

USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 49 No. 4

January 30, 2009



Stripes Lounge

Hard work pays off in grand re-opening at Falcon Club

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Hot topic

Academy's Fire Station #3 improves fire fighters' quality of life

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AEF recognition

New award touts Airmen's accomplishments

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Hockey action

Air Force ices Army in back-to-back contests in Clune Arena

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Photo by Dennis Rogers

Cutting edge

Cadet 4th Class Martin Schaeuble, receives familiarization training in the F-22 Raptor Demonstrator by Lockheed Martin Instructor, Mark Dougherty. The demonstrator and a team of operators recently visited the Academy to introduce cadets and faculty to technology incorporated in the Air Force's newest fighter.

AF Space Command cyber panel acquaints cadets with new direction

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

A space and cyber panel was held in Fairchild Hall Monday to acquaint cadets with the direction the Air Force Space Command is going with the command's responsibility for the space and cyber war-fighting domains and what the future holds for future officers.

Panelists were from what will be the Air Force elements of 24th Air Force, the AFSPC numbered Air Force in charge of cyber operations. It's a command within the space command, where panelists discussed providing full-spectrum cyber capabilities. Topics included to global command and control, electronic warfare and network defense and offering a fresh assessment of efforts to provide the U.S. and joint force the full spectrum of air, space and cyberspace capabilities.

"There's a lot of excitement coming," said Brig. Gen. David Warner, director, AFSPC Comm and Information, told cadets. "We need your brains, need you

to tell us the direction to go in. You already live in cyber space."

"Take out cyber and you take out space," General Warner said. "We're subject to the cyber threat every day. Cyber is a Joint venture, with a Joint definition. You can use things through space, but do them right now with cyber."

Currently, there more captains than second lieutenants in the cyber field, General Warner said.

A cadet asked if the Air Force should have more information from the "human side"?

"When we get a tip off it can come from any source, a human, an email or cyber," said Maj. Gen. David Senty, commander, Air Force Network Operations. "Air Force intelligence goes back to the waning days of World War II."

Col. B.J Shwedo, 67th Network Warfare Wing commander told cadet attendees, "You need to be able to tell the different people in the sand box. The services are coming together as a cyber team. Why use a bomb when cyber can

take out a threat?"

"Cyber will cause a big change as the Air Force moves into it," said Col. Penny Heiniger, AFSPC's director of AFSPC Intelligence, Surveillance and Recon, told cadets.

It's best if people entering cyber are pilots or have another core skill first.

One cadet noted some countries are trying to make nuclear devices, others are trying to develop satellites.

"We study how we would react," Colonel Heiniger said. "Defense is a partnership. But if you use cyber to take out a satellite, it becomes a weapon of mass destruction. We need to determine who the bad guy is."

Among the six panelists was Brig. Gen. Dana Born, Academy dean of the faculty.

"The only reason any of us are here is for our country," she said. "We have an Air Force with needs in many different areas, and cyber is among the newest. The goal is to get cadets excited about future missions in space and cyberspace."

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Do the right thing even when nobody's looking

By Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz
Commander, Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Our nation was inspired by the actions of a brave pilot Jan. 15 as an everyday American reminded us of who we are and who we can be.

The pilot who crash-landed a crippled airliner in New York's Hudson River saved 155 lives on board. He steered the aircraft toward the river when both engines failed less than five minutes after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport in New York.

It just so happens that the pilot of US Airways Flight 1549, Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger, is a classmate of mine. We both graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1973. When I saw his picture on the news, I immediately looked him up in our 1973 yearbook, and there he was, looking sharp in his cadet uniform.

Mr. Sullenberger learned how to fly in our Air Force, and he served out his seven-year commitment as an officer and pilot. He then began a 29-year career as an airline pilot and safety expert. When you throw in his time as a cadet, he had more than 40 years of training, education and experience to prepare him for the challenge he would face when his jet lost power.

He prepared himself well. Like all Air Force pilots, Mr. Sullenberger spent hundreds of hours studying emergency

procedures and practicing them in simulators. He obviously continued this practice as he transitioned to the airlines. One definition of integrity is doing the right thing when no one else is looking, and Mr. Sullenberger made himself a better pilot by studying and practicing when no one else was paying a lot of attention. His foundation of knowledge and skill was strong because he put in the time and effort required to build it.

But preparation wasn't enough. When faced with a crisis, Mr. Sullenberger had to execute. He didn't panic. Instead, he focused on what he had to do to save his plane and his passengers. Ditching a large aircraft is an incredibly difficult thing to do, and Mr. Sullenberger was able to do it safely. He executed his responsibilities with excellence.

Once the aircraft stopped in the cold waters of the Hudson, Mr. Sullenberger continued to care for his passengers and crew. New York Mayor Bloomberg described how Mr. Sullenberger walked the aisle of the airplane twice to make sure everyone was out. In doing so, he put service to others before his own personal safety. In the middle of incredible stress and strain, Sully chose to do the right thing.

In media parlance, the story of Flight 1549 had "legs." Even as the historic inauguration approached, people remained fascinated with the incident, hanging on every detail as recounted by the passengers, ferrymen and rescue specialists. Perhaps this can be explained by the sheer

drama of the crash and the fact that it happened in our largest city.

I think there is something deeper here; however. I believe that, in the face of all the negative news we have endured in recent months, we are looking for a hero — or in this case, a "Sully" — who will do the right thing in the face of adversity. Americans love heroes, especially "ordinary" people who do extraordinary things, because one of our core ideals is that everyday people can make a difference.

On a very cold day in New York, Sully made a difference. He did it by living according to our core values of integrity, service and excellence.

We didn't invent the core values in the Air Force. They came from the American people whom we serve. Although the headlines may be filled with stories of fraud, greed and waste, it is important to remember that there are millions of Americans who choose to live by these values. Whether it is the teacher who chooses to stay after class to help a troubled student or the policeman who chases the thief into the dark alley, many Americans choose to live according to integrity, service and excellence.

The story of "Sully" Sullenberger reminds us of this. In these challenging times, it's good to remember what makes our country great.

To Sully, my old classmate: Thanks for landing Flight 1549, walking down the aisle twice and setting an example for us all.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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The *Academy Spirit* is published by Colorado Springs Military Newspaper Group, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Air Force Academy. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Academy Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Air Force Academy Directorate of Public Affairs. The editor reserves the right to edit articles to conform to Air Force policy and Associated Press style. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Submissions

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

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

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

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



Character Corner

Let's Answer Our Nations Call!

By Maj. Eric Ecklund
Center for Character Development

The National Character and Leadership Symposium will be held here Feb. 18-21. The theme "Answering the Nations Call ... Our Legacy in the Making" reflects how we as Americans take pride in our fellow citizens' service.

For now, reflect on how this father answered our nation's call as told by former President George W. Bush in his departing speech:

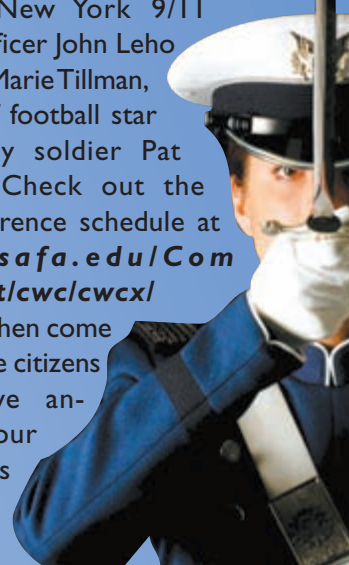
"We see America's character in Bill Krissoff — a surgeon from California.

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

His son, Nathan — a Marine — gave his life in Iraq. When I met Dr. Krissoff and his family, he delivered some surprising news: He told me he wanted to join the Navy Medical Corps in honor of his son. This good man was 60 years old — 18 years above the age limit. But his petition for a waiver was granted, and for the past year he has trained in battlefield medicine. Lieutenant Commander Krissoff could not be here tonight, because he will soon deploy to Iraq, where he will help save America's wounded warriors — and uphold the legacy of his fallen son."

Examples of this year's NCLS speakers

include New York 9/11 Police Officer John Leho and Mrs. Marie Tillman, widow of football star and Army soldier Pat Tillman. Check out the full conference schedule at www.usafa.edu/Commandant/cwlcwcncls and then come hear some citizens who have answered our nations call.



Correction

In the Jan. 23 edition of the *Academy Spirit* we had an error in fact in the story entitled: "Faculty members named permanent professors" on Page 4. The story stated, "Unless extended by the secretary of the Air Force, they (permanent professors) retire upon completing 30 years of service as commissioned officers." In fact, they can be allowed to remain on active duty (if extended) to no more than age 62 ... thus permanent professors can serve 40 years of active duty.

