

## In-processing in the works for weeks, months

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

It was all ready, set, go for the arrival of the Class of 2013 Thursday.

Preparations for the new cadets' arrival began weeks, sometimes months, before.

Cadet cadre were on the front line for in-processing, and they were plenty ready.

Cadet 2nd Class Nehemiah Bostick served as safety and medical NCO. This is his first Basic Cadet Training to be involved with.

Training for cadre began in May when participating cadets received "re-training" for what goes into the BCT experiences.

So what did the cadre expect from all the new faces on the Terrazzo?

"Nothing," he said. "They come in here not knowing anything, and that's why we're here to teach them."

Cadet cadre for BCT are recognizable by their blue berets.

Maj. Jason Favero, who oversaw the

blood pre-screening, said three months of preparation went into in-processing day. Plans called for accumulating supplies like gloves and tubes and seeking out the 100 technicians who volunteered for the day.

"We want to make it as streamlined as possible," he said and pointed out the day represents a unique Air Force mission.

"No where else do we do this at this level," he said.

Seamstresses in the tailor shop in Sijan Hall were ready to sink needle and thread into the thousands of nametags as appointees stood by.

"We're in pretty good shape," said Ken Rivera, shop supervisor. "We had a good portion of the work done already, including the Preparatory School."

Nametags are embossed on ribbons in-house, and the process began months ago.

Mr. Rivera anticipates fewer color mismatches this year over years past. As in the past, however, the Academy receives dispensation for a wider range of uniform sizes than the regular Air Force with the addition of very small female sizes and very large male sizes.

Seamstresses put in 12 - 14-hour days during in-processing days, plus Saturday morning if need be.

Connie Graff has been coiffing incoming cadets on in-processing day for 22 years. She always looks forward to it.

"I enjoy the cadets," she said. "They come in scared, and in four years they change so much."

Many graduates have kept in touch with Academy barbers over the years.

The 28 combined total barbers and beauticians, also, put in 13 - 14 hour days to ensure proper military "do's" for the incoming class. Female cadet cadre show



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Cadet 2nd Class Mark Mosby ensures the newly arrived basic cadets follow cadre instructions during the Class of 2013 in-processing June 25.

new female cadets with long hair quick and acceptable ways to perform up-do's to conform to female uniform/hair standards.

One thing the new cadets need not worry about is food. There will be plenty of it, three times a day, and it will be nutritious.

"They must have three mandatory meals a day until classes start," said Frank Barfield, director of cadet food service in

Mitchell Hall.

Until the end of BCT, appointees will dine sit-down family style. After BCT, they may serve themselves buffet style, Mitchell Hall's second serving method.

Dining decorum training began Thursday at noon.

"It starts the minute they come inside the building," Mr. Barfield said.

On the menu for the new cadets' first meal: cold turkey sandwiches.

### Class of 2013 arrives

The 1,376 members of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Class of 2013 arrived here yesterday to begin basic cadet training.

The class includes 312 minorities, which make up 23 percent of the class. Overall, the Academy received 9,897 applications for admission into the class, with 1,667 being offered appointments. As of June 24, 1,376 had accepted appointments, including 1,097 men and 279 women. Other credentials of the Class of 2013 include:

- 41 are prior-enlisted members; 31 attended the Academy's Prep School last year
- 15 percent were either high school class presidents or vice-presidents
- 65 percent were in an academic honor society
- 89 percent were athletic letter award winners
- 28 percent were in band or orchestra
- 27 percent were Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts
- 9 percent were Civil Air Patrol
- 13 percent were in Junior ROTC

## Graduate dies in Hill AFB F-16 accident

By Air Force News Service

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFNS) — Hill Air Force Base officials confirmed an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot was killed at about 10:25 p.m. Sunday after the aircraft crashed on the Utah Test and Training Range about 35 miles south of Wendover, Utah.



George Houghton

The pilot, Capt. George Bryan Houghton, 28, from the 388th Fighter Wing here, graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2002.

When the mishap occurred, the pilot was part of a four-ship formation of F-16s flying a close-air-support mission that involved training with ground forces. The wing temporarily ceased flying operations. Flight operations have since resumed.

Captain Houghton is a native of Candler, N.C.

"We can now confirm that we have lost a fellow pilot," said Col. Scott Dennis, the 388th Fighter Wing commander, during a press conference June 22. "After several hours of search and rescue efforts, we have identified the pilot at the crash site."

Colonel Dennis said the immediate family was notified and the Air Force's first priority was to support the pilot's family and the Air Force's family during this time.

"I want to thank everyone for their

outpouring of support. I just ask that you keep the pilot's family in your thoughts and prayers," he said. "Every time we fly a training or combat mission, the safety of our people is a top priority. We lost an irreplaceable member of our Air Force. We will do all we can to determine the cause of the mishap to ensure we are doing everything possible to keep our military members free from harm."

A board of officials will convene to determine the cause of the incident.

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**SATURDAY**  
 81 48  
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 82 48  
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### GI Bill

Post-9/11 GI Bill to allow servicemembers to transfer benefits to spouses and children.

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### Weather

Academy weather station works to keep us dry and safe during the summer storm season

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### He's got some explaining to do

Academy's Natural Resources releases a Red Tail Hawk to the wild after recovering from a head-on collision

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# Simple thanks will motivate Airmen to succeed

By Chief Master Sgt. Michael Hale  
732nd Air Mobility Squadron

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFNS) — I have seen many changes in the Air Force since I began my career more than 24 years ago. The one thing that remains constant is the “smallest” things people do will sometimes have the biggest impact. Oftentimes these little things go unrecognized.

A simple “thank you” can go a long way in motivating an Airman to continue performing the simplest tasks with pride and go the extra mile. Taking pride in doing the right things and doing them right the first time is truly what it’s all about. Every job and task in the Air Force is important regardless if you’re a young Airman at your first duty station or a chief who has spent nearly a lifetime in the military.

In 600 B.C., philosopher and founder of Taoism Lao Tzu said, “Fail to honor people, they will fail to honor you.” This directly correlates with the old Air Force saying, “Take care of our people, and our people will take care of the mission.”

Part of taking care of our Airmen is making sure we take the time to recognize people for the outstanding job they’re doing. Honoring a good performance doesn’t always have to be in the form of a decoration, quarterly award or time off. A simple verbal acknowledgment of “a job well done,” a “thank you,” or an “atta-boy” is often

more than sufficient to convey the message of appreciation. All these actions can trigger several positive effects.

First, it helps to continue a trend of successful behavior. It’s part of our Air Force culture for every Airman to want to succeed. I truly believe Airmen don’t know how to fail. We all want to do our very best, and it’s not necessarily for the “pat on the back,” but for the pride in knowing we did our absolute best.

Second, positive acknowledgment motivates us to continue to do our very best. It’s up to us as leaders and supervisors to ensure our Airmen know they’re a valuable part of the organization, and that they have a direct impact on mission success. Best of all, positive motivation can be contagious; it can motivate others to strive to do the best job they can do.

Motivated people translate into successful people. Successful people become successful leaders. Successful leaders guide successful organizations to accomplish the mission in an outstanding manner. Who would have thought that saying “thank you for a job well done” could inspire so many to accomplish so much? It happens every day across our Air Force, yet we still underestimate the power of these words.

Let me paint a picture for you. You’re at work. You have a deadline to meet. You scurry down the hallway and accidentally drop the paper you were carrying. Paper scatters every-

where. Someone stops to help. Say “thank you” and the tension lessens. They’ll help you get the papers back in proper order, and you can scurry off to the commander’s office. All because you said “thank you.”

