



Damaged goods?

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USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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Exchange marks 113-year history.

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Academy program benefits youths seeking work.

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Retirees

Undefeated team drops one, but still claims championship.

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Photo by Mike Kaplan

Determination

Cadet 1st Class Clinton Walls directs Basic Cadet Fanita Schmidt in hand-to-hand combat skills during the field training portion of basic training July 16th. For more on the progress of the Class of 2012, see Pages 12-13

Comm to take on new challenge

By Academy Public Affairs Staff

A leader during one of the most dynamic times in U.S. Air Force Academy history is moving on. Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Susan Y. Desjardins will depart the Academy in October to become the Deputy Director, Strategic Plans, Requirements and Programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

“Moving on is bittersweet. I am excited about the challenges of serving at AMC, the “home office” of air mobility,” General Desjardins said. “At the same time, being at the Academy has been an amazing opportunity and experience. Nothing can compare with being part of shaping and molding our Air Force’s future leaders.”

General Desjardins has served as the Commandant of Cadets since December

2005, commanding the 4,400-member Cadet Wing and more than 300 permanent party Air Force and civilian personnel. She is responsible for all aspects of military training for the Cadet Wing, including leadership training, operational skills training and professional military education, character development, cadet discipline, and administering the Honor System.

As the Air Force flexed to meet the demands of winning the Global War on Terrorism, General Desjardins played a key role in reshaping Academy military training to better prepare cadets for the challenges facing them in the operational, expeditionary Air Force.

“General Regni, our Superintendent, had a vision for bringing the ‘military’ back to our military academy,” she said, “and he gave me the charter and great support to implement significant changes to follow that vector.

“We have eliminated training that had only a tenuous connection to preparing cadets for active duty,” she said. “And we reinstated daily mandatory formations to emphasize accountability as members of an Air Force unit



Photo by Dennis Rogers

Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins mentors a cadet.

See **COMMANDANT**, Page 3

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Annual picnic offers many opportunities

By Ken Carter
Editor

Ever notice how some of the sweetest opportunities in life are uncovered while socializing with co-workers and friends? If one is lucky enough for this to happen during normal duty hours, away from his or her duty section, and leading into a weekend, all the better.

The Academy's annual base picnic is set for Aug. 1 and, as always, a lot of hard work is going into making it a success.

Each year the picnic affords members of our community the chance to see some old friends as well as make some new ones while at the same time breaking away from the office to enjoy the great outdoors.

Live music, food and plenty of sports activities are on tap for the event which is likely to draw several thousand. There are other tricks up the planners' sleeves as well.

Event coordinators say Pine Valley youth fields is the place to be to enjoy food and music, as well as a kids park, car show, poker run, bike race, door prizes, horse rides, sporting competition, including an early morning fishing derby at Kettle Lakes, and a whole lot more. Even the Academy's cadet skydiving team, "Wings of Blue" is scheduled to "drop in".

The picnic is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with events starting as early as 6:30 a.m.



File photo

with the fishing derby registration at Kettle Lakes. Those early risers, however, will not be putting their catches on the grill between the picnic burgers and dogs that can be had for a mere \$3 per person.

For those who see a day without sports to be like a day without sunshine, their future is also bright.

The Academy Fitness Center will also host four sporting events that morning where the Commander's Cup will be up for grabs. They include: pitch softball beginning at 8:30 a.m. and 3 on 3 basketball at 9 a.m. (both at the youth fields close to Child Development Center and fire station); 3-on-3 sand volleyball at 10 a.m. and doubles horse-shoe competition at 11 a.m. (both at the fitness center). Anyone wishing to officiate or keep score for any of the one pitch SB games or help with the Top 3,

Rising 6 or Chiefs and Eagles, and/or coordinate the tournament brackets for softball, basketball, volleyball and horse-shoes should call Dave Castilla at 333-4078.

Picnic participants are encouraged to park at Air Academy High School where a shuttle will be provided to and from the picnic area. The event is open to all Academy personnel and their families and, again, tickets are just \$3.

Let the socializing, family fun and networking begin ...

For more information on specific events, call:

333-4475 – Bike race

333-4579 – Car show

333-4522 – Sporting events

333-3733 – 5K run

333-2928 – Colossal Cookie Challenge

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ACADEMY SPIRIT

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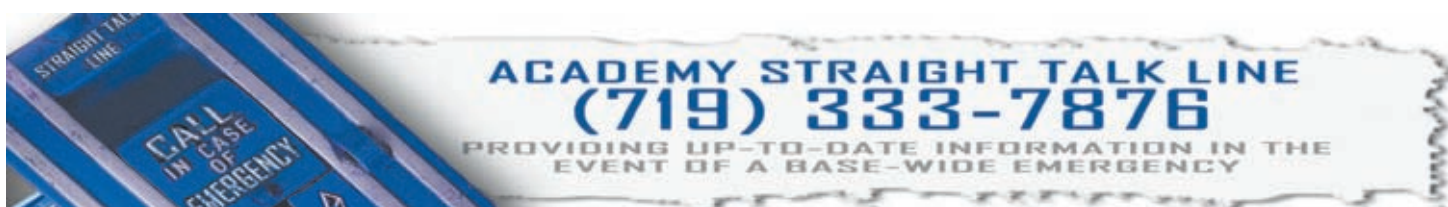
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Deadline for free classified ads on a space-available basis is noon every Tuesday for that week's publication date. Paid classified advertising is accepted by the publisher at 329-5236. The number to call for display advertising is 634-5905.