Who's winning the Super Bowl and why?

"The Pittsburgh Steelers without a doubt, because they're a great team."



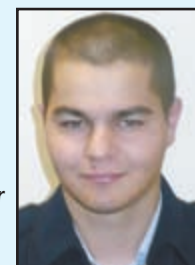
2nd Lt. Jamie Davis
Admissions Diversity
Recruiting Office
Fresno, Calif.

"The Cardinals because I hate the Steelers. I'm a Browns fan."



Senior Airman
Timothy Hostetler
Financial Services
Canton, Ohio

"I'm picking the Steelers because I'd like to see them win their sixth Super Bowl."



Senior Airman
Carl Billado
USAF Commander
Support Staff
Burlington, Vt.

"The Cardinals because you have to root for the underdog."



Erick Phillips
10th Mission
Support Group
Colorado Springs



Falcon Club hails Stripes Lounge re-opening

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Stripes Lounge is back in business.

The NCO club held its grand re-opening Jan. 23 and hosted long lines of Airmen taking in the new location, meeting with friends, enjoying food and beverages and entering to win gift-card drawings.

Stripes was originally housed in the Milazzo Club. The re-opening was in the works for about a year.

"This is part of the volunteer rhythm across the base," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis, who credited Airmen for their generous donations of time.

The club, open Fridays at 4 p.m., features two televisions, a jukebox, pool tables, darts and karaoke, as well as a food buffet and pay-as-you-go bar.

"We want to let Airmen know it's their club," said Robyn Sleeth, deputy group commander with the 10th Services Squadron.

He also praised the volunteers who made it happen.

"Hats off to the club and to the first sergeants," he said and stressed Stripes is designed as a safe location where people can look after each other.

Those Airmen in attendance appreciated the re-

opening of the club.

"It gives us a chance to mingle outside of work and build camaraderie," said Staff Sgt. Rob Sawtell with the 10th Security Forces Squadron.

Master Sgt. Robert Hartwig, Air Military Trainer with Cadet Squadron 32, appreciates the change of location for its convenience and service.

"It gives us another place to go on base," he said.

Senior Master Sgt. Bret Bridgewater, Cadet Group 4 superintendent said it aptly filled the gap left when the club left the Milazzo facility.

"We haven't had a club for a while," he said and added it's important the club includes all ranks.

Chief Davis said it's important for Airmen to use the new Stripes Lounge.

"It takes your participation and involvement to make sure it's a success," he told the attending Airmen.

Falcon Club Manager Kathleen Turmelle also emphasized Airmen need to support it and that the club stands by to help out not only with weekly lounge activities but also for special events, including dinners, receptions, meetings, retirements and changes of command.

"It is a shared environment," she said. "If you need something, let me know."

To arrange for special events, call the Falcon Club at 333-8189.

It is open for all ranks Tuesday through Friday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Sunday for brunch.

Cost of food during Stripes' hours is \$5 for non-members and free for members.

Photo by Mike Kaplan

Command Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis, right, visits with Airmen and club staff during the grand opening of Stripes Lounge in the Falcon Club.



AFPC changes impact on those retiring, separating

The Air Force Personnel Center implemented a change effective Jan. 1, 2009, whereby retiring or separating members will no longer hand carry their health treatment records to their Military Personnel Flights.

Patients will be required to provide two copies of military orders to the 10th Medical Group's admissions and dispositions office or cadet/flight records for those enrolled to the cadet/flight medicine clinic.

Additionally, two copies of military orders will also go to the dental clinic.

Once orders have been received, the transfer of health treatment records will be facilitated by the 10th Medical Group. Health treatment records will be retained for 30 duty days past a member's final service obligation date, and then sent to the Air Force Personnel Center. AFPC will send records of members filing a Veteran Affairs claim to the regional VA and all others will be sent to the VA records management center in St. Louis, Mo.

Copies of health treatment records can be requested in person through the 10th Medical Group's admissions and disposition office in the clinic's main lobby.

All active-duty members are authorized one CD or paper-based copy of their health treatment record free of charge.

Members may request a copy no earlier than 179 calendar days and no later than 30 calendar days prior to the date of final separation or retirement.

A copy request takes 15 days to process and it's the member's responsibility to provide a copy to the Disabled American Veterans/VA for any interim appointments until the original health treatment records are received by the local VA.

Call Staff Sgt. Shannon Copeland at 333-5162 or 1st Lt. Courtney Grafton at 333-0520 with questions or e-mail: 10mdss.sgst@usafa.af.mil.

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Team 'Spreads the Word' across Air Force

By Capt. Mathew Ramstack
Chief, Command Assignments

A team from the Air Force Personnel Center visited the Academy recently to present its "Spread the Word" briefing as part of AFPC's ongoing effort to keep Air Force units up to date with the latest personnel policies, issues and innovations in service delivery.

Led by its commander, Maj. Gen. K. C. McClain, the five-member briefing team addressed topics ranging from 365-day deployments, to improvements to the Aerospace Expeditionary Force banding system and officer and enlisted assignments. The team also touched on subjects regarding civilian personnel hiring, rated staff manning and the ongoing transformation of personnel services delivery.

Furthermore, Lt. Col. Michael Hayes, from the AFPC assignments directorate, cited emerging rated requirements, such as increased 365-day deployments, joint rated manning, Unmanned Aerial Systems and a renewed emphasis on the Air Force's nuclear enterprise as the reason

fewer rated personnel will be assigned outside their major weapons systems in the near term.

The colonel also explained the new three-day option a member can exercise when offered a non-voluntary 365-day deployment. Similar to the seven-day option one may exercise when offered a normal permanent change of station assignment, the member has three days from notification of selection for a 365-day deployment to accept or decline the deployment. If declined, the member will separate within 12 months of declining.

This year may also see the introduction of the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System, a Congressionally-mandated program with efforts spearheaded through Department of Defense that will provide the services with an integrated, multi-component, personnel and pay system. This will be a fundamental shift in how the DoD will deliver its human relations support for all services.

"DIMHRS will be the vehicle in which you manage your career," said Mr. Lee Shick, AFPC personnel services.

DIMHRS will be available worldwide, via the Internet at any time. It will offer self-service access to fully integrated personnel and pay records, with updates in real time, for active duty, Guard, Reserve, retirees and family members of all military components. The Army is currently in the initial test phase of DIMHRS implementation. The Air Force is projected to begin using DIMHRS in the fall of 2009. For more information, visit the DIMHRS website at <http://www.dimhrs.mil/>

The briefing team also provided information on Air Force retention rates, uniform improvements and the future of computer-based and base-level personnel services. Uniform items on the horizon are a lighter ABU top, cold-weather green boots and stain-resistant green boots.

In terms of how Air Force members access personnel services, the stated goal for 2011 is to maximize self-service, web-based applications such as the Virtual MPE, optimize the use of the centralized AFPC Call Center and provide limited base-level services for functions that

require in-person service, such as ID cards, casualty assistance and CED orders. The team also highlighted current self-service functions including automated personnel records and the enlisted promotion releases.

Mr. Jim Hale, of the civilian force integration directorate, outlined an initiative to speed up the civilian hiring process. The program includes supervisors aggressively managing vacancies, better using available resources, and informational resources for applicants to best position themselves for posted vacancies.

"Career planning is ultimately the responsibility of the Air Force member and anything we can do to facilitate informed career decisions through initiatives such as the Spread-the-Word program is beneficial for us all," said Col. David Southerland, director USAFA manpower and personnel.

To access the AF Contact Center, call 1-800-616-3775 or DSN 665-5000, or send an e-mail to stw.workflow@randolph.af.mil or visit the Ask AFPC webpage at: <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>



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By Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch
Academy Public Affairs

Seventeen residential fires in Colorado Springs within in the last few weeks have not only grabbed the attention of city officials, but Academy leadership as well.

Two fatalities in recent months also drive a closer look at the risk to the Academy community. The cause of one fire-related death in Colorado Springs was due to smoking and another death in Manitou Springs was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Base fire officials are keeping a close eye on the situation which has caused several injuries and major property damage. According to fire officials, the most recent causes of these local fires are related to barbecue grills on decks,

candles, smoking, and one reported fire due to children playing with matches.

"While all communities are susceptible to residential fires, our most common cause of fire here has been unattended cooking," said Dennis Chaltry, Academy assistant fire chief. "However, we've seen great behavior from our on-base residents; it has been a few years since we [the Academy] have experienced a significant residential fire."

