



Photo by Mike Kaplan

10th ABW commander receives first star

Brig. Gen. Jimmy McMillian receives help from his son Darrius McMillian (left) and his brother Rev. James McMillian (right) in changing out his lapel rank insignias during a promotion ceremony at the Falcon Club Tuesday. General McMillian was promoted to brigadier general after 28 years of service. After the promotion he offered some words on his promotion.

"Being promoted to the rank of general officer is an honor, but yet humbling," the one-star said. "The Air Force has decided I possess the leadership potential to lead at the next level. I understand more will be expected of me as senior leader, and my focus will be on taking care of people and helping the Air Force accomplish our mission."

Fire and Emergency Services ready to educate area youth

Academy Spirit Staff

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services are on track to host this year's Youth Fire Safety Camp at Fire Station 1 here Tuesday.

This free event is open to Academy youth ages 8 to 12.

"We deliver the fire safety message through a variety of media," said Brian Pile, F&ES fire inspector. "The Youth Fire Safety Camp is set to provide age appropriate videos, a fire safety trailer and an educational brief about general fire safety topics."

In addition to the video and fire safety trailer, the event will feature stop, drop and roll training, a junior bucket brigade, a hose competition and fire extinguisher training, among other events.

Tracy Nichols, Academy Fire and Emergency Services administrative assistant said, "I think they like the bucket brigade and fire extinguisher training the most."

"The bucket brigade is popular because they usually end up soaked by the time the event is over," Mr. Pille said.

Even the event staff has favorite moments from past events.

"My favorite part is at the end when the fire chief passes out their certificates of training and goody bags," Mrs. Nichols said. "The joy on their faces from the day's events is priceless."

For additional information or to register contact Tracy Nichols at 333-2051 today.

Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo celebrates Academy Day

By Academy Spirit staff

Saturday is Air Force Academy and Family Day at the 69th Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo with a rodeo performance starting at 1 p.m.

"The 69th annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is bigger and better than ever this year and ready to bust out of the chute," said Kevin Estrem, president of the rodeo board. "This year's rodeo is 'Ready to Ride' with more excitement and new entertainment."

"The edge-of-your-seat rodeo action will include steer wrestling, bareback bronc riding, tie-down roping, saddle bronc riding, team roping, mutton bustin', women's barrel racing and bull riding, with PRCA Comedy Act of the

Year and WNFR Barrel Man, Gizmo McCracken," he added.

The relationship between the PPOB rodeo and the area military goes back 63 years.

"Since 1946, the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Days has donated proceeds to charitable programs and services benefiting local military personnel and their families," Mr. Estrem said.

Tickets are available for \$10, \$15, & \$25 with all seats reserved. As always discounts are available for groups, seniors, military and children. Tickets are available by calling TicketsWest at (866) 464-2626 or online at www.ticketswest.com or at the following locations: World Arena Box Office, Citadel Mall

See RODEO, Page 3



Photo by Mike Kaplan

The Bird rides "shotgun" during last year's Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
87 51
ISOLATED T-STORMS

SATURDAY
83 52
ISOLATED T-STORMS

SUNDAY
87 50
PM T-STORMS

Canine honored



"Taint had a ton of heart," he said. "He will never be forgotten."

Page 4

Grads get astronaut slots

"I wanted to be an astronaut since I was 6 years old."

Page 6



Raging river

Having learned to respect the river's power that day, I'm ready to do it again.

Page 13



Earn respect, be the example

By Master Sgt. Terry Kelly
379th Air Expeditionary Wing

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — I remember my first duty section as an airman basic at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. We had 17 buck sergeants in the shop. These gentlemen were the heart and soul of the unit. I admired them for their wisdom and work ethic. They could answer all my questions and would take me out and show me how to perform the many tasks. They inspired me to want to come to work and do my job to the best of my ability every day. Every time an NCO told me to do something, I was excited that I was being given a chance to excel.

I say this because some of our Airmen don't realize the significance of what they do each and every day and how it plays a critical role in fighting the current conflict. It doesn't matter if an Airman is a crew chief, gate guard or heavy-equipment operator; each matters. If the Airmen running the dining facility grill think the job isn't important and serve an undercooked burger to an aircraft mechanic, then that mechanic can't prep jets for flight to put bombs on target and the terror network thrives. As NCOs, it is our duty to communicate this

to our junior Airmen. It is our responsibility to lead by example and show them we are in this fight with them.

At times, we get away from the basics of being strong NCOs. We supervise through e-mail and hope our team gets the message. Whatever happened to good old face-to-face communication? Sometimes Airmen need to see that fire in our eyes to understand the significance of what we are saying.

Another failure is when we don't follow up on tasks because we are too busy. We need to know about Airmen's families and the goals of team members. It is not as easy to lead those you know very little about.

NCOs are the heart of the Air Force body. The units go as we go. The NCO corps drives mission accomplishment, morale and the overall environment of the unit. The NCO corps fosters loyalty, mentorship and empowerment. Give our people what they need to do the job and cultivate that long term buy-in for supporting mission accomplishment.

We do a lot to take care of the Air Force team, but this can sometimes be overlooked by someone on the team who thinks it's not enough. Airmen should understand respect is earned, not given. If it is determined they do not care, then as

good NCOs it is our responsibility to take charge of the situation. Once we determine they want to do the right thing, it's our duty to guide them, mentor them and ensure they have the tools to be successful Airmen. Always, reward them for doing an outstanding job.

Airman Leadership School and the NCO Academy lay the foundation for supervision but do not give us a definitive checklist of do's and don'ts of supervision. We learn this from watching and emulating successful leaders; for young Airmen, that's you and me. We learn this from each other as we share information about issues concerning our units. It is our duty to pass along our knowledge and traditions to the next generation.

We, as NCOs, have a responsibility to show our Airmen our core values aren't just a slogan but our way of life. We have to be the example and not the, "Do as I say, not as I do," NCO. Our rank does bring a certain clout and we must use this extra muscle to fight for our people. On the other hand, we shouldn't be afraid to say "no", when needed, it still works.

