sgt. Chris Bell, NCOIC for basic cadet training, said it's fun to have extra children in the house.

"You meet a lot of other military people, and it's a great way to help out," he said. "I already have three children, and four more doesn't really matter."



Photos by Ann Patton

So much to do before nap time for Justice Owens.

They grow on us."

The running family joke is what Mrs. Bell calls her "commute time" between 5 and 5:30 p.m. when she unwinds at the end of the day. After fixing food four times a day for the children, she is more than willing to let Sergeant Bell man the kitchen for the family's dinner.

Before tending their first daycare child, providers must also undergo intensive background checks and pass 12 modules of training, which includes such areas as first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, health and safety issues and nutrition requirements, since the U.S. Department of Agriculture dictates all meals and snacks must meet the department's standards for content and serving portions. Providers also undergo home checks.

Childcare staff from the 10th Services Squadron pay three visits a month to each daycare home, and they maintain an abundance of supplies and equipment for the providers which is housed at the Part-Day Enrichment facility on Community Center Drive.

Off-base providers must be licensed by the state as well as the Academy.

Children are restricted to 10 hours a day and 50 hours a week in home daycare.

Although Ms. Smith said there is a need for more daycare providers, she cautioned it is a long process, and the staff is highly selective.

"We are always looking for the best qualified providers," she said.

Daycare is a privately-owned business for the providers who must maintain their own business records as well as records required by governmental and licensing entities.

Fees for Academy home care providers start at \$145 a week. Depending on income, parents may receive a subsidy to meet the cost.

For Mrs. Bell, home daycare is far more than a job or a business.

"It's an extended family," she said. "I might not have birthed my daycare children, but they're part of my heart."

Editors note: April marks the Month of the Military Child.



Nicholas Bell (right) shares reading duties for mother Jennifer, sister Olivia, and Kylan Owens.

Cadets give up spring break to build homes

Story and photos by John Van Winkle
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

SANTA FE, N.M., (AFPN) - Pick-axes, sawdust and hammers will be the dominant spring break memories for 20 Air Force Academy cadets this week in Santa Fe, N.M.

The 20 are part of a group of cadets who have given up their spring breaks to build homes for needy families in Santa Fe, N.M.; Cody, Wyoming; Beaumont, Texas; and El Paso, Texas.

Cadets are able to volunteer to join Alternative Spring Break via the Cadet Service Learning Program. It is sponsored by the Academy's Center for



Cadet 4th Class Anthony Langdon, Cadet Squadron 33, adds concrete to secure new fence posts.



Cadet 3rd Class Ben Shoptaugh (front) and Cadet 4th Class Anthony Langdon take their turns with pick-axes as Cadet 2nd Class Dani Rogowski uses a shovel to clear away the broken rocks and dirt as fellow cadets make short work of a land-clearing project in Santa Fe, N.M.

Character Development and Association of Graduates, and administered on-site by Habitat for Humanity.

"Alternative Spring Break is an extension of Cadet Service Learning, a program within the Center for Character Development," said Maj. Eric Ecklund, director of the Cadet Service Learning Program.

"This year, 65 cadets are volunteering their spring breaks to help build homes with Habitat for Humanity. Alternative Spring Break provides a unique opportunity for cadets to serve others and make a tangible gift to needy families.

"These cadets are sacrificing their vacations to provide a home to a family in need," said Major Ecklund.

The Santa Fe group was split for part of the week, with a dozen cadets working on Habitat for Humanity's traditional house-building tasks to build the Causus family a new home in the Oshaga Village development on Santa Fe's south side. Tuesday saw cadets finishing up roofing and framing, and putting in some insulation.

"With the help of your cadets, we'll start wiring on Wednesday, along with hanging drywall and putting in the exterior doors," said Richard Miller, director of construction at Santa Fe's Habitat for Humanity chapter.

"The other cadets are over on Jaguar Drive, putting in a fence and doing grading work at a previous construction site," he added.

The crew doing the fencing and grading work on Santa Fe's west side gave cadets pick-axes, shovels and concrete to get the fence fixed and level the yard of dusty and rocky Santa Fe soil.

Even swinging a pick-axe is still a break from the Academy routine, said Cadet 2nd Class Grant Smith of Cadet Squadron 22.

"I'm here because doing community service is big back at the Academy, and Alternative Spring Break is a real easy opportunity to do it and get a break from the routine," said the systems engineering management major from San Diego who's taking 18.5 semester hours of classes this spring.