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

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



Character Corner Leadership by Example

By Lt. Col. Chuck Boyd,
chief, Honor Division
Center for Character Development

The Class of 2012 is here!

Young men and women from all over America, and some from foreign nations, have arrived to begin the four-year process of shaping them into officers of character. Let us always remember that they watch

everything we do. Whether cadet, officer, enlisted, or civilian, we are all their examples.

Character and honor instruction for the basic cadets is in full swing—but teaching the basics is only part of our responsibility. Showing them how to act honorably and with character is just as important. We cannot expect our new cadets to follow an example that we do

not set every day. Leadership starts from the top—they look to us. Always remember the importance of walking the walk and not just talking the talk!

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing."

- Albert Schweitzer



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

What is your favorite movie of all time and why?

"Caddyshack! Golf tends to be a very serious game. The movie provides a good, fun twist to the game."

Phil Trujillo
Junior Golf Director



"Bourne Ultimatum. It's suspenseful and thrilling and Matt Damon does a great job."

Kali Oda
Sales clerk,
Pro Shop



"Fight Club. I've found it so interesting I've watched it over and over. The book is also very good."

Taran Burgess
Cashier,
golf snack bar



"Forrest Gump. It shows history filled with the struggles of personal conflict — while also revealing innocence and happiness."

Tech. Sgt.
Krista Sutphen
10th Dental
Squadron





Commandant

From Page 1

and personal accountability for upholding standards.

“We also have stressed accountability in our character and leadership development efforts, in bringing back the Cadet Discipline System, and in making the Honor Code the Number-One priority in cadet life,” she said. “The intent was for our cadets to feel ownership and hence play a bigger role in enforcing standards both in honor and discipline.”

During General Desjardins’ tenure, there has been a 58 percent decrease in cadet alcohol related incidents, and a nationally recognized sexual assault response program has been significantly strengthened.

Basic Cadet Training was revamped to better prepare basic cadets physically, mentally, and militarily for their Academy experience. This included increasing BCT physical training from seven sessions to 27 sessions, which resulted in better fitness, morale, and overall performance by basic cadets.

General Desjardins was tasked with instituting Combat Survival Training at the Academy, one of the first Air Force locations to implement this newly emphasized requirement.

“Air Force personnel are increasingly taking on roles that could leave them vulnerable on the battlefield,”

the general said. “Airmen are outside the wire daily performing jobs that had been assigned to soldiers and Marines. CST teaches our cadets critical skills that may save their lives in today’s expeditionary environment.”

General Desjardins also focused on enhancing the professional development of her permanent party Air Officers Commanding, who command the cadet squadrons, and the Academy Military Trainers, the non-commissioned officers who help lead each cadet squadron.

Finally, working with the Dean of the Faculty, Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born, and the Athletic Director, Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Hans J. Mueh, General Desjardins attacked the “Terrazzo Gap” that sometimes exists between the academic and military components of Academy life and between the intercollegiate athletes and their fellow cadets.

“It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding almost-three years,” General Desjardins said. “Whatever successes the Commandant’s organization has achieved are due to the amazingly talented AOCs, AMTs, staff and civilian personnel who make up our team, to the support from General Regni and the other mission elements, and to the enthusiasm and commitment of our cadets.”

General Desjardins earned her commission in 1980

in the first class of women at the Academy and is the first female commandant. Being an Academy graduate, she relates to the challenges and triumphs the cadets face daily.

“Being a cadet is not an easy road, but it is worth every bit of the effort,” she said. “Our nation requires intelligent, well-rounded young men and women of character to lead our military. Every day there are cadets who demonstrate they are up to the challenges ahead, and you know that the future of our Air Force and our nation will be in good hands.”

The general has held staff positions at the major command, Joint Staff, and Headquarters U.S. Air Force levels, including deputy military assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force. Her commands include an air refueling squadron, a mobility operations group, and the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. She is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours in the KC-10, C-17, C-5, KC-135R, KC-135A, and T-37.

The incoming commandant is Col. Samuel D. Cox who is currently serving at the Pentagon as the Director of Air Force General Officer Management for the Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel and Services. Colonel Cox, a 1984 Academy graduate, has been selected for promotion to brigadier general.



