



Scholarship

Academy Commissary awards college bound teens

Page 9

USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 48 No. 25

June 27, 2008



AF Secretary

Michael Donley steps in as secretary of the Air Force

Page 5



Take Flight

Cadets reach new heights in soaring program

Page 13



Cultural Immersion

Cadets experience Ethiopia and Rwanda

Pages 14-15



Muay Thai

Chaplain assistant by day, champion by night

Page 19

INSIDE

Commentary	2
News	3
Features	13
Sports	17
Community	20
Classifieds	21



Photo by Dennis Rogers

Academy welcomes Class of 2012

Members of the Class of 2012 cross the Heritage Bridge at Doolittle Hall before boarding buses that will take them to the base of the Core Values Ramp. More than 1,350 appointees were scheduled to in-process Thursday. Throughout the day, the appointees completed medical processing, got haircuts, were issued uniforms and equipment, and received squadron and dormitory room assignments.

The Class of 2012 boasts the highest percentage of female cadets at 21 percent of the class. For information about the Class of 2012, see page 3.

Academy's newest promotees

24 selected for promotion

Congratulations to the following technical sergeants who were selected for promotion to master sergeant in Cycle 08E6:



- Jason Arnold
- Robert Boyd III
- Kevin Copeland
- Jason Davis
- Linda Fitzpatrick
- Idalina Foulk
- Todd Garland
- Bruce Graybill
- James Harker
- Blaine Holbrook
- Michael Holland
- John Jeziorske
- Daniel Jordan II
- James McClung
- Greg Meinert
- Jerry Molina
- Mari Navarro

- David Rice
- Charles Rose Jr.
- Eric Sandoval
- Kevin Sargent
- Scott Self
- Jonathon Solomon
- Lonnie Tibbals

32 selected for promotion

Congratulations to the following staff sergeants who were selected for promotion to technical sergeant in Cycle 08E6:



- Sergey Aguryanov
- Francisco Cantu Jr.
- Stephanie De Jesus
- Aaron Duggins
- Sherrie Dunbar
- Jason Evans
- Scott Finkbeiner
- Horace Gamez
- Jennifer Glass

- Pioquinto Gonzalez
- Susan Guthrie
- Teresa Harris
- Brandon Hill
- Erik Hudson
- Matthew Kesity
- Matthew Kurpaski
- Zackary Lampkin
- Yvonne Martinez
- Albert McGough
- Gordon Miesner
- Jason Shores
- Charles Sims
- Adam Smith
- Brandon Stoney
- Terry Thompson
- Edwin Trias II
- Monte Volk
- Jennifer Wesley
- Gloria Winings
- Cortnie Woods
- Michelle Wright
- Christopher Yates

Leading by example critical to cadets' success

By Tom Whelan

U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant retired

The Air Force has recently made headlines because of its widespread mishandling of nuclear weapons and its top leaders' failures to establish proper protocols and procedures on this issue.

Recently, while driving on the Academy, I started to wonder about the nuclear weapons problems and how something like this could happen.

Where was the necessary supervision; were the directives written so that they were understood by all individuals involved; or was there a need for greater on-the-job training to insure each and every individual was properly trained?

Just when I thought I may have the answer to this overwhelming problem a car went flying by me going at least 15 miles over the posted speed limit. I was able to see the driver was a senior NCO and my first thought was that she was probably on her way to an emergency. A few minutes later as I pulled into the Base Exchange service station there was this NCO pumping gas and then it came to me. If we can't obey the simplest law,

the speed limit for example, how can we expect our military force to obey those rules and procedures that govern how we handle our nuclear weapons?"

Now to some this may seem like a simplification of a major issue but once you sit back and start thinking about the little things in life that are there to not only govern us and, to a certain point, control our behavior and we ignore them, then the next logical step is to start ignoring other things.

How many of us use hand-held cell phones while driving on an Air Force installation even though there is a clear warning at each entry point clearly stating this should not be done? I have also had contact with NCOs who have been promoted but when you look at their ID card it still reflects their previous grades. When you question them about this they say they will get a new ID card when they have time.

Are these correct behaviors?

You and I would say "no" but why do people do this — miss the little things.

How many people leave their common access cards in their computers and leave their work areas for extended

periods of time? What would happen if someone gained access to your computer and did something to a program you had been running because you had left your CAC in it?

At the Academy maybe nothing harmful to national security would happen but would that be the case if you were stationed at another Air Force installation.

Many might say this would not happen to them but behaviors repeated over and over become hard, if not impossible, to change.

Every active-duty member, regardless of his or her grade, each civilian, every retired person and every dependent on the Academy also has another responsibility not normally found on other Air Force installations: to be a role model for every cadet and cadet candidate. These people watch and see everything we do and when they see positive behavior it gives them something to emulate.

Remember it is our responsibility to the Air Force to always demonstrate the positive and be the role models we should be.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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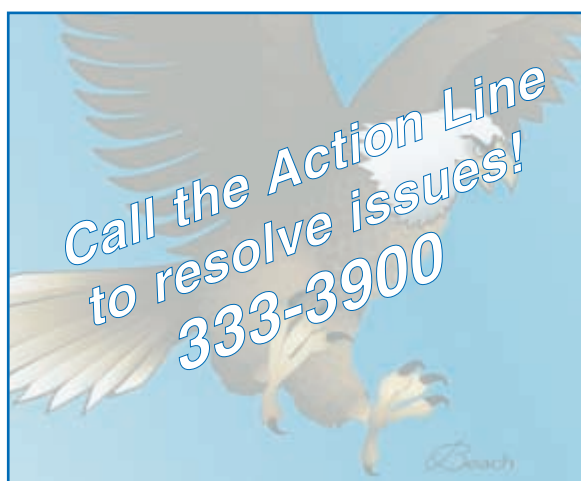
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Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the *Academy Spirit* editor at 333-8823.

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



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Character Corner Strategies for Developing Character

By Col. John Norton

Many influences contribute to developing character in humans. Clearly, our early years are fundamental to character development—family and school experiences “imprint” strongly on our moral awareness. Studies also show some of our most crucial moral development occurs during the teen and early adult years.

For our cadet cadre members, faculty/staff, and family/sponsors who have such a huge influence on the character of our youngest cadets, what

can we do to make sure our influence has a positive effect on their character development? Let's consider the work done by Dr. Marvin Berkowitz, the Center for Character Development's first visiting scholar. He laid out basic strategies for developing character; please reflect on these methods and put them into practice:

- Teaching character
- Espousing strong values
- Guest speakers, conferences
- Displaying character
- Role-modeling

- Sound institutional policies
- Demanding character
- Clear academic and behavioral standards
- Enforcing those standards
- Practicing character
- Community service
- Experiential learning
- Reflecting on character
- Service learning
- Mentoring
- Journaling
- Topical discussions

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



What do you like most, and least, about living and working in Colorado?

Most: "I have the best job in Colorado, being paid to talk and it's so beautiful here. There is no 'least' aspect."

Antonette Maturri
Cadet Chapel guide



Most: "The weather." Least: "The weather."

Cadet 3rd Class
Michael Lewis,
Cadet Squadron 40



Most: "Being so close to everything; love having WalMart right down the street." Least: "Winter weather, unlike Texas here for sure."

Airman
Jennifer Miller,
finance
customer service
representative



Most: The outdoor life ... hiking, golf, skiing, snowboarding, etc. Least: "Ironically, the snow and long, cold winters."

2nd Lt. John Ahn,
admissions officer



Class of 2012 Profile

From among the 9,000 applications, 1,642 were offered appointments; there were 1,369 acceptances; at press time 1,357 had in-processed.

— Grade Point Average: 3.85

— Average Combined SAT math and verbal: 1,290

— Average ACT: 28-29

Other Stats

There are 47 prior enlisted members arriving between regular Air Force and Reservists.

Seventeen percent were either high school class president or vice president.

Sixty-two percent were in the academic honor society.

Ninety-five percent were athletic award winners.

Thirty percent were in band/orchestra.

Twenty-eight percent were Boy/Girl Scouts.

Nine percent were Civil Air Patrol.

Thirteen percent were JROTC.

Two hundred ninety-five are women, 21 percent of the overall class.

Two hundred eighty-seven are minorities, 20 percent of the overall class.

Sixteen international cadets represent Belize, Brunei, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Korea, Lithuania, Madagascar, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Taiwan and Tunisia.

