

USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

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Lt. Gen. Gould takes command of USAFA

By Staff Sgt. Eric Bolt
Academy Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Michael Gould took command of the U.S. Air Force Academy, as the 18th superintendent, during a ceremony Tuesday. General Gould is a class of '76 Academy graduate and the first superintendent to graduate from the U.S. Air Force Prep School.

General Gould comes to the Academy from Scott AFB, Ill., where he served as the U.S. Transportation Command Operations and Plans director.

The Academy's new superintendent had previous assignments as the 2nd Air Force commander, Keesler AFB, Miss.; 3rd Air Force commander, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England; 97th Air Mobility Wing commander, Altus AFB, Okla.; and, 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander, McConnell AFB, Kan.

The general said both he and his wife, Paula, are 'humbled beyond belief' accepting this assignment.

"There is no more noble and important mission than the one we have here," he said. "We are responsible for developing future leaders."

General Gould said he has a lot to learn while at the Academy, but he will lead and build upon the great foundation Lt. Gen. John Regni left.

"What I do know is that the cadets who serve here are among America's finest," General Gould added. "This Academy exists for one reason—to develop them into leaders of character."

General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, shared his confidence in the incoming superintendent



Photo by Dennis Rogers

Lt. Gen. Michael Gould (right) accepts the U.S. Air Force Academy guidon from Gen. Norton Schwartz, chief of staff of the Air Force, during a change of command ceremony at the Academy June 9.

during the ceremony. "I can easily say the development of our future leaders is in good hands. The results of your work here will be critical to the Air Force in the years to come."

General Gould takes command from General Regni, who is retiring after 40 years of military service, including four as an Academy cadet.

Though General Gould is looking to

the future of the Academy, he still holds past Academy traditions close.

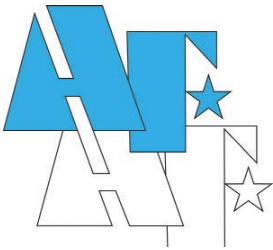
"One thing remains standard and enduring and that is ... beat Army and sink Navy!"

Academy is tops in Air Force Assistance Fund

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

The Air Force Academy is currently at the top of the heap when it comes to reaching predetermined goals in the 2009 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign.

"It was the effort put in by all of the base keyworkers," said Master Sgt. Robert Hill, Cadet Squadron 31's Academy military training NCO. "I have worked AFAF campaigns before, but not as the overall instal-



lation program manager."

The Academy set out to raise \$50,328, but after receiving donations from around the installation, the original goal was crushed by more than 250 percent totaling \$126,971.72.

"I think the reason is two-fold: most people are generous by nature and we've had several Academy members get much-needed help from AFAS," he said. "Their stories touched people on a personal level. We tailored the campaign message around these personal stories. I think that gave Academy members more of a sense of 'helping our own'."

The senior NCO thinks most people don't realize the huge contributions from both the civilian/contractor

population and the cadet population.

"Civilian/contractor donations were almost 25 percent of the overall total, while the cadets put in almost 50 percent of the overall total," Sergeant Hill said.

Helping him surpass the goal was Capt. Sonja Posquantonio and Senior Master Sgt. Ricardo Melendez, dean of faculty; Capt. Jason Kneuer, athletic department; Capt. Robert Pawlik, preparatory school; 1st Lt. Stephanie Downs, 10th Air Base Wing; Master Sgt. Jerry Molina, cadet wing; Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Smith, direct reporting unit and Tech. Sgt. Timothy Rivera, 306th Flying Training Group.

"I'm proud to be part of the Academy and encouraged by the spirit of giving here," Sergeant Hill said.

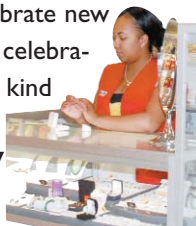
WEEKEND WEATHER

| FRI | SAT | SUN |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Few T-storms | Scattered T-storms | Isolated T-storms |
| 68 45 | 66 48 | 67 51 |

Exchange Reopens

Academy Exchange to celebrate new look during grand opening celebration July 1. "It's going to be kind of like a festival."

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Chemistry Olympiad

Top high school chemistry students compete for a place on the team representing the U. S. at the 41st annual International Chemistry Olympiad.

Page 8



Fit 4 Future

Academy youngsters are getting a jump start on a life-long healthy lifestyle—and having fun doing it.

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Greeting Carmen

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

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — If you haven't seen the Air Education and Training Command headquarters building, you're missing out. It is a grand, historic building built in the 1930s, nestled under age-old oak trees.

Although initially used as an academic hall for new Air Force aviators, the building has had many uses over the years. Today, along with sister buildings of the same era, it houses members of the headquarters Air Education and Training Command staff. For those in the main building, standing on the red-tiled sidewalk that leads to the front doors every morning is Carmen.

Carmen is an important part of my morning routine.

You see, each morning I park my car in front of the headquarters building and walk up that wide, red-tiled sidewalk to the front doors of the building. There she stands, working with a mop in hand, water pail nearby, and a bright smile that stretches from ear to ear. I always stop and talk with Carmen — she makes a difference in everything she touches.

Carmen is an unassuming, humble woman with a sparkling, energetic outlook who can make even the darkest day feel brighter. Through the years, she has worked to help support her family and has successfully raised two sons, now grown and on their own.

Although Carmen has held many different positions at military locations around San Antonio, she has made Randolph shine for the last eight years. Today, she isn't just responsible for the headquarters building. Carmen can be seen all over the base. You'll find her at

the 99th Flying Training Squadron, the chapel, and even at the base fitness center. Carmen is everywhere, greeting dozens of people every day, and this base is better because of her.

Carmen works to ensure that her labor achieves the right effect — that everyone who drives past, visits or works in the building feels a part of something special. The headquarters building routinely hosts foreign ministers of defense, air chiefs, and American civic and military leaders; and represents the nearly 90,000 men and women worldwide that belong to Air Education and Training Command. The building is an integral part of the organization and is everyone's first impression at work every day. It all starts with Carmen's attention to detail.

Her professionalism is evident all over the base and it stems from pride. She never complains about her responsibilities and relishes the opportunity to make a difference. If she sees the flag in the front of the building rolled up by a gust of wind, she unfurls it. Dust on a ledge doesn't stand a chance. She's never idle, always taking the initiative to exceed expectations and set a higher standard. Everything she touches is better as a result.

You must realize that in Carmen's line of work, a job well done is rarely noticed or lauded. We, as a people, don't notice clean, but we do notice dirty. Carmen understands this and quietly creates a positive impact on the headquarters staff. Others instinctively and unknowingly follow her lead in their areas of responsibility and push for the same standard of excellence that Carmen sets daily. Such excellence becomes ingrained in the organization's culture. After all, people are far more likely to pick up a lone piece of trash on the floor

than a floor littered with many. This adage goes for all things, not just trash.

What has impressed me most about Carmen, however, is her positive attitude.

There is a lot to be said about someone who sees the world as being a "glass half-full." True, we must guard such optimism with realism, but it is far easier (and more fun) to follow a positive, energetic leader than one who exudes negative gloom. Such a positive attitude is contagious to the entire organization and has a positive impact both up and down the chain of command. It is a key element of any successful team.

The one problem is that Carmen is so effective and efficient that her work begins to blend into the building. After awhile, it can be easy to forget the importance of her labors. I get accustomed to seeing her on the red-tiled walkway and the routine becomes an expectation. I sometimes forget to appreciate her impact.

We must not forget that everyone in the organization makes a difference. No one person or position is of greater value than another; all are equal in the pursuit of excellence and all contribute to the Air Force mission. We cannot afford to take anyone for granted, military, civilian or contractor. The mission and our culture would suffer as a result.

All of us know people like Carmen, those at your base who quietly make a difference in people's lives.

Take time to recognize and appreciate everyone. And the next time you find yourself at headquarters Air Education and Training Command, take time to greet Carmen on the red-tiled sidewalk. She's made a difference in my life and I know she'll make a difference in yours.

Summer safety tips promote enjoyment

By Lt. Col. Bryan Cessna
Academy Director of Safety

Good Friday morning!

The home improvement projects are in full swing at the Cessna household. Now that the "rainy season" is over — hopefully — and the sun is warming the Front Range, summer activities are prevalent. Whether it is hiking, camping, or a simple picnic at one of the many parks in the area, always

remember these key safety tips.

The Pikes Peak Region is the #2 region in the U.S. for lightning strikes. We can expect the potential for thunderstorms virtually every afternoon through the summer months.

Although the weather is warming, cold temperatures are still prevalent at the higher elevations. Pack plenty of warm clothing and/or appropriate sleeping bags when venturing into the high country. Also, keep dry to help

prevent hypothermia.

Please don't feed the cadets — I'm sorry, I meant the bears. Natural habitat for Colorado's wildlife becomes smaller and smaller each year. Humans and wildlife come into contact frequently. Plan for those encounters, put food stores out of reach at night, and avoid those potential life threatening situations.

Enjoy your weekend and as always — be safe!

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



Action Line is a direct link to USAFA's senior leadership. It should be used when other avenues have failed. Concerns should be addressed at the lowest possible level in the chain of command and elevated as necessary. If satisfactory results have not been attained by addressing the chain of command.

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What are you doing to promote summer safety at home?

"We're wearing sun block and participating in more passive activities like hiking with our three children."