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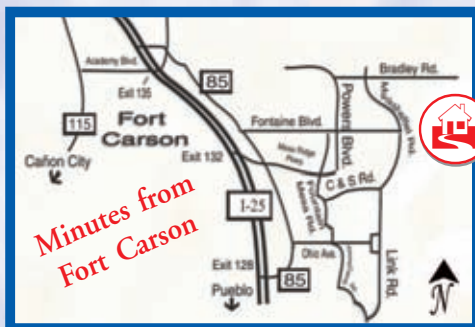
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Cadets soon to be back hitting the books

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

It's back to the battle of the brains Aug. 7 when Fairchild Hall will officially welcome faculty, returning cadets and basics for the fall semester.

"This is a big year," Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born said of the upcoming fall and spring semesters.

Two major accreditations sit on the horizon, one from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology in November and the 10-year accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities in April.

"It's an exciting time to share where we're going," General Born said. "We welcome both of these opportunities to showcase our Academy and the great things we are doing here."

The new 140 faculty members include three international professors and three from sister services.

She said civilian additions will bring accomplished levels of research and scholarship and military instructors will bring the bonus of current, in-depth, knowledge of the operational Air Force.

The USAFA Outcomes, or 19 different knowledge sets, skills and responsibilities will be fully integrated into the core curriculum this year.

"Cadets will really start to see how the learning experiences in their classes, and the assessments by which they are evaluated, are aligned to those outcomes," General Born said.

Academic departments are also feeling the rush of a new year with new offerings.

The Department of Military Strategic Studies will provide the first in a new sequence of regional strategy courses, affording cadets the opportunity to



Photo by Ann Patton

Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born readies to welcome cadets and faculty as they head to the classroom.

analyze threats and emerging issues within the area of responsibility for the six Air Force U.S. joint geographic commands.

The Falcon Satellite program will see construction of a flight model for FalconSAT5, set for launch from Kodiak, Alaska, via a Minotaur IV rocket in December 2009.

Cadets in Engineering 101 will be incorporating the industry-standard computer-aided design software into course work and tutorials, thus allowing them to become familiar with design platforms in the high-tech Air Force.

The Department of English and Fine Arts will pair with the Academy's Institute for Information Technology Applications in the establishment of a pilot-study classroom to employ digital video and classroom response systems for Advanced

Composition and Speech.

Cadets in Physics 110 will be using a "worked example" learning approach, for which, research indicates, should enhance comprehension and critical thinking.

The Department of Foreign Languages will continue to expand, especially in the strategic languages of Arabic, Russian, Japanese and Chinese.

"Across the faculty, we continue to strive to enhance cadet learning and to better prepare our cadets for careers of service to the Air Force and nation," General Born said. "That is what we have been working hard on all summer."

She is impressed with the incoming Class of 2012.

General Born pointed out the class average high school grade point average was 3.86 out of a possible 4.0, and 80

percent earned athletic letters. Many also had substantial leadership experience before entering the Academy.

Class members have been brought in to the Hill from Jacks Valley for placement testing in math, chemistry and foreign language.

"Their overall scores for math placement are right in line with what we've seen in recent years, so we are continuing to bring topnotch individuals here," General Born said.

She added a good percentage of the class placed in the advanced core chemistry class.

Results from foreign language placement testing so far appear to be in line with previous years.

The Class of 2012 is taking its place as one to make the Academy sit up and take notice.

"They have emerged very quickly with a focus," she said. "This is a determined class."

On the hike to Jacks Valley for Basic Cadet Training, normally a subdued march with an occasional Jodie, led by General Born and Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins, the Class of 2012 broke into song.

"They sang the entire way," General Born said.

The class also quickly zeroed in on its motto.

"After less than a week, we already could hear them chanting their tagline, 'Twenty-twelve! Never falter! Never Fail!'" she said.

From reports she has heard, she said class members are relaxed, confident and professional, and they regard and respect cadet cadre as teachers from whom they can learn.

"Overall, they seem to be adjusting very well," General Born said.

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New preppies arrive with hope and enthusiasm

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

With paper work done, good-byes said and swearing-in over, the Preparatory School Class of 2009 took their first steps as cadet candidates July 16.

"This is where it begins," Cadet 2nd Class Andrew Riddle told one of the small groups of new preppies he escorted on the walk from the club to the Prep School campus.

Cadet Candidate Nigel Brown had one thing on his mind while standing in line to in-process.

"Graduation," he said with a smile.

He has been preparing for entering by running, doing push-ups and going to the gym.

The member of an Army family has wanted to come here since the seventh grade.

"Ever since I got over the Power

Rangers," he added. "It's great the day is finally here."

The new class numbers 243 members, with 19 percent female and 49 percent minorities. With the Prep School staff of 57, staff-to-student ratio is just more than four cadet candidates per staff member.