Teach Airmen the right way to do business, and it will make life much easier for us all as we go about our mission of putting bombs on target and making the world a safer place.

Live the Air Force core values daily

By Master Sgt. Timothy Procita
380th Expeditionary
Security Forces Squadron

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — I'm sure if you ask Airmen about the Air Force core values they could recite them without thought, but do they really know what these core values mean?

The Air Force core values are tightly interwoven and dependent upon one another. You must have integrity to place service before self and if you place service before self, you will strive for excellence in all you do.

The most important core value to me and, in my opinion, the hardest for most to fully comply with is Service Before Self. My favorite excerpt from the Little Blue Book is, "Professionals cannot indulge themselves in self-pity, discouragement, anger, frustration or defeatism. They have a fundamental moral obligation to the persons they lead to strike a tone of confidence and forward-looking optimism. More specifically, they are expected to exercise control in the areas of anger, appetites

and religious toleration."

How many times have you allowed yourself to be angry, frustrated or discouraged? I bet we have all been there. I think the trick is not to let it show, don't allow your peers or subordinates to know and never let it affect morale or the mission.

The core values mention self-control of your appetites. What does that mean? I think it means many things, but certainly includes not making sexual overtures to your subordinates, not drinking alcohol in excess and not indulging in any other type of personal pleasure fulfillment that places you before mission needs. These behaviors are contrary to professionalism and are not conducive to the Air Force way of life.

These are extreme violations of our core values, but what about the "little" stuff? Do you fail to discipline your subordinates because you are worried they won't like you? Is that service before self? Do you fail to point out a dress and appearance violation because you are not in compliance? Is that service before self? Do you allow someone to take leave

because you're uncomfortable denying the request and it leaves the work center short-handed? Is that service before self?

I propose that these behaviors are not service before self. You serve your own personal needs and ego if you are worried about what people will think of you and are afraid to do the right thing. What concerns me most is that this type of behavior becomes so common place that it is viewed as the "norm" and destroys our standards and culture of excellence.

We ourselves are at the heart of creating an atmosphere of complacency through apathy. As a result, when quality Airmen who follow the core values make the "right call" they are viewed as unreasonable and labeled "hardcore." Making the tough, not always the popular, calls is service before self. It may not be in your best interest or the Airman's best interest, but it is in the best interest of the unit, the mission and the Air Force.

I challenge you to reflect carefully on the decisions you make, or will make, in your workplace and even your personal life and ask yourself, "Who am I serving?"

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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Submissions

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

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

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

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



Prep School in-processing

The Academy Preparatory School holds in-processing for new basic cadets in the downstairs community center ballroom from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday. The south halves of both the east and west community center parking lots will be blocked off to facilitate event parking. This pharmacy, credit union, post office and the medical offices should not be affected. However, some traffic and delays for the education office, TMO, the MPF, and the library until noon are possible.

How do you beat the summer heat?

"A lot of fans. Base housing doesn't have air conditioning, and fans at least circulate the air."

Senior Airman
Brittany Carreno
10th Medical
Group



"Go north. I'm from Albuquerque, and it's hotter there than here."

Steve Garcia
Retired Air Force
member



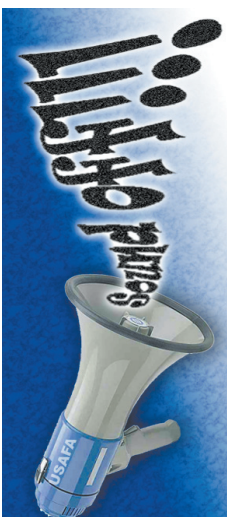
"It's not hot. I moved here from Killeen, Texas, and it's really hot there."

Charmaine Little
Spouse of Army
member



"Lots of sunscreen and water to be sure I'm hydrated. I came from England, and it rained all the time there."

Tech. Sgt.
Jeremiah Preszler
10th Medical
Support Squadron



Air Force athletics launches 2nd Annual Tickets for Troops Program

By Athletic Communications

The Air Force Academy Athletic Association is proud to announce a special program offer for the second consecutive year called Tickets for Troops. Tickets for Troops is a way for anyone to get involved and say thank you to our troops by helping offset the cost of tickets for local enlisted members and allow them to attend games at Falcon Stadium with their families this fall.

Fans can support the program by underwriting the cost of a football season ticket for junior enlisted members and their families. Beginning last Wednesday, fans can purchase or donate a \$100 season ticket that will allow the athletic association to offer a heavily discounted price to junior enlisted members and their family at bases throughout the community.

The donated tickets will be made available to junior

enlisted members for just \$20 for the entire season in reserved sections normally costing \$144. Individual game tickets will be offered for just \$4.

Air Force opens the season Saturday, Sept 5, against Nicholls State at noon in Falcon Stadium. The Falcons' home schedule also includes visits by Mountain West Conference opponents San Diego State, TCU, Wyoming and UNLV. The team will also host service academy rival Army on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 1:30 p.m. in Falcon Stadium.

"An Air Force Academy football game is one of the most unique experiences in all of college football," head coach Troy Calhoun said. "By supporting Tickets for Troops, you are going to help the soldiers and airmen who protect our freedoms enjoy a positive game day experience at Falcon Stadium."

To support Tickets for Troops call 1-800-666-USAF or stop by the athletic ticket office.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Coach Calhoun runs a drill with the last season's Falcon football team.

Rodeo

From Page 1

Info Booth and all King Soopers locations. Additional ticket information is available at www.coloradospringsrodeo.com.

To get to the Norris-Penrose Event Center with its 5,700 spectator spaces, at 1045 Rio Grande, from downtown's West Cimarron Street, go south on South 21st Street, then east on Rio Grande. Parking at the Norris-Penrose Events Center is \$5 per car.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association sanctions the rodeo. It is ranked in the top 26 professional rodeos in North America.

For more information, visit www.coloradospringsrodeo.com, or call (719) 635-1101.