Maj.
Carlos Maldonado
Academy Biology
Instructor



"We're locking our doors and windows at night, driving only during daylight hours, and focusing on things like ladder safety around the home."

Pete J. Gilbreath
Senior Store
Associate Academy
Shoppette



"I'm keeping a really close eye on my grandbabies, ages 7, 9 and 11, watching them all the time."

Angelina Taylor
Store Associate
Academy Shoppette



"Learning and practicing safe archery techniques with my wife and teaching it to our boys ages 6 and 4."

Master Sgt.
Michael Broske
306th Flying
Training Group
Quality Assurance





Photo by Mike Kaplan

USAFA top enlisted retires

Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis, former USAFA command chief master sergeant, stands tall during his retirement ceremony last Friday here. Chief Davis plans to head back to the east coast where his Air Force adventure started in June 1980.

Units combine to promote efficiency

Academy Spirit Staff

The 10th Services Division and 10th Mission Support Squadron merged Wednesday forming what is now known as the 10th Force Support Squadron.

Officials say the new alignment is a result of functional area mergers of mission support and services squadrons Air Force-wide, and is expected to be completed by 2010.

“Because we’re a leaner force, we need to focus on getting our people and organizations operating at maximum efficiency,” said 10th FSS Director Gary Garland. “This reorganization puts the Academy’s military and civilian personnel and services capabilities under one leadership hat, which reduces overhead and gives our people the flexibility to be more responsive to our customers’ needs.”

The reorganization is intended to be relatively seamless to customers, however any future significant changes will be widely publicized, officials say.

The new FSS includes six flights: Force Development, Personnel Services, Airman and Family Services, Sustainment Services, Community Services, and Cadet Support. The new structure also combines similar functional areas that have historically worked closely together.

Six test bases helped guide where specific responsibilities and processes will be placed within the organizational structure and how they will operate. The goals of the new squadron is to streamline processes, maximize customer service and cut costs associated with maintaining two separate organizations.

“Most importantly, we hope to reap the benefits of a newfound synergy created by this merger,” Mr. Garland said.

Academy tops in Air Force for anti-terrorism

Academy Spirit staff

The Academy’s antiterrorism program has been named best in the Air Force for a fixed installation. Notification of the award arrived at the end of last month.

The Academy’s program is entered into Department of Defense competition, expected to be complete by the end of July.

“This was a team effort,” said Paul Cecilian, Academy antiterrorism officer who pointed out all units and mission elements have AT representatives who contributed to the program’s success.

“We had a lot of support and involvement,” he said and added, “We had a great 2008.”

The Academy AT program was noted for its “outstanding” rating during the Air

Force Inspector General Unit Compliance Inspection, recognized as “Best Program seen to Date” and praised for perfect security execution for President of the United States’ visit during the 2008 and “flawless operations” by the Secret Service.

The program also received kudos, among other achievements, for major improvements to mass communications, enhanced Giant Voice, initiation of

Desktop Alerting System and revision of active shooter plan now a benchmark plan for service academies.

In addition, the Academy’s program was recognized for excellence in AT training, incident response planning and response, planning for protection of installation resources and hardening of the North Gate and protection planning for Direct Reporting Unit headquarters.

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Father promotes son via video teleconference

By Erin Blauvelt
87th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — Can you hear me, Dad? ... Pop, can ya hear?" "Loud and clear."

And just like that, from halfway across the world, Lt. Col. Steven Black, chief of nutritional medicine at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, was ready to promote his son, 1st Lt. Travis Black, Materiel Management Flight commander, 87th Logistics Readiness Squadron, to captain at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst via video teleconference.

With a nearly life-size, live video stream of his father behind him, and his mother, Carolyn Black, and wife, Jillian Black, present to pin on his newly earned insignia, Captain Black's promotion ceremony also served as a special, miniature family reunion.

Colonel Black left his home in Colorado Springs, where he is a professor of biology at the Air Force Academy, in early January for a deployment to Afghanistan. It had been more than four and a half months since he had seen his family.

With thousands of miles in between the two, Captain Black, a 2005 Air Force Academy graduate, had originally "written off the idea" of having his father promote him, Carolyn Black said.

"But he was the best choice," Jillian



Photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle Johnson

Then 1st Lt. Travis Black, 87th Logistics Readiness Squadron Materiel Management Flight commander, prepares to take the oath of office administered by his father, Lt. Col. Steven Black, chief of nutritional medicine at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, via video teleconference May 29.

Black added. "Travis looks up to him so much as an officer and as a dad. It just made it that much more special and personal."

Captain Black described how his father mentored him. "My father has always been a sounding board for me," he said. "As a young cadet, he encouraged me to keep pushing through the first year of the Academy." Now, both active-duty officers, "His guidance has not stopped — he often shares the highs and lows, good and bad, and his overall 'lieutenant colonel' take on leadership."

Colonel Black's dual role as father and officer is not new to the family. "The

title 'Captain Black' still reminds me of my father," said the younger officer. "He wore that rank when we first moved to Colorado Springs [in 1997]. It's humbling to wear the rank he once wore."

As Captain Black develops as an Air Force officer, he said he will look to his father as a role model. "I know I have big shoes to fill — my father is such a great, level-headed, passionate, and charismatic officer. I can only hope to live up to the officer he is," he said.

Captain Craig Straight, installation deployment officer and the ceremony's presiding officer, encouraged Captain Black, saying, "[He] will face significant

challenges, as we all do in the real world. I know he'll do well." He described the promotion ceremony as an "awesome, awesome thing" and being a part of it as "an honor."

Colonel Black said he is "one proud papa" to be able to promote his son to the rank he once wore.

"It was really special to Travis, especially because his dad administered the oath when he was sworn in as a second lieutenant into the Air Force," Jillian Black said. "And as his dad gets closer to retirement, this may be the last promotion he'll be able to administer the oath for."

While Colonel Black was clearly an easy first choice to administer the oath of office, the logistics of the video teleconference were a bit more complicated. Only three places at McGuire AFB have the capability to host a VTC. "Once I knew the medical clinic had the capability needed, it instantly became my first choice," Captain Black said. "My father, a medical corps officer, is stationed at a medical facility at Bagram AB. I knew it would be unique to have two medical facilities coordinate this promotion."

The technical aspects of VTC were a result of the collaboration between Gerald Calabro, 87th Medical Support Squadron systems analyst, and Tech. Sgt. Terry Rainey, NCOIC of the information systems shop at Bagram AB, Afghanistan.

See PROMOTION, Page 11

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AF leaders release uniform board results, focus on improving the current inventory

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Air Force officials here have released the results of the 98th Virtual Uniform Board. While the board did not introduce new uniforms, the majority of the uniform-wear policy results improved upon existing servicemember uniforms.

The service's senior leaders said they intend to provide fully functional and appropriate uniforms to support all Airmen both stateside and deployed, with emphasis on the current uniform inventory, in response to Airmen feedback.

"We remain committed to fix, improve and upgrade uniforms in our current inventory," said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services and chairman of the Virtual Uniform Board. "Our goal is to provide the optimal uniform and equipment to Airmen in order to allow them to best carry out their mission," he said.

The general explained that the uniform team is committed to ensuring Airmen have a fully functional uniform at the right time and at the right cost to support the joint mission worldwide.

The Air Force's top enlisted Airman underscored the importance of ongoing analysis and constant response to wearer feedback.

"Our Airmen spend their hard-earned money on these uniforms, and we owe it to them to do the

research, development and quality assurance necessary to guarantee every uniform item put on the shelf is right the first time," Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley said. "The Virtual Uniform Board is essential because no one knows better than Airmen serving today what uniform changes are needed."

The board convened in 2008 with Airmen voting members from all major commands and most functional communities. Representatives from the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Defense Logistics Agency, Air Force Uniform Office, Air Force Logistics and Air Staff members acted as non-voting advisors. Board members forwarded their recommendations to the Air Force chief of staff for a final decision.

Board members recommended and the chief of staff approved the green fleece formerly worn only as the All-Purpose Environmental Clothing System liner to be authorized Air Force-wide as an outer-wear garment. Senior leaders also approved adding the name, rank and service designators to the green fleece when worn as an outer-wear garment.

Other uniform enhancements include the addition of a small surname tape to the pocket flap of the APECS left sleeve.

While General Newton delegated the authorization of black-boots in industrial areas to MAJCOMs in February, the concept, like many changes, originated from a Virtual Uniform Board input.

"We rely on feedback from Airmen about a wide

variety of uniform issues. As such, the Air Force uniform team created the Virtual Uniform Board.

The virtual uniform board capitalized on available technology that Airmen are familiar with, the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program," said Ruth Ewalt, chief of Air Force uniform programs and policy.

The intent of the Virtual Uniform Board is for Airmen to identify existing uniform problems and suggest an improvement, Ms. Ewalt said.

"Unlike an open forum board, it's an avenue to voice an input and recommend a solution to resolve the issue," Ms. Ewalt said.

"It is an opportunity for everyone wearing the uniform to bring well thought out and substantive issues, along with solid recommendations to resolve those issues, to the attention of Air Force senior leadership," she added.

General Newton shares Ms. Ewalt's sentiments.

"We heard the feedback from the field and will continue to tailor our uniforms to their operational needs," General Newton said.

Airmen can provide uniform recommendations by going to the Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program Web site at the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/mgcssaf/USAF/ep/globalTab.do?command=org&channelPageId=->.