Prep School staff members and cadet cadre were all around and made the new class feel welcome and comfortable.

"I am totally excited," said Lt. Col. Alma Widden, commander of military training. "I've waited for this all summer."

Prep School commander Col. Todd Zachary said 12 new cadet candidates and their friends and family members were waiting in line before the doors to the Milazzo Club opened at 8 a.m.

"So far, so good," he said of the class. "We're ready, as ready as we can be."

He pointed out scores for the Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Testing are higher than last year's entering class, and numbers are up from 85 to 100 for athletes this year, with more diverse skills in such sports as water polo, fencing and baseball in addition to football, basketball and soccer.

In his presentation to family and friends of the new cadet candidates, Colonel Zachary thanked them all.

"You are trusting the Preparatory School with your most valuable asset, your son or daughter," he said. "Thank you for supporting their decision."

Colonel Zachary

stressed the school is an opportunity to earn an appointment to the Academy, an opportunity that may be hard.

"It's going to be tough some days. That's when we'll need your support the most," he told family members.

The new class moved from station to station in the Milazzo Club while clearing paperwork for mailboxes, identification cards, medical and dental records, meeting chaplains and staff members, becoming acquainted with 10th Services Squadron services and, alas, bidding adieu to high school haircuts.

Female cadets were given the opportunity for a new, shorter "do" as well. Representatives from the Locks for Love organization were on hand to accept hair donations, which help young cancer patients.

After the walk to the campus, the new preppies received uniforms and dorm assignments.

Cadet Candidate Logan Burch has his eye on becoming a medical doctor.

"I want to continue to learn, take all the hard classes I can and be as best prepared as I can," the Colorado Springs resident said.

Saying good-bye to her son was in no way easy for mom Eva Burch. She and her husband Rob are also moving to Florida.

"It's a double whammy, she said but added, "We are excited and very proud of him."

Cadet Candidate Shandiin West from Ganado, Ariz., is also interested in the medical field.

"I'm anxious to see what the training is going to be like," she said and noted she was interested in coming here for the "very prestigious academics and good faculty."

Cadet Riddle, a member of the Preparatory School Class of 2006, is enjoying the opportunity, which he requested, to work with the new preppies.

"It's great to be back," he said.



Photo by Ann Patton
Members of the Prep School Class of 2009 organize for the trek to campus.

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Air Force officials buy 'offices in the air'

by Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials recently approved the purchase of pallets that will provide work and rest areas for senior leaders traveling aboard mobility aircraft.

The service is purchasing two types of removable mobile command workspaces for use by military and senior civilian leaders who are required to use military aircraft for travel. One is the Senior Leaders In-transit Conference Capsule, or SLICC, and the other is the SLIP, or Senior Leaders In-transit Pallet.

"Having these pallets on airlift and refueling aircraft provides an 'office in the air' and will allow senior leaders and dignitaries to perform their duties while traveling," said Air Force Director of Maintenance Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon.

The new equipment also expands the Air Force's ability to provide airlift support by using cargo and refueling aircraft in addition to the limited VIP transport fleet. It leverages the investment the Air Force has already made in its 500-plus fleet of airlift and refueling aircraft, General McMahon said.

In addition, because the pallets are on aircraft already equipped with defensive systems, and the fact that the planes don't look like they're carrying VIPs, travel will be safer into high-risk regions of the world, the general added.

"Commercial flights aren't a viable option for flying our leaders into combat or sensitive security areas," General McMahon said. "Also, commercial air providers can't adapt to the fluid scheduling requirements dictated by frequent, short-notice travel."

The SLIP is a lighted conference table with reclining



U.S. Air Force illustration

Air Force officials are purchasing removable mobile command workspaces for use by military and senior civilian leaders who must use military aircraft for travel. Shown here is an illustration of the Senior Leaders In-transit Conference Capsule that will fit in C-130s as well as C-17s and KC-10s.

chairs and is already in use with plans to purchase three more. It's designed to be used in the C-17 Globemaster III, KC-10 Extender and the KC-135 Stratotanker.

The SLICC is an enclosed pod with work and rest areas that can be equipped with a secure communication capability. It fits inside C-130 Hercules aircraft as well as C-17s and KC-10s. The first SLICC is expected to be completed before the end of the year, General

McMahon said.

Because the work areas are palletized, unused space will be available for cargo or other passengers, General McMahon said.

The initial SLICC will cost \$2.7 million, while two planned additional SLICCs will cost approximately \$1.9 million apiece. The four SLIPs cost \$290,000 each, General McMahon said.

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In addition to its flagship main base and post exchange facilities, modern AAFES operations now include convenience stores, car care centers, military clothing sales stores, fast food restaurants, retail concession services such as flower shops and gift stores, vending, telecommunications support and a wide variety of personal services through more than 3,100 facilities in 30 countries, five U.S. territories and 49 states. The scope of current operations goes well beyond the conventional offerings the War Department might have envisioned in the late 1800's as AAFES even operates bakeries, water bottling activities and provides 24,000 meals a day to troops' sons and daughters at 92 Department of Defense Schools in nine countries.