Many factors have contributed to a relatively small number of significant Academy residential fires over the past few years.

"Our base residents are better prepared than most communities," he said. "We have a very healthy population that receives more face-to-face public fire safety education than most cities and towns and that contributes to a lower

fire rate than most other cities throughout the country. Academy people can easily spot our Fire Prevention Week Campaign in October, but we also have a continuous awareness promotional effort throughout the year here.

"Our most recent addition to this program is the Youth Fire Safety Camp in the summer, which provides our youth a full day of great events that teach them fire safety skills," Mr. Chaltry said. "Additionally, we have our annual open house in August which conveys many aspects of fire safety to the base community with our fire safety trailer, fire equipment displays, puppet shows and demonstrations."

The fire department also conducts a comprehensive public fire education program. It encompasses more than 300 events each year that teach people fire safety and can be seen all over the installation, including the highly successful newcomer's briefings to recent arrivals.

Besides protecting the 18,500 acres of Academy proper, the fire department's span of operations also includes Bullseye Airfield, Farish Recreation Area and, when necessary, Saylor Park for cadet survival operations. It manages several programs that not only contribute to a low number of fires, but also help limit losses when fires do occur.

"We are also actively involved in the fire safety engineering program that ensures all new facilities and those under renovation have the most appropriate

level of installed fire protection features," Mr. Chaltry said.

These include fire sprinklers, fire-rated construction and an easy way out of every building for everyone who may work or play in Academy facilities.

"We manage a robust fire code enforcement program to validate a safe environment in every building and notify commanders regarding violations in their facilities," he said.

The Academy also benefits from a heavy Air Force investment in fire-safety assessments from each facility manager.

"Most of our facilities have fire-suppression systems installed and fire-resistant interior finishes," Mr. Chaltry said.

However, he stated, people still need to remain focused on avoiding several common situations that contribute to many fires, like properly disposing of smoking materials, using space heaters with tip-over switches, and conducting annual fireplace inspections and regular cleaning.

He added burning candles must never be left unattended, nor should stovetops when cooking. Mr. Chaltry also cautions to not overlook the tools that can help save lives. Tools like smoke detectors which require batteries be replaced regularly and carbon monoxide detectors which should be replaced at least every three years as sensors in Colorado detectors wear out more quickly.

REMINDER: No camp fires or open burning is allowed on the Academy.

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USAFA books delivered to Rwandan Military

By Staff Sergeant Samuel Bendet
U.S. AFRICOM Public Affairs

NYAKINAMA, Rwanda — The U.S. military delivered books to the Rwandan Military Academy library, Jan. 8, 2009, to help meet its need for English-printed books and military manuals.

Coordinated by U.S. Africa Command, the U.S. Air Force Academy's Department of History, African Studies Group and McDermott Library combined to donate more than 500 books to the Rwandan Military Academy in Nyakinama, Rwanda.

The effort here was coordinated by Lt. Col. Mark Grotelueschem of the Academy's Department of History and Chair of the African Studies Group, and Dr. Alan Osur of the Department of History. The combined effort amassed six boxes of personal books for the Rwandan Military Academy, by way of the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda.

The McDermott Library also sent books.

The books and military manuals will increase the Rwandan Academy library's selection of English resource material and will supplement its English language lab, which was built by the United States.

The donation will benefit the Rwandan academy by helping students improve their English reading abilities and improving their technical knowledge in subjects such as leadership, military history and more.

"The mission of this academy is to provide military education, training and development for members of the Rwanda Defense Forces," said Col. Aloys Muganga, commandant of the Rwandan Military Academy and recent graduate of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

The Academy conducts two 16-week Peace Support



Photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Bendet

Maj. Ronald Miller, U.S. Defense and Army attache to Rwanda, visits the Rwandan Military Academy to deliver English-printed books and military manuals to the academy's library.

Operations courses each year with classes consisting of 50 students. Since the school opened in 2001, it has conducted 32 military courses and graduated approximately 800 officers and non-commission officers.

The RMA conducts joint mid-career staff courses within the Rwanda Defense Forces. Since 2003, the academy has expanded its programs to include adult basic education and training, peace support operations training and research on conflict resolution to include seminars in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Other courses offered include logistics, training, clerical, international affairs, general command general,

basic computer skills, humanitarian law, and basic peace operations, said Muganga.

The academy's faculty consists of 24 prior graduates, who are capable of instructing all aspects of each training course.

Additionally, U.S. Africa Command will assist in providing mentorship and resources for a new Command Staff College, which will be adopted by 2012.

Many graduates of the RMA will deploy to support Rwandan participation in the United Nations Advanced Mission in Sudan, and the United Nations-African Mission in Darfur.



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Critical Thinking: An essential skill for every Air Force officer —A skills outcome

By Col. Paul Fisher
Critical Thinking Outcome Team Lead

Critical thinking not only lies at the heart of intellectual activity, it is also an essential skill of every Air Force officer and educated citizen.

Critical thinking takes years to develop because it requires a certain level of mental maturity and development of higher level thought processes for individuals to mold the way they think and evaluate information.

The renowned writer, educator and historian Jacques Barzun said, "The simple but difficult arts of ... following an argument, detecting an ambiguity or a false inference ... cannot be taught in one course in one year, but must be acquired gradually in dozens of connections."

For Air Force officers operating in the complex environment of today's battlescape, the ability to apply the art of critical thinking, not only within different disciplines but also within different cultural and political environments, is a tremendous challenge that will make the difference between success and failure.

Col. Dave LaRivee, deputy head of the Department of Economics and Geosciences, saw how important it was for the Multinational Force staff in Iraq to think critically about such diverse issues as the release of insurgent detainees, measurement of progress toward campaign objectives, and the significance of emerging trends in violence encountered by both U.S. and Iraqi forces during his deployment as chief of strategic assessments.

"It was striking how much more coherent discussion, intelligence collection, and policy became after our team led the staff through some critical analysis on these issues," he said.

Here, we approach critical thinking as a multi-step

process used to analyze information and reach a sound conclusion. Because coming to a solid conclusion has limited impact unless you can articulate your ideas and share your reasoning, we emphasize the construction of a well-founded argument in parallel with development of the critical analysis. Key components of this multi-step process include:

First, identifying the underlying problem. One of the most challenging aspects of critical thinking is defining and articulating issues, and recognizing the multidimensional character of complex problems. For open-ended issues, making strong connections and appreciating subtle complexities is often the most challenging part of the process.

Next, critical thinkers must examine and analyze available information. One must judge data for its relevance and quality while carefully identifying assumptions and potential biases. Critical thinkers also examine an argument's logical progression, and apply models to test possible solutions. They must also consider alternative perspectives and incorporate them into the analysis.

Finally, the time comes when one has to draw conclusions and communicate them effectively. One should be able to support his or her conclusions with sound, consistent arguments that have been analyzed for their strengths and weaknesses. This is also the time when one should reassess the assumptions and limitations applied to frame the problem and consider the circumstances under which the conclusions are valid.

At the Air Force Academy, critical thinking is employed in all of the academic, military and athletic disciplines during a cadet's career. Cadets practice and hone their critical thinking as they progress through their core and major's academic curriculum.



They also apply their skills and gain practical experience in the leadership environment as they take on more and more responsibility for developing and leading their fellow cadets within the Cadet Wing and on the intercollegiate and intramural athletic fields.

The assessment done to date by the Critical Thinking Outcome Team suggests the Academy staff is doing a good job, that cadets strengthen their critical thinking skills as they progress from four degrees to firsties. According to the 2008 Outcomes Survey, 93 percent of cadets recognize their experiences at the Academy as beneficial to the development of their critical thinking skills.

Colonel LaRivee points out that as the nation's focus transitions from Iraq to Afghanistan, one question that is particularly important is how to apply the lessons of Iraq to Afghanistan.

"It is only through critical analysis that we can determine which successful tactics are transferable and this analysis will require careful consideration of cultural, political and operational issues," he said.

Development of broad critical thinking skills in Academy cadets will serve graduates well as they confront these, and many other challenges as the next leaders of the U.S. Air Force.

DoD, VA smooth path to benefits for severely wounded

By John Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Severely wounded troops returning home now have fewer bureaucratic barriers between them and their veterans' benefits.

The Defense and Veterans Affairs departments recently announced a new, faster means for handling troops with "catastrophic" injuries who seek the veterans' status that allows them access to

VA medical and other entitlements.