Airmen also can access uniform information at the Air Force Portal by typing "uniform" in the search box in the page's upper right-hand corner.

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MC-12 flies first combat mission

By Staff Sgt. Dilia Ayala
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFNS) — The Air Force's newest intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft flew its first combat sortie June 10 over Iraq.

The MC-12 Liberty, assigned to the 362nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance

Squadron, arrived in Iraq June 8 and took off from Joint Base Balad at approximately 2:30 p.m. local time for a four-hour mission.

"This is truly a success story," said Brig. Gen. Brian T. Bishop, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. "Our mission here is to deliver combat airpower and overwatch to the joint fight in-theater, and the MC-12 brings a huge



ISR capability to employ in support of the ground commander."

"This is the first combat mission for the 362nd ERS, and it was a huge success," said Col. Mike Fantini, the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander. "The milestone continues the extraordinary program to push more ISR capability to the joint-force commander."

Landing at approximately 6:20 p.m. local time, the four-person crew was all smiles after completing the historic sortie.

"It feels good being out here and doing something good for the warfighter," said Capt. Jason Goodale, the pilot.

"The crew was great," the Sioux Falls, S.D., said the native deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. "We performed like we trained. It is great to be part of something that is bringing a unique feature to ground forces."

Flying alongside Captain Goodale were Lt. Col. Phillip Stewart, the mission commander deployed from Langley AFB, Va., and a native of Silver Spring, Md.; and the two sensor operators: Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Hunter, deployed from Offutt AFB, Neb., and a native of Rock Springs, Wyo.; and Staff Sgt. Shaun Nelson.

"It was a great mission," Colonel Stewart said. "It couldn't have gone any better."

"It feels really good to validate the training we went through," he added. "I'm extraordinarily proud of (the Airmen of the 362nd ERS). They are a tremendous group of Airmen. All of them volunteered to come to a brand-new program not knowing what to expect because they believe in the mission and they believe in the men and women that we are protecting on the ground."

Designed to augment information gathered by other intelligence-collection capabilities operating in-theater, the MC-12 provides real-time full-motion video and signals intelligence and allow military leaders to make battlefield decisions.

"It's an awesome mission," said Sergeant Nelson, deployed from Tinker AFB, Okla., and a native of Lenox, S.D. "I think we are all excited to be a part of it. It's a big capability, and it's nice to be able to bring this capability to more and more of the troops on the ground. The job satisfaction is amazing out here. You know you're making a difference. You know you're helping the guys on the ground. That's what we are here to do."



Photos By Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca

Lt. Col. Phillip Stewart conducts a preflight inspection of an MC-12 Liberty prior to the aircraft's first combat sortie June 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



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Academy Exchange to celebrate new look

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The Academy Exchange is having a party, and everyone's invited.

The grand opening celebration July 1 will cap the store's renovation, which begun nearly a year ago.

"It's going to be kind of like a festival," said Kim Lopez, Army & Air Force Exchange store manager. "Our customers deserve a party."

During the grand opening, the road in front of the store will be blocked to allow for food and gift vendors, entertainment, demonstrations, a book signing, the appearance of an AAFES "monster truck," among other offerings. The BX will also feature special promotions and enter-to-win contests.

Academy senior leadership and Lionel Rivera, mayor of Colorado Springs, are scheduled to be on hand for the celebration.

"We want to kick it off in style," Ms. Lopez said.

The grand opening was originally scheduled for November last year, in time for the holiday season. Due to unexpected delays completion was postponed.

As the renovation progressed, major structural problems emerged, such electrical issues and the presence of asbestos.

"It took a lot longer in some unexpected areas," she said. "Now it's safe and up to code and like a new building in an old shell."

Ms. Lopez called the renovation a "100 percent gut job."

The facility's restrooms were also fully gutted, spanning from sewer lines to ceilings. They now are retiled with new fixtures and fully meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Customers will enjoy the new look overall and the

"shopability" of the completed renovation Ms. Lopez added.

"It's much lighter and brighter," Ms. Lopez said and pointed out the facility is also more energy efficient.

New interior entrances have contributed to the new look, including the addition of three passages into areas housing toys and hardware (an area formerly occupied by sporting goods). An additional entrance has been added from the main store directly into the outside patio area.

New lighting, expanded aisle space and raised ceilings have also added to the more open feel of the store. Overhead signage indicates department locations throughout the facility.

Books and magazines have moved to their new location near the main entrance of the store, and the electronics area has been significantly expanded. The ladies' wear department now occupies about 5,000 square feet of the estimated 30,000 square foot facility.

Renovation has also created space for an anticipated move of Academy Bank in the future.

Not immediately visible to customers will be some shifts in merchandising, with reductions and increases in inventory based on sales records of certain items. One example is hair color and another baby items.

Ms. Lopez stressed, however, the store will continue to carry a "nice mixture of the basics" for infants.



Photo by Ann Patton

AAFES staff member Adrienne Brown checks the inventory of fine jewelry in the Academy Base Exchange. The jewelry department is now in its permanent home following the renovation. The grand opening is set for July 1, with activities scheduled for both inside and outside.

She is grateful to the store's patrons who have been loyal during the renovation.

"Many customers have made our day and have been our cheerleaders. I thank all of them who've hung in here with us," she said. "We couldn't have better customers."

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TRAVOLTA

Top high school chemists hit Academy labs

Academy Public Affairs

Twenty of the nation's top teenage chemists are putting the Academy's Department of Chemistry through its paces.

The Chemistry department is hosting the 41st annual Chemistry Olympiad's summer training camp here, which started June 3 and continues through Thursday.

In conjunction with the American Chemical Society, the Academy's chemistry department has supported this camp for the past 25 years.

"In terms of the Air Force Academy, this is a very high profile event and receives national attention," said Dr. Kim Gardner, associate professor in the chemistry department and camp director.

In the comments the Academy's received over the years, one message has been clear — the Air Force Academy is the only place that could support this program with the depth and quality that has been accomplished here for the past quarter-century, she said.

Slots in the chemistry training camp here are highly competitive. The 18 boys and two girls who won the final 20 spots did so from a competitive pool of more than 11,000 high school students nationwide.

"These kids are so bright that they really push us to lecture at their level — they study college level chemistry, not high school chemistry," said Dr. Gardner.

The teenagers participate in classroom lectures and laboratory exercises covering analytical, organic, inorganic, physical and bio chemistry.

"In organic chemistry they are told to read the first eight chapters of their textbook before they even get here," said Dr. Gardner. That would take half a semester with our two-degrees."

From these 20 chemists, four will be chosen for the final team which will represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympiad. The four finalists will represent the United States during the international competition in Cambridge, England, July 18-27, and



Photo by Rachel Boettcher

John Rosenberg from Barrington High School, Barrington, Illinois, combines precise amounts of reagents together during a recrystallization experiment in the Department of Chemistry labs here last week. Rosenberg is one of 20 teenage chemists here for the chemistry olympiad training camp, competing for one of four spots on the U.S. team which travels to the international Chemistry Olympiad in England next month.

compete against teams from 65 other countries.

The American Chemical Society sponsors the U.S. team.

"The ACS is proud of its Olympiad contenders who are representative of the best chemistry students in this country," said ACS President Thomas H. Lane, Ph.D., a strong supporter of science education. "The Olympiad program is a way to stimulate interests in science among thousands of students. More than 154,000 ACS members are dedicated to engaging students in the wonders of chemistry and to the development of our next generation of scientific leaders."

The U.S. team has been a strong competitor at the international event. The 2008 team won one silver and

three bronze medals. In 1999 and 2000, the U.S. team won the gold medal.

The 2009 competitors are being mentored by chemistry teachers Linda Wood, Lowndes High School, Valdosta, Ga.; Jack Kotz, State University of New York, Oneonta, N.Y.; Kristin Fletcher, of the Academy's Department of Chemistry; and Andrew Freddo, 2006 silver medal winner of the International Chemistry Olympiad and now a student at the California Institute of Technology.

The International Chemistry Olympiad began with Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary in 1968. Other Western and European countries joined later, with the United States first participating in 1984.

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Immersion trips grow in 2009

By Academy Spirit staff

Thirty-six escorts and 284 cadets, including 24 Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet candidates, are participating in Cadet Summer and Language Immersion Program trips this year.

Some of the four-week programs departed May 23 and will return around June 19. Two groups participating in six-week programs featuring Chinese and Arabic visits departed May 26 and are scheduled to return July 11.

Last year, 196 cadets participated in CSLIP. This year, 260 are in the program. Thirteen trips were made in 2008, compared to 19 planned trips this year.

The Olmstead Foundation funded this year embrace 155 cadets, up from 85 last year. Twenty-eight countries will be visited compared to last year's 18.

"We are able to offer cadets some incredible international programs, allowing them to develop language and cultural ties that will be important in their careers in our very internationally engaged Air Force," said Lt. Col. Scot Allen, Academy director of international programs.

"We are also looking for opportunities abroad for technical majors at foreign civilian universities," Colonel Allen said.

Cadets are scheduled to visit: Spain, Costa Rica, Peru, Argentina, Panama, Brazil, Germany, France, Morocco, China, Japan, Egypt, Jordan, Ukraine, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Cameroon, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Ethiopia, Rwanda, India, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Senegal, France, South Africa, South Korea, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam.