The appointees' introduction to cadet life started Thursday with a full day of in-processing which included medical processing, haircuts, clothing and equipment issue, and squadron and dormitory room assignments. It also marked the start of 38 days of Basic Cadet Training designed to prepare the basic cadet trainees for entry into the Cadet Wing.

During the first 18 days, most of the basic training is conducted within the cadet area. On July 14, the trainees march to Jacks Valley to set up a tent city and live there for 12 days of field training. The trainees march back from Jacks Valley to the Cadet Area on July 26, and finish Basic Cadet Training on Aug. 2.

The fall academic semester begins Aug. 7.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede



Photo by David Armer

Bailey Reese, an Academy Sports camp attendee and the founder of Hero Hugs, presented Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins with the 30,000th Hero Hug Friday. Founded in 2004, Hero Hugs is an organization that sends care packages to troops serving overseas. General Desjardins reads up on the adventures of "Hero," Bailey's bear, who has served a number of tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Annual rodeo returns support back to COS military

Pikes Peak or Bust supports families in tough times

By Ken Carter
Editor

It's been said, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him whistle," ... or something like that.

Fortunately, the charitable benefits to military members throughout Colorado Springs from Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo proceeds aren't contingent on any horses whistling. They are, however, directly correlated to ticket sales and the overall turnout of spectators to witness all the rodeo has to offer each year.

According to PPOB President Scott Bryan, this year's event, the 68th Annual, promises to be filled with excitement for military members and their families alike.

"The rodeo will feature a lot of activity and family-friendly events outside the main arena and we are encouraging Academy people to come early July 12 and take it all in," Mr. Bryan said. "Camel rides, vender booths, a petting zoo, children's slides, mechanical bulls, Native American dancers and lots more are on the line-up before 12:30 p.m."

A Wild West gun-fighting show is slated to begin at 12:30 p.m. "Kids admission is only \$1 July 12, which is both Academy Day and Family Day," he said.

Regarding the wild cow milking team competition, Mr. Bryan said, it also promises to be exciting.

"Wild cow milking is one of those events that's good watchin' ... one you might like to witness but maybe not participate in," he laughed.

Each year, local military bases receive

donations from the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo to distribute to charitable programs. These programs provide assistance to families who have fallen under hard times and are in need, according to the PPOB web site.

"Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is proud to be an active supporter of our military and their families for the past 60 years," Mr. Bryan said. "In return, local military personnel assist the rodeo by volunteering time and services whenever needed."

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni will host the July 12 event and there will be a special flyover featuring vintage aircraft at 1 p.m.

Go ahead: "Break from the Herd."

For more information on the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, visit: www.coloradospringsrodeo.com or call 635-1101.



Photo by Danny Meyer



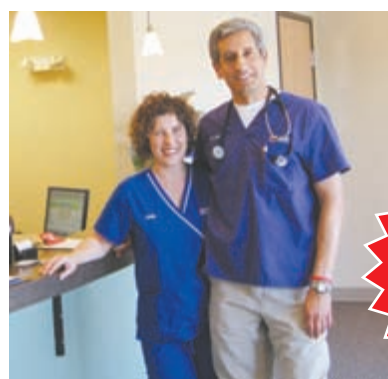
Photo by Rich Droll

Horse play

The Girl of the West Holly Humiston and her aide April Biernat visited the Academy's Cadet Area, Child Development Center, the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center, the Cadet Chapel and the Falcon Youth Center June 18. They talked with kids and staff at each stop, cadets on the Terrazzo, and visitors from the local area and around the country.

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Donley in as acting Air Force secretary

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Michael Donley is the new acting secretary of the Air Force, succeeding Michael Wynne, who held the position since November 2005.

Mr. Donley was previously the administration and management director for the Secretary of Defense, a position sometimes referred to as “mayor” of the Pentagon.

The secretary is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its nearly 323,000 men and women on active duty, 180,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, 160,000 civilians and their families. He oversees an annual budget of approximately \$110 billion and ensures the Air Force can meet its current and future operational requirements.

Mr. Donley has more than 26 years of experience in the national security community, including service in the Senate, White House and the Pentagon. During his career he has been involved in strategy and policymaking at the highest levels and is a recognized expert in national security organization, planning and budgeting.

From 1996 until his appointment as his former Pentagon post, he was a

senior vice president at Hicks and Associates, a subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation. During this time he served as a special adviser to the Defense Reform Commission in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the State Department and contributed to several major defense projects involving organizational reform and planning.

From 1993 to 1996, Mr. Donley was a senior fellow at the Institute for Defense Analyses. He was acting secretary of the Air Force for seven months in 1993. From 1989 to 1993 he served as the assistant secretary of the Air Force (financial management and comptroller) with responsibility for budgeting, cost and economic analysis.

Mr. Donley served the National Security Council as deputy executive secretary from 1987 to 1989 and as director of defense programs from 1984 to 1987. He was also a professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee (1981-84), a legislative assistant to the Senate (1979-81) and the editor of the National Security Record for the Heritage Foundation (1978-79).

He served in the Army from 1972 to 1975 with the 18th Airborne Corps



Photo by Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski

Michael Donley chats during a ceremony June 20 at the Air Force Memorial honoring former Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne.

and 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), attending the Army’s intelligence and parachute schools and the Defense Language Institute.

Mr. Donley earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in international

relations from the University of Southern California. He attended the Program for Senior Executives in National Security at Harvard University and, until recently, was a doctoral candidate at Georgetown University.



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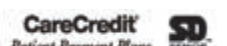
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Cadets experience real-world deployment

By Senior Airman Carolyn Viss
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Nineteen cadets from the senior class of the Air Force Academy are visiting the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing here during the month of June to experience an active-duty deployment as part of the Academy's Operation Air Force program, which allows students to visit bases around the world each summer.

From out processing back in the states — including computer-based training, immunizations, and firing weapons — to getting their hands dirty in maintenance back shops and shadowing pilots, these cadets and their cadre are getting the full experience.

"You can't teach this in a classroom," said Maj. David Higginbotham, the officer in charge of the Academy program. "This is an expeditionary Air Force. When you raised your right hand, you didn't commit to going to your base of preference for 20 years. You are signing up to be worldwide deployable."

"The people who made this visit possible are in the squadrons," said Capt. Justin Hsia, the wing plans and programs executive officer and the coordinator of this year's cadet visit. "Our goal was to expose them to as many different functions as possible, and it's been a phenomenal opportunity for them to learn.

Because no matter how many exercises you participate in, a look at a deployed environment will teach you more than you could ever learn stateside."

Spending about two weeks in the maintenance units and another two with operational flying squadrons, with a few branching out to medical, communications, security forces, contracting and space/missiles, the cadets are learning the teamwork it takes to keep the Air Force mission going.

"As far as developing an appreciation for what people do in the (area of responsibility) is concerned, this is the single most important experience we could have," said Cadet 1st Class Liam Conley, the cadet-in-charge from Cadet Squadron 34. "We've got cadets out there marshalling aircraft, scheduling sorties, performing maintenance, refueling jets and even fixing the refrigerators that store blood at the trans-shipment center here. We've had a chance to do something that's a solid contribution to the war effort."

Their deployment experience, including their interactions with sister-service and coalition missions, is "unprecedented" by any other Academy program, Cadet Conley said. "It hits home to go out there and see the (Combined Air and Space Operations Center), Aussies, Tornados, the embassy and state department. It puts a new spin on our idea



Photo by Senior Airman Dominique Simmons
Airman 1st Class David Metter instructs Air Force Academy Cadet Brian Gilliam June 17 on the proper handling of an M240B machine gun at a base in Southwest Asia. Cadet Gilliam supports the weight of the gun on the back of a humvee near the entry control point to the flightline.

of a 'coalition' experience.

"Sitting down and talking with sister services and coalition partners really shows how we all have a unique and valuable role in the mission," Cadet Conley said.

"It's very refreshing and energizing," Cadet 1st class Caroline Tetrick, CS-36, said. "At the Academy, you're a little sheltered from the war. Being in an academic environment day-to-day makes you feel a little disconnected from the active-duty lifestyle; but out here, something as simple as changing a brake on an aircraft has real

mission impact. This isn't a training mission. They're out there dropping real bombs on real targets."