There’s a group of professionals in my organization who go out every day and perform one of the most thankless jobs in the Air Force. They’re the aircraft lavatory servicing and fleet service operations technicians. Now most may think, “who in their right mind would want a duty like that.” On the flip side, these Airmen ensure a nutritious snack or meal, as well as a nice and clean latrine facility, are available for use while in flight. They go out and service every aircraft landing here, and they do it with the utmost pride and professionalism. That is why I take every opportunity to thank them as often as possible. I’m sure there are some unsung heroes in every organization. This is your opportunity to seek them out and show them you appreciate their dedication and service to the mission.

It’s incumbent upon each of us as commanders, chiefs, supervisors and leaders to take every opportunity to ensure our Airman and civilians are recognized for their efforts. So the next time you see one of those professionals on the flightline, at the dining facility or in customer service, let them know they are making a difference. They are appreciated for their hard work and dedication accomplishing the Air Force mission.

## Airman’s Roll Call: PCS policy changes

By Air Force News Service

SAN ANTONIO (AFNS) — This week’s Airman’s Roll Call discusses two permanent change of station policy modifications that give Airmen more flexible assignment options.

One change effects those in government funded, join-spouse assignments. Now, the time-on-station requirement for these assignments has changed from 24 to 12 months. This requirement change is designed to help minimize financial hardships for married couples who are geographi-

cally separated and managing two households.

Also, the second change opens opportunities in the Voluntary Stabilized Base Assignment Program. Recent adjustments in manning requirements for Airmen at stateside bases is expected to open up more base-of-preference opportunities for first-term and career Airmen. This will give Airmen the option to volunteer for certain bases in the continental U.S. that historically have been hard to fill. The benefit to the volunteer is a stabilized tour of either four or five

years depending on the location.

For more information about PCS policy changes read this week’s Airman’s Roll Call.

Airman’s Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors and provide additional face-to-face communication.

To subscribe to an e-mail version of the product, visit [www.af.mil/information/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/information/subscribe). Airman’s Roll Call is one of many Air Force products that can be received via e-mail.

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## What words of encouragement do you have for your basic cadet?

Joel Leipprandt, to Alicia: "We believe in you, and we're proud of you. You'll do great."



Danielle and Reginald Hargrove, to Reginald II: "Just do it, keep a sense of humor, and remember to have fun."



Tamra and Steve Lavengood, to John: "We always knew you'd excel, and you've obtained your goal. We'll always stand behind you."



L.C. and Jodi Coffey, to Kaitlin: "Have fun, keep your chin tucked in, and keep leaning forward."





# Web Site to open for Post-9/11 GI Bill transfers

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — It's official. The Defense Department signed off Monday on policies and procedures servicemembers will use to transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouses or children, a Pentagon official said today.

Eligible servicemembers will be able to register their immediate family members to receive those benefits when a new Defense Department Web site goes live June 29, according to Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director for accessions policy.

Defense officials are asking those whose families won't use the benefits for the upcoming fall semester to hold off registering until mid-July so applicants who need immediate attention get processed first.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect Aug. 1, offering a two-fold benefit, Clark said. It gives the military a tool to help encourage recruiting and retention, while allowing career servicemembers the first opportunity "to share the benefits they've earned with those they love," he said.

The transferability provision — which Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates pushed after first hearing the idea from a military spouse group at Fort Hood, Texas — has generated a lot of excitement.

"We have had an overwhelming response and do expect quite a few of our members to take advantage of this," Clark said.

To prepare for the anticipated response in the run-up to the Aug. 1 effective date, the department will launch a secure Web site next week so servicemembers can register any immediate family members to receive their unused benefits, Clark said.

"What we are doing is queuing up requests and approvals for the many family members that we expect to be going to school this fall" with hopes of using their spouse's or parent's Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, he said.

The site, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>, will be accessible using a common access card, Defense Department self-service user identification or a Defense

Finance and Accounting Service personal identification number.

Eligible servicemembers can register the names of any immediate family member they would like to share their benefits with, even designating how many months of benefits each person named can receive, Clark explained.

The servicemember's 36 months of benefits — the equivalent of four nine-month academic years — can be transferred to a spouse, one or more children or any combination, he said. The family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System to receive the benefits.

Servicemembers also have the option to use some benefits themselves and transfer what they haven't used to one or more family members.

Even after transferring the benefits, they remain the "property" of the servicemember who earned them, who can revoke them or redesignate who receives them at any time.

However, new names can be added as long as the member is in the military, but not after separating or retiring, Clark said. So defense officials advise erring on the side of caution and including every eligible family member on the registration form.

"We are recommending that every eligible dependent receive at least one month of benefit," he said.

Once the servicemember registers for the transferability provision, the application automatically gets forwarded to the appropriate service for processing. Clark said he expects that process to take about a week, at least after the initial surge.

When the service verifies that the member is eligible to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and processes the transferability provisions, the family member will receive a certificate of eligibility that can be used to cover educational costs.

In a nutshell, any enlisted or commissioned member of the armed forces serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on or after Aug. 1 will be eligible to transfer their benefits — as long as they qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and meet specific service requirements, Clark explained.

He emphasized that, by law, anyone who has retired or separated from the service before that date — even if it's July 31 — won't be entitled to transfer their benefits. Also excluded will be members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Fleet Reserve.

Most servicemembers who have at least six years of military service as of Aug. 1 and agree to serve an additional four years qualify, he said. But department officials have proposed measures to cover several categories of servicemembers whose circumstances don't fit neatly into the formula.

For example, those with at least 10 years of service — but who can't serve an additional four years because of a service or department policy — also would qualify, Clark said. They must, however, serve the maximum time allowed before separating from the military, he said.

"What we did not want to do was to penalize those people who had a service policy or statute that would not permit them to commit for the full four years," he explained.

Another sunset provision will cover servicemembers who will reach the 20-year service mark, making them retirement-eligible, between Aug. 1, 2009, and Aug. 1, 2013.

Clark explained the breakdown, which basically enables those affected to transfer benefits as long as they complete 20 years of service:

— Those eligible for retirement on Aug. 1, 2009, will be eligible to transfer their benefits with no additional service requirement.

— Those with an approved retirement date after Aug. 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, will qualify with no additional service.

— Those eligible for retirement after Aug. 1, 2009, but before Aug. 1, 2010, will qualify with one additional year of service after approval to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

— Those eligible for retirement between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, will qualify with two additional years of service after approval to transfer.

— Those eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, will qualify with three additional years of service after approval to transfer.

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# Academy forecasters keep eyes out for twisters

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

The touchdown June 15 of two large, dangerous funnel clouds in Elbert County serves as a serious reminder that tornado season is here.

Skip Evans, chief meteorologist with the Academy weather station, said tornado season runs roughly from April through September.

The eight-member team of weather experts at the station keeps close tabs on developing weather conditions which may produce severe weather conditions, including tornadoes, lightning and severe thunderstorms, from early spring into the fall.

Mr. Evans said the Academy receives about two serious funnel cloud threats a year, and the season is shaping up to be an active one. The Elbert tornadoes, a mere 18 miles from the Academy, were one such threat.

From 1995 to 2008 El Paso County experienced 17 tornado touchdowns.

"It's unusual but not impossible," he said about the possibility of a twister reaching ground on the Academy and pointed out Divide, Colo., and 11 Mile Reservoir both had touchdowns last year.