Portugal is participating in CSLIP for the first time.

BBBS reaches out to youth

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Their moniker is "Big Brothers, Big Sisters" and they don't make headlines too often. What they do is personal.

"This program pairs two cadets to a local child ages 6-13 from a single-parent family," said Capt. Jessica Kashka, who with Maj. Gregory Bennett, are the new officers in charge of the Academy's BBBS 2009 program.

"Each month, the Falcon Club sponsors a single event, such as a trip to the zoo or a day at the roller skating rink. The purpose of the events is for the cadets to develop and foster a mutually beneficial relationship between the cadet and his or her 'little,' the captain said.

The Falcon Club is a distinguished "Operation Mentor" program participant with a proud 30-year history at the Academy. It has repeatedly been recognized for its innovative approach to mentoring community children from single parent homes.

"The children may develop self-esteem and confidence through their positive interaction with a role-model," the captain said.

She has the numbers to back

that up.

The positive effects of the Academy's BBBS program is documented with 67 percent of the children improving their grades, 73 percent of the children reporting better peer and family relationships, and an average of 98 percent of children not getting involved in gangs, criminal behavior, or using drugs and alcohol.

"The rewards gained from cadets participating in this club are numerous and include a sense of service and dedication to the community," Captain Kashka said.

"Almost 200 cadets participate in the program, however there are more cadets who have applied to the program and we estimate we will have 250-plus who wish to participate in fall 2009," she said. "The yearly success of this long run program is primarily due to the dedication of our individual cadets and the kind gifts of our sponsors."

Downtown BBBS program office officials Ms. Meg Bunka and Ms. Jan Jarrold, call 633.2443, can always use more help.

Cadet 2nd Class Erin Keane and Cadet 3rd Class Lacey Richardson are cadets in charge of this dynamic, rewarding program.

Retired Col. Don Brown, a former Academy hospital commander and TRIWEST are BBBS corporate sponsors. The colonel's son, Scott, attended the Academy and was a Big Brother. Scott is now an Air Force major.


"The colonel is very generous with his time and support of this club, as well as the point of contact for our corporate sponsor," Captain Kashka said.

"Cadet 3rd Class Carlos Sandoval was once a child in the Falcon Club and had two cadet mentors," said Ms. Bunka. "Now he is a cadet himself and has joined the club as a mentor and has built a great relationship with his 'little,' Cory."

BBBS is beginning a new program in the Colorado Springs community matching children of deployed military with an adult mentor age 20 and above in a community-based program.

"This would be an area that Academy community members could perhaps become involved themselves if they are not cadets, said the BBBS worker. "We are in need of approximately eight more mentors by early July in order to get each of the children matched at the start of the program."


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Air Force officials revise fitness program

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The need for a “clear, understandable and simpler” fitness program will mean significant changes to the Air Force’s current fitness program, said the service’s top officer during a senior leadership conference held June 4 through 6 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz met with the service’s other four stars at CORONA TOP where one of the key agenda items was Air Force fitness.

His intent was to fine tune fitness testing, promote a year-round fitness culture and send a clear message that health and fitness are critical to mission readiness.

“Fitness is a vital component of Air Force culture,” General Schwartz said. “These challenging times underscore the importance of properly caring for our most valuable resource: our Airmen.”

The Air Force’s top enlisted leader agreed that good fitness is a fundamental requirement for Air Force warriors.

“Maintaining the proper fitness levels is really about maintaining combat capability,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley. “Being fit can make the difference between life and death for Airmen when actions require concentrated physical activity on or near the battlefield.”

Chief McKinley explained that Airmen must constantly hone their fitness abilities to withstand and overcome the demanding rigors of deployment and combat.

“Airmen must present the proper military appearance and project to the American public our ability to defend our nation and its interests,” the chief said.

While commanders have responsibility of their unit fitness programs, each Airman is responsible for meeting and maintaining fitness standards 365 days a year, said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

“With these program revisions and enhancements, we encourage a culture of fitness, empowering all Airmen to take responsibility for being physically mission ready,” General Newton said.

General Newton added that the new Air Force instruction, projected for publication in July 2009, will better emphasize the service’s fitness expectations of its Airmen. Who will conduct the testing, when and how Airmen will test are among the most significant revisions to the fitness program, which takes effect January 2010.

Perhaps the most significant difference in fitness testing will be its frequency, Air Force officials said. Full-time active-duty Airmen will now test twice each year, and most reservists or guardsmen will continue to test once per year.

To maximize testing objectivity, the AFI designates trained civilian proctors to conduct fitness tests admin-



Photo by Bobby Jones

Airmen exercise Jan. 15 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Air Force officials announced June 9 significant changes to the Air Force’s current fitness program.

istered at new centralized locations called fitness assessment cells.

Aerobic fitness is the best indicator of current and future health risk followed by body composition, said Lt. Col. Scott Arcuri, the chief of promotions, evaluations, and fitness policy at the Air Staff. Because of this, the aerobic run will now account for 60 percent of the test (previously 50 percent), body composition will account for 20 percent (previously 30 percent), while sit-ups and push-ups remain at 10 percent each.

“We developed evidence-driven, health based criterion standards for aerobic fitness and body composition and muscle fitness,” Colonel Arcuri said. “Airmen can be confident the new standards and corresponding points have sound rationale behind them.”

Colonel Arcuri also stated that the points awarded within each component directly reflect health risk and fitness and are designed to reward incremental fitness improvements.

Senior leaders said in order to pass the test, Airmen will be required to have a composite score of 75 but also will need to meet minimum requirements for each component.

Air Force officials said age range requirements will be simplified to five categories: less than 30, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60-plus years of age. Additionally, because overall fitness is a readiness issue, fitness results will be categorized using operational readiness or unit compliance inspection-type ratings. Those scoring 90 and above will be “Excellent;” those scoring between 75 and 90 will be “Satisfactory;” and those scoring under 75 will be “Unsatisfactory.”

“The time has come for all Airmen to better integrate fitness into their daily lives,” said Chief Master Sgt.

Mark Long, the Air Staff enlisted promotions, evaluations and physical fitness chief.

Chief Long said the new AFI will provide commanders clear guidance on recommended actions based on the number of failed tests.

Chief McKinley noted that making a commitment to fitness puts the responsibility on each Airman to get in shape and remain wartime ready year-round.

“Proper fitness is an important aspect of an overall healthy lifestyle,” Chief McKinley said. “When our Airmen are fit, eat healthy and reduce risk factors such as tobacco use and irresponsible alcohol consumption, their health will improve, they will visit the hospital less, and in the end, TRICARE costs will be reduced.”

Failure to comply with the new fitness standards could impact more than an Airmen’s waistlines. The new AFI links unsatisfactory fitness test performance directly to enlisted and officer performance reports. Chief McKinley said the upcoming revised evaluation AFI will ensure no Airman can have a referral enlisted performance report for fitness and receive an overall five rating.

The rewritten AFI mandates that fitness compliance be reported from unit to wing to major command for review.

General Newton asserts that while the Air Force fitness AFI outlines Airman’s responsibilities, the Air Force Fitness Management System will be enhanced to provide detailed post-test feedback designed to help Airmen improve in targeted areas.

Airmen will be able to view component scoring charts in the new AFI. Further questions on the program can be directed to Colonel Arcuri, Lt. Col. John Giles and Chief Long at DSN’s 224-8270, 222-4532 and 227-1661 respectively.

Promotion

From Page 4

“We get requests for VTCs all the time,” Mr. Calabro said, “but this was the first request we’ve had for this sort of event. Everyone was happy to jump on the bandwagon to get it done.”

More than a week of planning and testing culminated in a successful 20-minute promotion ceremony. The two hospitals connected via satellite, “which can be difficult due to the high winds and dusty conditions,” Sergeant Rainey said. “Fortunately, we were able to configure our VTC systems directly to McGuire,” bypassing the typical connection that must go through Landstuhl, Germany.

Although time was a concern, and

just minutes before the ceremony was to begin the connection timed out, but when 10 a.m. came, everything went smoothly. “There was the typical half-a-world-away communication delay that is expected on overseas calls and there was occasional scrambling of the audio, but otherwise it was the next best thing to being there.” Colonel Black said. “[Mr. Calabro and Sergeant Rainey] deserve a bonus.”

Both men were able to see their work pay off. “It was well worth all the coordination and setup. Especially when you see how much it meant to Captain Black and how proud Lieutenant Colonel Black was to deliver the oath to his son,” Sergeant Rainey said.

“I felt really good about doing something outside the typical work spec. It was definitely a feel good thing,” Mr. Calabro said.

While Colonel Black’s virtual presence made the promotion ceremony unique, it was the entire family being together that made the occasion particularly special for Captain Black. “They have seen me at my best and worst throughout my short Air Force career. All of them are always cheering me on, giving me advice, and just listening when necessary,” the captain said. “I was thrilled that my mother was there to share the opportunity to see my father live through the VTC capabilities.”

Carolyn Black was equally pleased to

take part in the ceremony. “I was impressed Travis put it together — actually made it happen,” she said. “And I know it meant a lot to Steve.” The audience that gathered for the ceremony, which included many Airmen from the 87th LRS, could also see Colonel Black’s excitement as he took a moment away from his official demeanor to snap a picture of the streaming video on his end.