Just like the merchants who supplied provisions to America's troops in the late 19th century, AAFES associates continue to live and work alongside those they serve. In fact, more than 350 associates are currently



Photo by Ken Carter

JoAnne Donaldson, left, and Bonnie Bonnin work an aspect of AAFES customer service at the Academy different from any Air Force base in the world. Here, they're preparing for the influx of cadets who'll be purchasing text books beginning Aug. 4.

deployed to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, actively delivering a slice of Americana to troops through 85 BX/PX operations, 75 phone centers and 197 fast food restaurants scattered throughout the Middle East.

Closer to home, the largest and most senior exchange service is focused on energizing outreach efforts to communicate the value, benefit and capabilities it brings to the military community. Recognizing the pivotal role National Guard and Reserve troops are playing as they transition from a strategic force to an operational force, AAFES is specifically reaching out to "Citizen Soldiers" families to ensure they understand the value of their exchange benefit not only downrange, but also on the installation, online or over the phone.

"AAFES' commitment to America's troops has never been stronger," said AAFES' Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. "Whether at their home station, deployed overseas, providing support in the wake of a natural disaster, or even in the hospital, AAFES is there."

Keeping in the spirit of service and support, BXs and PXs and the Exchange Online Store are inviting authorized customers to "celebrate the savings" beginning today. Exchange shoppers who stop by CONUS exchanges on AAFES' 113th birthday can score a \$100 AAFES gift card with purchase of a Sharp 37" LCD HDTV or pick up a Zvue "Spirit" MP3 player, preloaded with 15 patriotic themed songs, for the special buy price of \$31.13. Additionally, AAFES exchanges across the globe will feature a variety of local special incentives such as opportunities to win gift bags, coupons or gift cards.

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10th CES commander lauded for leadership

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Fair. Caring. Grab 'em by the horns. Consistent and clear. Just a few of the ways those under her command describe Lt. Col. Deborah McMurtrey, 10th Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

"She is my very favorite commander ever," said Master Sgt. Brian Archuleta, a 19-year Air Force fire fighting veteran.

Professionally, he described her as "superb" by the ways she enforces standards and outlines what she expects at the beginning.

"She sets us up for success," Sergeant Archuleta said.

Keith Butala, 10th CE deputy chief, called Colonel McMurtrey a "fireball" with a strong will and personality.

"She is a very good first commander to have," said firefighter Will Bannister and added she speaks her mind but is very fair. Staff Sgt. Bryan Tarantino agreed.

"She's hard but fair," he said. "She expects a lot but rewards a lot."

He pointed out she has seen to it firefighters have the equipment and training to do their jobs, including the addition of a new pumper truck and a new brush truck.

Only a little more than a year into her command, Colonel McMurtrey has also arranged for the addition of a mobile

aircraft trainer and a flashover trainer, which helps firefighters better their knowledge of explosive fire behavior. The flashover trainer is only one of four or five in the Air Force.

"She's always pleasant," said fire inspector Brian Pille. "That's half the battle. She has great people skills and lets us know she appreciates us."

Sergeant Tarantino said her caring for others doesn't stop with the military, civilians and contractors she oversees.

"I've never had a commander who cares so much about the family," the 10-year firefighting veteran, husband and father said.

He added, "She comes out and plays with us."

Squadron members have enjoyed, among other events, volleyball, dodge ball, roller skating, a pig roast after the Unit Compliance Inspection and a bowling outing, for which Colonel McMurtrey footed the bill for Senior Airmen and below. A steak cookout is also in the works. Her home-baked goods and small prizes for orderly dorm rooms are also very popular.

"She is wholly immersed in this organization and has done a great job balancing her family, her duties as the commander, and she still has time to mentor young troops," said Academy Fire Chief Ernst Piercy.

"Because of the operations tempo,

we have to be a family—one team, one family," Colonel McMurtrey said.

She said she always feels the need to be open and honest upfront.

"I have no agenda but the troops. I believe in my people and their capabilities."

The mother of two children said the recreational events give her staff some fun and a chance to get to know and mentor each other.

"I feel very humbled and honored," Colonel McMurtrey said of the comments made about her. "I'm not a politician. I'm there to take care of them."

She added there needs to be a balance between the mission needs and taking care of people but the mission "can't be sustained if we don't take care of our own."

The 10th CES has about 120 employees, including 75 in the Academy Fire Department. The unit shops also include environmental, housing, emergency management, squadron operations and planning/programming.

Before coming to the Academy last year, Colonel McMurtrey served as commander for the 735th Civil Engineer Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Her Army husband is stationed at the Pentagon.