The Academy weather station, a part of the 306th Flying Training Group, regularly works in conjunction with the Air Force's 25th Operational Weather

Squadron at Davis-Montham Air Force Base, Ariz. Plus, if the 15th OWS spots severe weather on its way around the Academy outside regular weather station hours, the unit notifies Academy meteorologists, who are on-call 24/7.

"We live up against the mountains, and mountain weather is notorious for changing rapidly," Mr. Evans said.

Meteorologist Dave Palumbo, who has been at the Academy for eight years, said the station has a heavy buy-in for being part of the safety process.

"We are very, very committed to keeping people as safe as possible," he said.

Every morning weather station staff begins monitoring the atmosphere and environment. By 9 a.m., if conditions show a valid potential for severe weather development and instability, the station will issue a weather "watch."

If conditions continue to worsen and become threatening, the station then issues a "warning."

The 10th Air Base Wing is responsible for issuing severe weather information to the base through such resources as Giant Voice, telephone and e-mails.

Academy forecasters, who are enjoying a station upgrade use detection tools from the simple to the sophisticated, including ground reports, satellite reports and statistics, radar, dialogue

with other weather professionals, Doppler radar from the National Weather Service station in northeast Pueblo County, and no fewer than three computer modeling software programs. The station also has access to computer data on lightning.

"We use everything we can get our hands on," Mr. Evans said.

In addition, the forecasters receive data from 12 monitoring stations scattered on the Academy.

Tornadoes develop in mega storms with continuous and steady growth. When there is a collision of unstable updrafts and downdrafts, a funnel of vertical or horizontal rotating air results.

Weather forecasting has come a long way. Computer modeling, satellites and Doppler radar have contributed heavily to improvements in forecasting over the last few decades.

At one time the largest computer in the world was a weather computer, Mr. Evans said.

Mr. Palumbo said meteorology is a confluence of art and science. The interpretation of computer symbols and visual images changes within computer models and those who interpret them.

Forecasting can be an exciting profession. Like Mother Nature herself, nothing is ever the same.

"There is a different challenge every single day," Mr. Evans said.

## Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms.

Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information



## Tornado Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

## Tornado Safety

In a shelter get to a safe room, basement, storm cellar or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls. Do not open windows.

In a vehicle, trailer or mobile home get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a nearby structure.

Outside with no shelter lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck.

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# Streamlined ancillary, expeditionary skills training eliminates redundancy

By Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — New policy, released in March, streamlined redundant and outdated ancillary training programs and aligned expeditionary skills training with warfighter requirements. However, Air Force leaders recently addressed the time requirement to complete ancillary training after discovering a common misperception existed among Airmen that all ancillary training could be accomplished in 90 minutes.

“In 2007, the Air Force chief of staff expressed concern that Air Force ancillary training had expanded to a level that was consuming too much of Airmen’s time,” said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, the deputy chief of staff for Air Force manpower and personnel. “As a result, he tasked us to take a hard look at required training and implement processes to remove, revise or reduce training.”

“Our primary goal is to eliminate redundancy in our ancillary training to provide Airmen much-needed time to focus on their primary and expeditionary missions,” General Newton said. “We’re going to do that by taking a realistic approach with required training in the future.”

The bar was set high: 90 minutes per member, per year for annual Total Force Awareness Training requirements. However, according to Col. Harrison Smith, deputy director for force development, deploying Airmen to a combat zone requires extensive predeployment training; thus expeditionary skills training never fell into the 90-minute standard.

Colonel Smith further explained that since TFAT was launched in 2007, new requirements have emerged necessitating an increase to the 90-minute format. To prevent unconstrained growth in the Air Force’s ancillary training program, manpower and personnel officials in A1 at the Air Staff recently established “gatekeeper” bodies to vet emerging requirements and ensure senior leader oversight.

The policy released in March designated the Air Force Learning Committee and the Expeditionary Skills Senior Review Group as the gatekeepers for ancillary and expeditionary skills training, respectively.

“This ensures senior leadership has full situational awareness on training requirements, and allows for establishment of priorities, setting limits and communicating results,” Colonel Smith said.

The new policy also defines expeditionary tiered training to tailor requirements for skills needed by Airmen, based on deployment mission and location.

Ancillary training that is no longer required or has been combined with other courses includes Constitution Day training, crime prevention, family care plan brief, local area survival training, equal opportunity for supervisors of civilians and initial security orientation-’uncleared’ version.

For more details, the new ancillary and expeditionary skills training policy memos are available at the e-publishing Web site, <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>, under AFI 36-2201, Volume 1, Training Development, Delivery and Evaluation.

# Congratulations to USAFA’s newest officer promotees

Academy Spirit staff

The Academy has 6 new colonel selects, 3 new lieutenant colonel selects and 6 new major selects after the promotion results went public Tuesday morning.

The Academy’s newest colonel selects are:



- Dean Bushey
- David Lange
- Timothy Lawrence
- John Linn
- Ronald Machoian
- Christopher Moffett*

The Academy’s newest lieutenant colonels are:



- Patrick Castle
- Tammy McKenzie
- David Welge

The Academy’s newest major selects are:



- Galmar Balmaceda
- Robert Chaplin Jr.
- Richard Clark*
- Ty Hunt
- Derek Munoz
- Kelli Silverstrim*

**Editors note:** Promotees with italicized names are inbound to USAFA

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# Cadets compete in UAS competition

## Academy Spirit staff

Two Academy cadets competed in the international intercollegiate Unmanned Aerial System competition at Pax River, Md., June 18 to Saturday.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems can revolutionize the ability to monitor and understand the global environment. There is a key information gap today between instruments on Earth's surface and on satellites — UAS can bridge that gap. Operated by remote pilots and ranging in wingspan from less than six feet to more than 115 feet, UAS can also collect data from dangerous or remote areas.

Cadets 2nd Class Bradley Sapper and Christopher Pike represented the Academy against 16 other universities from around the world. Four other members of the team who helped design and build a UAS have either graduated or are on other summer

duty assignments.

Cadet Sapper's interest began at the Academy when he was selected to be in the SE 460 Class and compete in the competition.

Teams were graded on a journal C2C Christopher Pike paper submitted last month to the competition's judges; a briefing presentation delivered by each team describing the systems engineering process; and the success of each team's UAS flight.

The Academy began its UAS program earlier this year when planning began to create an Air Force Center of Excellence for UAS and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance education and research. The program will help prepare cadets to meet battlefield challenges they may



C2C Christopher Pike



C2C Bradley Sapper

encounter after graduation and commissioning.

Competition highlights included testing the design and construction of the team's UAS in a variety of ways, including autonomous takeoff and recovery; flying within a designated "search" area; and demonstrating the ability to locate targets based on size, color and shape.

Efforts were made to prepare for the competition.

"I took a semester long class to develop a working system," said the astronautical engineering major from Warsaw, Ind. As a result of their Academy exposure, some cadets will pursue careers in UAS/ISR-related fields.

Several phases of the program involving cadets are planned for this year. From mid-July through September, cadets and instructors will receive ground and airmanship training at the Fort Carson Restricted Range.

This will include actual flights of two small Viking 300 UAVs, which will take off and land at Fort Carson in the restricted airspace. When not flying, the Viking 300s will be housed and maintained at Fort Carson.

Cadet Sapper received an honorable mention for his oral presentation and successfully completed the UAV flight mission.

"I learned how hard it is to integrate multiple systems into one," said the Cadet Squadron 3 cadet. "The competition was a great opportunity to interact with students around the world and see how others work to accomplish the same task."

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Raquel McCagg  
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# Advanced tactical aircraft fires high-power laser

By Air Force News service

Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. (AFNS) — Members of the 413th Flight Test Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., and contractor Boeing recently successfully fired the high-power laser aboard the Advanced Tactical Laser aircraft for the first time in flight.