“It was incredibly gratifying to be a part of such an important milestone — even though I was on the other side of the world,” Colonel Black said. “And it was an honor to be among people who respect Travis and provide him such strong support.”

Healthy futures in store for children

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Academy youngsters are getting a jump start on a life-long healthy lifestyle—and having fun doing it—through the Fit for the Future, Meet Me in the Park program.

Twice a week children and parents gather at housing area parks for two hours of outdoor games, play and socialization. The program, from 9 to 11 a.m. and targeting children ages 2 – 5, meets Tuesday in Pine Valley and Thursday in Douglass Valley, both weather permitting.

“We want to teach children to eat properly and exercise,” said Linda Smith, family childcare coordinator. “All kids should be outdoors at least an hour every day.”

Fit for the Future is now in its sixth year on the Academy and was initiated by the late Donna Head, who was family member flight-chief.

Children can enjoy the park equipment as well as other play tools trucked to the site, including big-wheeled riding toys, a mini train and pint-sized exercise equipment such as elliptical trainers, stationary tricycles, treadmills and a weight bench.

Mid-playtime, youngsters help themselves to

healthy snacks like fresh vegetables, fruit, cheese and roll-ups. Only plain, chilled water accompanies the snack.

A play parachute signals to the children the day’s activities are coming to an end.

Ms. Smith said about 40-plus youngsters come out for the program. Off-base military family members are always welcome.

All children must be accompanied by a parent. “Our main concern is safety,” she said and emphasized safety is foremost in selecting equipment, such as Nerf golf and horseshoes.

Parents appreciate the opportunity for children to enjoy the outdoors.

“You really can’t beat this program,” said Lindsey Stoney, whose husband Brandon is with the 10th Security Forces Squadron. “They get to play with things they don’t ordinarily get to play with, and they make new friends. It builds confidence and relationships.”

A family care provider, Mrs. Stoney said she also emphasizes exercise every day, including dancing in the house during inclement weather.

Linsey Mach, whose husband is with the 10th Medical Group, said her son, Nathan, 5, asked her all winter when Meet Me in the Park would begin again.

“He loved it and had so much fun,” she said. “It’s a wonderful program.”

Mrs. Mack said moms as well enjoy the time to socialize among themselves and get to know each other.

Skyler Stoney, 5, enjoys playing with his friends, riding on motorcycles and sliding down the slide.

“I want to come back,” he said.

Nathan Mack also enjoys seeing friends and playing on the exercise equipment, as well as on the Douglass Valley park equipment, but with some reservation after rain soaked the Academy the day before.

“I got my pants wet on the slide,” he said.



Photo by Ann Patton

Youngsters fly under and around the play parachute as Fit for the Future, Meet Me in the Park activities come to an end for the day. The program runs from 9 – 11 a.m. Tuesday in Pine Valley and Thursday in Douglass Valley through the end of July.

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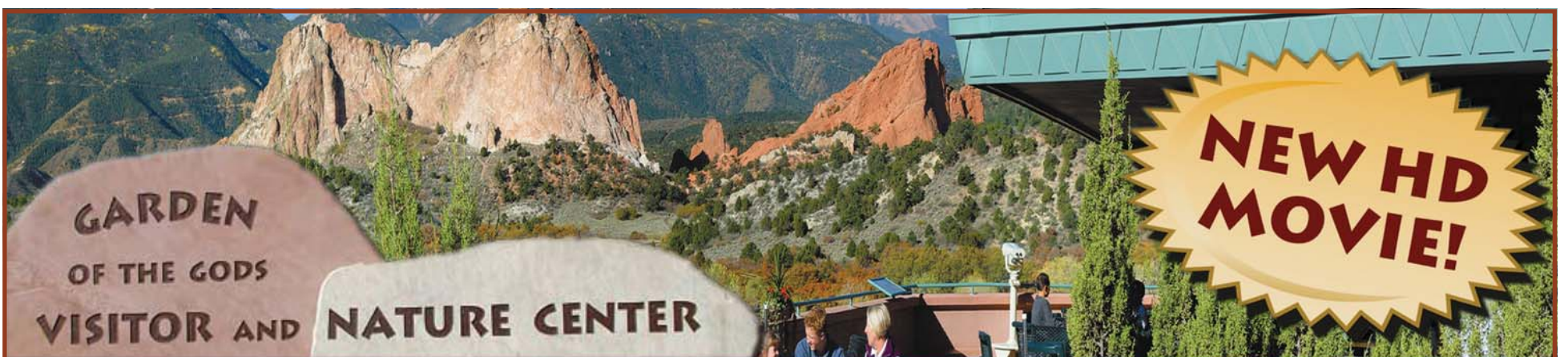
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Do you know ...

The Airman's Creed

By Chief Master Sgt. Mike Hayter
8th Missions Support Group superintendent

KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFNS) — Do you know the Airman's Creed? The Airman's Creed has been out for more than two years, yet there are still some Airmen who do not know it. Yes, I know sometimes it's hard to remember all of those lines on a piece of paper but what you need to do is to add meaning to it for yourself. This is the only way I can remember the creed.

Let's take a look at the first paragraph. "I am an American Airman, I am a warrior, I have answered my nation's call." What does that mean to you? To me, it means that I represent the folks from my hometown in east Tennessee. I have not lived there for more than 25 years now but I still feel that they are the folks that I am responsible to. To the folks back home in your hometown, you are their Airman, their warrior, and their representative in the great military of our nation. To prove my point, think about the times when you've gone home to visit all your friends and family. You are not only their pride and joy, but also the pride and joy of the entire local community. This is because you are an Airman, a warrior, and you have proudly answered your nation's call.

Now, let's move on to paragraph two. "My mission is to fly, fight, and win. I am faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor and a legacy of valor." When I think about this paragraph, I think about the great Airmen who came before us; like Billy Mitchell and Paul Airey. I think about what we owe them in following in their footsteps. We must preserve their great heritage, and we must do this in a manner that will also bring honor to the individuals who will follow in our footsteps. Finally, this paragraph speaks to me about the great history of the Air Force and how we each have a chance to play a part in

shaping the future of not only the Air Force, but of the United States as well.

The third is the most powerful part of the creed.

With words like freedom, justice, sword, shield, sentry and last but certainly not least, avenger, this paragraph strongly appeals to me. It reminds me that we in the military are oftentimes the only thing that stands between chaos and anarchy in many parts of the world. It reminds me that we are there to help maintain and often rebuild the countries of our friends and enemies alike.

Finally, the closing line strikes me the most, "I defend my country with my life." I am reminded of the people mentioned in the first paragraph; those friends and family back in east Tennessee. I am willing to give my life for them. Additionally, the final paragraph, to me, is all about the bond that we have as Airmen and the responsibilities we have to one another.

We are all in the profession of arms and we enjoy the power that comes with it. However, with that power comes great responsibility. We are all part of something bigger than ourselves. We have to be leaders, followers and yes, sometimes we have to be warriors. We have the responsibility to the Airmen on our left or right to take care of each other and demand the best of each other. We have to be strong for each other and we can never leave anyone behind because we are only as strong as the weakest Airman. We cannot fail. Our nation needs us to be the strongest and most professional military force in the world.

If you believe and live this creed you will have no problem remembering those lines because they will be more than just lines to you. They will be a lifestyle.

I am an American Airman.

I am a Warrior:

I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to fly, fight and win.

I am faithful to a proud heritage,

A tradition of honor,

And a legacy of valor.

*I am an American Airman,
guardian of freedom and justice,*

My nation's sword and shield,

Its sentry and avenger.

I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman:

Wingman, leader, warrior.

I will never leave an Airman behind,

I will never falter

and I will not fail.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston

Cadets deploy as part of Operation Air Force

By Capt. Angelic Dolan
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — Twenty United States Air Force Academy cadets deployed here for a month as part of Operation Air Force, an annual program that places cadets at operational Air Force bases throughout the world for career shadowing, mentoring and familiarization.

The program provides the cadets a unique opportunity to learn about the active duty Air Force from a deployed environment and exposes them to career-specific experiences through internship and mentorship, according to Capt. Sean Lovell, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing antiterrorism officer.

"The program brought the cadets to the Persian Gulf region to broaden their knowledge of the Air Force and make them well-rounded officers," Captain Lovell said. "It also gives them perspective on other career fields."

Cadets shadow Airmen in different career fields and interact with officers and the enlisted corps in



Photo by Senior Airman Courtney Richardson

Senior Airman Sanchez Zepeda, 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron load master driver, assists Cadet 1st Class Nathanael Thalhoffer with properly securing body armor at an Army base in Southwest Asia, June 8.

mentoring sessions, he added.

"This is an opportunity for us to develop these soon-to-be officers," he said. "Not every cadet gets the opportunity to deploy. Cadets in their senior year were

handpicked after several records reviews and interviews. These cadets are in the top percent of their class."

The cadets have to meet the same deployment requirements as any other Airmen entering the region.

"We are an expeditionary force, and it is important for the cadets to understand that concept instead of graduating and heading to their assignment and then deploying," Capt. Lovell said. "This gives the cadets the opportunity to understand what we do in the area of responsibility and what our mission is here as an expeditionary force. They will get the first-hand knowledge and experience in the AOR."

Cadet 1st Class Selena Rodts said by participating in this program she gets more of an insight on how the Air Force operates in a deployed environment, giving her a more hands-on experience.