"I love my job and being able to take care of the CE team," she concluded. "Each day is a new challenge."



Photo by Ann Patton

Colonel Deborah McMurtrey talks with fire fighters during a recent visit to the station.



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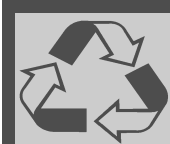


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Air Force streamlining claims process

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Movers bust up your cherry coffee table? Break your DVD player? Smash a Hummel during packing?

That's the bad news.

The good news is the Air Force has streamlined the claims process by making it available online.

More good news. Airmen now automatically receive full replacement value protection on damage during moves in the continental U.S. or overseas.

The Web site <https://claims.jag.af.mil> walks claimants through questions and allows them to file the pink form DD Form 1840R. The electronic submissions are then processed by the Air Force Claims Service in Dayton, Ohio.

The Form 1840R must be filed within 70 days from the date of delivery.

Once the pink form has been transmitted, claimants will receive confirmation the form has been dispatched to the carrier.

Filing the Form 1840R is not filing a claim. It only puts the carrier on notice the Air Force member has detected additional loss or damage since delivery. The Airman still needs to file a claim with the carrier within nine months.

The nine-month time limit applies



Capt. Jay Braga and Tech. Sgt. Jeri Goff double check a DD Form 1840R in the legal office.

Photo by Ann Patton

for claims against the carrier for full replacement value or two years if the claimant wants to file against the Air Force for depreciated value.

After the carrier receives a complete,

substantiated claim, the carrier will pay, deny or make an offer within 60 days. If the claimant agrees with the way a carrier handles an item, a legal release is required for those items to receive

payment, due within 30 days of receipt of notice the Airman has accepted a full or partial settlement.

For items on which a claimant disagrees with the carrier's officer, claimants may file with the AFCS, which will pay appropriate repair or depreciated value and try to collect the full replacement value from the carrier.

If the center collects more money from the carrier than the claimant receives, the extra money goes to the claimant.

"Filing online is the preferred method," said Tech. Sgt. Jeri Goff, claims specialist with the Academy legal office. "It's step-by-step and very user friendly."

However, she stressed, claimants may still also file by mail, FAX or turn forms into the legal office.

The AFSC maintains a 24/7 toll-free support line at 1-877-754-1212.

Sergeant Goff and the entire staff stand by to help face-to-face as well.

"We will never turn anyone away," she said and added the Academy legal office assists members of different military branches.

For in-person assistance and for the convenience of the legal staff and the claimant, Sergeant Goff recommends calling ahead for an appointment at 333-3645.

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Basics get first taste of Jacks

Basic cadets receive instruction from a cadre member at the final obstacle of the assault course in the Jacks Valley training area July 16 during the field training portion of basic training. Photo by Dave Ahlschwede



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Above: Basic Cadets cheer on their squadron members as they take on the Obstacle Course. Middle Top: Basic Cadet Jeremy Kurz, a member of Interceptors Squadron, negotiates the monkey bars on the Obstacle Course. Right Top: Basic Cadet Allison Paddock does her best to stay dry on the Obstacle Course.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede



Photo by MikeKaplan



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Basic Cadet Kody O'Connell digs in deep crossing the low-crawl obstacle on the assault course during field training.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Basic Cadet Daniel Tenpas brings up the rear on the Assault Course.



Photo by MikeKaplan

A Basic Cadet keeps his weapon dry on the Assault Course.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Basic cadets work as teams to set up their tent city.



Photo by MikeKaplan

Hector Valladares, second from left, a prior enlisted KC-135 electrician from Grand Forks AFB ND goes over command structure with fellow basics.

By Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins
Public Affairs

Early morning July 15 in Jacks Valley, wet and muddy sets of Airman Battle Uniforms were hung to dry throughout rows of tents. The sound of brooms sweeping away dust and rocks was overshadowed by the echoes of percussion grenades and the rumblings of passing humvees.

Nearby, Cadet 2nd Class Christopher Allen, group training non-commissioned officer, was spending some quality time with a group of basic cadets.

"Weakness is not an option at Jacks Valley," he said loudly to a small group of basic cadets from Barbarians squadron. "Let's sound off - let's show some motivation!"

There seems to be no lack of motivation from basic cadets and cadre as the second half of Basic Cadet

Training is underway in Jacks Valley. Affectionately known as "Second Beast," the activities in Jacks Valley are designed to test basic cadets physically and mentally - a challenge the Class of 2012 appears to be up for.

"They are doing amazing," said Cadet 1st Class Jonathan Andresen, Barbarians cadre. "I've been impressed with them since their first day here with their sense of teamwork and their wanting to help each other out."

The Class of 2012 arrived at Jacks Valley July 14 after a 4 a.m. wake-up call. After their four-mile march, the class was welcomed by Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins before beginning construction of tent city.