"I've never been in an operational squadron (before), and other than knowing that they fly, I don't really know what they do," said Cadet Tetrick, who has a pilot slot waiting for her when she graduates from the academy with a degree in behavioral science and leadership next year. "Seeing the ops tempo here is really good because I get to see what I'll really be doing (when I commission)."

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LEAD program transitions enlisted applicants

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Enlisted Airmen with an eye on Academy appointments may have their chance through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program.

To be considered eligible, Airmen must not yet be 23 years old on July 1 of the year entering the Academy.

"The officers' corps needs sharp men and women," said Maj. Tina Erzen, a regional diversity director for Academy admissions. "This offers an opportunity for those who desire a commission."

The program, initiated in 1995 by Gen. Ronald Fogelman, former Air Force chief of staff, delegates authority to unit and wing commanders to nominate highly-qualified Airmen to attend the Academy.

No Congressional appointment is needed.

Commanders have the opportunity to identify outstanding and deserving Airmen with officer potential for the program.

According to the Academy admissions office, because of the many application requirements, it is critical applicants start early, as the Academy admissions process has many requirements. They also stressed that because of high operations tempo, members and their commanders may have less discretionary time and are frequently separated by deployment, shift work or other service-related duties.

Eighty-five slots are available for active-duty Airmen who qualify for direct entry into the Academy. An additional Eighty-five slots are available for enlisted members from Air Force Reserve and Guard components. Another 50 slots are reserved at the Preparatory

School for Airmen who do not meet direct entry criteria, with the intention of an Academy appointment to follow upon successful completion of the Prep School.

An Airman must be a U.S. citizen or be able to attain citizenship before entry into the Academy the following year, be unmarried, have no dependents and be of high moral character.

Applicants must complete Air Force Form 1786: Application for Appointment to the United States Air Force Academy Under Quota Allotted to Enlisted Members of the Regular and Reserve Components of the Air Force.

The form requires personal information, immediate commander's endorsement (no lower than squadron commander or equivalent) and Military Personnel Flight coordination.

After the application is processed by the Academy admissions office, applicants will be notified concerning additional requirements such as the candidate fitness assessment, an extensive medical evaluation, completion of an interview with an Academy liaison officer, completion of the writing sample and attainment of qualifying scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Test.

Major Erzen said prior enlisted cadets have a tremendous understanding of the Air Force in general and the enlisted force in particular and are, therefore, an invaluable assets as cadets and future officers. "They've been there," she said.

Major Erzen stressed prior enlisted members tend to be more mature and responsible and can help ease the transition to military life for other cadets.

"They tend to do very, very well," she said of their cadet years.

Cadet 1st Class Jennifer Johnson is the cadet in charge for the Academy Prior Enlisted Cadet Assembly, a group that actively recruits Air Force enlisted personnel.

"The military comes naturally to us," she said of the transition to cadet life and noted many in-coming prior enlisted cadets have previous college experience.

But it isn't always easy.

Cadet Johnson said prior enlisted members come with leadership experience and have to come to terms with supervision from more senior, but younger, cadets.

"Plus there is a huge cut in their paychecks," she added.

Cadet Johnson said she, as an example, was responsible for multi-million dollar projects and owned her own home.

But the draw of the Academy won out. As an enlisted member, she had come in contact with officers with varying leadership styles.

"I wanted to be an officer and be a good one," she said.

Cadet Johnson's Academy experience has been positive.

"It is a great program and makes cadets into what they want to be," she said. "There are some amazing people here."

For more information on the LEAD program, visit the www.academyadmissions.com or call 719-333-8574 or 1-800-443-9266.



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 BUCKLE UP

Top Academy students take home college scholarships

By Academy Spirit staff

Academy youngsters received a \$1,500 scholarship June 18 at the Academy Commissary to put toward the college or university of their choice. Local winners include Meredith Sasse, Bethany Prosseda, Matthew Butler, Michael Farrell, Kathryn Sparks and Charles Tennermann.

“We’re excited to report the scholarship program continues to be a success in helping military families defray the costs of education,” said Defense Commissary Agency chief operating officer Richard Page. “We’re proud to be associated with a program that has awarded 4,132 scholarships totaling more than \$6.4 million since its inception in 2001.”

The scholarships are part of the Scholarships for Military Children Program, funded by manufacturers and

suppliers who provide products and services for the Defense Commissary Agency’s 259 commissaries around the globe.

Scholarship managers, a professional scholarship firm, selected the winners based on academic merit, participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities, and the quality of their essays.

Nearly every Defense Commissary Agency store announces a local winner; many commissaries announce multiple winners.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization responsible for building comfort homes near military medical centers. The foundation bears all costs of the program so that every dollar donated goes toward scholarships. The general public has the opportunity to donate to the program through the mili-



Courtesy Photo

Scholarship recipients Meredith Sasse and Bethany Prosseda become acquainted while enjoying cake and punch in their honor.

tary scholar web site.

“It’s very exciting to be a part of the DeCA/Fisher House Foundation

Scholarship program,” said Ms. Kelly Wentley, Academy Commissary store director. “There’s a beauty to honoring young adults and knowing that they are beginning their journey in life and that you represent assistance provided for that journey. Having had the experience

of paying for college tuition for my children I understand the beauty of scholarship programs as well.”

The DeCA/Fisher House Foundation Scholarship program was initiated in

2001 by the Defense Commissary Agency to involve commissaries even more deeply in the fabric of the military community, she said.

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News Briefs



Photo by Rich Droll

New 'Bear Aware' materials take aim at 'people problems'

With the awakening of bears across Colorado, including on the Air Force Academy, comes a new set of tools available to the public from the Division of Wildlife (DOW). "Living with bears in Colorado" is a new web page filled with materials for use in the community, at the campsite, or on the trail to encourage responsible stewardship.

According to the Web site bears who get comfortable being in close proximity to people are often more likely to pose a threat to human safety and that human behavior is key. The DOW has created downloadable pieces for use in areas where bears are known to frequent.

"Living with Bears" brochure can be found <http://>

wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Mammals/LivingWithBearsL1.htm

For more information about Division of Wildlife go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us>.

4 athletes with Air Force ties prepare for Olympic trials

Four athletes with ties to the Air Force track and field program will travel and compete in the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials starting today at Eugene, Ore.

Gunning for a spot on the U.S. Olympic team are Paul Gensic, Academy Class of 2005, in the pole vault and Dana Pounds, Class of 2006, in the women's javelin throw, who are both competing as a part of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program.

Volunteer cross country coach Lopez Lomong will also compete at the trials in the 1500-meter run. He enters the Olympic trials ranked fifth in that event with a time of 3:36.36. He begins the quarterfinal heat of competition Thursday.

In addition, Nate Garcia, a member of the Army's World Class Athlete Program who has been training with Air Force volunteer coach Bob Graf, will be competing in the 400-meter hurdles. With a qualifying time of 49.54, Garcia is ranked 19th in that event.

Gensic, currently tied for 13th in the pole vault with a personal-best jump of 18 feet, 4½ inches, will compete at the trials today.

Pounds, ranked third in the javelin with a mark of 196 feet, 7 inches, will compete in the qualifying round Saturday. Pounds will be making her second appearance at the Olympic trials. In 2004, Pounds finished sixth at the Olympic trials with a then-

personal-best throw of 173 feet, 3 inches.

The Olympic Trials will run from today through July 6. The top three finishers from each event who have met the Olympic "A" standard will be named to the team that will represent the United States at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

After hour drop offs create Airman's Attic problems

Fire inspectors recently completed a special inspection of the Academy's Airman's Attic. It appears that goods and some garbage are being dropped off at the facility after business hours and, while the thought is appreciated, it is creating some problems for the Airman's Attic.

When items are dropped off after business hours, the items are exposed to the weather and elements, making them useless to the folks who really need them. The dumpsters at the Airman's Attic are overwhelmed by the sheer volume of garbage that is generated from improper drop offs, creating fire safety issues such as blocking fire exits and extreme fire loading. The excess accumulation of goods could cause a large fire if the area were to catch fire.

The Airman's Attic does not have a budget; they operate with a strictly volunteer staff, and so your donations brought over only when someone is there to accept them would help them maintain a clean, fire-safe business.

The Airman's Attic is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Cadets learn mission through Operation Air Force



Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. (AFPN) — Eighteen U.S. Air Force Academy cadets visited McChord Air Force Base June 13 to experience operations and day-to-day experiences in the Air Force.