The combined effort between Boeing and the 413th was instrumental to the “first light” of the high power ATL.

“This successful test is a major step toward bringing directed energy capability to the warfighter,” said Gary Fitzmire, vice president and program director of Boeing’s Directed Energy Systems. “We have demonstrated that an airborne system can fire a high-power laser in flight and deliver laser beam energy to a ground target.”

During the test, the specially modified 46th Test Wing NC-130H aircraft equipped with the ATL weapon system took off from Kirtland and fired its laser while flying over White Sands Missile Range, N.M., successfully hitting a target board located on the ground. The ATL is equipped with a chemical laser, a beam control system, sensors and weapon-system consoles.

“We have taken technology from the laboratory to reality and have now demonstrated that directed energy is on a path toward a safe and viable option for



Courtesy Photo

**A specially modified 46th Test Wing NC-130H aircraft equipped with the Advanced Tactical Laser weapon system fired its laser while flying over White Sands Missile Range, N.M., successfully hitting a target board located on the ground. Equipped with a chemical laser, a beam control system, sensors and weapon-system consoles, the ATL is designed to damage, disable or destroy targets with little or no collateral damage.**

the warfighter with very unique capabilities,” said Eric Van Dorn, 413th FTS lead flight test engineer.

More tests are planned to demonstrate ATL’s military utility. The system is designed to damage, disable or destroy targets with little to no collateral damage. These demonstrations support development of systems that will conduct missions on the battlefield and in urban operations.

“The time and effort from the entire team exhibited the cooperation and professionalism between the U. S. Air Force and Boeing. The culmination of this event is fantastic,” said Master Sgt. Scott Wollitz, mission flight engineer. “I feel extremely fortunate to have been a part of the crew for this test. The laser shot was amazing!”

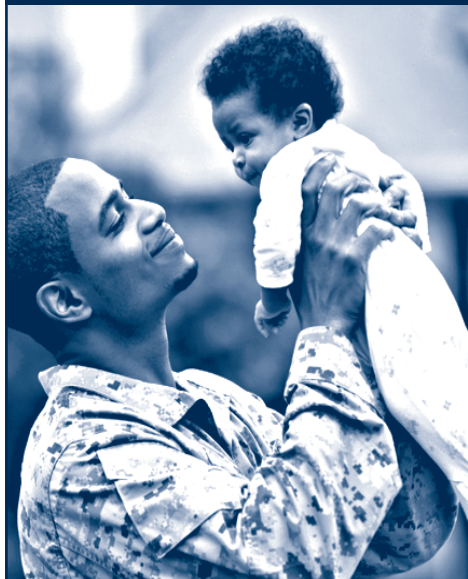
The ATL program is managed by the 687th Armament Systems Squadron,

which is part of the 308th Armament Systems Wing at Eglin AFB, Fla., and supported by the Air Force Research Laboratory’s Directed Energy Directorate at Kirtland.

“It’s another case of science fiction becoming reality,” said Maj. James Stahl, 413th FTS test pilot. “As a kid growing up I was fascinated by the lasers in the movie *Star Wars*; to be the first to fire this laser in flight is truly an honor.”



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# Back home again in Pine Valley

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

A red-tail hawk on the Academy has a lot of explaining to do.

The bird joined up with his mate Tuesday after a two-week absence in rehab.

Staff at Air Academy High School called Academy wildlife manager Dr. Brian Mihlbachler when they saw the bird have a head-on collision with a school window.

The hapless raptor received a thorough medical check-up, then underwent treatment for his head, and probably his ego, at the Ellicott Wildlife Rehabilitation in Ellicott, Colo.

Donna Ralph, president of the rehabilitation center, said the release went especially well since the bird's mate almost instantaneously joined him as he made his first soar into regained freedom.

Ms. Ralph said the hawk's mate more than likely had another reason for demanding answers about his absence.

"It's nesting season," she said.

In addition to the obviously successful release, Mrs. Frank feels completely confident her former feathered charge will thrive.

"Animals who are released must have 100 percent of its parts and the parts 100 percent in working order," she said.

The hawk spent three days indoors



Photo by Brian Mihlbachler

**Phil Carberry, vice president of the Ellicott Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, prepares to return the red-tailed hawk to the skies and his home near Air Academy High School. The raptor spent two weeks in rehabilitation after a collision with one of the school's windows.**

and the remainder of his time in a flight cage.

"Once birds are flying and landing properly, and especially in light of the season, it was time to let him go," Mrs. Ralph said.

Dr. William Hancock at Belcrest Animal Clinic in Colorado Springs x-rayed the hawk and gave him a thorough exam, plus treatment for trichomonis, a parasite typically found in raptors who

feast on infested rodents.

Mrs. Frank estimates the hawk is probably about five years old or older, and, before rescue, she said he appeared "skinny."

Dr. Mihlbachler said the Academy's Natural Resources staff average about six calls a year about injured wildlife. The majority of other calls are nuisance complaints about animals, including bears.

The rehabilitation center cares for

more than 400 animals a year, and peak care times are generally seasonal.

Some of the animals stay in rehab for as little as three hours, others months, such as a bobcat with two broken legs.

The center is a non-profit 501(3)c and operates on donations and volunteers. Last year it completed its raptor flight expansion project, adding 50 feet of length to accommodate convalescing birds of prey to regain flying and landing skills.

"We do it because of the animal who needs our help and for education," Mrs. Ralph emphasized. "People should know everybody's here for a reason."

She added rescues and releases, two of the organization's goals besides education, fosters a connection with people who find injured animals and creates appreciation and respect for wildlife.

Besides being "red-tailed hawk" season, this time of year is also what has been called "Bambi season," when mother deer park their fawns and go foraging for food for themselves in order to nurse their young.

"Leave them alone," Mrs. Ralph urged. The fawns are not abandoned. Mom's just out stocking up on groceries.

She also urges anyone who discovers an injured animal to call the center before doing anything. That includes feeding and handling.

The number for the Ellicott center is (719) 683-8152.

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# Get out and go ... to Chaffee County

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Chaffee County wants visitors to come out and play.

Two hours west of Colorado Springs, the county overflows with getaway opportunities for both hearty outdoor activities and more leisurely travel anytime of the year, whether for a day trip or longer stay.

"We're Colorado Springs' outdoor playground, and we have everything you could imagine," said John Engelbrecht, executive director of the Heart of the Rockies Chamber of Commerce in Salida, the county seat. "The only thing you can't do is surf."

This weekend features the area's largest community event: FIBArk, or First in Boating on the Arkansas. Now in its 61st year, the festival is the oldest and longest whitewater competition in the country and features food, music, a carnival and boat races.

The Arkansas River meanders throughout the county. It is an attraction unto itself as it changes from fast-moving rapids fueled by mountain snowmelt in the spring and early summer to a more serene flow in late August when water levels drop. The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area is one of the longest and narrowest recreation areas in the country, following the river from Leadville to Pueblo.

The county boasts the highest concentration of mountains over 14,000 feet in altitude, known as four-



Photo by Ann Patton

Rafters on the Arkansas River take advantage of spring's swirling rapids on the Arkansas River powered by mountain snow melting.

teeners. Twelve of the 54 fourteeners are located in Chaffee County. Among those, Collegiate Peaks bear names such as Princeton and Harvard.