"So despite the fact that we're working during spring break, we're meeting good people, and getting a chance to help out, so it's worth it."

"I've done Habitat for Humanity projects in high school and it's such a great program, so I had to do this," said Cadet 4th Class Aimee Hammon of Cadet Squadron 26.

But unlike traditional college students, cadets can't entirely leave their service academy behind on spring break. With an average course-load of 18 semester hours, cadets can't afford to let all their textbooks gather dust during spring break.



Cadet 3rd Class Matt Guertin holds insulation steady while nailing it in place.



Cadet 4th Class Michelle Paranteau persuades a tight-fitting piece of insulation into place with her fist, while helping build a home during her spring break, via Habitat for Humanity.

"I must admit that I brought a chemistry book with me to study, because I have a graded review when I get back," admitted the freshman cadet from Mount Union, Penn.

For her fellow alternative spring breaker, Cadet 3rd Class Christina Wamsley, her class to study for is in behavioral sciences. But the test she has looming upon her return to the Academy isn't enough to stop her continued work with Habitat for Humanity.

"This was an opportunity to help out, and I've never been to New Mexico before, so I get to visit a new place and help out and get a break from the Academy," said Cadet Wamsley, of Cadet Squadron 10.

The sophomore cadet was been involved with Habitat for Humanity since she was a student at Troy High School back in Fullerton, Calif. But in high school, she wasn't old enough to work at a job site and was only able to do fund-raising. This week, she got her first taste of working on a job site.

Alternative Spring Break is the most visible of the community service projects cadets undertake each academic year, but it's only a fraction of total cadet volunteer efforts. During the 2006-2007 academic year, 4,100 cadets collectively volunteered 27,000 hours of community service on 1,900 different projects.

The Academy has participated in Alternative Spring Break for the past eight years.

Falcons to face Miami in NCAA Northeast Regional

By **Dave Toller**
Athletic Communications

Air Force is the fourth seed in the Northeast Regional in the NCAA Hockey Championships. The Falcons will face No. 1 seed Miami (Ohio), Saturday at 4:05 p.m. ET at the DCU

Center in Worcester, Mass. The game will be televised on ESPN U.

Air Force, 21-11-6 overall, is making its second consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Falcons, the Atlantic Hockey Association champions, are 0-1 all-time in the NCAA Tournament after losing a heartbreaker

to top-seeded Minnesota, 4-3, in the NCAA West Regional in Denver last season.

The Falcons, the No. 3 seed in the conference tournament, won the AHA Championship with a 5-4 double overtime victory over fifth-seeded Mercyhurst, March 16, in Rochester, N.Y.

Air Force has played in Worcester several times as the city is home to the Holy Cross Crusaders from the AHA. However, the Falcons have never played in the DCU Center. AFA is 3-2-3 all-time in Worcester.

Air Force's current nine-game unbeaten streak is the longest in the nation. The Falcons are 8-0-1 in the last nine and have outscored its opponents by a combined score of 43-12. The Falcons have won four of the games by shutout. The streak is the longest in school history against Division I teams and the longest since the school-record 11-game unbeaten streak in 1974-75. The current five-game winning streak is the longest since last season's six-gamer.

The Falcons have played Miami (32-7-1), twice all-time and are 1-1 vs. the RedHawks, but have not met since the 2003-04 season. The teams first met in the season opener of the 2002-03 season, and Miami defeated Air Force, 12-1, in the first game of the Lefty McFadden Tournament, Oct. 4, 2002, in Dayton, Ohio. The next season, Air Force beat 21st-ranked Miami, 2-0, in the consolation game of the Nye Frontier Classic, Oct. 18, 2003, in Anchorage, Alaska. Miami lost to Michigan, 2-1, in the championship game of the CCHA March 22.



Photo by Dave Toller

The Air Force Academy hockey team celebrates as they watch the NCAA Hockey Selection Show Sunday when they hear they will face No. 1 seed Miami (Ohio) in the Northeastern Regionals.

Falcons head to NCAA Tourney



Photo by Dave Armer

Members of the Falcon hockey team are cheered on as they depart for the Northeast Regional in the NCAA Hockey Championships in Worcester, Mass. The Falcons will face No. 1 seed Miami (Ohio) in Saturday's match.

Falcons pick up 12-4 victory over presbyterian

By Melissa McKeown
Athletic Communications

With a solid effort on both sides of the field, the Air Force lacrosse team handed Presbyterian College a 12-4 loss Tuesday at Cadet Lacrosse Stadium. The Falcons, undefeated at home, move to 2-4 on the season, while the Blue Hose end the year at 0-11.