The cadets visited McChord AFB during the first phase of Operation Air Force, a career-broadening program, and then flew on board a C-17 Globemaster III to Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Somewhere over the Pacific Ocean during the flight, Cadet 3rd Class Carly Olsowski, Cadet Squadron 37 stood in the cockpit and looked out across the vast expanse of blue. With a vision to fly jets for the Air Force after gradua-

tion, she spoke with Lt. Col. Douglas Patterson and Maj. Rob Luzader, C-17 pilots from the 313th Airlift Squadron.

“My dream aircraft was the A-10 (Thunderbolt II), but since I have been at McChord, I have begun to think that flying heavies is the sort of lifestyle that I would like to have,” Cadet Olsowski said.

If one day in the future she finds herself behind the controls of a McChord AFB C-17, she would be following in the footsteps of Colonel Patterson, who graduated from the Academy in 1989. Laughter filled the cockpit when Cadet Olsowski noted that she was born the same year.

The mission served several purposes, said Capt. Ian Ostermiller, the 10th Airlift Squadron facilitator who accompanied the cadets.

“It’s a great location, so in a sense it’s an advertisement for the mobility mission,” he said. “You see a lot of the world, and Hawaii is a good way to get somebody’s attention.”

However, it’s more than just a day at

the beach, the captain said. “Local training sorties can’t capture the complexity involved in leaving home station and going overseas.”

“An off-station trainer that crosses the ocean is a great way to get cadets close to the mission in a controlled environment,” Captain Ostermiller said. “They get to see all aspects, from working with the aerial port troops to interacting with the aircrew. Hopefully they come away from the experience with a smile on their face, but also with a better understanding of all the moving pieces involved in getting from A to B, especially when B is across the ocean.”

Cadet 3rd Class Daniel Venable, CS-29, said the off-station C-17 trainer showed him the real diversity and complexity of Air Force missions.

“Operation Air Force has really opened my eyes to many new career fields,” he said. “It has given me a really good perspective on how things work outside of cadet life at the Academy.”



Top: U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet 3rd Class Carly Olsowski talks with Lt. Col. Douglas Patterson during a June 16 flight on board a C-17 Globemaster III from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to McChord AFB, Wash. The cadets flew as part of Operation Air Force, a career-broadening program. Colonel Douglas is a 313th Airlift Squadron pilot.

Bottom: U.S. Air Force Academy cadets fly on board a C-17 Globemaster III from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to McChord AFB, Wash.



U.S. Air Force Academy cadets arrive June 15 at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. The cadets flew from McChord AFB, Wash., as part of Operation Air Force, a career-broadening program.

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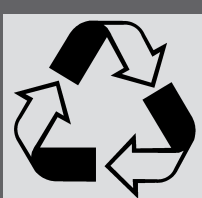
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Story and photos by Capt. Uriah Orland
Academy Public Affairs

The term Instructor Pilot or IP has a special meaning in the Air Force. It means one is capable and trusted to teach others how to fly, having mastered the skills him or herself.

At the Air Force Academy, this title is given to the youngest pilots in the Air Force.

"I'm only 20 years old and since we are some of the youngest IPs in the Air Force, I realize our opportunity is special," said Cadet 2nd Class Jonathan Benson, soaring instructor pilot from Cadet Squadron 29. "The officers expect me and the other IPs to perform at the highest standard to ensure safety and efficiency with all of the training we do."

The cadet IPs are part of the 94th Flying Training Squadron and are the backbone of the soaring program.

Throughout the summer the 94th FTS trains 260 Academy cadets and 12 ROTC cadets in four blocks during the first two summer periods in the fundamentals of flight in the LET Blanik TG-10B glider as part of Airmanship 251.

"Being able to take a student from the position of no experience to safely being able to take off, land, and perform maneuvers is very rewarding," Cadet Benson said.

AM 251 actually starts before graduation, during Transition Week, when the cadets receive about six hours of classroom instruction. This classroom work is refreshed on the first day of the block during a two-hour academic session. Following this refresher the cadets take to the skies.

"The cadet leadership keeps the students focused and enables them to learn a lot quicker," said Lt. Col. Lawrence Pravecek, 94th FTS commander.

The goal is to have at least 50 percent of the students solo within 14 flights. Other soaring programs around the country take an average of 30-35 flights to solo, according to the colonel.

"Flying with students and knowing you are ultimately responsible for their lives, as well as your own, is quite nerve-racking, intense, and fulfilling," remarked Cadet Benson. "When I strap into my seat in the glider, close the canopy, and prepare to take off, the game is on. I take the IP position seriously and realize the consequences of not following guidelines and regulations."

This attitude and responsibility is cultivated by the 94th FTS.

"Soaring is a cadet leadership program," Colonel Pravecek said. "They gain leadership experience by running the squadron. They learn to handle challenges by what the environment throws at them every day. The officers act as supervisors and



Matt Wangler, a junior ROTC cadet from North Dakota State University, talks with his instructor pilot (back seat), Cadet 2nd Class Jonathan Benson prior to a flight at the Academy airfield June 18.

mentors to keep the program running efficiently and safely."

Not only do they learn how to lead, the cadets are given a great deal of responsibility.

"Cadets get more responsibility in soaring than anywhere else at the Academy," Colonel Pravecek said. "It's leadership in a life-threatening situation and the cadets receive more responsibility despite the higher-risk environment."

This responsibility is carried beyond students in AM 251. During the third summer period, the IPs introduce almost all 1,300 basic cadets to the soaring program during Airmanship 100, which allows each basic cadet the opportunity for a single flight.

"I know that I'm making a difference in my students' lives because it might be the first time they have ever flown an aircraft," Cadet Benson said.

Following the summer periods, 40 cadets are selected to upgrade as instructor pilots in the semester-long AM 461 course. Concurrently during the year, more cadets are taking AM 251 and a second group of 40 cadets are selected to upgrade during the spring semester. In total, about 550 cadets take AM 251 and 80 cadets are upgraded to IPs annually.

The opportunity to expand their flying skills doesn't end with the AM 461 upgrade course. IPs have the opportunity to fly with either the aerobatic or the cross-country soaring teams through the Advanced Soaring programs.

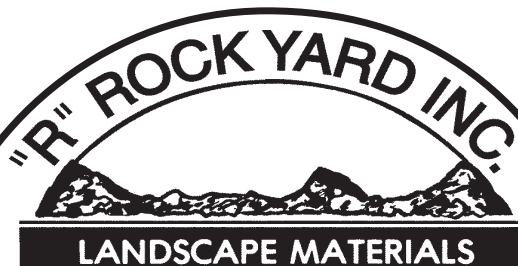
"I think that making an Advanced Soaring team, like the acro team, motivates me to have more drive and determination to make the 94th FTS better and to become a better IP," said Cadet Benson, a recent addition to the aerobatic team.



Above: Matt Wangler (cockpit), follows the instruction of an Academy instructor pilot to properly hook a tow cable prior to a flight at the Academy airfield June 18.



Left: Soaring students work hand-in-hand with instructor pilots to recover a TG-10B glider after a successful landing at the airfield.