Courtesy Photo



Photo by J. Rachel Spencer

The show went on ...

Despite weather challenges with rain throughout the day July 4, an enduring crowd witnessed the sky clearing in time to enjoy a spectacular fireworks display from the Academy athletic fields just north-west of the cadet chapel. Officials say members of the Class of 2013 present were excited and danced with exuberance. They also offered an enthusiastic response to Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Sam Cox when he gave his welcome speech to the basic cadets.



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Canine honored, remembered for service

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Canine handlers and canine friends gathered on a bluff off Sumac Drive July 1 to pay tribute to and remember Taint, a Belgian Malinois, who served the Academy and the 10th Security Forces Squadron with dedication, valor and loyalty.

It would have been his 12th birthday.

Taint's handler and Academy kennel master Chris Jakubin good-naturedly described him as "grumpy."

"He was not liked by many but respected by all," he said with a smile.

Taint truly was a one-man dog, answering only Mr. Jakubin.

"Taint trained me," he said. "He had his own standards, and they worked."

The four-legged patrol and drug detection officer was once deemed untrainable by canine trainers at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where he began his military career.

Untrainable, that is, until Mr. Jakubin saw a lot more than just a glimmer of potential and agreed to work with him, thus sealing a bond between canine and handler that lasted 10 years.

When Mr. Jakubin retired from the Air Force and left Lackland to become the Academy kennel master, Taint stayed behind. But the dog proved too much for Lackland canine trainers, including a Marine who wanted to do things in un-Taint-like ways.

It wasn't long after that Taint was on his way to



Courtesy Photo

the Academy—and Mr. Jakubin—where he served for nine years.

"It was a unique relationship," Academy handler Staff Sgt. Timothy Bailey said of the dog/man bond during the memorial. He cited Mr. Jakubin as being

the "dog whisperer" for his keen insight into training strong-willed dogs with their own ideas.

During his career the Malinois sniffed out numerous drug finds and excelled in competitions in area search and obstacle and obedience courses.

More than 40 people, and a handful of dogs, attended the memorial, including representatives from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado Springs Police Department.

Army Capt. Emilee Venn, veterinarian with the 10th Force Support Squadron, called Taint "a legend" at the Academy vet clinic.

As he aged, Taint developed medical problems, including bladder and hip disorders and was partially blind.

"He fought all the way to the end," she said.

Captain Venn received a replica of a tooth she removed from the dog, a procedure that took nearly three hours.

The site of the memorial was the original site of the Academy's first kennel facility, a small house. It is also the site chosen to honor military working dogs and their service to the Academy and their country. The first stone memorial in place honors Ginger, a German short-haired pointer. It lies on an area which was once the house's kitchen, one of her favorite spots.

Mr. Jakubin recalled taking Taint for a mile and a half walk, remarkably just shortly before they said good-bye for the last time.

"Taint had a ton of heart," he said. "He will never be forgotten."

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Jacks Valley ready to roll out 'welcome' mat

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

For now, it's peace and quiet in Jacks Valley.

Not for long. Come Monday, some 1,344 basic cadets march out for "Second Beast," the second half of Basic Cadet Training, which began June 25.

"We're definitely ready for them," said Jacks Valley Superintendent Tech. Sgt. Brian McCoy.

New this year — are three obstacles on the confidence course and replacement of another two obstacles to comply with Air Force Instructions.

The 40-foot high "Tiltin' Hilton" obstacle with its five platforms has also been replaced. The course tests teamwork and confidence as basics boost each other up to the next platform.

Jacks Valley now has three new Crocs, or mini-trucks, with upgraded safety features including roll bars and seat belts.

Sergeant McCoy said permanent facilities for dining and medical care are in the works for next year.

Safety is paramount, and cadet cadre are fully trained in its procedures.

"This is the highest risk area, but it is the most monitored," Sergeant McCoy said of Jacks Valley.

Infrastructures are fully in place. All supply and command tents have

electricity, and medical tents also have water supplies. Communications systems include Giant Voice, hand-held radios and cell phones for squadron leaders. Lightning warning systems on masts are tested and ready.

Jacks Valley will have a full-time fire station, equipped with a brush truck. Medical components will have a medically equipped truck and triage area with a physician on duty 24/7.

Sergeant McCoy said the majority of medical cases involve dehydration.

As basic cadets enter Jacks Valley, they line up and pick up such equipment as sleeping bags, tents, bug repellent and hand sanitizers. Equipment required for exercises and obstacle courses will be issued on those sites.

Sergeant McCoy said Jacks Valley keeps busier than one might think.

"We are busy year round," he said of the 3,000-acre site. "Seven thousand people use it every year."

He highly praised the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron and their contractors for their contribution of thousands of hours.

"They gave us great support," he said.

Cadet 2nd Class Daniel Klimkowski has been leading a cadre of eight cadets getting different areas ready for the incoming basics.



Photo by Ann Patton

Cadet 2nd Class Christopher Molstad (left) and Cadet 1st Class Justin Fisk ready Operation Warrior foxholes with overhead defenses. The area services ground combat tactics.

"Everything's looking nice," he said. "We put a lot of work into it and want it to get used."

Cadet 1st Class Justin Fisk has also been working on readying Jacks, which included more mundane tasks as filling sandbags and pulling weeds.

"You name it, we've probably done it," he said.

The cadre also replaced several tents

shredded during recent thunderstorms.

Cadet Fisk remembers little of his own training in Jacks Valley except training in the middle of the night and "that dusty smell."

Cadet Klimkowski remembers only setting up tents and his perceived enormity of the area.

No more.

"It seems so small now," he said.

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Two graduates land astronaut slots

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Out of the nine newest members of NASA's 2009 Astronaut Candidate Class, two are Academy graduates. They are also the only service academy graduates out of the five military candidates chosen by NASA.

Maj. Jack Fischer, Class of 1996 and test pilot, and Kjell Lindgren, M.D., Class of 1995 and aerospace physician, will join classmates from the U.S., Japan and Canada late next month as they begin training at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Space exploration has been a long-time dream for both.