"We have teachers who deploy and come back and tell us their experience and what to expect, but you never really know until you experience it for yourself," she added. "That is why we are here. I look forward to what we will be learning in the next couple of weeks."

Mirage returns home

By Master Sgt. Claudia Weir
Air Force Academy Band

After performing 41 concerts in six countries for nearly 10,000 people and traveling thousands of miles, Academy musicians are grateful to be home!

When Mirage returned from a two month deployment to the Colorado Springs Airport June 4, they were greeted by family members, friends, and members of the Academy Band.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Woods, percussionist and superintendent of the group, said he was, "excited and relieved to be home. Coming off the plane and seeing my wife and two daughters was tremendous. I've been in the Band for 19 years, and seeing all the band members was like coming home to family."

Group leader and clarinetist Master Sgt. Heike Gazetti said, "My legs were trembling just like my daughters were when I held her. There were lights, music, cameras; it was such an amazing, warm reception."

"It was great to see our families," Vocalist for the octet, and mother of five, Tech. Sgt. Nancy Poffenbarger said.

Two additional groups from the Academy Band have deployed in recent years.

Deployed bands perform for troops, as well as in communities at schools, embassies, community centers and orphanages breaking down previously high walls between host countries and Americans.

Before Mirage arrived, members of the Academy Band gathered in the lobby with their instruments. They were poised to play the Air Force Song as Mirage members entered the lobby.

Master Sgt. Janusz Masztalerz, who had previously deployed, said he was happy to be there and support his colleagues. "First of all it was exciting because it is a great tradition ... playing the Air Force song, it creates a nice feeling that we have a band family. It reminds us why we went there, why we made the sacrifices we did in separating from our families, and how important our mission is."

Between the eight Mirage musicians who'd deployed, there were 14 children left behind.

They range in age from 19 months to more than 20 years old. The children were there to greet their parents, some had balloons, and others flowers. All had enormous smiles. The spouses were equally as excited, and relieved their loved ones would soon be in sight. The families were allowed to go to the gate to meet their loved ones.

Others waited in the lobby.

As the octet emerged, Drum Major Master Sgt. Karl Bradley counted off "One, Two" and the band performed the Air Force Song.

Mirage members returning looked sleep deprived, dazed, and happy. However they mustered the energy to gather their luggage and go home with smiles on their faces and loved ones under their arms.



Photo courtesy of Sagar Pathak of HorizontalRain.com

Mission of music

VICTORIA, Grenada — An orphan from the Father Mallaghan's Home for Boys sings along with the U.S. Air Force Academy Band "Blue Steel" in Victoria, Grenada, June 1. Blue Steel spent the day with orphans from Father Mallaghan's Home for Boys before performing a public concert in the center of the village.

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Flag Day: Americans personified in war-torn fabric

By Ken Carter
Editor

Whether one calls her “Old Glory,” “Stars and Stripes,” or, “Star Spangled Banner,” she’ll be honored Sunday during our nation’s annual celebration known as Flag Day.

The history of the combination of red and white stripes, the blue union, and the 50 stars represent the bloodshed and bravery of those who’ve served to ensure America’s freedom. Countless military heroes have paid the ultimate sacrifice in preserving that freedom and a handful have become household names — most, however, have not.

The appreciation for the power of symbolism in a flag’s design is especially appreciated by military members who swear to support and defend it and the liberties for which it stands.

Two great Americans near and dear to the heart of the U.S. Air Force who’ve recently passed away are Chief Master Sgt. Paul Airey, the first to serve as chief master sergeant of the Air Force, and Newt Heisley the designer of the POW*MIA flag who called Colorado Springs home.

Chief Airey was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery May 28. At 86, he had passed away March 11 in Panama City, Fla. Mr. Heisley died in his home here in town May 14 at the age of 88.

“When you talk about a lifetime of contributions, you say it thinking of Paul W. Airey” said Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, 10th Mission Support Squadron superintendent.



Photo by Master Sgt. Stan Parker
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley presents a flag to retired Chief Master Sgt. Dale Airey, during the memorial service for his father Chief Master Sgt. Paul W. Airey at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., May 28.

“I tell all my Airmen we owe our respect and admiration to those who served before us, who paved the way,” as reported by Tech. Sgt. Ray Bowden from the 21st Space Wing’s Public Affairs staff, March 31.

As a previous special assistant to the chief master sergeant of the Air Force in Washington D.C, Chief Tapia recalled the honor in the *Space Observer*.

“I had the incredible privilege of spending lots of

time with many former chief master sergeants of the Air Force,” he said. “He’s the only person I know to receive an immediate and rousing standing ovation at the mention of his name from officers and enlisted members alike.”

This response is no doubt due to the dedication that Chief Airey demonstrated while serving his country: the chief enlisted in the Army Air Forces after the attack on Pearl Harbor and began his career as aerial gunner protecting B-24 bombers. While flying over Europe in 1944 as a newly promoted technical sergeant, his aircraft was shot down and then Sergeant Airey found himself a Prisoner of War.

That’s where Mr. Heisley’s love for America later evolved to revealing the POW*MIA flag design that is flown across the nation six times a year and has been on permanent display in the rotunda of the United States Capitol since 1989. In 1990, Congress designated it as “the symbol of our nation’s concern ...” for those still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

The Williamsport, Penn native enlisted during WWII and served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He later spent more than 20 years working for advertising firms

in the New York City area where he conceptualized the POW*MIA flag design for the largest flag manufacturer in the United States at that time.

Today it continues to wave with Old Glory around the globe ... honoring the heroes who’ve played major roles in making up the fabric of America.

What better time to reflect on the significance of the U.S. Air Force core values: Integrity, Service and Excellence, than Sunday—Flag Day.

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USAFA wrestlers receive NWCA academic awards

By **Melissa McKeown**
Assistant Athletic Communications Director

MANHEIM, Pa. - The Air Force wrestling team was named to the Division I All-Academic Top 30 Team by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA), while recent Academy graduate Stephen Crozier was named to the NWCA Individual All-Academic wrestling team, as announced by the organization.

As a team, the Falcons ranked 22nd on the list with a combined GPA of 2.975. It marks the first time since the 2005-2006 season Air Force has been named an NWCA All-Academic Team. In determining eligibility for team all-academic status, the team GPA is comprised of 12 student athletes, including the 10 wrestlers

who were the entries in the NCAA tournament conference qualifier. If teams had fewer than 10 entries for their respective qualifier, they may fill those spots with wrestlers who competed in at least one varsity dual during the season.

Meanwhile, Crozier earned individual all-academic accolades for the second consecutive season.

This year, Crozier is one of just 73 wrestlers to receive the honor. To qualify for selection on the NWCA Individual All-Academic team, wrestlers must: have a 3.2 GPA and been an NCAA qualifier or won 60 percent of his total schedule and must have competed in 60 percent of team schedule or, have a 3.0 GPA and earned NCAA All-American honors.

Crozier carried a 3.59 GPA and grad-

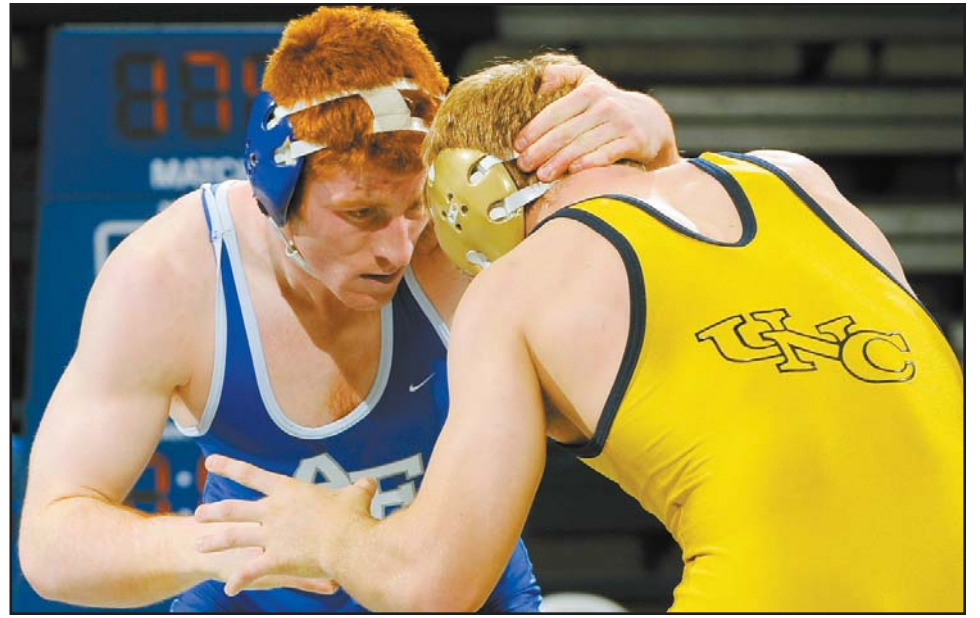


Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Academy graduate 2nd Lt. Stephen Crozier (left) was recently named to the National Wrestling Coaches Association Individual All-Academic wrestling team.

uated last month with a degree in economics. Also an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District selection, Crozier compiled a 25-16 record (.610) during the 2008-2009 season to lead the Falcons in total wins for the second-straight year.

An NCAA qualifier in 2008 and three-time All-Western Wrestling Conference honoree, Crozier is a two-time NCAA West Regional runner-up, wrestling at 165 pounds in 2008 and at 174 pounds in 2009.