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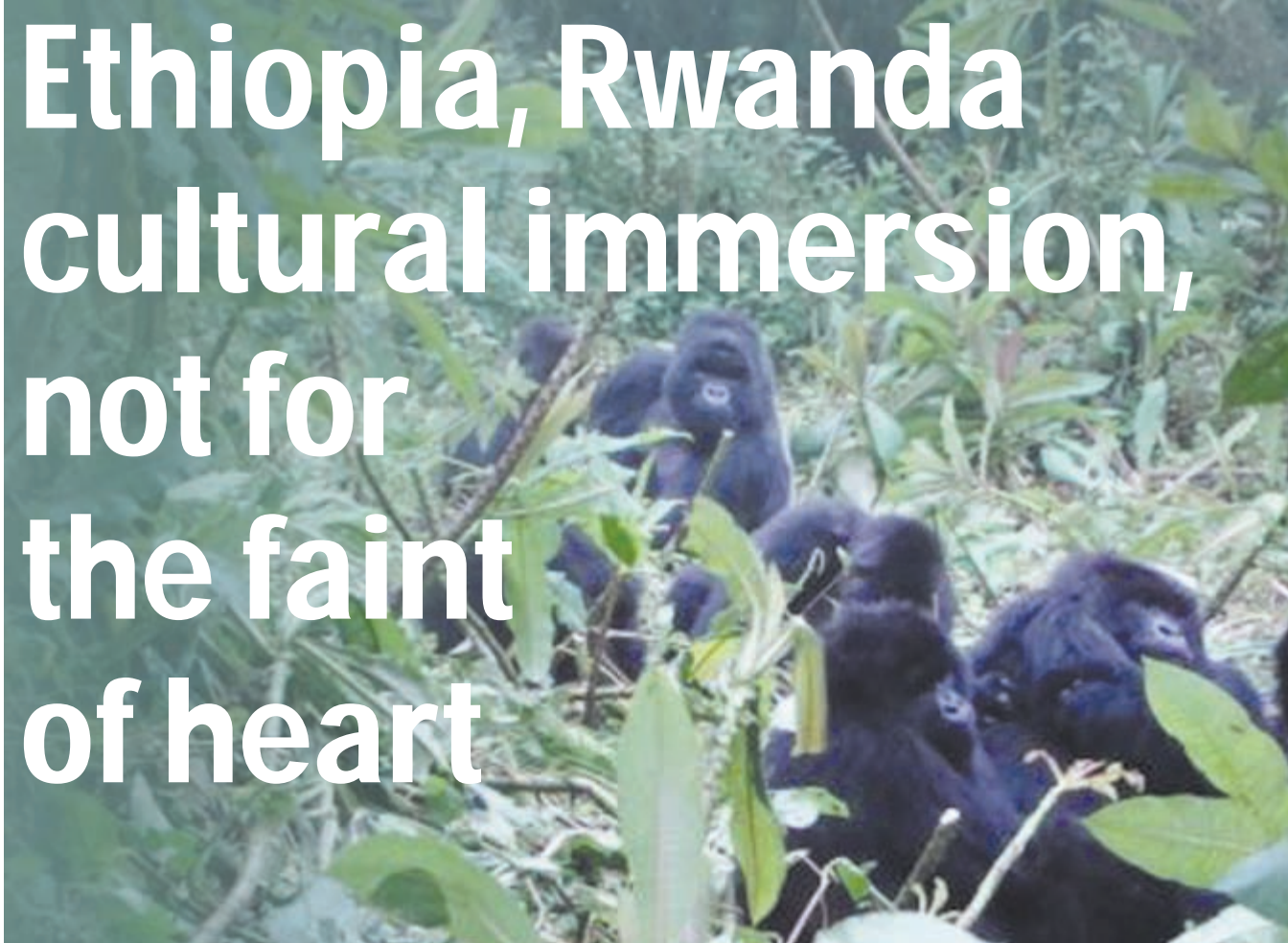


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Ethiopia, Rwanda cultural immersion, not for the faint of heart

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Leading eight cadets through Ethiopia and Rwanda is best left in the hands of a pair of history buffs.

Lt. Col. Mark Grotelueschen, Academy assistant professor of history and Lt. Col. Christopher Brooks, Geosciences and Meteorology, and cadets went to Ethiopia to experience its unique history and culture.

"Except for a brief span of time in the late 1930s when the Italians occupied the country, Ethiopia was one of the very few African states that avoided being a colonial possession of a European state," said the history professor from Alaska and 1991 Academy graduate. "It has been a predominantly Christian nation for almost two millennia, with an oral tradition linking its history to the Biblical meeting between Solomon and the Queen of Sheba — but has lived peaceably with a large Muslim minority for many centuries."

Academy travelers got a better understanding of troubled region of Ethiopia, U.S. - Ethiopian relations, and the role of Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa.



Cadet 2nd Class Cameron Ross dances with a member of Rwanda's National Museum Dance Group.

Included in the party were Cadets 1st Class Joshua Loomis, Robert Doyon and Garrett Collins; Cadets 2nd Class Charlton Coats, Brittney Garrett, Cameron Ross, Samuel Boone and Cadet 3rd Class Jessica Drewicz. Also with them were Reserve Officer Training Course Cadets Russell Maynard Joshua Shumway and James Madison.

The group spent most of its time in Addis Ababa, the multi-million person capital, but did take a day trip north of Addis to see the surrounding countryside.

We ate local food, especially the traditional meal of "teff," Colonel Grotelueschen said. "We could speak English with a few people, but not many. No one in our group spoke the official language of Amharic."

In the interest of safety, the Americans didn't wander around the streets of Addis after dark.

"There are a couple places, particularly in the north-east and east near the Eritrean and Somali borders, we were advised to avoid," said the history professor.

They immersed.

The group's first day featured a bus tour around Addis with stops at various points of interest, among them Emperor Heili Selassie's tomb, an old Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Entoto (the highest point in Addis), and the National Museum housing a replica of the remains of "Lucy," thought to be one of the oldest hominids discovered in an ancient valley in Ethiopia.

Day two featured travel to the countryside, where the group visited a 12th century rock bridge built by the Portuguese on their way to fight the Crusades in the Holy Land.

They toured a plantation growing flowers for export to Europe, and an Ethiopian Orthodox Monastery in the highlands not far from Addis.

These sites pointed out the agrarian nature, poverty, and dedication to the Christian or Muslim faith of most of the 80 million Ethiopians in the country.

The monastery's requirements for admission included an individual's abstinence from sexual activity (for married visitors) for three days prior to entry, and the exclusion of women currently on their monthly cycle. These are but two requirements for the Ethiopians' adherence to Biblical values of purification that stunned cadets and their willingness to adhere to and abide by these limits in an increasingly permissive world.



Academy escorts and eight cadets learned in Ethiopia and Rwanda about long term solutions to aid the poor.

Left: Academy cultural immersion travelers fall under the stares of Rwanda's silverback gorillas.

"Rwanda was extraordinarily safe," said Colonel Grotelueschen. "We traveled extensively both throughout the large capital city—Kigali—as well as throughout much of the rest of the country, and we felt very safe. It was hard to believe the country was the scene of a nasty war and one of humanities greatest genocides less than 15 years ago. They have come a long way in a short time. The people seemed industrious and friendly."

Colonel Brooks has served as the defense and air Attaché to the Republic of Brundi; United Nations Military Observer in Egypt and deputy division chief, Weather Division, U.S. Air Forces Europe. However, this was the geosciences and meteorology assistant professor's first real venture to the region, although he teaches classes in geopolitics, foreign area studies, African and Middle East geography.

The cadets were briefed by a political officer on the U.S. positions relating to Ethiopia. U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Donald Yamamoto graciously received the group in his residence. Then the cadets received a tour of his historic domicile given by Heili Selassie to President Roosevelt during WWII in thanks for American efforts to defeat the Italian invaders and restore him to power.

Traffic rules, or lack thereof, made most road travel in developing Ethiopia a bit more hazardous than in the States, both officers said. During a visit, police had discovered and defused a backpack full of explosives in the large, international market in Addis, which highlighted the risk taken when traveling in countries experiencing varying degrees of insurgencies.

Ah, when in Ethiopia, do as the Ethiopians do. "While the hotel served European continental cuisine, our first two lunches were traditional Ethiopian fare, which included generous servings of teff, a tasteless, gray, spongy grain product that one tore apart and proceeded to use like a napkin to grab food from a communal plate then eat the whole thing," Colonel Brooks said.

Most Ethiopians speak at least some English, although their accents are different, which the cadets found somewhat challenging. For instance, their bus guide kept referring to the "eunuch" characteristics of Ethiopian culture.

"It took a few minutes to discover that he was trying to say 'unique'," Colonel Brooks said. "Overall, it was not too difficult to communicate using English, which was good since no one in the group spoke Amharic, the very difficult native tongue."

The Academy group stayed in hotels of varying lower quality throughout their travels.

Next, on to Rwanda.

The group was surprised and captivated by the order, cleanliness, and feeling of safety of Rwandan society, at least in Kigali, the capital.

The President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, has taken a hard line against the street begging and corruption that is endemic to African governance and the street. And despite Rwanda's poverty, the society seemed to value enterprise and industry in ways unseen in Ethiopia.

The Academy group's travel agency had subcontracted with a local agency to escort them throughout the travels in Rwanda.

Their guides, named Polycarpe (Poly) and Rosette, were from the Kiboko (hippopotamus in Swahili) Travel Agency.