"I wanted to be an astronaut since I was six years old," Major Fischer said and added the Academy was a perfect fit for him to try and make his dream a reality.

"As a top-rated school in astronautics and recognized gateway for flying the coolest jets in the world, it was really the only choice for me," he said.

While still on the Hill, Dr. Lindgren, and Wings of Blue member, incorporated space flight into class projects and, with a colleague, set up a NASA display in Cadet Squadron 24. During 100's night, two fourth-degrees painted a space mural on the dorm wall which



Courtesy Photo

Test pilot Maj. Jack Fisher, Class of 1996, has wanted to become an astronaut since he was 6 years old.

stayed up for the rest of the year.

Major Fischer is also a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He flew the F-15E Strike Eagle operationally before attending the test pilot school at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Among aircraft he tested was the F-22 Raptor.

Dr. Lindgren also holds a master's degree in cardiovascular physiology from Colorado State University, a medical degree from the University of

Colorado School of Medicine and an additional master's degree in public health from the University of Texas Medical Branch. He has served as clinical assistant professor and physician in the UTMB Division of Clinical Preventive Medicine and the Department of Family Medicine.

Selection for the astronaut program came as a surprise, a very pleasant surprise.

See **ASTRONAUTS**, Page 14

Space exploration: U.S. should stay on front line

Commentary by Kjell Lindgren
Academy Class of 1995

I think it is incredibly important that our country remain a leader in the domain of human spaceflight. Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, a Russian scientist and pioneer of theoretical astronautics, said "The Earth is the cradle of humanity, but mankind cannot stay in the cradle forever."

It is shortsighted to think that humankind will remain in the Earth's sphere of influence. The Space Shuttle is not just about getting into low Earth orbit and back. The International Space Station is not just about science. These are small necessary steps in humanity's longer journey, and the U.S. must continue to lead the way.

Our country was founded with a frontier spirit. It is that spirit; a spirit of innovation, a spirit of exploration, of wonder, of invention, and of dogged perseverance that created our 50 states and got us to the moon. If we lose our vision for the future, if we lose that spirit that got us here, then as a nation we become less vibrant, less bold.

We must preserve our frontier spirit and all that it entails as we continue to build the foundation for the human exploration of the solar system and beyond.

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WASP awarded Congressional Gold Medal

By Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — A dedicated group of patriotic female pilots were recognized by President Barack Obama July 1 at the White House for their service to the nation more than 60 years ago.

Women's Airforce Service Pilots Elaine Danforth Harmon, Bernice Falk Haydu and Lorraine H. Rodgers were joined by five female current Air Force pilots in the White House Oval Office to witness the president sign into law a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the WASP.

"The Women Airforce Service Pilots courageously answered their country's call in a time of need while blazing a trail for the brave women who have given and continue to give so much in service to this nation since," President Obama said. "Every American should be grateful for their service, and I am honored to sign this bill to finally give them some of the hard-earned recognition they deserve."

The WASP was established during World War II with the primary mission of flying noncombat military missions in the United States, thus freeing their male counterparts for combat missions overseas. They were the first women ever to fly American military aircraft and they flew almost every type of aircraft operated by the Army Air Force during World



photo by Pete Souza

President Barack Obama visits with WASP pilots Elaine Harmon (left) and Lorraine Rodgers in the oval office after signing S.614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Women Airforce Service Pilots July 1. The WASP program was established during World War II, and from 1942 to 1943, more than 1,000 women joined, flying 60 million miles of noncombat military missions. Of the women who received their wings as Women Airforce Service Pilots, approximately 300 are living today.

War II, logging more than 60 million miles.

Being in the oval office while the president signed the bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the WASP was exciting and "an honor," Ms. Harmon said. "It's really nice that all these women will be honored for their service."

"We didn't join the WASP looking for

recognition, but were just doing what was needed during the war," she said. "Most everyone else in the country worked hard too and did their part to contribute to the war effort."

When young female pilots thank Ms. Harmon or call her a pioneer, she admitted to feeling slightly embarrassed and thoroughly impressed with today's

military women aviators.

"The women pilots in uniform today are truly exceptional," she said. "They are so competent, educated and knowledgeable about things far beyond what we ever dreamed of learning in home economics. They should know that all of the WASP are very proud of what they are accomplishing today."

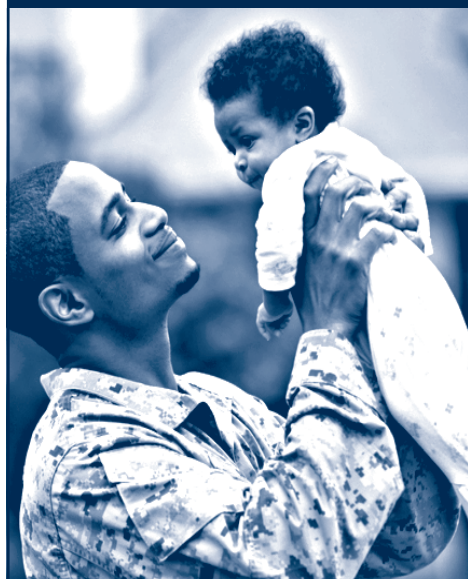
More than 1,000 women joined the WASP and 38 of them were killed during duty. Following World War II, these women were released from duty and returned home. During their time in the WASP, they held civilian status and were not members of the military. Their contributions went largely unrecognized and the women weren't afforded veteran status until 1977.

The groundbreaking steps taken by the WASP paved the way for today's generation of military female aircrew currently engaged in conflicts around the world.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award Congress can award to a civilian. Since the American Revolution; Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. In 2000 and 2006, Congress awarded the Gold Medal to the Navajo Code Talkers and the Tuskegee Airmen, respectively.



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Cadets step into Moody Air Force life

By Senior Airman Frances
Locquiao
23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — U.S. Air Force Academy cadets recently visited Moody Air Force Base as part of a program that gave them the opportunity to step into the shoes of an Airman.