For outdoor lovers, the county is a natural paradise all year. In the spring, visitors can take wildflower tours or go mushroom hunting. In the summer, rafters and kayakers take advantage of the high spring water and pit their oars against mild to swift-moving rapids. Fishing becomes especially fruitful in late summer, whether from the shore, wading or float fishing. In the fall, hunters flock to the area for elk and deer. In the winter, snow birds can

See CHAFFEE, Page 14

## Stay safe outdoors

A few words about safety. Ann Ewing, with the Salida Ranger District of the US Forest Service, said hikers should do their homework and prepare well with appropriate clothing and equipment before attempting the area fourteeners.

She said area emergency agencies make an average of five to six rescues a year for ill-prepared hikers.

Hikers should also research the weather before a climb. Even into July, some area of the mountains can receive freak snow events.

Ms. Ewing said, as a ranger, she has encountered all kinds of wildlife, including bears, but what remains more fright-

ening to her is lightning, which can strike ground from several miles away. Hikers should monitor the weather for impending storm events.

Parents should keep a sharp eye out for their children around the river. The swift-moving, frigid water of the Arkansas can carry anything, including children, miles away in a matter of minutes.

Dog owners need to keep their best friends leashed and not allowed to go in for a dip or drink from the river, which may carry the Giardia parasite which can sicken dogs, and humans for that matter, with serious intestinal disorders.

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## Horsin' around

# 2009 Girl of the West visits Academy

By Christopher DeWitt  
Academy Public Affairs

It's not very often that horseplay is allowed on the Terazzo but that's exactly what happened when 2009 Girl of the West and her aide visited the Academy Monday with horses Whisper and Classy China.

April Biernat, Girl of the West, and Jessica Greene, Aide to Girl of the West, made stops at the 98th Flying Training Squadron and Falcon Youth Center before visiting with cadets outside the Mitchell Hall dining facility to promote the Air Force Academy Day at the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo scheduled for July 11.

Rounding up visitors might seem like an ordinary objective but there is more going on at this rodeo than just roping and riding.

"All of the proceeds from the PPOBR go to military charities in this area," said Cloriss Palmer, Girl of the West coordinator. "Every military installation in the Pikes Peak region receives our proceeds.

"Since World War II, all of our proceeds have gone to military charities and we've contributed over \$1.5 million," she added. "We're very unique in that respect, that all our proceeds go to the military."

Area bases have their own way of giving back to the rodeo and contributing to the overall success of the program.

Local military personnel assist the rodeo by volunteering their time and services wherever they are needed, states the rodeo's website.

"PPOBR is run by all volunteers and we get volunteers from every installation," Ms. Palmer added.

Girls of the West talked with cadets about the rodeo and tried to give them an alternative to typical summer activities.

"We enjoy promoting to them because it's a



Photo by Denise Navoy

Cadet 3rd Class Jared Barkemeyer talks to April Biernat, the Girl of the West, during her visit to the Academy Monday. The Girl of the West and her Aide, Jessica Greene, toured the Academy promoting the 2009 Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo.

great event for them to get out and enjoy something in Colorado Springs that's out of the box from doing the regular routine stuff – it's great entertainment," said Ms. Biernat.

Cadets showed interest and enthusiasm about the rodeo and one even shared a similarity with rodeo representatives.

"I think it's awesome," said Cadet 3rd Class Jared Barkemeyer. "I used to rodeo as a kid, I'll definitely go."

Cadet 1st Class Courtney Swaney was also impressed by the girls and their horses, saying "I

think it's a good way to get the word out."

It was an eventful trip for both the girls and they were happy to have made it out on such a beautiful day.

"Thank you for having us out, we enjoyed it and had a lot of fun, you guys treat us so well here," Ms. Biernat said. "I think it's a two way street in appreciation."

"It's a great honor – the experiences that we get and just the little bit that we can do for you guys because you do so much for us," Ms. Greene added. "It's our way of saying thanking you."

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# CHINA TRIP 'A LASTING IMPRESSION'

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

Maj. Patrick Castle, former Academy chemistry department deputy, escorted cadets on a 16 day visit to the middle kingdom last month.

Major Castle escorted Cadets 2nd Class Megan Biles, Jennifer Ebert, Sean Long and Alexander Paladino as part of a joint venture between the Academy Marathon Club and the Great Wall of China Marathon, May 16, during an Olmsted Cultural Immersion trip May 13 to May 29.

The adventure opened the scents, sights, sounds and people of the world's most populated nation to them.

"This was everyone's first trip to China and none of us spoke the language, although we tried," Major Castle said. "Our travels were split up between Beijing, Guilin near Vietnam, and Shanghai. We stayed in hotels but interacted with the Chinese culture whenever possible."

Their modus operandi? When in China, do as the Chinese.

## SEEK OUT UNKNOWN TURF

One thing that Cadet Biles did not expect was where she learned the most about the Chinese culture.

"Instead of in museums and historical buildings, the vast majority of my growth came from walking the streets and just speaking with people," Cadet Biles said. "There was never a shortage of locals who wanted to come up and dialogue with us. By interacting with the local artists or bargaining at the street shops, I discovered a part of China that was not seen in the temples or discussed in library books. She learned that perception is not always reality.

"In order to really understand a way of life you need to actually plunge yourself into it," she said. Although I know that I am nowhere close to fully understanding the Chinese culture, I feel that this immersion program was a great foot in the door. My experience has taught me to better seek out unknown turf and to never be afraid to ask a question or seek out an answer."

## COMMUNICATING WITH ANOTHER CULTURE

As a future intelligence officer, this trip was an eye-opener for Cadet Ebert.

"I initially thought that communicating with someone from another culture was as simple as having a language in common and knowing which social faux pas to avoid," she said. "I now know that it is a bit more complicated than that, and that the specifics depend on which culture it is. For example, in China, it would be important to have small talk first before rushing into business, realize that most things they do are 'better for everyone together,' in Li Li's (a cadet tour guide) words, and to understand their social hierarchy, specifically the level of respect demonstrated for elders. It is important to realize that the values held by different cultures are reflected in their communication style."

Cadet Ebert knew it would not be in their tour guide's best interest to talk badly of the government when the cadet asked more questions, she thought it would evoke some kind of emotion.

"She told me the Olympics made the world think higher of China, and so this was 'better for everyone,'" said the cadet. "I asked Oscar, another guide, a similar question, and received almost an identical answer. The surprising aspect to me was that our tour guides, aged 22 and 25, really seemed to believe in the answers they spouted off."

## SPEAKING TOO FAST

"We say soccer here," the 22-year old English teacher said as Cadet Long and fellow travelers tried to talk in front of a class of around 20.

The students weren't just learning English. They were trying to learn to interact with Americans in Guilin, China. The cadets were there to provide a source of entertainment for an hour in a day otherwise filled with extensive English study.

"Jenny and I struggled with the students," Cadet Long said. "I found myself speaking too fast. As I grew frustrated, my instinct was to only speak faster. The teacher pulled me aside and pointed out my mistake. I paid more attention to my choice of words

and made an attempt to speak more slowly. Some of the students in the class were new; while, others had been studying for years."

The class looked a lot like a normal American high school class," he said. "A few students asked us questions, some sat quietly in the back disinterested, and others just stared at us. After a few minutes, Jenny and I separated. Jenny was quickly surrounded by a group of teenage girls. A couple guys came over and asked me questions. We talked about sports then books. I was reading *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer and had the book in my backpack."

The book was passed around the classroom.

"One girl finally told me in perfect English, 'This book is too difficult for us,' Cadet Long said. "Such a comment seemed strange given the class had discussed *Romeo and Juliet* according to a couple of the students, but my book was far from a classic. I talked with a couple guys about what they planned on doing after graduating from this English school. In China, there is a distinction between colleges and universities. The teacher told me only a few from this class would make it to a full university. Most of the students had no idea about what was next for them."