"This new policy should allow servicemembers and their families to focus on the essentials of recovery, reintegration, employment and independent living, with the combined assistance from [the Defense Department] and VA," Michael Dominguez, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said.

In the past, injured troops were subject to lengthy reviews under the stan-

dard Disability Evaluation System, or DES, before being transferred from Defense Department to VA status. Today's announcement waives this requirement for those with catastrophic injuries — severe, permanent impairments resulting from combat — and reduces their processing time.

Troops who participate in this optional, expedited process will be given a defense department disability rating of 100 percent, and the VA then will iden-

tify the applicable range of benefits, compensation and specialty care.

"Servicemembers and their families will be empowered to decide, after counseling on the options and potential concerns and benefits, the most appropriate choice for their situation," Dominguez said.

The policy allows members who retire under the expedited DES process to re-enter the service with a waiver if they are capable following their rehabilitation.

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Academy researcher develops satellite imaging

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
 Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFNS) — A research associate at the Air Force Academy's Laser and Optics Research Center is developing a new capability that will allow satellites to be seen and see clearer.

Dr. Geoff Andersen developed the process, called holographic adaptive optics, that uses sensors and lenses to correct for disturbances in the atmosphere.

Atmospheric disturbances can interfere with ground-based optical telescope's abilities to clearly see satellites orbiting the Earth.

"Stars don't twinkle," Dr. Andersen said. "This is just the effect of atmospheric interference on our ability to see into space."

Dr. Andersen's process uses adaptive technology to compensate for this interference.

"Think of it like wearing a pair of glasses," he said. "When someone has poor eyesight, the prescription compensates for this and makes his or her eyesight better. This process is similar. It uses adaptive optics so telescopes can see into space better."

This is important to the Air Force because it will allow the service to better see its satellites. For instance, if a satellite stops communicating with personnel



Air Force Academy Cadet 1st Class Will Holmes, left, conducts holographic adaptive optics research with U.S. Military Academy Cadet Richard Carter and Dr. Geoff Andersen.

on the ground, they can view it on a telescope to determine what caused it to go off the grid.

"Naturally, the clearer you can see the satellite, the easier it will be to diagnose the problem," Dr. Andersen said.

Air Force officials have been using various forms of technology to view its satellites for several decades, but the equipment used to perform this is expensive, computer intensive and large.

"The computer itself is as large as a room," Dr. Andersen said.

This new system, which Dr. Andersen has the patent for, uses holograms and is condensed into a device the size of a standard DVD player. This makes it cheaper and opens the door to new possibilities.

"We could place one of these devices on a satellite and then the satellite would be able to see down to Earth with a crystal image," Dr. Andersen said.

Devices could also be placed on unmanned aircraft systems, allowing them to produce a clearer image for

combatant commanders. UAS' are perfect candidates for this technology due to their type and height of flight, Dr. Andersen said.

"UAS' produce their own turbulence when flying and they tend to fly in the general area where atmospheric interference is high," he said. "This new technology would eliminate these problems and allow the UAS to produce a high-quality, sharp image."

The adaptive optics technology goes beyond having only military applications. It also has uses within the medical arena — especially that of laser eye surgery.

"This technology will make eye surgery more precise and specialized," Dr. Andersen said.

Capabilities aside, Dr. Andersen said he is proud to be instrumental in the creation of this holographic technology. He's also proud of the cadets he teaches and who help him on a daily basis.

"They get hands on to help find solutions using research," he said.

The students are happy to help, knowing that the work they are doing today could possibly shape the future of imagery technology.

"It makes it really worth it knowing there's a real-world application for what we're doing here in the laboratory," said Cadet 1st Class Will Holmes. "And it's great getting to work with Dr. Andersen."

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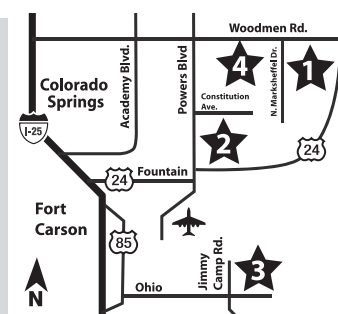
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DoD focuses on short-term goals in Afghanistan

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – As part of the Obama administration's assessment of the strategy being employed in Afghanistan, the U.S. military will focus its efforts on achieving shorter-term goals there, the defense department's top official said recently.

"One of the points where I suspect both administrations come to the same conclusion, is that the goals we did have for Afghanistan are too broad and too far into the future," Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters at a Pentagon press conference.

President Barack Obama met with Gates and other National Security Council members at the White House Jan. 21.

The United States needs to set "more concrete goals" for Afghanistan that "can be achieved realistically within three to five years," Gates said. For example, he said, efforts should be made to re-establish Afghan government control in the country's southern and eastern regions, as well boost security and improve the delivery of services to the population.

And, U.S., coalition and Afghan military operations targeting al-Qaida and Taliban insurgents must be maintained in Afghanistan to prevent the re-establishment of terrorism in the region, Gates said.

President Obama said recently during a state department visit that increased violence in Afghanistan and Pakistan threatens global security and constitutes "the central front in our enduring struggle against terrorism." The Afghan govern-

ment, he said, has been hard-pressed to deliver basic services to its people.

"Violence is up dramatically in Afghanistan," President Obama said. "A deadly insurgency has taken deep root." And, along Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan, he said, al-Qaida and Taliban fighters "strike from bases embedded in rugged tribal terrain along the Pakistani border."

About 34,000 U.S. troops are posted in Afghanistan. Commanders there have requested about 30,000 additional U.S. forces to be used to suppress resurgent Taliban fighters and al-Qaida terrorists.

Meanwhile, President Obama is studying several Pentagon-provided options for a drawdown of U.S. combat troops from Iraq.

Improved security and reduced

violence in Iraq today "clearly permit" a responsible drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq, said Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who accompanied Gates at the news conference. The availability of more troops for Afghanistan, Mullen said, is generally "tied to that [Iraq] drawdown."

The threat to the United States now "is focused in the Afghan theater," Gates said, including "both sides" of the Afghan-Pakistani border.

President Obama, accordingly, "wants to put more emphasis on Afghanistan," the secretary said.

Therefore, Gates said, the U.S. military is transitioning from the "highest priority that we have given to Iraq over the last several years, and moving that priority to Afghanistan."

AF announces proposed bases for new command

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials here announced Jan. 21 possible locations for the headquarters of 24th Air Force, a new numbered Air Force focused on the cyber mission.

The proposed bases, in alphabetical order, are Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; Lackland AFB, Texas; Langley AFB, Va.; Offutt AFB, Neb.; Peterson AFB, Colo.; and Scott AFB, Ill.

Kevin W. Billings, the acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment, and logistics, said every basing decision is made through a measured and


deliberate process to ensure the final decision is the best possible outcome for national defense and is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In selecting a base from among the six candidate bases, Air Force officials will consider cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy, including proximity to other cyber operational missions and access to scientific and technical expertise, and communication/bandwidth capabilities. Other evaluation criteria include facilities and infrastructure, support capacity, security and transportation access. Air Force officials applied the two most impor-

tant evaluation criteria — cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy and communication/bandwidth capabilities — to provide the final candidate basing list.

"In basing 24th Air Force, we recognize the tremendous preparatory work several states have already done, and we intend to use much of that information, but the mission will ultimately define the final location," said Brig. Gen. Mark O. Schissler, the Air Force Cyber Operations director.

Air Force officials intend to make a final base selection no later than the end of June 2009.




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Air Force works to reduce bird strikes

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – As an ongoing investigation continues on a bird strike that caused a passenger jet's engines to fail recently after takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport, Air Force safety officials said they're well-versed on the dangers of bird strikes and are aggressively working to prevent them.

National Transportation Safety Board officials confirmed initial indications that U.S. Airways Flt. 1549 struck a flock of birds, which were sucked into the engines and caused them to fail. The pilot, Air Force Academy Class of 1973 graduate Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III, successfully landed the plane in New York's Hudson River and is credited with saving all 155 people on board.

The incident brought public focus to a problem the Air Force, along with the airline industry, has long struggled to overcome.

Last year alone, the Air Force experienced more than 4,000 bird strikes, Eugene LeBoeuf, chief of the Air Force's Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard, or BASH, program at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., told American Forces Press Service.

Fortunately, none of those bird strikes was classified as a "Class A" accident, one that results in a death or more than

\$1 million in damages, Mr. LeBoeuf said. But collectively, they cost the Air Force an estimated \$35 million.