The *Operation Air Force* program, which lasts approximately three weeks, allows cadets to visit Air Force bases around the world, experience the operational Air Force firsthand and shadow Airmen in different career fields.

“The program shows cadets what the Air Force has to offer,” said Capt. Adam Harris, 71st Rescue Squadron and Moody’s coordinator for the program. “It also gives them the most realistic and practical interface with both enlisted members and company grade officers.

“Most cadets do not have service commitments so the program allows them to get a good grasp of what it’s like to be in the Air Force,” he added. “My goal is to make sure they have a good time and show them everything possible so they are excited to join.”

The cadets toured many facilities around base including the 23rd Medical Group clinic and the 820th Security Forces Group’s military operations in urban terrain training village and firearm training simulator. They also toured the



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joshua Green

Capt. Jason Medsger, 820th Combat Operations Squadron, talks to Cadet 3rd Class Andrew Zwirlen from the U.S. Air Force Academy, about situational awareness while clearing a building here June 24. The 820th Security Forces Group gave a training demonstration for the cadets.

air traffic control tower and radar approach control facilities.

Cadets experienced low-level flying and maneuvers inside the 71st Rescue Squadron’s HC-130P Combat King and the 41st Rescue Squadron’s HH-60G Pave Hawk.

“I really enjoyed spending a day with Airmen from the different career fields,” said Cadet 2nd Class Sean Purio, an English major at the Academy. “It was amazing to learn and experience the role

each career field plays in the overall mission of the Air Force.”

In addition, they visited places around the Valdosta community such as Smith Northview Hospital, the Tilapia Fish Factory and Valdosta State University. The Mayor of Valdosta, John Fretti, also took time to speak with the cadets.

“It was a unique experience to see how a community relates to a base,” said Cadet 3rd Class Christina Canales, a behavioral science major at the Academy.

“The Valdosta community seems to be very supportive of Moody and the Airmen.”

Cadets also met with various commanders, including the “wing king”. During a private lunch, Col. Gary Henderson, 23rd Wing commander, gave them an inside perspective on what a leadership position may be like one day.

“The lunch was great because it gave us a chance to ask Colonel Henderson about his Air Force experience as well as his family life,” said Cadet Purio. “He encouraged us to stay focused and continue to work hard. He also gave us a few words of advice regarding our career paths.”

For the duration of the cadets’ visit, they will be career field shadowing.

By spending time in a career field of their choice, the cadets receive invaluable insight and mentoring opportunities into life as an officer in the Air Force, said 1st Lt. Vincent Adamo, 23rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Throughout the time the cadets spent at Moody, they all echoed the same sentiment about their coordinators.

“This whole experience has been great because of Captain Harris and Lieutenant Adamo,” said Cadet Canales. “We want to thank them for their hard work at making our time at Moody memorable. I’m truly estatic to become part of the Air Force family after I graduate from the Academy.”

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Cadets experience deployment tempo

By Tech. Sgt. Shad Eidson
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Air Force and West Point cadets recently spent a month here with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, tenant and coalition units for career shadowing, mentoring and familiarization.

Nineteen U.S. Air Force Academy cadets deployed here as part of *Operation Air Force*, an annual four-week program that places them at operational bases throughout the world. Two Army U.S. Military Academy cadets deployed here as part of their Cadet Troop Leadership Training. Both programs are designed to help prepare cadets for their roles as the next crop of military leaders.

“*Operation Air Force* is designed to give cadets opportunity to experience everything an Air Force deployed base has to offer first hand,” said Maj. James Dobbs, who deployed with the cadets as officer in charge. “Cadets are immersed into the Air Force way of life on an Air Force base through tours, receiving hands-on experience, and by shadowing personnel in a variety of career fields.”

The summer program transitions Academy lessons with real-world experience before the cadets start their final year as seniors.

“The Academy classes help build our character and leadership. Being here has helped us to see how to apply those skills,” said Cadet 1st Class Keane Carpenter. “I’ve seen the wingman concept applied everywhere here. Seeing the operational Air Force has let me see just how everyone is part of one big team. Strong core values

are covered repeatedly at the Academy as an important foundation. I have seen it in every aspect here and how everyone has integrity in what they do every day.”

During the cadets’ visit they toured operational flying, support and maintenance squadrons, Major Dobbs said. They were also given the opportunity to shadow Airmen in different career fields, interact with officers and enlisted personnel in mentoring sessions, visit the local U.S. Embassy, and speak with members of the Australian and British air forces here.

“The program provides 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,” the major said.

“The cadets quickly gained an understanding and appreciation for the importance of every job across the wing and how every career attributes to the accomplishment of the 379th AEW mission,” said Maj. Brock Larson, 379th AEW command post chief.

Army Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck, West Point superintendent, observed Cadets Juan Trevino and Alex Saul, who are attached to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia

Army 1st Lt. Christian Decker, Charlie 143 Air Defense Artillery 11th Brigade, briefs cadets visiting from the Air Force Academy on the mission of the Army June 24 in an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

“This is a great opportunity for our cadets,” General Hagenbeck said. “Cadets Trevino and Saul are gaining valuable experience including what it means to plan and execute in a deployed environment. This is what will be expected [of them] as young officers.”

Cadet 1st Class Gina Koenigsberger, the USAFA group’s cadet in charge, added that she enjoyed the entire *Operation Air Force* experience and said it is of real value to all cadets.

“This is a really good experience to see the operational side and to see how all the pieces come together,” said Cadet Koenigsberger. “Many experiences here will stick with me throughout my career from this deployment. I have learned so much talking to pilots about how they handle the deployment life and mission, and talking with senior NCOs about how we can be the best lieutenants after graduation.”

Military Community Youth Ministries/ Club Beyond thanks everyone who participated in the 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance. The event was a great success; we hope to see golfers and volunteers join us next year to reach out to military teens!