## 'PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE'

China was Cadet 2nd Class Alexander Paladino's first experience with a culture very different from his own.

"There were different physical appearances, food, arts and entertainment, language, and so many other aspects of life," Cadet Paladino said. "Even the simple practice of getting off the airplane was a new experience: I found that the Chinese had very little concept of queuing or lines, and I had to physically force myself in front of the multitude of passengers attempting to get in front of me."

One of his most memorable experiences was seeing Chinese history from a Chinese perspective.

"Reading about the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution as led by Chairman Mao, I had always wondered why the Chinese had admired a man that had done so many terrible things to their nation," said the cadet. "I found that while my personal opinion of the historical figure did not change, I gained a greater understanding of why the Chinese admired him so much – he made their nation a world power after being humiliated by the Japanese. I feel this kind of understanding between cultures by itself affirms the value of cultural immersion programs."

Cadet Long learned to expect the unexpected.

"One aspect of China that caught me off guard was the huge diversity of lifestyles between the rural country and the big cities," The cadet said.

"Shanghai was a cosmopolitan metropolis, bustling with over 18 million people living in 30 story apartment buildings, where as the lifestyle of rural farmers seemed very simple in comparison: a couple of light bulbs in a small house, with maybe a television as the only other electrical appliance. The quality of services, such as healthcare and education, seemed to follow the great disparity of wealth between people of the city and people of the countryside."

"My experience in China will serve me well as a future Air Force officer because it offered a greater understanding of the Chinese people through an intimate cultural experience in the country," Cadet Long said.

Cadet Long returned to the Academy with new insights.

"Even while China's government often has a negative connotation in American military and political contexts, one of the greatest lessons I learned in China is that people are people," he said. "No matter what kind of government people are under, they are fundamentally the same as us – they are for the most part kind, good people."



# From adversaries to partners: Academy officer advises maturing Iraqi AF



By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

The Academy's Operations Air Force director finds it enlightening to listen to Iraqi generals talk about Desert Storm war stories.

"Only it is from the other side of the coin," said Lt. Col. Todd Pennington, who deployed in April to the Coalition Air Force Transition Teams in Baghdad. "They talk of getting shot down by F-15 Eagles; how they tried to evade, but couldn't escape. They are all very open about what transpired between our two countries."

The 22-year Air Force veteran now works alongside some of the same Iraqi air force officers who found themselves in U.S. Air Force crosshairs less than 20 years ago. He arrived April 12 at Camp Victory and traveled to Phoenix Base in the International Zone the next day. He now works with the Iraqi air force operations center to prepare them for future kinetic capabilities.

"At some point they will have the ability to use air-to-ground weapons," said the colonel, a native of Norfolk, Neb. "All of the advisers are working to show the American style of command and control to the Iraqi air force officers. They are listening intently to how we do things, and they seem eager to learn."

That can be difficult for some of the more seasoned Iraqi airmen.

"The older generation are somewhat set in their ways as we would be, but the young guys are excited about all this training," Colonel Pennington said. "I also have to work with the coalition forces to ensure they know



Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, Commanding General - Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq, talks with Lt. Col. Todd Pennington during a squadron event.

and understand that the Iraqi air force is getting this capability soon."

He does hear Iraqis express concern about the pending withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraqi cities.

"The officers I talk with discuss the fragile stability that has been achieved and do not want to lose it if we withdraw too soon," the colonel said. "They fully understand what's at stake."

Mid-June wire service reports said Baghdad is still a dangerous place — a fact Colonel Pennington confirmed.

"We travel between forward operating bases via buses. One day, as I was getting off the bus, I heard a very

loud 'boom.' The gate guards ran for the nearest 'duck and cover,' a hardened shelter. I followed as quickly as I could. We stayed in there about 10 minutes before the 'all clear' was given. The rocket landed about a half mile from where I got off the bus."

He initially lived in the IZ, formerly called the "Green Zone," for two months.

"I recently moved to Camp Victory, near (Baghdad) International Airport. Most everybody lives in containerized housing units, basically a small trailer. The downside to them are that the walls are thin and that the bathroom is in another trailer."

His family moved to Nebraska

before his one-year deployment. He keeps in touch with them via weekly morale calls, daily e-mail and occasional video chats on Skype.

"It works about 70 percent of the time," he said. "The Internet connection here is not that good. It is good enough to send e-mail and surf the Web, but when you have 20,000 people each trying to use a large amount of bandwidth, it gets sluggish."

One of his personal goals is to get in better physical shape.

"Right now, it's not going well," he admitted. "I haven't found the battle rhythm yet to properly allocate my time. I'm also trying to read the Old Testament and have thus far read only two of the books."

Because Camp Victory is a deployed location, services are understandably limited, the colonel said.

"Although there is not much time to unwind at the end of the day, I do go back to my housing unit and sit and try to read relaxing books or try to e-mail my wife to see how the family is doing," he said.

However, the love and support from people in the United States makes servicemembers' lives easier, he said.

"The support the troops get from the home front is outstanding," Colonel Pennington said. "We receive care packages from complete strangers on a weekly basis. Even though the goodies inside are just everyday things, it brings a joy to the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines. You can see it in their eyes. They are overwhelmed by the thoughts and prayers they receive during their time away from home."

# President acknowledges military fathers'

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — President Barack Obama recognized in his Father's Day proclamation the sacrifices military fathers make every day, and hosted the Military Father of the Year June 19 at the White House for a town hall session on fatherhood.

Navy Chief Petty Officer John Lehnen, the father of four children with special needs and recipient of the 2009 National Fatherhood Initiative-Lockheed Martin Military Fatherhood Award, was among five fathers invited to participate in the forum slated to coincide with the national Father's Day observance.

Chief Lehnen, a quartermaster, shared his story about the challenges he and other military fathers face, and how he stays connected to his children's lives during deployments and reconnects with them after he returns home.

President Obama recognized in his Father's Day proclamation issued last week the strength military fathers like Chief Lehnen bring, not just to their families, but to their country as well.

"We ... express special gratitude to fathers who serve in the United States armed forces for the sacri-

fices they and their families make every day," the president said. "All of these individuals are making great contributions, and children across the country are better off for their care."

While most Americans are planning backyard barbecues and family outings to celebrate Father's Day, many military families with deployed husbands and fathers will be settling for more subdued observances.

At Camp Lejeune, N.C., for example, three 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit families whose babies were born after the MEU deployed in May will get treated tomorrow to an interactive video with their loved ones.

Frank Smith, the unit's family readiness group officer, said it will be the first time most of the Marines have seen their newborn children in anything but e-mailed photos.

"It will be an opportunity for them to see and hear them face to face," said Mr. Smith, a retired Marine master sergeant. "And it's also a way to let them know that while they are out there in the face of danger, those of us in the rear appreciate what they are doing and are looking out for their families."

Meanwhile, other families of deployed service-

members — an estimated 150,000 of them fathers — and their families are expected to observe Father's Day in quieter ways.

Many already have made their treks to the post office to ship off Father's Day cards and care packages of snack foods, batteries and other coveted goodies.

Lt. Col. James "Andy" Leinart, an operations analyst deployed to Baghdad, knows a care package is en route from his wife and three daughters in Annandale, Va.

While he's not expecting a repeat of last year's breakfast in bed and carefully crafted gifts from his little girls, Colonel Leinart is keeping a stiff upper lip about missing his special day with his family.