Irving named assistant Coach of the Year

By **Valerie Perkin**
Athletic Communications

NEW ORLEANS, La. - Scott Irving, the associate head coach for the Air Force track and field team, was named the Division I Mountain Region Women's Assistant Coach of the Year. Irving, who coaches the throwing events for the Falcons, is the first Air Force coach to earn such an honor.

Under Irving's direction, the Air Force

throwers made a tremendous impact on the women's program during the 2009 outdoor season. Academy records were set in the shot put and hammer throw, while six other top-10 incursions were made in the four throwing events.

The Falcons' throwers, highlighted by a pair of all-conference selections from Sara Neubauer, accounted for 37 of the women's 62 points at the Mountain West Conference Outdoor Champ-



ionships. Irving guided three Falcons (in five events) to the NCAA Regional Championships, with Neubauer advancing to the National Championships in two events.

The U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association selects the top track athletes, field athletes, head coach and assistant coach for each of the nine regions (Northeast, Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Mountain,

South, South Central, Southeast and West) in Division I track and field.

Irving is the second member of the Air Force track and field program to earn a regional honor this season, as Nick Frawley was named the Mountain Region Male Field Athlete of the Year during the 2009 indoor season. Former standout Dana Pounds is the only other regional award winner for the Falcons, winning the Midwest Region Female Field Athlete of the Year for the 2006 outdoor season.

Softball action launches after two-week delay

By **Dave Castilla**
Intramural Sports Director

The intramural softball program finally got its first night of regular season games in since 20 May. There was a two-week delay with graduation and a week off due to rain.

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron started the season off right winning their first game of the season 14-8 over 10th Communications Squadron.

The firefighters scored four runs in the second

inning and would never lose the lead as Derek Damien singled to left driving in a pair of runs. Lance Gore received an RBI on a sacrifice fly and John Salinas blooper single scored the fourth run.

In the third inning, Travis Perkins' double down the third-base line scored. Craig Bunten and Perkins came home on a single by Damien making the score 7-1.

Firefighters scored three more runs in the fourth—the big hit a triple off the fence by Jackie Jacobs driving in John Salinas.

Comm Squadron had its biggest inning in the sixth scoring seven runs. Tom Sapp hit a three-run homer to dead center and RBI's from Jason Evans on a single and Darell Holden on a double to left tightened the score at 10-8.

However, in the top of the seventh Ken Helgerson hit a bomb over the centerfield fence and Damien ended the scoring as his high fly to right field grazed off his fielder's glove for a three-run triple.

Comm Squadron did not score in the bottom of the seventh ending the game

AFA's fourth Academic All-American in hockey

Air Force Academy senior hockey player Mike Phillipich was named to the 2009 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® Men's At-Large Teams, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Phillipich, selected to the third team, graduated with a 3.77 grade point average as a systems engineering management major. Phillipich won the Derek Hines Unsung Hero Award as the "nation's consummate team player and team builder." Phillipich was one of just five players in Air Force history to be a two-year team captain. He was the MVP of the 2007 Atlantic Hockey Association Final Four as a sophomore as Air Force claimed its first ever conference championship and berth in the NCAA Tournament. As a junior and senior,

he captained the Falcons to two more AHA tournament championships and NCAA appearances. He has been on the dean's list every semester, is a three-time academic all-conference selection and was a finalist for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, recognizing excellence in academics, athletics, character and leadership. Phillipich played in 38 games as a senior as Air Force claimed its third consecutive AHA championship and earned its first ever trip to the NCAA Elite Eight. He played in 134 career games and had 36 goals and 90 points and was earned the Academy's Scholar-Athlete Award in 2009.

A right winger from Lansing, Mich., Phillipich is the fourth Falcon to earn Academic All-America honors, joining Justin Kieffer (1998 third team), Brian Gornick (2002 third team) and Mike Polidor (2004 second team).

Intramural Softball

June 8th

CD WING 14
MDG#3 5

10 CS 17
MDG#3 12

10 CES 14
10 CS 8

June 9th

DRU/MSS 14
MDG#2 12

MDG#2 17
RETIREES 12

RETIREES 39
10 SFS 9

STANDINGS WON LOSS

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1. MDG#2 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. CD WING | 1 | 0 |
| 3. 10 CES | 1 | 0 |
| 4. 10 CS | 1 | 1 |
| 5. RETIREES | 1 | 1 |
| 6. DRU/MSS | 1 | 0 |
| 7. 306 FTG | 0 | 0 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 8. MDG#1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. SFS | 0 | 1 |
| 10. MDG#3 | 0 | 3 |

Golf

(Week 4)

Division 1

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Maint 1 | 9.0 |
| 2. 10TH MDG 1 | 6.5 |
| 3. DP | 0 |
| 4. LGR | 9.5 |
| 5. 94 FTS | 3.0 |
| 6. DFC | 3.0 |
| 7. DFL | 3.5 |
| 8. CWC | 4.5 |
| 9. NSSI 2 | 7.5 |
| 10. CW 2 | 6.5 |

Division 2

| | |
|------------|------|
| 1. Maint 2 | 12.0 |
| 2. NSSI | 2.0 |
| 3. DFM | 1.0 |
| 4. 98 FTS | 3.0 |
| 5. 10TH CS | 2.5 |
| 6. DFCE | 7.0 |
| 7. DFP | 5.0 |
| 8. DFAS | 2.0 |
| 9. PLC | 10.5 |
| 10. CW 1 | 9.0 |



JPPSO closure

The Academy's Joint Personal Property Shipping Office, located below the Community Center's barber shop, will be closed from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today for training. The office will re-open at 7:30 a.m. Monday. For more information, call Richard Wood at 333-3008.

Track repair

The repairs on Husky Field Track will continue through July 15. For safety reasons, the track is unavailable for use during the construction period. Call Tricia Borsos at 333-3400 for more information.

Sponsors needed

Sponsors are needed for students attending the Preparatory School at the Air Force Academy for the 2009-2010 academic year. The USAFA Prep School is designed to prepare students for admission and success at the Air Force Academy. If you are a 0-3, E-7, GS-07 or NSPS equivalent and above or general contractor

and would like to apply to sponsor one or more of these students, please contact Cleo Griffith at 333-3057 or e-mail cleo.griffith@usafa.edu.

Academy Flea Market

By popular demand the Academy Flea Market will be held twice monthly through June, July and August. The dates are as follows: June 20 and 27; July 18 and 25; and, Aug. 15 and 22. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot between the Academy Exchange and the commissary. Set-up time is 8 a.m. Spaces are \$10 each, \$15 for front to back space with auto and table rental is \$5. Call 333-2928 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays for more information or to reserve a space.

Spaced out?

There's space available at the Milazzo Center and Community Activities Center downstairs for functions. Rooms are available for military functions, retirements, promotions, dining in/out, off sites, meetings and training sessions, etc. Call 333-2928 to make an appointment to visit facilities.

Ongoing road work

There will be partial - single-lane road restrictions through late July on Southgate Blvd. from I-25 to Pine Drive, both north- and south-bound lanes. The construction will continue around-the-clock until project completion. Bicycles remain prohibited on Southgate Blvd. throughout the construction. When possible, Academy drivers should use the North Gate entrance to alleviate congestion. Call Mel Peppers at 333-4242 for more information.

A&FRC offerings

The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host the following classes during June.

Contact the A&FRC @ 333-3444 for any questions or to register.

Pre-separation counseling

Held every Monday (except during TAP week); 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Sponsorship training

Tuesday and June 30; 8 to 9 a.m.

This class is for those sponsoring newcomers to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

Troops to Teachers

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

This workshop provides information for military members interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher.

Newcomer's orientation, information fair

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

This is a mandatory orientation for all newly assigned Academy members. Spouses are welcomed to attend the event held at the Milazzo Center.

The Internet and your job search

Thursday; 2 to 4 p.m.

Confused about how to manage myriad employment Web sites to conduct an effective Internet job search? This course targets suitable employment sites,

reviewing specific job leads, researching and contacting proper employers, networking, and correctly posting and emailing your resume.

TAP seminar

June 23-26; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Newcomer's tour

June 26; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This informative base tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals

Much of what there is to see and do at the Air Force Academy.

Medical records review

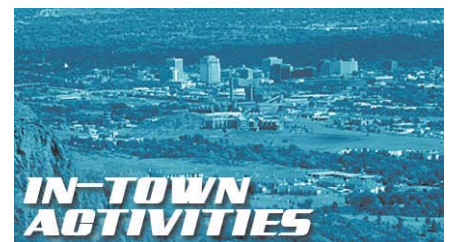
June 29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. —

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

Veterans Affairs Benefits Briefing

June 29; 8 a.m. to noon

This briefing provides valuable information on VA benefits for separating/retiring military members.



Richie Havens

Stargazers Theatre and Event Center (10 S. Parkside drive, Colorado Springs) presents Richie Havens in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of the show. Richie Havens is one of the most recognized folk/rock performers of our time and continues to reach audiences worldwide with his songs of brotherhood, unity and personal freedoms. Forty years ago Richie Havens had the privilege to do what no other musician can claim; he was the first performer to take the stage, in front of half a million people, at the Woodstock Music Festival that took place in Bethel, New York, August 1969. Contact: John/ Cindy Hooton at 719-476-2200 or e-mail: info@stargazerstheatre.com for more information.