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Please Recycle

Commissary officials raising the bar on service

By Millie Slamin
DeCA Public Affairs Office

FORT LEE, Va. (AFNS) — Even with customer satisfaction at an all-time high, the Defense Commissary Agency's leaders are raising the bar and sending every one of their 18,000 employees to Dale Carnegie Training on World Class Customer Service.

"We are focused on building upon our strengths so we can provide the very best customer service to our patrons," said DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "The first step in this process is to provide training for our employees - from those at our headquarters and region offices to every store associate, worldwide."

To some this may seem a lofty goal, but officials at DeCA and at Dale Carnegie Training already have put in motion plans to conduct this training, following the signing of a \$2.4 million contract June 26. DeCA's first-

ever corporate training sessions begin Aug. 1 and continue until Sept. 30.

"We already have a schedule for all of our locations," said Richard Nuffer, DeCA's chief of leadership development. "There will be 30 people in each of the 648 single-day (eight-hour) sessions."

"Training will be conducted in either the stores or somewhere on the installations," he said. "If those facilities are not available, we'll have to look into holding the training at a commercial location."

As for new employees hired after Sept. 30, Mr. Nuffer said a follow-on training plan will be developed to address future training needs.

A few of DeCA's store associates were pleasantly surprised to hear that they will be attending the same training as their managers, directors and corporate leaders.

"Wow! I'm really impressed that I have the honor

of going through the same training Mr. Sakowitz will be going through," said Josephine Craig, DeCA store associate for the commissary at Fort Lee, Va. "That really makes it personal and makes me feel a part of the team."

Ms. Craig, whose husband Donald is an Army chief warrant officer stationed at Fort Lee, said she has been employed on and off with DeCA for 12 years and received her customer service training by taking DeCA courses online.

"Customer service is always number one in my mind, so I'm hoping the Carnegie training will help me remember some of the things I've forgotten over the years," Ms. Craig said. "I'm really excited about this!"

Even the employees who have been with DeCA for only a few years, like Christopher Hawthorne, store associate at Fort Lee, say they welcome the opportunity

See **COMMISSARY**, Page 14

Air Force offers assistance with adoption expenses

By April Rowden
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — With thousands of children available for adoption in the U.S. alone, and with adoption fees that can reach well into the thousands of dollars, the Air Force is helping ease the initial financial obligations for those military families opting to adopt.

Through the Adoption Expense Reimbursement Program, parents using a legal adoption agency may be eligible for up to \$2,000 per adoptive child, with a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 in a calendar year, for qualifying expenses.

"On our first adoption, my wife and I ran up a \$1,200 phone bill in the first month, calling from (Misawa Air Base,) Japan to our lawyer in Washington and to the officials in American Samoa," said

Lt. Col. David Bringhurst, chief of the Air Force Wounded Warrior and Air Force Family Research programs here and father of three adopted children. "I was thankful the Air Force helped defray the cost."

To qualify for the program, the following criteria must be met:

- Adoption must be finalized while the Airman is serving on continuous active duty, or full-time Air Guard Reserve duty with orders specifying a period of at least 180 days

- Child must be under 18 years of age and physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself

- Child may not be the biological offspring of the Airman or a stepchild

- The adoption must be arranged by a qualified adoption agency that has responsibility under state or local law for child placement through adoption; a

nonprofit voluntary adoption agency that is authorized by state or local law to place children for adoption; or any other source authorized by a state to provide adoption placement if the adoption is supervised by a court under state or local law.

Airmen have 365 days from the final adoption decree to request the reimbursement.

In fiscal year 2008, Air Force families of 230 adopted children took advantage of this program to help offset the agency fees, placement fees, legal fees and certain medical expenses.

"We distributed more than \$425,000 tax free to those families," said Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Britt, superintendent of the Directorate of Personnel Services Special Programs at AFPC. "This is straight reimbursement for money that was already expended by the family."

Colonel Bringhurst sees this as another stellar example of the Air Force supporting the family.

"We're very proactive in the Air Force, especially when it comes to taking care of our families," he said. "Those who have used this program will tell you that it's a positive boost for the adoption movement."

Now, in the Year of the Air Force Family, the Air Force is focusing on greater improvement of its Caring for People programs, including family support, special-needs children and spouses, Air National Guard and Reserve affairs, deployment support, school support and single Airmen support.

For more information on the Adoption Expense Reimbursement Program, visit your Force Support Squadron or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102, DSN 665-5000.

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Airmen provide presidential support in Moscow

By Master Sgt. Scott Wagers
Defense Media Activity-Europe

MOSCOW (AFNS) — Two C-130 Hercules aircraft and aircrews from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, hauled a 17-member presidential support team, 10 portable light carts and a utility truck to Moscow's Vnukovo International Airport July 3 in preparation for President Barack Obama's visit to the region.

Planning the travel route for the 10-hour round trip flight would normally be a routine task for veteran flyers; however, Captain Zac Johnson, the C-130 aircraft commander, said military aircraft haven't made the trip into Russia's capital city for quite some time.

"When we looked at all our products to prepare for this mission, the last account we had of a crew coming out (to Moscow) was from a DC-10 mission 10 years ago, so nobody knew what to expect," he said.

But once the pair of C-130s downed at the oldest of Moscow's three operating airports, the 37th Airlift Squadron crew commented that the support was awesome, the facilities were excellent and that help was given where it was needed.

While fuel trucks were being vectored in to top off the planes, Airmen on the presidential support team began pairing with aircrew to unload cargo.

Within 30 minutes, the planes were empty and Capt. William Taylor, the presidential support team's detachment chief, began focusing on preliminary coordination for the commander-in-chief's arrival.

It's a mission that Captain Taylor said was "very normal" for members of the 86th Contingency Response Group but no less special.

"It is definitely awesome to be a part of something that is bigger than just yourself and to also be a part of making history," he said.

The presidential support team, comprised of Airmen representing eight different career field specialties brought communications capabilities, ground security for Air Force One, maintenance, air transportation and even an airfield manager who speaks Russian.

Tech. Sgt. Shawn Smith said he studied Russian in both high school and college and had previously traveled to Moscow to conduct a site survey for an airshow in 2007.