"I miss my wife and children every day, whether it's Father's Day or not," he said. "I guess the only real difference is that Father's Day will give me a pause to reflect more on it." Quickly brushing any hint of melancholy aside, Colonel Leinart said he'll be happy with a call home or a Skype session on the Internet.

And he'll make a point to call his own father in Waco, Texas. "There's probably no better day than Father's Day to do that," he said.





## Chaffee

From Page 10

enjoy cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling as well as downhill skiing and snowboarding at Monarch Ski Resort, only 20 minutes from Salida. Monarch is known for having more natural snow on its trails than most Colorado ski resorts.

The mountains also offer rich opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, four-wheeling, Jeeping, motorcycling and geocaching. Private operators in the area offer hot air ballooning, llama trekking and horseback riding. Mountain bikers can take advantage of the Crest Trail, which follows the spine of the Continental Divide for 12 miles.

“It’s pretty spectacular,” Mr. Engelbrecht said and added in clear weather cyclists can enjoy views all the way to Utah and New Mexico.

Photographers and artists flock to the area year round to capture its spectacular scenery.

At 7,000 feet above sea level and with a high alpine desert climate — the area only receives 11 inches of moisture per year, mostly from snowfall — Chaffee County stays a few degrees cooler than Colorado Springs on average, but the weather there still remains relatively mild all year.

“It is so mild in the winter you can ski powder in the morning and fish or play golf in the afternoon,” Mr. Englebrecht said.

More laid-back travelers can explore Salida, a

Check out these Web sites for more information on Chaffee County:

<http://www.parks.state.co.us>

<http://www.14ers.com>

<http://www.fourteenerInitiative.com>

<http://www.fibark.com>

<http://www.salidachamber.com>

small town with population of about 5,000. Visitors can walk along the town’s tree-lined residential streets or along the river walk. Salida also is home to more than 30 galleries showcasing art from a wide array of genres. Shoppers can also check out the town’s other unique gift and antique shops, cafes,

and specialty stores. The town is also home to a nine-hole golf course and the Steam Plant, a 220-seat theater.

A history museum attached to the Chamber of Commerce offices tells the story of Salida, which traces its origins back to the mid-19th century when the area, center of the Colorado Mineral Belt, enjoyed the spreading wealth of the gold rush. The town got its name from the Spanish, meaning “gateway,” at that time a gateway to riches.

Whether in the mountains, near town or along the river, Chaffee County offers accommodations for tents, recreational vehicles or cabin camping all year long. The county also has 1,200 reasonably priced motel rooms, with more under construction. Restaurants include fast-food establishments, sit-down family-style eateries with American fare, and specialty cafes, as well as restaurants featuring Asian cuisine, steak and Mexican food. Salida has a small hospital, with 24-hour emergency services.

To get to Chaffee County, take Colorado Highway 115 south to Florence, turn onto U.S. Highway 50 West toward Cañon City, and proceed through the Big Horn Sheep Canyon to Salida. The canyon’s amazing high cliffs and wildlife make the drive alone worth the trip.

Photo by Ann Patton

**Downtown Salida, with its shops, cafes and restaurants, makes for a leisure afternoon.**

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# Buckley retires as AF women's soccer coach

By Nick Arseniak  
Athletic Communications

After 17 years as the head of women's soccer at the Air Force Academy, Marty Buckley has announced his retirement from coaching. Buckley will stay at the Academy as the area coordinator for lifetime sports in the department of physical education.

Buckley just completed his 23rd season as a coach at the Academy, after serving as an assistant men's coach for six seasons. Buckley started the women's soccer program in 1992 and directed the team's transition from Division II to Division I in 1996. In his 17 seasons at the helm, he led the Falcons to a 111-181-17 overall record.

Larry Friend, Buckley's long-time assistant, has been named the interim head coach for the 2009 season. Friend completed his 11th season with the Falcons and has been an integral part of the program since its inception in 1992. A 1985 Academy graduate and four-year letterman, Friend served as an assistant coach from 1992 to 1996 while on active duty and again from 2002 to present. He retired from the Air Force in 2005 after 20 years of service.

"I am extremely grateful to the Air Force Academy for the all the support and the opportunity to lead the women's soccer program," Buckley said. "I am really



Photo by Rachel Bottecher

Coach Buckley talks with one of his players.

excited about this new challenge to continue to work with the outstanding young men and women at the Academy. Being the first head coach in the history of the program, I am confident that the program is in good hands with Larry and he will keep the program going in the right direction."

After six years as an assistant men's coach, Buckley jumped at the chance to guide the women's soccer program in its first season as an intercollegiate sport in 1992. In four seasons, Buckley built the program into one of the nation's strongest Division II teams,

rising as high as 13th in the nation in 1995. In 1996, the Falcons made the jump to Division I and joined the Western Athletic Conference. In its first season, the Falcons qualified for the WAC Tournament and finished the year with an 8-10-2 record. In 1999, Buckley again led the Falcons into uncharted territory as Air Force left the WAC to join the newly formed Mountain West Conference. The change was taken in stride as the Falcons posted their best season ever at Division I and won a game at the conference tournament in 1999.

A 1978 graduate of Cal State-Chico, Buckley earned a bachelor's degree in physical education. He earned his master's degree in sports administration from St. Mary's College, Calif. in 1989. He came to the Academy in the fall of 1986 to be the assistant men's coach to Luis Sagastume.

"Marty Buckley has been a mainstay of our department and an outstanding coach for over 23 years" said Col. Billy Walker, deputy director of athletics. "He took our women's program from club status to Division II and then to Division I, not many coaches can say they've done that. We're extremely excited he's staying on in our physical education department. Anyone who has ever taught with Marty or been a student of his will attest to his professionalism as a physical educator."

# Retirees blast Hospital #1 taking a 1-0 series lead

By Dave Castilla  
Intramural Sports Director

The top two intramural softball teams, the Retirees last year's base champs, and 6 time defending champs Hospital #1, squared off Monday night to decide who would take the top rung in intramural action.

Retirees took the 1st game in the series by winning 30-18.

Ed Perez got the retirees on the board in the 1st as he hit a two run homerun, preceded by a single by Mark Hartman. Later Perez had a double driving in a run; Tevita Mafi had two singles and three RBI's and John Karagiannes hit a three-run home run over the left field fence.

Hospital attempted to pull back into the game but only managed four runs. Mike Cross hit a sacrifice fly to drive in one and RBI singles by Bryan Kinder, Mark Mckenzie, and Karvin Vega closed the medical 1st inning scoring.

In the 2nd inning the Retirees continued where they left off as Richard "Spanky" Chavez lead off with a home run. Mike Owen landed a triple and scored on a single by Karagiannes.

The medics, continuing to try and put

up a fight, put up five in the bottom of the 2nd, three RBI's came off singles to right, with Kinder driving in one and McKenzie two.

After a five run Hospital inning the Retiree lead had shrunk to seven leading 16-9.

The Retirees added 8 runs in the top of the 3rd putting the game well out of reach. Kevin Ciesla hammered a solo home run and Ed Perez added to the score with a three-run blast.

Hospital, again coming up short, scored four in the bottom of the 3rd. Two of the teams four came off of a John Johnson home run.

Looking as a change of winds may be coming Retirees were held scoreless in the 4th.

Chet Bryant laced a two run double off the centerfield fence for Hospital making the score 24-15.

Karagiannes managed a double off the fence scoring Mike Owen ending the Retirees scoreless streak. Hospital countered the single RBI in the bottom of the 5th with another three-run home run from Johnson.