Bird strikes are on the rise, he said, and present a serious safety issue. The crash of an E-3B Airborne Warning and Control System plane in 1995 after takeoff from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, painfully drove that point home. All 24 crew members died when the plane struck a flock of Canada geese just after takeoff.

"When you have a bird strike, it's like throwing a rock into the engine," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Paul White, airfield operations supervisor at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. "It stops the turbine from spinning, and that can be catastrophic."

The BASH program works to avert accidents like the one at Elmendorf and last week's incident in New York. Based on a system of "integrated pest management," it aims to keep air bases, airfields and the air space and ground in and around them free of birds and wildlife that can hamper aircraft operations, Mr. LeBoeuf explained.

That's a challenge, he said, with more Canada geese taking up permanent residence in the United States, a burgeoning snow goose population and a comeback for the pelican population after DDT and other insecticides were banned.

But birds aren't the only problem, Mr. LeBoeuf said. He's seen it all: deer,



Photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

Keith Mutton, who helps run the U.S. Air Force's Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard program at the Royal Air Force base in Mildenhall, England, rewards Goldie, a 9-year-old Moroccan lanner hawk, for helping to rid the base of birds. Goldie can launch from Mutton's arm at up to 40 mph to chase away and ward off unwanted birds that are safety threats.

coyotes, wild pigs and even alligators finding their way onto Air Force flightlines. "They're mobile speed bumps, and aircraft don't take kindly to them," he said.

Step one in the BASH program is "habitat alteration," which Mr. LeBoeuf defined as making airfields as uninviting as possible. Anything that might serve as a perch is removed, denying birds an elevated place to roost. Potential perches that can't be removed get spikes

driven into them.

Meanwhile, low spots in the land where birds can hide or seek water that collect are filled in.

Dan Vredenburgh, a contractor who oversees Andrews AFB's BASH program, follows the Air Force protocol of ensuring grass around the airfield is maintained between 7 and 14 inches. That's too short for ground birds to nest in, but too long for them to feel safe feeding in, he explained.

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Dining facility feeds leaders of tomorrow

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFNS) — For most dining facilities, the thought of feeding an entire wing at one time is not a pleasant one. For the staff at Mitchell Hall, the cadet dining facility here, this is simply business as usual.

The dining facility, named after military aviation pioneer Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell, is the largest in the Air Force and one of the largest in the world. The facility is a \$15 million, three and one-half story structure in which more than 4,700 people can be served at one time.

"We put a lot of food through here on any given day," said Frank Barfield, the dining facility's director. "For instance, to serve every cadet, we would need to cook more than 3,200 pounds of chicken fingers."

The yearly numbers are just as impressive. Mitchell Hall personnel serve more than three million meals and prepare more than 100,000 box meals for cadet programs and club activities each year. Cadets also consume more than 374,000 gallons of milk, 376,000 gallons of juices and punch, 103,000 pounds of chicken, 23,340 pounds of peanut butter, 251,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables and 14,500 pounds of oatmeal annually.

"Breakfast and lunch are mandatory meals," Mr. Barfield said. "So every cadet is present for these two meals."

Fitting the entire student body into the facility is a remarkable feat. But, at nearly two acres and holding 474 tables, the dining area is easily able to hold all cadets simultaneously.

"There are 10 chairs at each table," said Veronica Vela, a member of the



Photos by Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Palacios

Cadets wait for all to enter Mitchell Hall for their noon meal before being seated.

dining facility's staff. "If you do the math, that works out to a lot of places for people to sit."

Cadets march into Mitchell Hall nine abreast through doors on the east and west ends. After they take their seats, they are served family style and finish the meal in 20 minutes. To serve the meals quickly, all cold food items — bread, salad, beverages, etc. — are placed on tables, and hot carts are positioned by the tables before the cadets arrive. One waiter is assigned to 10 tables, and the cadets receive their hot food within two and one-half to three minutes after sitting down.

A first class cadet at each table is designated as the "table commandant."

A fourth class cadet sits at the foot of the table and pours beverages and passes food. Even though they have these duties, the fourth-classmen cadets have plenty of time for a good meal.

Feeding this horde isn't the only challenge, though.

"Some of the cadets have special diets due to religious considerations or personal preferences," Mr. Barfield said.

These cadets, such as vegetarians or those of the Muslim faith, are identified when they enroll at the Academy and are then placed at a designated table in the dining facility.

Ensuring the student body gets proper nutrition is another challenge.

"A healthy mind is a strong mind,"

Ms. Vera said.

So, to make sure the cadets are sound of both mind and body, the dining facility has two nutritionists on staff who plan the meals and confirm they provide a balanced diet each day.

"These cadets are college kids, after all," Mr. Barfield said. "If we let them, they'd probably eat cheese puffs and cheeseburgers every meal."

Mitchell Hall operates on an \$8.8 million annual food budget that is based on a daily ration allowance provided to each cadet.

The dining facility is operated by nearly 200 civil service employees under the oversight of the 10th Services Division.

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Academy Fire Station 3 facelift creates smiles

Many professionals spend as much time with coworkers as they do with family members ... but few are asked to potentially put their lives on the line every time they leave home. Such is the case for the profession of fire fighting. Never was that clearer than during the collapse of the Twin Towers in New

York City, Sept. 11, 2001. Since that day America has demonstrated an even deeper appreciation for what fire fighters do to save and protect lives. During a ribbon cutting ceremony at Fire Station 3 Monday, 10th Air Base Wing Commander Col. Jimmy McMillian added yet another dimension when he

said, "They save, protect, and *shape* lives." Academy fire fighters are now saving, protecting and shaping lives from a recently renovated facility and the wing commander says, "The best fire fighter staff he's seen in his entire career deserves the best," and "I'm proud of what you do."



Photo by Ken Carter



Photos by Mike Kaplan

Above: Airmen 1st Class Leatrice Robinson, left, and Ryan Gilhooly, right, spot for Staff Sgt. Norman Henderson in the training room of the recently renovated Fire Station #3.



Left: A REO Speedwagon was prominently displayed during the ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday.

By Ken Carter
Editor

For the last 10 months a much needed facility upgrade has been a work in progress ... and today a \$1.8 million facelift is the final outcome.

"Fire Station 3 has been completely renovated; the facility was entirely gutted and brought up to today's Air Force design standards," said Fire Chief Ernst Piercy preceding the ribbon cutting Monday morning on the east side of the Academy flight line. "The change improves quality of life for our 75 firefighters and increases our efficiency by providing more space and a more effective layout."

Upgrades include a floor plan with 11 individual sleeping rooms (versus seven previously), improved heating/cooling, a dedicated state-of-the-art training room, a much larger kitchen, a 3,000 square foot vehicle bay for additional equipment and more.

According to six-year Air Force veteran and Academy fire fighter Staff Sgt. Norman Henderson, the changes have been a "huge boost to morale," even more so after being in temporary trailers between where the station sits and the flight line. "I especially like the new sauna and weight training room here," he said.

"But even the temporary trailers were preferred to the un-renovated and outdated facility," Chief Piercy said speaking of how needed the upgrades were.

Airman 1st Class Ryan Gilhooly, who entered Air Force active duty Sept. 11, 2007, concurs. "Even though I've only been here eight months, [following basic training then technical training at Goodfellow



Photo by Ken Carter

Military members gathered early Monday before the ribbon cutting in an updated training room.

Air Force Base, Texas), I recognize and appreciate how clean, nice and well equipped this place is."

Does a more modern and comfortable facility for fire fighters offer any tangible benefit to the community at large?

"You bet," said Chief Piercy. "The two upgrades that impact the community the most are the addition of two truck bays, and the upgrades to the 911 center.

The additional truck bays allow us to posture the rescue truck in this station, providing faster response times to our target hazards. The 911 center upgrades include a much improved work space and the installation of a state-of-the-art computer aided dispatch system."

The excitement about the new facility is shared by Station Captain Joel Beerer who's been in federal



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Rod Sanders puts the final touches on squaring his room away before duty. The renovated station sleeps 11.

service for 32 years.

Since his Academy arrival in 1994, Captain Beerer has witnessed three renovations, responded to multiple Academy plane crashes, Interstate accidents, and to many other types of emergencies aboard Academy fire trucks. His appreciation for the renovated facility is also very high.

"There was a time where I could hear guys snoring

from three beds away," he said with a smile. "That's changed with the addition of 11 individual rooms."

Only surpassing Captain Beerer's appreciation for the improved facility is his appreciation for his coworkers. "I see these guys more than I do my family," he said. "The caliber of everyone here is very impressive."