"They met us at the airport, and were with us throughout the eight or nine days in Rwanda," Colonel Brooks said. "Their efforts on our behalf made the trip worry free. Both Poly and Rosette had stories of personal loss from the genocidal period that they were shared with us, and their interpretations of the dances we saw as well as Rwandan history and the genocide added a personal touch that we could have obtained in no other way."

Rwanda brought out the historian in Colonel Grotelueschen.

"The main interest from my perspective was to see how the country was recovering from the almost inconceivable genocide of 1994," he said. "This act is so foreign to Americans, as is most of Africa, generally, and I believe the notion of going to central-east Africa sounds so exotic and eye-opening, the natural curiosity of the cadets was aroused to really find out about places most had only read about."

The group visited four different genocidal sites, including the National Genocide Memorial in Kigali. Each site offered a different example of the incomprehensible cruelty and horror of the period from April to July 1994.

"The National Memorial, which featured a section on children and the genocide, offered the most moving, mind-numbing presentations on the impact of the genocide," Colonel Brooke said. "It was difficult to keep emotions in check as I moved from one display to another. I couldn't help but consider how fortunate my children and I were to be American citizens and not to have had to experience any such horror. At the same time, I pondered on why this small country and its beautiful citizens had had to bear such a tremendous burden as examples of man's inhumanity to one another."

Army Major Ron Miller, U.S. Defense Attaché to Rwanda visited the Academy group and painted a concise picture of why and how the Genocide occurred, who colluded with whom to execute it, and how the country has responded and started down its road to recovery following this holocaust.

The Army officer also shared with them some experi-

ences he had while visiting the gorillas in the national park, such as human trackers and guides actually communicating with the lead Silverbacks in each family group through grunts, howls, and other verbal efforts.

After his visit, they were eager to see the gorillas. "We visited two churches that had been used as sanctuaries for Tutsis fleeing for their lives, only to be turned into killing factories by Hutus," said Colonel Brooks. "Blood-matted clothes of the victims were still stacked neatly on the church pews, while sunlight peeking through holes made from machine gun bullets and grenades dappled the otherwise darkened church interior. At the final site of our visit, limed bodies of many of the 10,000 victims hiding in a school were kept on display for visitors to gaze upon and reflect."

Cadet 2nd Class Sam Boone, a Swahili speaking cadet who had spent 11 years in Tanzania with his missionary parents as a youth, was able to gather a crowd and instant friends around him with just a few sentences. He was truly in his element.

And it was fun to watch the surprise among the Rwandans, who were delighted to find a "muzungu" or white westerner, speaking fluent Swahili.

"I believe this was eye-opening to our other cadets who saw clearly the value of having command of a foreign language," said Colonel Brooks. "My own French was very useful to me, as well, since French is still one of Rwanda's official languages."

So many new cadet experiences and emotions.

"For many young folks, this is discomfiting... the world they see with their own eyes makes them realize that the world isn't as clean and easy as they thought; that there are really people "out there" who starve to death on the side of the street, who have been maimed by warfare or disease, or who aren't employed or educated," said Colonel Brooks.

The memories of this trip may last a lifetime.

"What the cadets don't realize is that after living in areas such as these, there is something akin to a desensitization of sorts...although one is still cognizant of so many people and their needs, you begin to accept that one person cannot eliminate poverty, hunger, or pain that you see on the faces of those appealing to you for help," Colonel Brooks said. "You realize that your

Left: Cadets help women sort coffee beans at a Rwanda plantation.

Below: Cadet 2nd Class Sam Boone receives a briefing from an Orthodox cleric at an Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Entoto.



duties in the military preclude time to pay attention to things you really have neither time nor resources to address. And so the poor descend into the background and become part of the scenery. That's how you deal with the overwhelming need of the poor, are able to sleep at night, and work the next day."

What was gained?

"Clearly, the exposure to different cultures, values, and ways of life, as well as economic deprivation were invaluable to our cadets, most of whom had never been outside the U.S.," Colonel Brooks said. "These cadets will become Air Force officers who will take their experiences into their careers. As individuals, experiencing these cultures will make them more appreciative of what they have in terms of tangible assets as well as opportunities — perhaps a little more individual humility and sense of gratitude will follow."

"The Air Force will benefit by having officers with experience in, and knowledge of, places where our personnel may be deployed in the future," he said. "The confidence and spirit of cooperation with foreign militaries will be important for mission completion in those locations, and the cadets' individual experiences in these countries will assist them in forging ties that lead to greater understanding, cooperation, and mission accomplishment."



AFSC SPOTLIGHT

Academy jump manager loves his job

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Tech. Sgt. Kenny Kendrick's Air Force Specialty Code is J8B000 and the 98th Flying Training Squadron jump manager likes his job.

He is the NCO-in-charge of AM-496, the manual used to train more than 700 students per year in the basic Airmanship 490 course. Cadets are the instructors and jumpmasters, each taking

a load of AM-490 airborne with no staff on board and each is morally and operationally responsible for jump mastering the load safely.

The cadet instructor takes a load of AM-490 students skyward.

As a staff instructor, he teaches cadet instructor cadre to be jumpmasters, as well as AM-490 instructors. In Airmanship 490 basic parachuting, up to 17 students can be in the air at one time.

"AM-496 represents the Academy at

local, collegiate, national, and international competitions," said the 15-year Air Force veteran from Gulfport, Miss. "The demonstration team 'The Wings of Blue' performs throughout the United States and overseas year round for thousands of spectators."

Along with cadets, Sergeant Kendrick teaches jumping to Academy military trainers, air officers commanding and senior officers, as well as to 19th Air Force program managers.

What do you say to people frightened to make their first jump?

"It is something you will have to make yourself do but after you have done it, you will have found something new within and about yourself you didn't know," he said. "Plus it is so much fun."

He has news for anyone who thinks jumping militarily is obsolete.

"It is now more than ever becoming a valuable tool for special ops," said the NCO. "At the Academy it is about character development, and that is something that will never be obsolete."

Basic freefall, ground training, emergency procedures, canopy control, and safety, Sergeant Kendrick teaches it all.

"Most importantly, it is about stepping up to a challenge and learning something new about yourself," he said. "It builds self confidence and a better understanding of the person you are. For whatever reason, it makes the day-to-day things in your life



Tech. Sgt. Kenny Kendrick is the 98th Flying Training Squadron jump manager.

seem very small in comparison."

Everyone should be so lucky.

Sergeant Kendrick derives special satisfaction in his job.

"I like meeting different kinds of people from around the world. I will spend up to three years with cadets first meeting them when they are third class cadets and seeing them all the way through graduation," he said "The hardest part of my job is trying to balance work and home. I have so much fun at work sometimes I don't know when to quit and go home."



Courtesy Photos

Cadets in freefall build self confidence and a better understanding of themselves.

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Med defeats Comm 16-6 on Tuesday

By Dave Castilla
Director of Intramural Sports

Both teams were trying to make post season action but only one softball team would reach that goal on Tuesday.

Medical Group #2 defeated 10th Communications Squadron 16-6 in a game halted in the bottom of the 5th inning by the 10-run rule.

The communications squadron started the 1st inning with two runs, Steve Temple opened the game with a double, Justin Kirk doubled him home and Stephen Gonzales drove in Kirk with a single.

Hospital #2 would score five in the 1st inning and would never lose the lead with Johnny Davis blasting a two-run double off the right centerfield fence.

In the bottom of the 4th, Med Group would extend their lead again when Davis hit a 3-run homerun over the centerfield fence that same inning. Desmond Biava had a two run double, Julio Cano, Ken Rojas, Micah Yarborough, Ryan Struck, and Zack Willis each had an RBI as the medics scored 9 runs.

Then Comm tightened the score in the top of the fifth as Justin Kirk's homerun shot was preceded by a single by Sam Fleming. Tom Sapp finished the scoring with a homerun down the left field line.

The Hospital players have a good shot at post season action. As long as they can keep Davis in the lineup and welcome back Desmond Biava who played his first game of the season, they will have a competitive hitting team.

The news of the day was that all coaches agreed to let DRU/MSS continue with the season. After one team forfeit the team decided to pack it in, but after further discussion team members decided they wanted to complete the season and the league coaches decided to let them continue.

The revision 3 softball schedule will soon be announced.

Athletics: Competition creates modern day gold rush

Colorado Springs residents, military members, and families of all ages and skill levels can enjoy the thrill of competing in The State Games of the West, July 24-27, and witness a spectacular opening ceremony at the Colorado Springs World Arena!