Air Force, which outshot Presbyterian 15-0 in the opening period and 49-18 for the game, opened the scoring with just over three minutes remaining in the quarter as senior Chris Tubesing notched his first goal of the season with an assist from sophomore Ridge Flick. The Falcons made it 2-0 with 12 seconds on the clock, as senior David Rose scored off the assist from junior long-stick midfielder Dan Gnazzo.

Tubesing scored another goal early in the second period, this time on an assist from junior Griffin Nevitt, while Nevitt gave Air Force a 4-0 advantage with 8:29 left in the opening half. The Blue Hose got on the board with a pair of goals just 35 seconds apart before the Falcons closed out the period with a three-goal spurt. Junior K.J. Landgraf scored a man-up goal off an assist from



Junior Eric Evans scrambles around a Presbyterian College player during the Falcons' 12-4 victory over the Blue Hose. The Falcons, who are undefeated at home, improved to 2-4 on the season.

Rose to start the run, while he assisted senior Kevin Crumrine on another man-up score. The final goal of the period

came from Landgraf on an assist from Crumrine.

Senior Jack Parchman got on the

board to open the third period to give Air Force an 8-2 lead, but Presbyterian responded with a goal just 16 seconds later. The Falcons again rattled off three straight scores, including the first career goal from freshman defender Bryan Gilbreath. Rose scored on an assist from Tubesing, while junior Colin Lockhart took a feed from junior Brian Massa to give Air Force an eight-point lead. The Blue Hose stopped the run with another score, but Gilbreath answered with his second score of the day, this time on a man-down goal.

Although Presbyterian outshot Air Force 10-6 in the final period, neither team was able to get on the board again, with the Falcons securing the 12-4 victory. The Falcons went 2-for-2 on their extra-man opportunities, while the Blue Hose converted just 1-of-5 on the power play.

Tubesing, Rose and Landgraf all had two goals and an assist to lead the Falcons' offense. Meanwhile, Sean Mulford led the Blue Hose with two goals in the contest.

Air Force is back in action April 6 when it visits Ohio State for its first conference game of the season. The contest is slated to begin at 12:00 p.m. at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

Air Force registers season-high score against No. 12 Denver

By Melissa McKeown
Athletic Communications

Despite scoring a season-best 191.625, the Air Force women's gymnastics team fell to No. 12 Denver Monday in the Falcons' final home meet. The Pioneers, who won all four individual events, tallied a mark of 195.350 in the victory.

Air Force, which broke the 190-point barrier for the second-consecutive meet, posted season-best marks in both the balance beam and floor exercise en route to its highest overall score since March 2004.

The Falcons bested their previous season-high score on the beam by more than six-tenths of a point, turning in a mark of 48.300. Junior Abigail Rogers and Sophomore Kayla Kincade paced the Falcons on the beam, each scoring a personal-best mark of 9.750 to finish in a three-way tie for fourth place.

Meanwhile, Air Force posted a season-best mark of 48.375 on the floor exercise. Leading the way for the Falcons was senior Katie Donnell, who notched a career-best score of 9.750 on the floor exercise, finishing fifth.

In the all-around competition, Rogers finished second with a mark of 38.400, while Sophomore Michelle Denise took third place with a score of 38.300.

Denise was also the top finisher for the Falcons

on the uneven bars, registering a mark of 9.650 to place sixth.

Rogers was also named the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Week, Mar. 17. It was the second honor of the season for Rogers, who also earned the weekly award on Jan. 21.

Rogers helped guide the Falcons to their best team score in three years with a pair of event victories in the March 16 finale at Alaska-Anchorage. Rogers posted first-place finishes on the balance beam and floor exercise, en route to a winning total in the all-around. She improved her overall total on the beam to win the event with a score of 9.700, while nearly matching her season-best on the floor with a tally of 9.825. Rogers tallied a combined score of 38.825 to win the all-around - that score is a personal .500 improvement.

Rogers also won the floor exercise during the Falcons' first meet with the Seawolves March 14. Tallying a winning mark of 9.825, Rogers was one of three Falcons to highlight the top four of the floor exercise.

She continues to lead the MPSF on the floor exercise (9.810 Regional Qualifying Score) and all-around (38.165 RQS), while ranking fourth on the balance beam (9.650 RQS).

Next up, the Falcons compete in the MPSF Championships today in Davis, Calif.