The retirees scored five more runs in the top of the 6th closing the scoring and securing a 1-0 lead in the series.



## Air Force fencers named Mountain West Conference scholar athletes

By Madeline McGuire  
Athletic Media Communications

The Mountain West Conference announced its selections for the 2008-09 MWC Scholar-Athlete Awards, and five Air Force fencers were selected by the Conference. Junior Michael O'Connor in Astronautical Engineering, senior Ainsley Allen in Chemistry, freshman Kaitlyn Bogan in English, freshmen Catherine Kiyota and Michelle Kiyota both in Chemistry, were all honored.

A league-record 548 student-athletes were honored, including 34 individuals who have achieved a 4.00 or higher cumulative grade point average over two or more terms, and 61 student athletes who were recognized in multiple sports. The previous high was 516 honorees in 2006-07.

The MWC Scholar-Athlete Award is the highest academic honor bestowed by the conference. To be eligible for selection, student-athletes must have completed at least two academic terms at the member institution, while maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better, and have participated in varsity competition in an NCAA-sponsored sport.

### Whitney wins qualifying tournament

MONUMENT, Colo. - Air Force golfer Tom Whitney won medalist honors at the U.S. Publinks Sectional Qualifying at King's Deer Golf Club this week, earning a spot at the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, which will be played July 13-18 in Norman, Okla. Also

advancing from the King's Deer Sectional Qualifying were Jon Lindstrom of Broomfield and Colorado State golfer Zakhai Brown.

Whitney, a rising senior for the Falcons, shot a 65 in the opening round on Monday, just one stroke off the course record. He followed with a 2-under-par 68 on Tuesday for a two-day total of 133 (-7), three strokes ahead of

runner-up Lindstrom.

The U.S. Publinks will mark the first USGA championship for Whitney, who competed in a U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying earlier this summer. He caps off a spectacular season in which he led the Falcons in all 12 tournaments, including the MWC Championship, where he earned all-conference honors for the first time in his career.

### Intramural Softball

June 23rd

306 FTG 21

10 CS 19

MDG#2 18

10 CS 12

SFS 8

MDG#2 7

June 24th

10 CS 25

DRU/MSS 12

10 CS 27

MDG#3 7

SFS 28

MDG#3 5

STANDINGS

1. RETIREES 5 1

2. MDG#2 5 2

3. 10 CES 5 2

4. MDG#1 4 2

5. DRU/MSS 4 3

6. 306 FTG 3 3

7. 10 SFS 2 3

8. 10 CS 2 6

9. MDG#3 0 8

Won Loss





## Tobacco Secession

If you or someone you know is a tobacco user, there is help. The Academy Health and Wellness Center is offering a Tobacco Cessation class. This class is taught by health promotion technician Dirk Spaulding on July 9 at 12 p.m. or 5 p.m. Call 333- 3733 to reserve a spot

## Cooking Demo

Learn how to prepare healthy and delicious dishes! Also, you receive free recipe cards for the presented meal,

## Main Clinic Pharmacy is closed

On July 2, the Main Clinic Pharmacy will be closed due to the family day and a scheduled power outage. The Community Center Pharmacy will be open it's normal hours, 8:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m.

Both pharmacies will be closed July 3rd and 4th for the federal holiday observance and the actual holiday. Normal pharmacy hours resume on Monday July 6th.



### 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

No public services through Aug. 2, 2009

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.edu

Healthy Heart Cookbooks, and to top it off...sample the food. Call 333-3733 to reserve a seat for July 1 at 5 p.m.

## Grand opening change

The grand opening of the AAFES main exchange in the Community Center has been moved to July 24.

## 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.

## Lending Vets a hand

Showcase your fitness and commitment to local veterans in need by taking part in the 4th Annual Veterans' Home Run 5K run/1K walk at 7 a.m. June 27. Registration begins at 6 a.m. at Air Academy High School in Pine Valley. The Veterans' Home Run benefits the Colorado Veterans Coalition's Crawford House, a recovery center for southern Colorado's homeless veterans. Information about the Veterans' Home Run and the Crawford House cause is available at the Pikes Peak Road Runners Web site: [www.pprun.org](http://www.pprun.org). Race registration is \$15 for veterans and military and \$20 for benefactors of our military. Participants can register at one of the three Colorado Springs running stores, via active.com, or download a race application and mail it no later than Wednesday. Veterans' Home Run brochures/race applications are available at the Academy Fitness Center. Paralympian wheelchair athletes are welcomed. Call Jack at 719-205-1741 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](mailto: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 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.

## A&FRC offerings

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

### 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

June 30; 8 to 9 a.m.

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

### 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.

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



## Pike Peak or Bust

The annual Colorado Springs Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is set for July 8-11 at the Norris-Penrose Event Center. The Air Force Academy is looking for volunteers/ contestants to help make this year's event the best ever. To pull our fair share during PPOBR, Team USAFA needs approximately 45 volunteers to perform as ushers, ticket attendants, program sales,

security, check-in contestants/ public, canopy set-up, distribute posters around Colorado Springs (in a designated area). The rodeo has forged strong ties with the local military community since World War II and, to-date, it has donated more than \$1.5 million dollars to "Support the Troops". Teams of four also can compete in the infamous cow-milking event. Register your team with Master Sgt. Angela Evans no later than 4 p.m. Tuesday. Applicable waivers and rules apply.

Call Sergeant Evans at 333-3998 or email: [Angela.evans@usafa.edu](mailto:Angela.evans@usafa.edu) by Wednesday to register or for more information.

## Aide to Girl of the West

The Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is looking for a few good horsewomen interested in an outstanding opportunity. The Girls of the West are not your run of the mill Rodeo Queens; they are Ambassadors of the western way of life. They represent a long tradition of young women who have represented the rodeo since 1922. The Girl of the West and her Aide represent the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo during their reign making over 100 appearances from May through July. They promote the western way of life with education, horsemanship and charisma. The competition for the 2010 Aide to Girl of the West July 10 at the Norris-Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs. Applicants must be between 18 and 22 by May 10 and never married. Competition will consist of horsemanship, interview, public speaking and appearance. Applications are available online at [www.coloradospringsrodeo.com](http://www.coloradospringsrodeo.com) or at the Norris-Penrose Event Center. Application deadline is June 26. For more information, call Corliss Palmer at 719-351-1953.



Photo composite by Dennis Rogers

## 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 demonstration 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, July 4. Parking will be available at and near the cadet field house, but carpooling is recommended. Traffic is expected to be heavy prior to and after the event. Those traveling to and from the Academy should expect delays and plan accordingly.





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# Red White & Brave

## Welcome Home Parade

August 29th

The Welcome Home Parade Committee  
is proud to announce the

**2009**  
**Red White & Brave**  
**Welcome Home**  
**Parade**

On Saturday, August 29th, Colorado Springs will gather to let the troops and their families know how important their work and sacrifice is to us, and how happy we are to welcome them home.

Soldiers, airmen, Marines and sailors from every base in the Pikes Peak region will march proudly through downtown Colorado Springs. Marching bands of all kinds will play as colorful floats roll down the street. We will warmly welcome The 4th Infantry Division, formerly based at Ft. Hood and now part of the Ft. Carson family, to Colorado Springs.

In 2004, a group of community leaders decided to bring our town together to say thank you to our returning soldiers.

The Welcome Home Parade was a resounding success; 6,500 troops newly returned from Iraq and Afghanistan marched with their heads held high in front of 65,000 spectators. There were lots of smiles and a few tears at this historic event.

[www.csmng.com/welcomehomeparade](http://www.csmng.com/welcomehomeparade)