Last summer, more than 6,500 Colorado athletes from 115 cities and towns found their way to Colorado Springs to compete against some 4,500 athletes from 47 other states in the 2007 State Games of America, the largest multi-sport event in state history.

Apparently, they have not lost interest in going for medals again this summer in Colorado Springs during the newest multi-sport event in the city named "America's Fittest City" for 2008 by Men's Fitness Magazine.

Now, it's the Inaugural 2008 State Games of the West, and it offers Colorado Springs athletes the chance to compete in any of 31 sports for gold, silver or bronze medals.

Entries are already in from 43 Colorado cities and towns including: Colorado Springs, Denver, Boulder, Fruita, Elbert, Arvada, Highlands Ranch, Aurora, Cascade, Glenwood Springs, Broomfield, Longmont, Peyton, Monument, Fountain, Calhan, Pueblo, Erie,



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Athletes can register or get all the details at: www.stategamesofthewest.org, it includes lodging and attractions to visit in the process. Or try www.experiencecoloradosprings.com.

The opening ceremony is set for July 24 at the Colorado Springs World Arena. Olympic speedskating gold medalist Derek Parra will be one of two American champions who will be on hand to open the Games before an expected crowd of 10,000.

All participating athletes will receive free admission to the opening ceremony. Spectators can purchase opening ceremony tickets now at: www.ticketswest.com. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and younger) and seniors (55 and older).

The sports for the inaugural State Games of the West include: 5K run/walk, archery, badminton, basketball, billiards, BMX racing, bowling, cycling, diving, field hockey, flag football, golf, gymnastics, inline hockey, judo, karate, powerlifting, racquetball, rock climbing, shooting, soccer, softball (slow pitch), swimming, table tennis, tennis, track & field, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting and wrestling.

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Golf		8.5		1.5			
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By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Chris Thompson can break three baseball bats all at once with one shin.

Ouch.

That's gotta hurt.

The two-time winner of the Colorado State Kick Down Welterweight Muay Thai competition and a Rocky Mountain Bad Boys Welterweight Muay Thai champ doesn't think so.

"There is pain at the beginning," he said of Muay Thai training and added, "It's a great way to get rid of shin splints."

Muay Thai translates as "Thai kickboxing."

Thompson has seven wins, four losses, no draws and two knock-outs for amateur Muay Thai competition. Other accomplishments include being champion of the International Kickboxing Association South Central Regional Middleweight Muay Thai Rules and champion of the Prathet Thai Muay Thai Kickboxing Gym Middle Weight Smoker.

He will once again compete in Colorado state competitions next month.

The ring sport is commonly known as the "Science of 8 Limbs" because it works on the body's mechanics using limbs, shins, elbows, head, fists and feet. Rotation of the hips and use of core muscles sets the sport apart from other styles of martial arts.

In comparison, Western boxing has two points, the fists and other forms of martial arts, four points, the fists and feet.

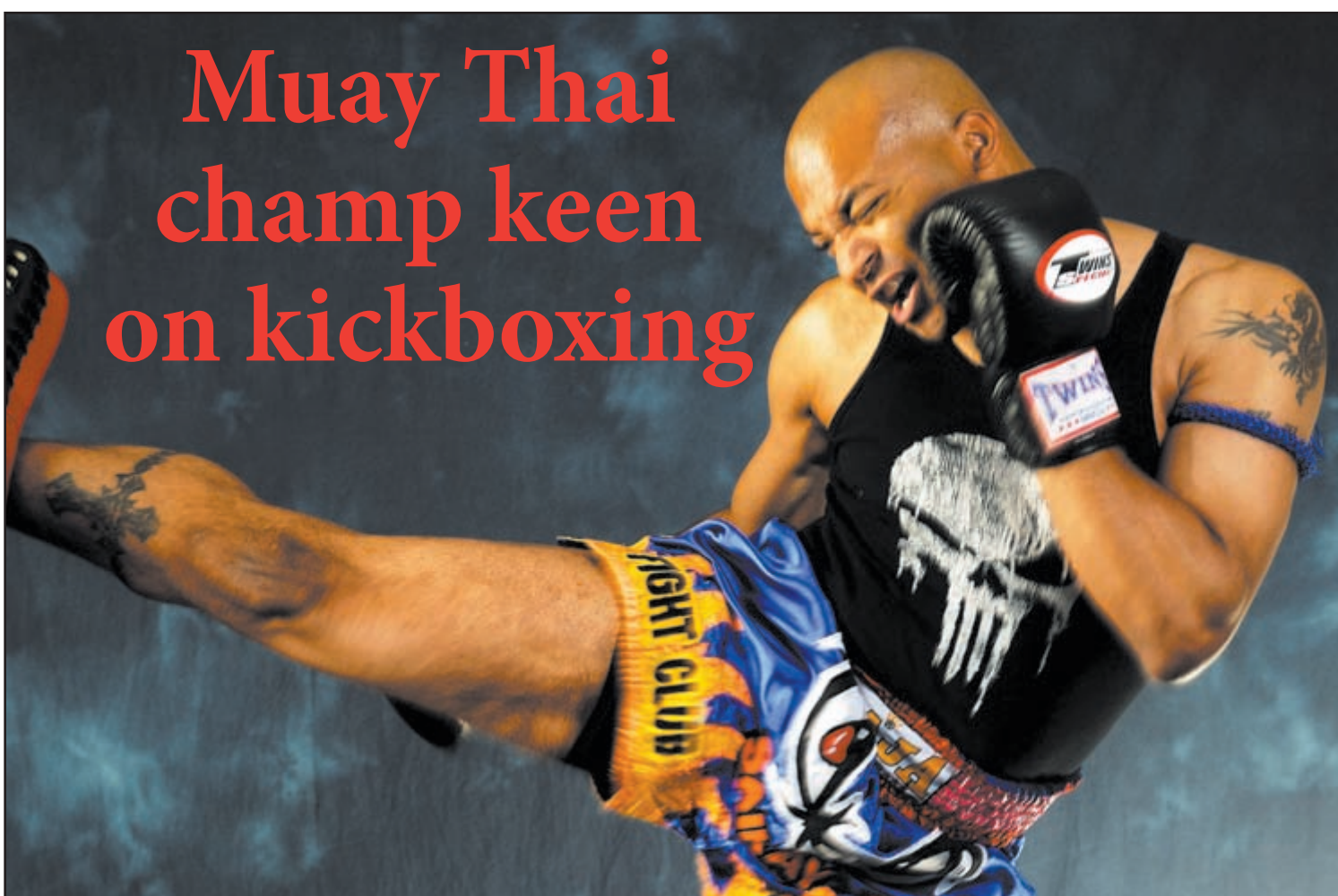
Thompson, a chaplain's assistant at the Community Chapel, loved watching martial arts movies as a youth. He has practiced and competed in the martial arts sport for eight years.

"It's graceful, beautiful and destructive," he said and stressed it is great exercise and good for cardio, endurance and muscle tone.

"Muay Thai will get you in really good shape," he said.

A large body size creates no advantage for Muay Thai practitioners. In fact, most weigh between 100 (or less) and 175 pounds.

Thompson added women are better at Muay Thai because they have better hip movement, and female knees and elbows are more pointed. Thai children enter



Photos by Dennis Rogers

Muay Thai champ keen on kickboxing

Chris Thompson uses hip action to land a kick. Right: Muay Thai tradition calls for ceremonial garb before each match.

the sport as early as age 5.

He began in self-defense with tae-kwondo but tired of it quickly.

"I wasn't getting hit hard enough," he said.

He works out five days a week, but not on the weekends, which he, as a chaplain's assistant, called "my busy days."

Muay Thai traces its origins back 2,000 years when Thailand was known as Siam. The Royal Thai military used it in battles. Every March, Thai kickboxers honor Nak Knom Tom, the father of Muay Thai who was the first to use it outside of Thailand.

Muay Thai remains that country's national sport.

An Air Force military liaison with the U.S. Muay Thai Association and a Muay Thai Kru, or teacher, Thompson has been deployed three times and taught Muay Thai in Kyrgyzstan, Balad and Camp Victory in Bagdad to more than a dozen Army and Air Force members at each assignment.

"I just love doing it," he said.