The ribbon cutting may have been a little more

industrial than most with the wing commander armed with a Power Hawk rescue tool to cut the plastic ribbon. The tool, similar to the "Jaws of Life," is used to extricate entangled victims from motor vehicle accidents.

The transition from almost adequate to "ribbon-cutting" outstanding was no accident nor did it happen overnight.

Responsible for facility improvements, Col. Richard Stonestreet, the previous base civil engineer, brought Colonel McMillian through the fire station right after the wing commander had arrived to show him the facility's condition. The renovation project, about two years in the making from funding to ribbon cutting, was approved shortly thereafter. It has evolved to becoming the new and vastly improved home away from home for Academy fire fighters who each serve six 24-hour shifts every two weeks.

Lt. Col. Justin Davey, the current civil engineer concurred, "Fire fighters will spend seven years in a fire station during a typical 20-year career. We need to ensure we provide them with the best possible living environment."

Crediting Team USAFA was paramount to Chief Piercy.

"The teamwork associated with this project was incredible," he said. "Civil engineers worked with communications squadron folks, were in close coordination with the El Paso County 911 Authority, and fire fighters working hand-in-hand with the contractor during the process were all key to our success."

The changes mark the third and final renovation of Academy fire stations.

Airmen make a difference

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bischoff is anxious to tell the world about the 10th Communications Squadron's Staff Sgt. Robert Brewster and Senior Airman Joshua Albarran being outstanding Airmen and their selections as the Florida based unit's "Making a Difference" award winners.

Last year's Make A Difference Day, Oct. 25, 2008, was the nation's largest single day of volunteer efforts.

Sergeant Bischoff, from the 601st Air and Space Operations Center's Air Expeditionary Force flight chief and assistant Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Garmin, currently deployed to Tyndall AFB, Fla., on an Air Expeditionary Force rotation, presented the newly created award. Sergeant Bischoff created this award to recognize the efforts of AEF members deployed to Tyndall AFB who have gone above and beyond in their efforts.

"I wanted to pass on my deep appreciation to you for sending Sergeant Brewster on this AEF rotation," wrote the senior NCO to Academy officials. "This Airman is truly one of the hard charging, rare breed. I look forward to seeing him accomplish great things as he ascends in rank."

The Academy NCO is credited for applying numerous critical software remedies to more than 20 workstations across the Air Force North Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System network. He ensured all connected network devices were receiving appropriate security patches by monitoring the area of operation's wide area network activity.

"His grasp of his assigned work center duties enabled him to take the current training program and streamline it to ensure ease of use and transition for future AEF rotations; a feat not normally taken on by previous AEF counterparts," wrote Sergeant Bischoff. "His efforts were

tested when approached by the senior NCO in charge of the section which he passed with flying colors. In addition to all of this, he has found time to increase his knowledge by off Network + certification."

Sergeant Brewster participated in the Halloween Goblin Patrol on Tyndall so the sons and daughters of the base population could enjoy a safe night of trick or treating, all under the watchful eye of the Tyndall senior NCO.

More than three million people turned out during this year's Make a Difference Day to perform thousands of charitable acts for others.

Sergeant Bischoff and Senior Airman Jamie Kelly also presented the newly-created award to the Academy's Airman Joshua Albarran.

Airman Albarran was recognized for working tirelessly to become station qualified in record time while providing outstanding support and mentorship to other AEF members.

"He is motivated and highly alert and in one recent incident challenged an individual who did not display his access badge on the ops floor," said the senior NCO. "Airman Albarran quickly verified his access status and worked with others to ensure the area remained secure."

In his free time the airman has enrolled in two college courses in pursuit of a bachelor's degree and was also cited as giving something back to the local community by volunteering almost weekly to support several local events.

"His leading from the front attitude reflects greatly upon himself and his home unit," said Sergeant Bischoff. "Airman Albarran continues his efforts as an unrivaled Wingman."

The praise and recognition escalated.

"Our members of the 10th Communications Squadron family are providing award-winning service while deployed," said Lt. Col. Edward Werner, 10th



Courtesy Photos

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bischoff, right, and Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Garmin, currently deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., on an Air Expeditionary Force rotation, present the newly created AEF Making a Difference Award to the Academy's 10th Communications Squadron's Staff Sgt. Robert Brewster, center.



Academy Senior Airman Joshua Albarran receives the AEF Making a Difference Award from Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bischoff and Senior Airman Jamie Kelly at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Communications Squadron. "The Academy and the 10th CS are a network warfare training ground second to none, and our people repeatedly demonstrate that at home and while deployed."

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To specifically address the needs of our deployed troops, or those about to deploy, we also offer Independent study courses. These courses consist of guided instruction with instructors available by phone, fax, or email. Most are offered as a traditional correspondence course; however, we have a growing number of Internet based online courses.

A complete listing of all our courses and schedules are available at any Colorado Springs office, our Pueblo campus or on-line at www.colostate-pueblo.edu.

We look forward to serving you in preparation for your future.

Sincerely,
Barbara Borland, M.A.
Program Manager
Colorado Springs
CSU-Pueblo

Cadet hangs up volleyball jersey for semester

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Outside hitter Cadet 2nd Class Katie Batchelder has had a remarkable career with the Academy women's volleyball team.

Last season alone she saw action in 94 games, led the team in kills (241) and service aces (25), led the



Mountain West Conference for aces in a match and tallied the team's best single-match kill output of the season.

In 2006, she was named most valuable player and rookie of the year.

At the end of this year's season, she is hanging up her #1 jersey and will miss next year's season, which runs from August to November, to attend L'Ecole de l'Air in Marseille, France during the fall semester.

The Preparatory School grad heard about the exchange program during her first year on the Hill.

"I thought, 'Wouldn't that be cool?'" she said.

The foreign area studies major set and stuck to a series of short-term goals to make the exchange semester a reality.

"I was really happy I went for it," she said.

Head coach Penny Lucas-White called Cadet Batchelder one of the strongest outside hitters she has ever coached.

"Losing Katie is like losing my right arm," she said. "We will miss her dearly."

Was the decision to study abroad and lose the last season of volleyball a hard decision?

"Yes, and no," said Cadet Batchelder, who started playing volleyball in the ninth grade.

She will miss her teammates but feels they know they won't be forgotten or unappreciated.

As for the new opportunity, "I couldn't turn it down," she said.

While at L'Ecole de l'Air, which is the French version of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Cadet Batchelder is anticipating

Courtesy Photo
Outside hitter Katie Batchelder lines up to serve the ball. She is foregoing next season with the Lady Falcons to study in France.

possible opportunities to visit military installations and delve into survival and jump training as well as classes, all of which, naturally, are in French.

Academy classes were her first introduction to the French language.

"I loved it from day one," she said.

A cultural immersion program to Morocco helped fire her interest in the language and other cultures, as did serving as a host for a French Canadian student last year.

Africa is her concentration as a foreign studies area major.

During her time away, Cadet Batchelder is eagerly looking forward to travel, her style. She has visited Paris and its major landmarks but she would like to see more of the French countryside, as well as Rome, Florence and Venice in Italy, Austria and the British Isles.

"It's fun when it's hard to get around, and everyone speaks different languages," she said.

Cadet Batchelder plans to keep volleyball in her life.

"I love it," she said. "I feel so energetic when I play."

For her, volleyball is not about the winning but the playing, even enduring hard losses in Division 1.

"Failure is not so bad. It is a teacher," she said. "To overcome failure is a competition itself. Getting knocked down all the time makes you want it more."

She has learned from coaches that an athlete's career could be ended abruptly at any time.

"When the lights in the gym go down, all you can hear is an echo," she said wistfully. "All that is left is empty seats and scuffed floors."

Cadet Batchelder recalled one special day in her volleyball career when the team assisted in a youth workshop. With basic sign language learned from her mother, she was able to communicate with and thus include a deaf youngster in the day's activities.

"That was the coolest moment," she said. "I hope I made a difference in his life."

Although coach and team will miss their star outside hitter, they wish their teammate well.

"She is going to gain so much and going to be a great asset to the Air Force," Coach White said. "We wish her nothing but great success in her future that lies ahead."

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Air Force fencers make a good showing

By Cadet 2nd Class Peter French

The Academy's fencers competed in the Division I and Junior North American Cup Jan. 16-18, in Louisville, Ky. The team performed well in the tough competition. Air Force fencer, sophomore Dan Trapani, earned a big result with third place in the junior men's epee competition.

After a strong start of 4-2 in the pools, Nick Stockdale lost a close bout to make the round of 32 in Division I men's foil. Simone Barrette also competed in the Junior Women's Epee event. She had a strong start, but lost

her bout in the round of the top 64.