"This is a high-profile mission and



Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers

Capt. Zac Johnson, Capt. Jon Esses and Senior Airman Glenn Scott talk as they fly a C-130 Hercules July 3 over the Baltic Sea. The three Airmen were returning from Moscow where they delivered a presidential support team and related equipment.

a unique opportunity," he said.

The opportunity was also unique for Capt Zac Johnson, a three-year C-130 pilot with only 17-hours of stick time as the aircraft commander.

As the 37th AS transitions from the H to the J model C-130, the pool of experienced H-model pilots is thinning out. Captain Johnson said that while this

increases the workload on H-model aviators, it also creates unique opportunities.

"A year ago in our squadron, you would never see a brand new aircraft commander fly a mission into Moscow, let alone a presidential support mission," he said. "I'm lucky I have the chance to do this."

Capabilities provide alternative to deadly force

By Ian Graham
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — When shouting isn't enough to stop someone who poses a threat, nonlethal weapons provide an alternative to lethal force.

"Non-lethal weapons give warfighters crucial escalation-of-force options between shouting and shooting," said Kelley Hughes, strategic communications officer for the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

"They help minimize casualties and collateral damage across the full spectrum of military operations, everything from full-scale combat to humanitarian and disaster relief missions," Ms. Hughes said during a July 1 webcast of "Armed with Science: Research and Applications for the Modern Military" on Pentagon Web Radio.

Representatives with the nonlethal weapons program have been advising the services since 1996.

Ms. Hughes said nonlethal weapons are designed to incapacitate targeted people or equipment immediately

while minimizing casualties and damage. They're intended to have reversible effects, she added.

Alicia Owsiak, deputy chief of the program's technology division, spoke about optical distracters, popularly known as "laser dazzlers," which are used by servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Optical distracters employ a green laser that can be used as a warning or distraction to give servicemembers at least one option to quell a situation before escalating force. They commonly are used at roadside checkpoints.

"The warfighter can actually shine the laser in an approaching vehicle's windshield to hail, warn and even suppress vehicle drivers," Ms. Owsiak said. "If the driver is an innocent civilian who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, this gives them a very clear signal, and will likely make them stop. But if that person ... keeps coming at full speed ... the warfighter then knows that the driver likely has malicious intent."

Lasers are safe when properly employed from prescribed distances, Ms. Owsiak said. The program tests extensively to discern the parameters under which

nonlethal weapons can be used without causing irreversible injury, she said.

The program also involves modifying previously developed weapons, to prevent injury to civilians and U.S. troops, Ms. Owsiak said. For example, the Green Beam Dazzler III Custom one of the green lasers the services use, is being retrofitted to include a safety control module that will prevent inadvertent lasing by shutting off the system when the target gets too close to the user.

Ms. Hughes said optical distracters have been "extremely effective" in the field.

"Anecdotal reports suggest that fielded green laser devices have been extremely effective in providing a means for warfighters to engage personnel at significant standoff distances, allowing them to determine the intent of personnel before the warfighter comes in harm's way," Ms. Hughes said. "In cases where innocent vehicle drivers misunderstand or misinterpret initial signals and signs to stop, using a green laser for unequivocal warning prevents further unnecessary escalation of force and saves lives."



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Chaplain Assistant offers hope to those in need

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Staff Sgt. Christopher Thompson's assignment to Bagram Air Field hospital as chapel operations NCOIC could crush or strengthen his faith.

"I talk to family members of wounded warriors back at home," said the deployed chaplain assistant from the Academy's Cadet Chapel. "I talked to the mother of a Marine whose son had just lost both his legs and was currently asleep. She asked me to pray for him out loud while I had my hand on his head and she was on the phone. She said I was a great blessing, I just said what I think Christ put in my heart to say."

The pace and ambience at Bagram is distinctly different than at the cadet chapel.

Back at the Academy he is normally stuck behind his desk in the chapel.

"We only have three chaplain assistants," said the NCO from Nashville, Tenn. "As the NCOIC I don't get a lot of time to do visitation. There is paperwork and additional duties that take up the greater about of my time.

"I try to get my Airmen out to do visitation but even then there is still a lot to do at the office.

Something always suffers and suspense's have to be met," he said. "Here, there is not so much paperwork and I can devote my time to the hospital staff and the patients. It calls for some long hours but it is all worth it.

"I work here with U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Egyptian, Polish, French, British and Swedish militaries," said the 10-year Air Force veteran. "It's all for the helping of people. It is remarkable. The only challenge is language. We all have the same goals, so that makes it easy to work with them. We all want to save lives."

Deployments are not new to this NCO who was at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan; November 2003 to March 2004; Balad Air Base, Iraq, January 2006 to May 2006;



Courtesy Photo
Staff Sgt. Christopher Thompson, Chapel Operations NCOIC, with a wounded warrior while assigned to Bagram Air Field hospital.

and, Camp Victory Baghdad, Iraq, October 2007 to January 2008.

"My time at Balad working in the hospital there prepared me for all the things I see here," he said. "The Air Force Chaplain Corps prepares its people well."

He does not go outside the wire. His job is to assist in ministry to the hospital staff and patients

Sergeant Thompson attended Expeditionary Medical Skills training with many of the hospital staff currently at Bagram. Chaplains and chaplain assistants have just started being integrated into training that

allows them to learn how to better interact with hospital staffs.

There is little time to sample Afghani food and culture.

"Most of my time is in the hospital," he said. "The most culture I get to experience is when Afghans die. Then I am included in helping prepare their bodies for burial according to their customs."

Inevitably, he has personal goals.

"I want to make it better for my replacement," Sergeant Thompson said. "My sponsor was a great blessing to me. I want to make sure that I do the same for my replacement."

He's due back at the Academy in September, where wife Colanyosha, Scar the cat and Peanut their dog await him.

He is fond about quoting Kahlil Gibran: "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars."