Junior Abigail Rogers scored a personal best 9.750 on the beam Monday to finish in a three-way tie for fourth place, along with fellow Falcon sophomore Kayla Kincade. Rogers was also named the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Week, Mar. 17.

INTERCOLLEGIATE Hockey March 29 at Worcester, Mass. <i>NCAA Northeast Regional</i> The Falcons Face Miami at 4 p.m. (ET) at the DCU Center	March 24 at Charleston, S.C. Charleston Southern 1 Falcons 2	March 20 at AFA Falcons 1 Northern Arizona 6	Sean Houseworth, 1500 meter run, Ron Moore Invitational Falcons three-round score of 885 (+21) Tom Whitney 214, (-2), 20th Shaun O'Bryant, 217, (+1), 34th																			
	Baseball March 20-22 at Provo, Utah BYU 10 Falcons 6 BYU 12 Falcons 5 BYU 10 Falcons 5	March 25-26 at Savannah, Ga. Savannah State 4 Falcons 8 Savannah State 3 Falcons 2	March 22 at AFA Falcons 6 UMKC 1	Men's Gymnastics March 22 at Lincoln, Neb. Nebraska 353.650 Falcons 335.100																		
	Lacrosse March 25 at AFA Falcons 12 Presbyterian 4	March 24 at DeLand, Fla. Stetson 5 Falcons 2	Women's Gymnastics March 24 at AFA Falcons 191.625 Alaska-Anchorage 195.350	INTRAMURAL Volleyball Thru Mar. 20																		
	Men's Tennis March 18 at AFA Falcons 3 Rhode Island 4	Track and Field March 21-22 at Tucson, Ariz. <i>Willie Williams Classic</i> Nick Frawley, pole vault, 15'10 3/4", 1st Sara Neubauer, shot put, 47' 9", 2nd	Golf March 21-23 at Phoenix, Ariz.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Team</th> <th>W</th> <th>L</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>DFP</td> <td>11</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MDG</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CES/CS</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CW</td> <td>3</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SFS</td> <td>1</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Team	W	L	DFP	11	2	MDG	9	4	CES/CS	7	6	CW	3	8	SFS	1	11
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Athletic facility closures

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

Legal office closure

The Base Legal Office locations in Harmon Hall and the 10th Air Base Wing will be closed Tuesday from noon to 2

WORSHIP SCHEDULE LENT/EASTER CADET CHAPEL	
Catholic March 30 Mass	10 a.m.
Protestant March 30 General Protestant Service	11 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP	
CADET CHAPEL	
Catholic Masses:	
Sunday Reconciliation 9:15-9:45 a.m. (or by appointment) Mass - 10 a.m.	
Weekday Mon., Tues., Thurs. - 6:45 a.m.	
Wednesday Catholic Adoration - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Mass - 6 p.m.	
Protestant Services:	
Sunday Traditional - 9:00 a.m. Hill Fellowship - 11:00 a.m.	
Jewish Services Fridays - 7 p.m.	
Buddhist Worship Wed. - 6:30 p.m. - All Faiths Room	
Muslim Prayer Fridays - Noon - Muslim Prayer Room, Chapel Basement	
COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL	
Catholic Masses:	
Saturday Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m. Mass - 4 p.m.	
Sunday Mass - 9:30 a.m. Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m. (Sept. - May)	
Tuesday-Friday Mass - 11:30 a.m.	
Protestant Services:	
Saturday Contemporary - 6 p.m.	
Sunday Traditional - 8 a.m. Gospel - 11:15 a.m. Religious formation - 9:30 a.m. (Sept. - May)	
Military Academy Pagan Society Third Thursday - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (For more info, call TSgt. Longcrier at 333-6187.)	
For more information, call 333-3300.	

p.m. For emergencies, call the Command Center at 333-2633 and ask for the on-call legal representative.

AFRF offers options

The Airman & Family Readiness Flight presents:

-Newcomers' Base Red Carpet Tour; today, 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; Wednesday, 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; Wednesday and Thursday, 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; Thursday, 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.

-Teen Job Search and Resume Writing; April 5 and 9, 8 a.m. to noon and 4 to 6 p.m.: Get job search information and volunteer opportunities and learn application/resume writing techniques, interviewing techniques and listen to a local employer panel. The session is open to dependent children of active duty, Reservists and DoD civilians only. Minimum attendance age is 14, and attendees must attend both sessions.