Day two, Trapani and Peter French competed in the Division I Men's Epee event. Both finished the pools undefeated, with Trapani earning the No. 1 seed for the elimination round. Unfortunately, Trapani still had a difficult draw against a former world champion from Bulgaria and lost to make the top 64. French won his first bout, but lost to make the round of 32.

"This was one of my more disappointing finishes as a Falcon," French said.

Michael O'Connor competed in Division I Men's Sabre and had a personal best in the first round, finishing 4-2. In another unfortunate draw, O'Connor lost his first elimination bout. Stockdale and Barrette competed in Junior Men's Foil and Division I Women's Epee, respectively. Stockdale started 5-1, but lost to make the 64. Barrette also lost in the 64.

The Falcons got an excellent result with Trapani earning the bronze in the Junior Men's Epee event. He dominated his opponents in the first round with a perfect 6-0 and fenced exceedingly well throughout the elimination rounds. He eventually lost in overtime to the tournament champion - Stanford's Kevin Mo. This



File Photo

Fencing competition requires precision, skill, speed and accuracy.

marks the second straight medal finish for Trapani in Junior competition. Trapani continues the Falcons' strong history in Junior Epee, and looks to garner the national title with a win at next month's Junior Olympics, Feb. 13-16, in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Falcons have a home meet Saturday and Sunday and are away at Notre Dame (Feb. 21-22) and Stanford (March 7-8).

NAC D Division I and Junior Finishes

Men's Division I Epee:

Peter French – 36th
Daniel Trapani – 65th/245

Men's Junior Epee:

Daniel Trapani – 3T/163

Men's Division I Sabre:

Michael O'Connor – 67th/141

Men's Division I Foil:

Nick Stockdale – 47th/188

Women's Division I Epee:

Simone Barrette – 50th/151

Racquetball action wraps up

By Dave Castilla
Intramural Sports Director

The Academy concluded its 7th Annual DOD Racquetball Tournament Sunday afternoon where 15 men in the AB (or advanced) category, and four in the women's division, competed in double elimination action.

Winners were:

Men's

1st place—Ray Cordero representing Peterson AFB

2nd place—Richard Romero from Buckley AFB

3rd place—Steve Naftanel also from Peterson AFB

Women's

1st place—Patsy Joiner, family member of Air Force retiree

2nd place—Terry Baron from Buckley AFB

3rd place—Sandra Ingrassia also from Buckley AFB

In the finals of the men's division Richard Romero, last year's DOD runner-up, held an 11-6 lead in the championship. However, Ray Cordero, who is also the Air Force racquetball head coach, called a brief time out and came back to defeat Romero 15-13 in the first game and 15-10 in the final match to clinch the championship.

Romero advanced to the championship round through the losers' bracket by defeating Steve Naftanel, 15-14 and 15-7. In Saturday's action, Naftanel defeated Romero by winning a pair of close games 15-14 and 15-13. The Academy's Joe LaBella finished fourth.

In women's division action, Patsy Joiner, who'd won numerous tournaments from the 70's thru the 90's, was a late replacement and breezed to another championship. She defeated Terry Baron, 15-6 and 15-0. Baron defeated Sandra Ingrassia 15-8 and 15-3 to take second place before facing Joiner in the finals.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Down but not out

Academy grappler Stephen Makuka is out for the season with a torn ACL after squaring off against his Stanford University opponent Jan. 16 in the Cadet Gym. In the 141-pound weight class, Makuka's overall record for this season was 9-14, 1-6 dual mark, and he was leading his team with six falls. The Class of 2010 member hopes to rehab and compete at the varsity level next season. The Air Force team entered that weekend's meets with 1-5 dual record. Leading the Falcons in total wins for the season was captain Stephen Crozier who had 14 victories and a team-best 5-1 dual record. Seventeen Air Force wrestlers had recorded falls for the season, led by Makuka, whose six pins on the year, are just one short of the team leader for the 2007-08 season.

Men's basketball

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Tyson Johnson scored 18 points as Wyoming pulled away from Air Force 72-59 Tuesday. The Cowboys (14-6 overall, 3-3 Mountain West) scored nine straight points midway through the second half for some separation, and then closed strong for the double-digit win. Wyoming is

now 10-0 at home this season. Andrew Henke led Air Force (9-10, 0-6) with 18 points, with Anwar Johnson adding 10. It was the Falcons' seventh straight loss. Air Force led 32-21 at halftime and trailed only 45-43 with 10:50 to play. But the Cowboys stopped the Falcons on six straight possessions to regain their momentum. Leading by seven, the Cowboys

closed on a 16-10 run.

Wrestling

The Air Force wrestling team hosts a pair of conference duals today and Saturday. The Falcons will take on North Dakota State today at 7 p.m., while facing off against South Dakota State at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Both matches will be held in Clune Arena.

Womens basketball

The Air Force women's basketball team dropped a 52-41 Mountain West Conference contest to Wyoming Wednesday night at Clune Arena. The Falcons dropped to 4-15, 0-6 while the Cowgirls improved to 10-9, 2-4. In a close game, it was Wyoming's three-point shooting that was the difference. The Cowgirls made 6-of-11 from long range, good

for a 54.5 percentage. Kristen Scheffler did most of the damage for Wyoming scoring a game-high 21 points and hitting 5-of-8 from downtown. Hillary Carlson also had a strong game for the Cowgirls, adding 13 points and six rebounds.

Track and Field

The Air Force track and field team hosts a pair of meets today

No. 20 Air Force sweeps Army with 3-2 win

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Derrick Burnett scored two goals in the first period and Air Force held off a furious Army rally for a 3-2 win in an Atlantic Hockey Association game Saturday at the Cadet Ice Arena. The Falcons won Jan. 23, 5-1, to sweep the series for the first time since 2005.

Air Force improved to 17-6-1 overall and 14-3-1 in the AHA. The Falcons moved into a tie for first place with RIT. Army fell to 7-14-3 overall and 6-9-3 in the league.

Army drew first blood, but it was Air Force that quickly answered in the first period. With 3:52 left in the first, and two seconds left on an Army power play, Zach McKelvie fired a shot from the center point that gave Army its first lead of the series. Mike Hall and Bryant Skarda assisted on the play. The Falcons answered just eight seconds later as Derrick Burnett scored on the rush.

On the ensuing faceoff, Matt Fairchild tipped the puck to Jeff Hajner who skated down the left side. His cross ice pass was right on the tape of Burnett who tied the game with a wrister that went high, glove side. Burnett's second of the game, and third of the series, gave Air Force a 2-1 lead with just 69 seconds left in the first period. Air Force was killing a penalty when Burnett intercepted a pass at center ice. As Burnett skated down the left side, the penalty expired and he ripped a slap shot high stick side.

The Falcons took a 3-1 lead early in the second period on a goal by Blake Page. Greg Flynn knocked down a



Photo by Dave Armer

Air Force's Derrick Burnett takes a shot on goal versus Army Jan. 23.

clearing attempt by Army and took a shot that was deflected. Page batted the puck in for his fifth of the season.

Air Force held the 3-1 lead until late in the game. With 1:55 left in the third period, a penalty was called on Greg Burgdoerfer and Army pulled its goaltender for a two-man advantage. With 43 seconds left, Marcel Alvarez kept the puck in the zone and Scott Warner's slap shot from the point got through traffic to make the score 3-2. Army kept the puck in the zone for the entire 43 seconds with

the extra skater on the ice, but was not able to score.

The Falcons outshot Army, 25-19 in the game. Army was 2-for-5 on the power play while Air Force was 0-for-13 in the series. Andrew Volkening made 17 saves while Josh Kassel made 22 for the Black Knights.

"I liked our energy again," head coach Frank Serratore said. "I thought the better team won. We persevered after the first goal, but we took some bad penalties again. We just couldn't break them. If we

would have gotten the fourth goal it may have broken their spirits. We haven't had our legs moving for a long, long time, but we did this weekend and that is certainly a positive. Our foundation is built on the legs of our forwards and they did a good job in the series. I thought we deserved to win both games, but we have some things to work on."

Air Force is on the road as the Falcons travel to Erie, Pa., for a two-game AHA series with Mercyhurst, today and Saturday.

Rifle team misses the mark versus TCU

By Madeline McGuire
Athletic Communications

The Air Force rifle team hosted two contests versus TCU Jan. 17-18 but came up short both times. In the first contest, the Falcons lost 4560-4593, in the second contest the Falcons lost 4553-4605.