Pikes Peak or Bust

Get "Ready to Ride" - Tickets are on sale now for 69th Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Days.

The 69th Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo returns July 8-11 to the Norris Penrose Events Center Arena as one of America's premier rodeo competitions sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Adult tickets range from \$10 to \$25; children, 2-12, range from \$7.50 to \$10 and the Saturday matinee is \$1.

Call TicketsWest at (866) 464-2626 or visit www.Ticketswest.com

The World Arena box office, Citadel Mall info booth, all King Soopers locations and the Pikes Peak Center box office also have tickets.

Call Nikki Gagner, at (719) 661-1666 or e-mail nikki@cowboyworldmall.com for more information.



Academy hosts July 4th fireworks

The Air Force Academy plans an evening of family-oriented games, music and fireworks to celebrate the nation's birthday.

The celebration is open to the general public.

Events start at 5 p.m. on the Academy athletic fields, with numerous paid activity games, including bouncy houses, climbing walls and a bungee trampoline, as well as food and beverage vendors.

Music will be broadcast by the Academy's cadet radio station, KAFA 97.7FM, before and during the fireworks show. The Blue Steel combo of the Air Force Academy Band will perform from 8:50 to 9:20 p.m.

The fireworks show will start at approximately 9:30 p.m. and is expected to last 20 minutes.

Visitors can bring cameras, lawn chairs, blankets, umbrellas, and sealed plastic water bottles. But, visitors cannot bring coolers, barbecue grills, pets other than working service dogs, or fireworks. Water and portable restrooms will be provided.

Visitors attending the event should enter the Academy through the North Gate, Exit 156-B off of I-25, on July 4. Parking will be available at and near the Cadet Field House, but carpooling is recommended.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Sunday
Confession - 9:15 - 9:45 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
Combined Worship - 10 a.m.

Jewish Services

No public services through Aug. 2, 2009

Buddhist Worship

No public services through Aug. 2, 2009

Muslim Prayer

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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:

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A garden-fresh kitchen sparkles with glass tile walls, quartz countertops, and equal helpings of white cabinets and stainless steel. Photo courtesy of Jim Yochum

DECOR SCORE

Brighten up a Kitchen to Make it More 'Cozy' and Inviting

BY ROSE BENNETT GILBERT

Q: I have had enough with so-called "cozy country kitchens" and all their clutter, dingy old colors and peeling paint. Quaint, it ain't — in my book, at least. Having said that, where do we go for ideas on contemporary kitchen design? We don't have a barrel of money, but we want a kitchen that's both sleek and functional — we're both avid cooks.

A: Go no farther than the nearest bookstore. Ideas galore overflow in a new book by an old hand in kitchen design, experienced editor Mervyn Kaufman. He's teamed with the editors of Woman's Day Special Interest Publications to produce "Contemporary Kitchen Style," subtitled "the essential handbook for an innovative design" (Filipacchi Publishing).

Kaufman has spent years overseeing state-of-the-art kitchens created by Woman's Day for the National Kitchen/Bath Industry Shows; he knows his stuff and also recognizes the right elements in other designers. For example, the pictured garden-fresh kitchen was a showcase for the cabinetmaker, Merillat.

From the glass-tiled walls out, Merillat designer Ingrid Leess orchestrated a spring-time of different greens into a bright, efficient workspace that incorporates white cabinets, countertops of sparkling quartz as well as touches of gleaming stainless on the sleek range hood, cabinet hardware and appliances.

Around the center island, the kitchen features a smooth induction cooktop, double ovens (one is steam/convection) and awning-style translucent doors on the upper cabinets for quick access to stored items.

You'd hardly call this kitchen "cozy," but it does manage to remain cook-friendly and inviting, despite its clean, no-nonsense lines and straightforward allegiance to the work ethic.

Q: My sister-in-law's drapes are so long that they spill out on the floor. Should I suggest that she get them hemmed to the proper length?

A: For her, extra-long is the "proper"

length. It's called "puddling," a look that's made its way from Old World rooms to homes in the West. Over-long flowing curtains bespeak luxury, wealth and, yes, maybe excess in these striated times. But it's not your place to bring your sister-in-law up short, so to speak.

Q: My husband fell in love with our friends' installed wood floor in their entry and living room. It looks really old, but our friends say it is handmade somewhere in Pennsylvania. We are redoing our basement family room and would love to use something similar to it. Can you help?

A: Sounds as if you've discovered hand-scraped hardwood flooring, a process that calls for individual handling of each wood plank. That way the texture and color vary interestingly from piece to piece, once the flooring is installed.

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Rose Bennett Gilbert is the co-author of "Hampton Style" and associate editor of Country Decorating Ideas. To find out more about Rose Bennett Gilbert and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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GENERAL

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3/3/2 4957 Gibbon St. F/V
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3/3/2 1020 Cheyenne Villas Pt. S/W
174,900. MLS # 531619

4/3/2 3145 Pelican Gr. PWR
209,500. MLS # 571789

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| 2506 Parkview Blvd | Upper Skyway | 5 | 3 | 6/15 |
| 212 S. Fountain | Fountain | 3 | 2 | now |
| 5115 Artistic Cir. | Powers | 3 | 2 1/2 | 6/15 |
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- 3 Bed/2.5 Bath--2489** Obsidian Forest, end unit TH, D-49, Recorded Message 1 800 594 7302 ext 1394, \$1000 per month, Available July 15"
- 4 Bed/2 Bath--502** Avenida del Cielo, Fountain SFH, granite/stainless, D-8, Recorded Message 1 800 594 7302 ext 1214, \$1150 per month"
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Spacious TownHome, Double Master Bedrm w/ Loft/Office, 2 1/2 bathrms, LG 2 Car Garage, Washer/Dryer, all Kitchen Appliances included. Minutes to Peterson AFB, easy access to Schriever. Avail 27 July. \$1200.00. 719-597-5785. Negotiable

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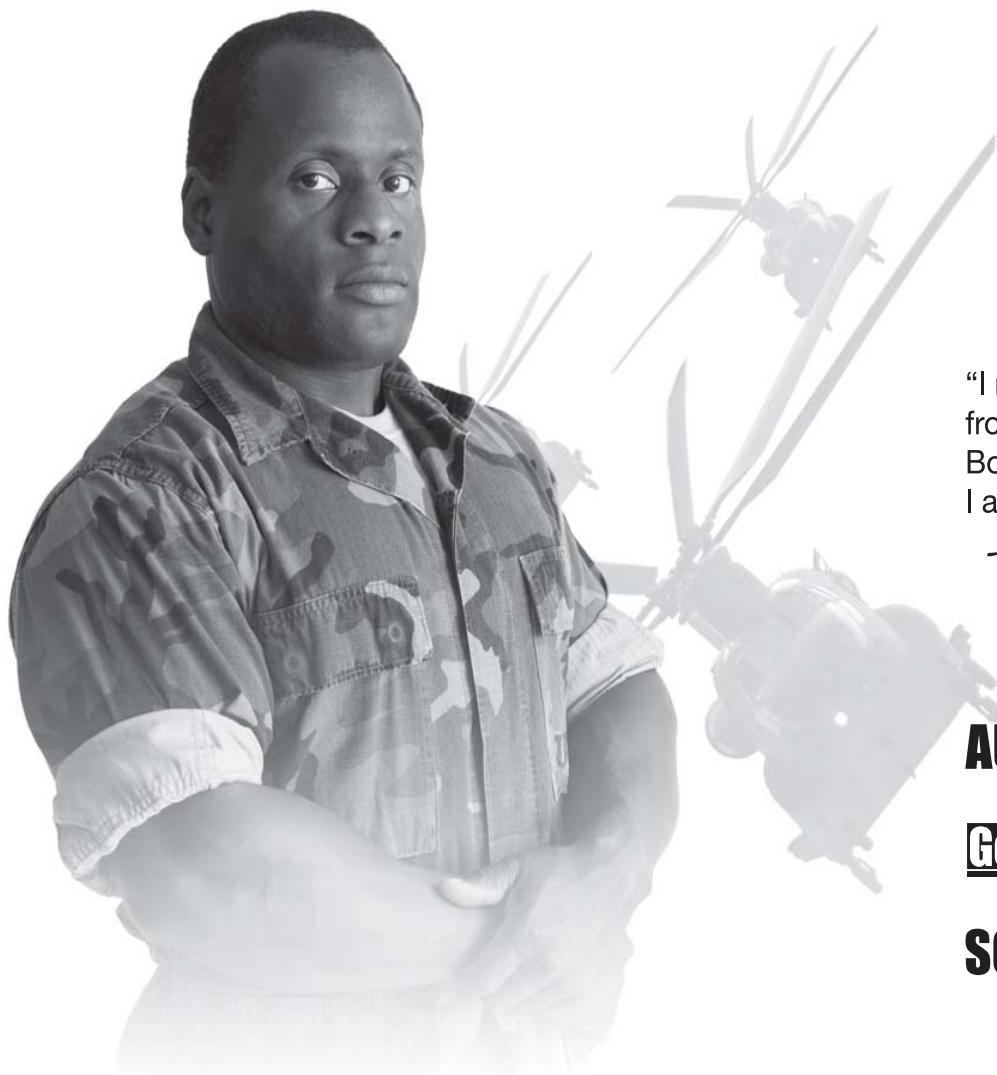
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