-Sponsorship training; April 8, 8 to 9 a.m.: This is a mandatory class for those who have been assigned to sponsor a newcomer to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

-Area Job Orientation; April 8, 9 to 11 a.m.: Offers an overview of the local job market, employment options, Airman & Family Readiness Flight resources and other agencies that can assist with a job search. This course is offered to those seeking full or part time employment and are new to the local job market.

-Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Orientation; April 10, 1 to 3 p.m.: If you are the spouse of an active duty Air Force member, E-1 to E-5 or O-1 to O3, have more than a year left at this duty station and are continuing your education, learn how you may be eligible for an educational grant of \$3,000 per year for up to two years.

-Employment Opportunity Information Session; April 16, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Learn about employment opportunities in Washington, D.C., with the United States Secret Service,

Uniformed Division.

-Mock Interviewing Session; April 30, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Participate in a mock interview with a real HR representative.

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 Friday 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.

BLAST! at Arnold Hall

BLAST!, winner of the 2001 Tony Award for "Best Special Theatrical Event" and the 2001 Emmy Award for "Best Choreography" performs Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Arnold Hall. For tickets, visit the Academy Concerts box office or call 333-4497.

Intramural soccer

Intramural soccer teams are forming and a coaches meeting is scheduled for April 7 at 3:30 p.m. at the Fitness Center. The deadline for submitting letters of intent is April 4, and the season will start on or about May 5. People with teams or those who would like to be on a team should call Dave Castilla at 333-4078.

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 or Master Sgt. Donald Comp at donald.comp@usafa.edu.

OSC offers scholarships

The Academy Officers' Spouses' Club offers 2008 Merit Scholarships for high school seniors and non-military spouses of 0-3 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 Monday. 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 Tuesday 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.



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.

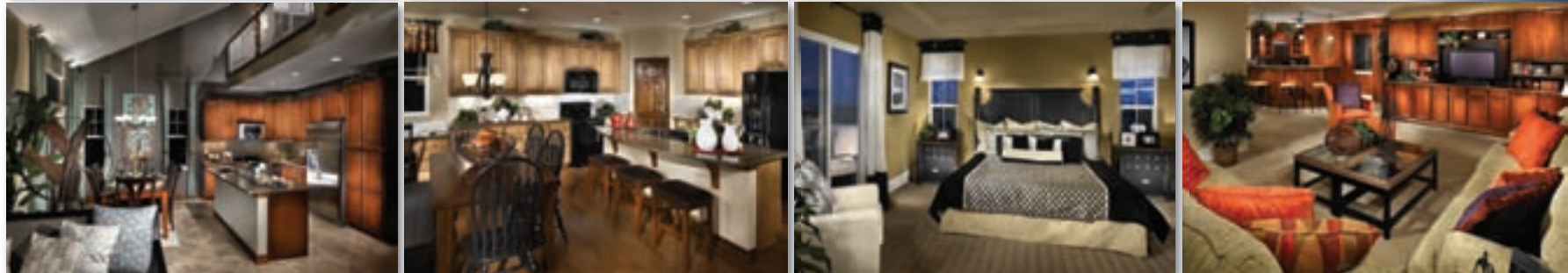
For more information or for a scholarship application, contact Brian Binn at (719) 575-4325 or brian@cscc.org, or Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade Event Manager, Brenda Carender at (719) 262-7160 or brenda.carender@aleutmgt.com.

Earth Day opportunity

Volunteers are needed to support Earth Day activities April 19 at Garden of the Gods. A start time is to be determined. Activities include cleaning up the park, 30th Street (along the front of the park) and cleanup of the mesa overview. Lunch will be provided to volunteers, and events promoting Earth Day for children will be offered after the cleanup. Volunteers are encouraged to bring work gloves, drinking water and to dress for the weather. For more information or to volunteer, contact Senior Master Sgt. Keith Roche at 554-2506 or keith.roche@peterson.af.mil by April 11.

Chorale concert set

The Colorado Springs Chorale offers "Music's Fire," a classical concert, April 19 at 8 p.m. in the Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets range from \$16-\$48 and a \$2 military discount is offered. For tickets, call (719) 520-7469 or visit the Pikes Peak Center box office or any TicketsWest outlet.



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Office hours: Mon. 12-6, Tues.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-6

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*Square footage is approximate. Prices, specifications and availability are subject to change at any time without notice. Renderings are an artists conception only. Free Window Coverings offer is good on contracts written on or before June 30, 2008. Offer is good on new contracts only, not on lot transfers. Offer is available to current and retired military personnel; proper identification required. Additional terms and conditions apply, see Sales Center for details.