Nick Krieger set a personal best of 576/600 in the smallbore match. Tom Chandler was the team's air rifle top shooter with a score of 582/600 in the match. Kyle Phillips finished the match with a 579/600 in air rifle. The Academy shooters scored a 2259 in smallbore and a 2301 in air rifle for an aggregate 4560 versus TCU's 4593.

In day two of the competition, Brian Jarrell shot a personal best 583/600 in



File Photo

The U.S. Air Force Academy Rifle Team.

the air rifle match. Chandler followed Jarrell's score with a 580. In the smallbore match, Chandler was the team's highest scorer with a 568. Pat Everson scored a 573 in air rifle. Phillips shot a

567/600 in smallbore.

Mike Seery finished the day in smallbore with a 562. Air Force finished the contest scoring 2307 points in air rifle and 2246 in smallbore (4553). TCU

scored 2239 in air rifle and 2266 in smallbore (4605).

The Academy's rifle team's next contest is Saturday and Sunday in Charleston, S.C., against The Citadel.

Air Force top scores (from Jan. 17)

Air rifle: Kyle Phillips - 572; Tom Chandler - 582; Brian Jarrell - 570; Pat Everson - 577; Team Score: 2301.

Smallbore: Tom Chandler - 569; Nick Krieger - 576; Kyle Phillips - 552; Mike Seery - 562; Team Score: 2259.

Air Force top scores: (from Jan. 18)

Air rifle: Tom Chandler - 580; Kyle Phillips - 579; Mike Seery - 575; Pat Everson - 573; Team Score: 2307.

Smallbore: Tom Chandler - 568; Kyle Phillips - 567; Mike Seery - 562; Nick Krieger - 549; Team Score: 2246.

and Saturday. First, the Falcons' multi-event athletes will host the two-day Air Force Combined Events Meet, at 1 p.m., today. The rest of the squad takes to the field Saturday, for the inaugural Don Barrett Duals.

Schedule of events

The women's heptathlon is at 1 p.m., with the 60-meter hurdles and will be followed by the high

jump, shot put and 800-meter run. The men's heptathlon, which will span the two-day event, will begin at 1:15 p.m., with the 60-meter dash. The men will also contest the long jump, shot put and high jump during the first day of action. The final three events - 60-meter hurdles, pole vault and 1000-meter run - will begin at

8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Swimming and diving

The Air Force men's and women's diving teams are in action today and Saturday, as they host the annual Air Force Diving Invitational. Today's events begin at 2 p.m., and at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Schedule of events

Friday's competition will

consist of the men's 3-meter springboard, begins at 2 p.m., followed by the women's 1-meter springboard, at 4 p.m.

Saturday, the men's 1-meter springboard begins at 9 a.m., followed by the women's 3-meter springboard at 10:30.

Competition concludes with the men's and women's combined platform, at 1:30 p.m.

Falcons on the Web...

Fans at home will be able to follow all of the action in Clune Arena this year, as each of Air Force's home wrestling contests will be video streamed live. Live stats of each of the Falcons' home duals will also be available. To tune in, just click on the links that are featured on the events schedule on goairforcefalcons.com.





ADC closure

The ADC office will close Monday through Feb. 6 to attend a training conference at Charleston Air Force Base. No UCMJ actions, administrative actions, cadet discipline actions etc., will be handled during this time. In an emergency, call the command post at (719) 333-2633. However, the staff's ability to return calls may be limited during normal duty hours.

The Art of Love

Academy artisans will pay tribute to St. Valentine during the Academy Arts & Crafts Center's "That's Amore" art contest. All forms of art may be entered but must either contain the color red, a heart and the word "love" or its concept. Entries will be accepted through Wednesday, and entry forms are available at the center. A show and awards reception is set for Feb. 6 and will include light refreshments. For more information, call 333-4579.



CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Sunday

Confession - 9:15 a.m.

Mass - 10 a.m.

Wednesday

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament - 5:30 p.m.

Confession - 5:30 p.m.

Mass - 6:30 p.m.

Weekday

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

Protestant Services:

Sunday

Traditional/Liturgical - 9 a.m.

Contemporary - 11 a.m.

Jewish Services

Friday

Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.

Buddhist Worship

Wednesday

Traditional Mahyana Service -6:30 p.m.

Muslim Prayer

Friday

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

All Other Faiths

Call 333-2636 for more information

COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Saturday

Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.

Mass - 4 p.m.

Sunday

Mass - 9 a.m.

Religious Formation - 10:15 a.m.

(September - May)

Tuesday-Friday

Mass - 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Services:

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Live - 6 p.m.

Dinner followed by Religious Education

(September - May).

Sunday

Evangelical - 10:15 a.m.

Gospel - 11:30 a.m.

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:

Contact Tech. Sgt. Longcrier at 333-6178

Robert.Longcrier@usafa.af.mil

Teachers sought

Leisure time instructors in all levels of piano and Mexican cooking (Tamale, Salsa and Tortilla making) are being sought for Academy programs. Contact Linda Crom, 333-2928 for details.

Horse cents

The Academy Equestrian Center is offering a winter deal for serious riders. The basic cost is \$150 for the first horse and \$100 for each additional horse per month, per family. Arrangements for the Winter Lease Program are by appointment only with Jeanne Springer at 472-8639 or e-mail jeanne.springer@usafa.af.mil

A&FRC offerings

The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes for January. Call the A&FRC @ 333-3444 with any questions or to register.

Group Pre-Separation Counseling

Mondays (except during TAP week); 2 to 4 p.m.

Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing assists you in identifying benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

Volunteer program

There are several on-base organizations in need of volunteers. Contact Jeannie Lopez at 333-3168/3444 for more information.

Dance lessons

Weekly ballroom dance lessons, one hour each for three more weeks, continue Wednesday at 7 p.m. Learn the swing, foxtrot, slow waltz and rumba dance steps. Cost is \$70 for couples and \$40 for an individual. Call 333-2928 for more information or to sign up.

Water aerobics

The Academy Fitness & Sports Center offers a 10-punch card for water aerobics. The cost is \$30 and the card does not expire. Water aerobics classes are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:05 p.m. Improve muscular strength and endurance and increase overall aerobic conditioning with zero impact on the joints. For more information, call 333-4522.

Ski rental

Season ski rentals from the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center require an appointment for a fitting. Call 333-4753.



Opening Reception

Love is in the Air. The Hunter-Wolff Gallery, 2510 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, unveils its "Love is in the Air" gallery-choice collection on one of the most romantic days of the year. Join us on Valentine's Day from 2 to 6 pm for the Opening Reception. Whether you are an art lover or prefer studying the art of love, you will not want to miss this captivating collection which includes paintings in all mediums, stone sculpture, blown glass and fine jewelry with a romantic theme. This first time ever exhibition and sale, by a select group of the region's most notable artists, will run through mid-March.

Mickey plays host

At the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, through Dec. 23, each active or retired member of the U.S. military may

obtain one free five-day "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" ticket with "Park Hopper" and water park options. The ticket is valid for five days of admission into the four Walt Disney World theme parks, plus a total of five visits to a choice of a Disney water park, DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive Theme Park or certain other attractions. Active or retired U.S. military personnel also may make a one-time purchase up to five "Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion" tickets - good for five days -- for \$99 each, plus tax, for family members or friends. Although this ticket for family members and friends does not include either the Park Hopper or Water Park Fun & More options, it can be upgraded to add either such option, or both, for an additional \$25, plus tax, per option. All tickets and options are nontransferable and must be used by Dec. 23. A similar offer is in place at Walt Disney Land in California. More information is available at installation ITT/ITR offices.



Live! February 27th, 6 p.m.
Location: Falcon Club
Cost: \$30.00 (\$28.00 for club members)
See your 1st Sergeant for Tickets



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Honoring MLK

Attendance for this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Luncheon Jan. 23 at the Falcon Club was more than 110, double that of last year. "From the hard work of the MLK committee, to the singing of the national anthem by Cadet 1st Class Jasmine Pettie, to the very compassionate message delivered by guest speaker Dr. Aaron Byerley, it was first-class," said Al Holland, MLK committee co-chair. "The tremendous impact Dr. King had on Dr. Byerley's life was obvious. He too grew up in a segregated family that had not experienced the impact of desegregation until he reached the seventh grade ... and that impact has lasted his lifetime." Petty Officer Curtis Thompson, MLK committee co-chair, and Community Center Chief of Chaplains Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dwayne Peoples, above, were among those in attendance at the luncheon.

Service



Legacy