"The basics were pretty worn out by the end of their first day," said Cadet 2nd Class Mark Bishop, a flight commander with Barbarians.

Cadet Andresen agreed.

"The physical aspect of Jacks Valley is pretty challenging," he said. "All the wear and tear definitely takes a toll."

Jacks Valley has no shortage of physical challenges, to include the assault, leadership reaction and confidence courses. These are mixed in with weapons and flight drill, character development, first aid training, physical fitness activities, inspections and more to develop physical abilities, teamwork and leadership potential.

Members of Barbarians finished the Assault Course July 15, which some said is the toughest part of second beast.

"I heard the Assault Course is the toughest, so I'm glad that's over," said Basic Cadet Catherine Degan, Barbarians member from Dallas. "Overall, it's been a lot more physically challenging than first beast, but a lot more fun. There's been a lot of teamwork."

Basic Cadet Josh Burton, also with the Barbarians, agreed the Assault Course was a big challenge.

"It was really hard," the Merrill, Wis., native said. "Midway through, you hurt pretty bad. But then you get a second wind, and think to yourself, 'This is something the folks back home will never do,' and you push through it. But I think that my squad mates agree that once that adrenaline stops pumping, you're pretty tired."

Basic Cadet Weston Smith, from Billings, Mont., seemed enthused, yet tired after finishing the Assault Course.

"Parts of it were pretty hard," he said. "We got really wet and muddy. It was a lot of fun, but I'm looking forward to the end of Beast the most. Other than that, the Leadership Reaction Course is supposed to be a lot of fun, so I'm looking forward to that too."

So far, the Class of 2012 appears to be showing motivation and a strong desire to survive Basic Cadet Training.

"We're pretty much on par," said Cadet 2nd Class Daniel Walker, group staff standards and evaluation. "Basics will always be confused their first few weeks here, but this place is full of outstanding Americans with a lot of potential."

He added one of the keys to the basics' success and one of the biggest challenges is getting them to understand their potential.

"I think the biggest challenge is instilling confidence in the basics," he said. "Most of the basics were honor students or leaders in their schools or communities before coming here, but when they get here it seems like they can't even answer simple questions because they lack confidence. We need to make them understand that they can overcome these challenges and that one day they will be leaders. It's a very exciting and interesting challenge."

The Class of 2012's time at Jacks Valley culminates Saturday with the Valley Sweepstakes and Big Bad Basic competitions.

Summer hire:

Program prepares students for real-life

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Eighty-three laborers, clerks and food service workers are at work this year as Academy summer hires.

"The summer-hire program at the Academy has been a unique operation," said Civilian Personnel Office clerical worker Mr. Myron Funchess. "In my short time working with the civilian personnel staff, I have gained valuable work experience and learned much about the inner workings of office and civil service work."

According to Mr. Funchess the summer hire program itself provides many opportunities by preparing high school and college students for professional work, placing them in direct contact with people who make these jobs their professions.

Kathleen Larkin performs clerical work on the commander's support staff of the 10th Medical Group. The summer hire program has been positive for her.

"It's been a great experience so far," Ms. Larkin said. "I am learning the ins and outs about how a hospital works."

Salaries for summer hires range from \$9.22 to \$11.32 an hour and funding is covered by each organization.

Candidates must be at least 16 years of age at the time of hire; currently enrolled on at least a half-time basis in an accredited high school, technical or vocational school or be enrolled in a two or four year college or university.

Undergraduate summer hires must be enrolled in an academic, vocational or technical program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.



Courtesy Photo

Kathleen Larkin performs clerical work with the Commander's Support Staff of the 10th Medical Group. The summer hire program has been positive for her.

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Academy Ice Arena military appreciation day is set for 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 7. Skate for free, Win prizes and learn about "Learn to Skate" programs. The arena is located in the Field House, Building 2169, in the Cadet Area. The program is based on the U.S. Figure Skating Association Skate with US, basic skills program. Authorized patrons are military personnel, family members and accompanied guests and government civilian employees. For more information, call 333-0389.

The Next Level

The Protestant parish of the Community Center Chapel begins one night of ministry! The Next Level begins Aug. 20 and continues each Wednesday at 6 p.m. through May 2009. The night begins with a hearty meal followed by an inspirational opening assembly in the chapel and dynamic programs for all ages: TNL Youth (6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade classes), TNL Kids: Grades 1-5, rotating between five exciting stations: music, crafts, snacks, games, and surprises, as well as classes for Pre-K through kindergarten and infants, toddlers, and twos. Adult small group studies are also offered as part of TNL. Volunteers needed. Contact Chaplain Yelton or Diane Brewner with questions. Registration

begins Aug. 1 at the chaplain's table at the base picnic and will continue at the chapel following all the weekend worship services.