He put other military members through the typical exercises of a basic class—warm-ups, technique drills, rounds of pad work and rounds of sparring. The class concludes with body and face conditioning to become



accustomed to taking punches and then stretching.

Thompson now teaches Muay Thai for a branch of Bally's Swim and Fitness in Colorado Springs.

Prior to competition, Thai boxers wear ceremonial head and arm bands and perform the traditional three bows for family, teacher and deity, then conclude with taunting, dance-like gestures based on Muay Thai movements around other boxers.

The soft-spoken staff sergeant began his Air Force career with four years in aircrew life support but switched his specialty after learning of the chaplain's assistant specialty code.

"It's a calling," the Nashville, Tenn., native said of his job. "Being able to work in God's house is an outstanding thing for me."

Thompson added he appreciates opportunities for being there when people are weakest and to comfort and encourage them.

The seemingly gentle, caring nature of his job might seem contradictory to the fierceness of Muay Thai.

"God says we must be meek. He doesn't mean we have to be weak," he explained.

Becoming an Ajarn, or master instructor, requires becoming or training a world champion. The title, plus having his own Muay Thai school is not out of the question for his future.

Thompson has taken some hard lumps in his Muay Thai career, with a broken ankle, two fractured ribs, a partial retinal detachment, along with bumps and bruises.

Hardly "weak" by any standards, Thompson, and his wife Colanyosa, characteristically have a cat named "Scar."



Practice with hand pads give workouts an edge.



Annual base picnic

The Annual Base Picnic is Aug. 1, at the Pine Valley Youth Fields adjacent to the Airmen & Family and Readiness Center. Parking will be available at Pine Valley Elementary school, Air Academy High School (with shuttle bus service to the picnic areas), and Pine Drive next to the fields. Price: \$3 per ticket, see your first sergeant.

Cadet Area construction

Construction is underway on Vandenberg Drive which will cause road closures and impact parking in the Cadet Area until its completion in early to mid August. During this time, drivers are asked to follow all warning signs and cooperate with restrictions needed to make improvements to the roads and

parking areas. Obey all traffic and warning signs and only park in appropriate spaces. During the construction period, the Vandenberg/Field House Gate will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and will close weekends. The Sijan Gate will be open 24 hours a day. People are highly encouraged to use the shuttle service set up to alleviate parking challenges during the construction period. Shuttle buses will pick up and drop off in the lower east Field House parking lot every 15 minutes starting at 5 a.m. and running until late in the evening.

Dining Out

The 2008 Academy Dining Out Committee meets at 3 p.m., July 9 at the 10th Medical Group Dining Facility. The committee will discuss plans for the 2008 Dining Out and is looking for volunteers from across the Academy. Call Master Sgt. Lynn Barron at 333-5299 for more information.

Sponsors needed

The Preparatory School needs sponsors for the 2008-2009 academic year. The Prep School is designed to prepare students for admission and success at the Air Force Academy. To apply to sponsor one or more of these students, call Mrs. Cleo Griffith at 333-2583 or E-mail cleo.griffith@usafa.edu.

Rodeo volunteers needed

The 68th Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo "Break from the Herd" is upon us again. All proceeds go towards programs and services benefiting local military personnel and their families. Since World War II, every performance of the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is dedicated to the men and women of America's Armed Forces to thank them for their service.

In order to make this event as successful as past rodeos, volunteers are needed July 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Academy volunteers will serve as security, ticket takers and ushers. To volunteer please contact your respective representative:

-USAFA - Master Sgt. Jeremy Rennahan, jeremy.rennahan@usafa.af.mil or 333-5645

-USAFA - Master Sgt. Steven Yoder, steven.yoder@usafa.edu or 333-2132

-DRU - Master Sgt. David Gobin, david.gobin@usafa.af.mil or 333-1755

-10 ABW - Master Sgt. Terry Best-Rennahan, terry.best-rennahan@usafa.af.mil or 333-7959

Veteran's Home Run

The Pikes Peak Road Runners offer

the Veteran's Home Run June 28 at 7 a.m. The run starts at Air Academy High School and follows a route through the Academy. Cost is \$15 for active duty, veterans and dependants and \$20 for all others. Proceeds go to the Crawford House, a local veteran's home. All participants will receive a Veteran's Home Run T-shirt. Race-day registration is June 28 from 6 to 7 a.m. at Air Academy High School. For more information call John Cornick at 554-5340 or Maj. Tara Nolan at 333-6025.

Volunteer Recognition Golf

The Volunteer Recognition Golf Fundraiser is scheduled for Aug. 7 at 1:30 p.m. on the Eisenhower Golf Club Silver Course. Entry fee is \$30 for airmen through staff sergeants and first and second lieutenants and \$40 for all other players. Entry fee includes lunch, golf cart, green fees, range balls, post round drinks and rental clubs if needed. Additionally, Professional Golfers Association staff will conduct a golf clinic from noon to 1:15 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Academy Volunteer Recognition Program. Prizes will be awarded to the first-place team, and men's and women's longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information or to register, call Tim Neuman at 333-2137 or Jeannie Lopez at 333-3444 by Aug. 5.



Farmers Market opens

The Western Museum of Marketing and Industry's offers a Farmers Market in front of the museum's Reynolds Farmhouse. The market is open throughout the summer months on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Renowned for being locally grown and fresh, Farmers' Markets allow farmers to avoid the middleman thus preserving the nutritional content of fresh produce. The market also allows consumers to talk directly to the grower, get the freshest produce possible and experience the health benefits of fresh produce. Stop by the market and receive a free coupon to the museum with every purchase. For more information, call the museum at 488-0880.

Rodeo coming

Tickets for the 68th Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo are on sale. The rodeo

is July 9 through 12 with the Academy sponsoring the matinee on July 12. Adult tickets are \$10, \$15, and \$27 depending on seat location. Children's tickets are \$5, \$7.50 and \$12.50. Military personnel and groups of 20 or more receive a \$2 discount. For tickets, visit www.ticketswest.com or call 576-2626. Visit www.coloradospringsrodeo.com or call 635-1101.

Senior Open Military Day

The 2008 U.S. Senior Open and the U.S. Golf Association Grants and Fellowship Department will honor the large contingent of military in Colorado by hosting Military Family Day July 30. All military personnel (active and retired) with proper identification will receive free admission, a voucher for a free lunch and a discount in the merchandise tent for themselves and their families. Those with valid military identification are also eligible for discounted practice round and championship round tickets. Ticket prices range from \$17 to \$39 for daily tickets. Discounted week-long packages are also available. Military tickets must be purchased at the Championship Office, located at 6 Lake Ave. Those purchased in advance of the championship can be given to non-military friends and family; however, only one ticket can be purchased per military ID at the admission gate. For more information, visit the tickets page at www.2008ussenioropen.com or call the Championship Office at (719)471-6488.

Celebrate in Snowmass Village

If you're planning July 4th getaways, Snowmass Village, Colo., offers summer values and Rocky Mountain adventure.

July 2: A Real Western Rodeo: The oldest continuously running community rodeo in the state of Colorado

July 3: Free Sunset Concert. Popular roots-rock specialists in the tradition of groups like The Eagles and The Allman Brothers, the Freddy Jones Band hits the outdoor stage on Fanny Hill

July 4: Free Independence Day Activities: Try a nature hike or nature trail walk guided by a naturalist.

July 5: Free Sunset Concert and Fireworks by rhythm & blues trailblazer Mavis Staples, a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer considered one of VH1's "100 Greatest Women of Rock & Roll." 7 p.m. on Fanny Hill, followed by fireworks. (www.snowmassvillage.com)

For more information call Allison Johnson at: (970)309-5485.



CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Sunday

Reconciliation 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.
Mass - 10 a.m.

Weekday

Monday, Tuesday,
and Thursday. - 6:45 a.m.

Wednesday

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

Protestant Services:

Sunday

Traditional - 9 a.m.
Contemporary - 10 a.m.
Hill Fellowship - 11 a.m.

Jewish Services

Fridays - 7 p.m.

Buddhist Worship

Wednesday. - 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.
(September - 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.
(September - May)

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:

Contact Tech. Sgt. Longcrier at 333-6178
Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu

For more information, call 333-3300.

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FRAUD: Intentional deception of the DoD such as bribes, gratuities or false claims

WASTE: Extravagant, careless or expenditure of government funds

ABUSE: Intentional wrongful or improper use of government resources

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