CPO Relocates

The Academy Civilian Personnel Office will close Tuesday through Aug. 1 to relocate and is scheduled to reopen Aug. 4. The office's new location will be in the Community Center (lower level, east side), Bldg. 5136 Eagle Drive. Anyone needing emergency assistance during this time, should call 333-4363 or 333-3535.

Appropriated Fund Contract Positions

The Community Center Chapel has the following appropriated fund contract positions available: Protestant traditional music coordinator, Protestant contemporary service music coordinator and Protestant parish life and religious education coordinator; Catholic pastoral coordinator and Catholic religious education coordinator. For more information or to obtain a statement of work for any of the above positions, call 333-3300. Resumes and sealed bids should be submitted to Mike Slocum, 333-6081, no later than Monday.

Meet and Greet

Air Force Falcon Football Head Coach Troy Calhoun and members of his coaching staff will host a meet and greet for fans to discuss the upcoming 2008 football season from 5 to 7 p.m. today in the Elbo Room at The Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon Street in downtown Colorado Springs. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available. Posters, schedule cards, magnets and booster club information will be available. Coach Calhoun will take questions from fans at 6 pm. For more information, call 333-2626 or e-mail FalconPride@goairforceathletics.com.

2nd Annual 1/2 Marathon

Sign up for the Base Fitness and Sports Center's 2nd Annual 1/2 marathon

is open. The free 13.1-mile race is Aug. 2, 6:30 a.m. The race begins and ends at the Santa Fe Trail at the south entrance to the Academy. Eligible participants include valid military ID card holders including active duty, retirees, civilian employees and family members 18 and older. Registration forms are available at the fitness center or Health and Wellness Center. Return or fax the form by today. For more information, call 333-4522 or 333-9133

Volunteers Sought

The Academy's Base Honor Guard needs volunteers. Join an elite group and gain valuable leadership skills while having fun and advancing your career. Training is held periodically. All ranks are eligible. For more information, call 333-5684.

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 airman through staff sergeant and first and second lieutenant, and \$40 for all others. Entry fee includes lunch, golf cart, green fees, range balls, post round drinks and rental clubs if needed. Additionally, the Professional Golfers Association staff will conduct a clinic from noon to 1:15 p.m. All proceeds from the fundraiser 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, call Tim Neuman at 333-2137 or Jeannie Lopez at 333-3444.

Fellowship Department will honor the large contingent of military in Colorado by hosting Military Family Day Wednesday. 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. Visit the tickets page at: www.2008ussenioropen.com or call the Championship Office at (719)471-6488.

Fairly focused

The Colorado State Fair in Pueblo runs Aug. 22 through Sept. 1 and will offer entertainment for the whole family. The hours of operation will be as follows: grounds, daily, 10 a.m. to midnight; creative arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Monday through Thursday noon to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; exhibit halls, daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; fine arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Aircraft Hall, daily, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; carnival rides, weekdays, 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. to midnight weekends.

Directions: From the Academy, take I-25 South to Exit 97A (Central Avenue Exit). Go north one block to Northern Avenue. Turn left on Northern Avenue to Prairie Avenue. Turn right on Prairie Avenue and go two blocks to fairgrounds. Driving time is approximately 50 minutes. For more information visit: www.coloradostatefair.com



Senior Open Military Day

The 2008 U.S. Senior Open and the U.S. Golf Association Grants and

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:
Sunday
 Reconciliation 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.
 Mass - 10 a.m.

Protestant Services:
Sunday
 Traditional - 10 a.m.

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.

Academy Fire Department Open House

Sparky & Smokey

Antique Fire Trucks

Equipment Displays

Vehicle Extrication Demo

Flight for Life Helicopter

Saturday, 2 August

1100-1400

Pine Valley Fire Station #1

Stop by for
free hot dogs
and drinks!

Thanks Troops Golf Tournament

1st Annual
To Benefit
Thanks Troops
Charitable
Fund

Friday, August 8th
Shotgun 7:30 am or 1:30 pm
Springs Ranch Golf Course

Wounded veteran Jeremy Henderson with the SoloRider

Help a "wounded warrior" stay in the game by supporting the 1st Annual ThanksTroops Golf Tournament. Proceeds put SoloRiders modified golf carts at courses throughout Southern Colorado for use by soldiers who have lost strength and stamina from traumatic injury or amputation. Other recreational equipment and activities for wounded vets are funded, too.

- Participation and support packages are available from \$100 to \$10,000
- Sign up to play as part of a foursome (\$500 per Foursome) including vets and celebrities, Includes breakfast (Egg and I), lunch (Chipotle), dinner (Outback), team competition, silent auction throughout the day and live auction after dinner
- Participate as a sponsor, or make a donation of any size.

**For more information or to sign-up, call 719-243-6400,
email Scott@ThanksTroops.com or visit www.ThanksTroopsGolf.com.**

ThanksTroops Charitable Fund is an affiliate fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.