"Smiles," said the assistant so far from the 17 wing spires of the cadet chapel on "the Hill". "I put smiles on people's faces and comfort those hurting — physically or mentally. As a chaplain assistant, I can sometimes see the instant results of my work. People need hope and a lot of the time that is what my chaplain and I bring,"

He is reflective about this deployment.

"It has taught me more about my faith and the strength of our armed forces than I knew even on previous deployments," he said. "I see the dedication of the hospital staff every day, the will of warriors to go out again and again even after being wounded. I learned that faith and time can heal more wounds than needles and medicine. Prayer works wonders. I think people should realize just how much people are giving of themselves out here. I talk to young Airmen, Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers who all have been wounded because of the things going on out here. For many of them, their lives will never be the same again. Their sacrifice need never be in vain."

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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

Get Out and Go:

Rafting on the Arkansas



Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Don Branum
Academy Public Affairs

It had been a while since I visited Cañon City, and even longer since I'd done any rafting, so when the Outdoor Recreation staff invited me to go on a rafting trip in May, I eagerly said yes.

We met in the parking lot behind the Academy's Outdoor Recreation Office on a cool Wednesday morning. Everyone checked out wetsuits, helmets and floatation harnesses, and the guides offered some safety information. We headed out the South Gate around 8 a.m., bound for Chaffee County, about an hour and a half southwest.

The trip down Hwy 115 offers wonderful scenery, including a close-up view of the Front Range and a peek of the training areas on Fort Carson, where an Army unit was taking advantage of the balmy weather to conduct parachute training. We got onto Hwy 50, passed through Cañon City and kept going west, past Royal Gorge, until we reached the drop site.

As we disembarked and changed, the guides gave us another safety briefing, including what to do if someone got knocked into the river. Everyone in the group paid close attention — the current that morning was so fast and so deep that it could easily have moved a semi truck, so we had to know how to survive in it. Rule number one, don't panic; rule number two, keep your feet pointed downstream so that if you do hit a rock, you don't split your skull open. And, above all, respect the power of the river.

Our original itinerary included rafting through Royal Gorge. I had been there once before and had seen it from the top. Rafting it lets you see it from the bottom. Unfortunately, we wouldn't get to see it — the river level was too high, with more than 3,400 cubic feet of water moving through the gorge per second. Imagine flushing out and refilling two Olympic-sized swimming pools per minute, and you'll have an idea of how much water was moving through the river that day.

So instead, we continued upstream to Bighorn Sheep Canyon and rafted that portion of the Arkansas twice. The trip was a little different each time, but each offered opportunities to relax ... in between furious bouts of rowing under the guides' command.

Anyone who didn't know about teamwork and followership already learned all about it on the trip downriver: those two principles kept us afloat as we

traversed Class III and Class IV rapids. Teamwork also helped us recover our raftmates on the very few occasions when the river knocked someone out of the boat.

As for me, I made it through both trips unscathed ... mostly. Toward the end of our second voyage, a current pulled the raft into a spin, and our craft bounced off the water's surface. I bounced with it and fell, upside down, into the water. I relaxed and let my floatation device pull me back up to the surface when my head hit the underside of the raft. I was stuck, and the river was carrying both of us in the same direction at the same speed! And did I mention I can't see underwater?

Rule number one: Don't panic. I reached up with my hands, feeling my way along the underside of the raft. All I had to do was pick a direction and start moving — I had a lot of river to work with, and not much raft. On my fourth reach, my hand pierced the water's surface, and elated, I kicked upward,

recovering my breath. My teammates were a few meters upstream, one of them held out an oar and called out to grab on. I did, and the others helped me back into the raft.

As frightened as I had been for the first couple of seconds, I look back on it now as an exciting highlight of the trip. The river tested me, and I passed. And having kept a level head in that circumstance, maybe I'd do okay if I ever found myself in combat.

After we reached the shore, we changed back into dry clothes and headed back to the Academy. We'd been on the river for four hours, during which time we experienced the force of nature that is the Arkansas River. One of our guides, who's rafted for more than 20 years, describes riding the river as an almost religious experience — as if rafting is a way to connect with the river's spirit. Having learned to respect the river's power that day, I'm ready to do it again.



Rafters hit a Class II rapid during a journey down the Arkansas River in May. The Air Force Academy's Outdoor Recreation office offers full-day rafting trips to Bighorn Sheep Canyon and Royal Gorge.

Astronauts

From Page 6

Major Fischer called it “complete disbelief.” He celebrated the announcement with family cheers.

“It was a little overwhelming,” Dr. Lindgren said. “It was an honor just to be considered.” He also celebrated the selection with his family.

Both astronaut candidates are impressed with their future classmates.

“I am honored to be counted among such an amazing group of folks (including another USAFA grad), Dr. Lindgren said.

“I’m absolutely humbled to be considered among them,” Major Fischer said. “They are some of the best and brightest from around the world, and I’m eager to learn from them.”

Major Fischer seriously considered dropping out of the Academy and running the family business after his father passed away during his third-degree year.

“In our last conversation, Dad laughed at that notion and told me ‘I

dare you to dream,’” he said.

He has advice for the Class of 2013 now in basic cadet training.

“To say that I knew I’d be here some day is a ridiculous notion. You never know what the world has in store for you or where it will take you, but you still have a vote,” he said. “By daring to plant a stake in the ground, and dream something grand and by working your absolute hardest at everything you do, some day you might find yourself with an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than yourself.”

Dr. Lindgren also has a wealth of advice for the new class.

“First, never give up! I have vivid memories of basic training and my fourth-class year. In the depths of these trying experiences you may wonder if it is worth it,” he said. “It is!”

“Second, be enthusiastic! You are the master of your attitude. Whatever the situation, there is something to be learned, and it will go a little easier, and you will learn a little more if you have a



Courtesy Photo

Physician Dr. Kjell Lindgren trains inside a mockup of the Mir space station.

good attitude,” he added.

He also urges new cadets to allow themselves some enjoyment during their time at the Academy.

“I was halfway through my second year before I realized how beautiful the campus is and how truly amazing the opportunities were,” he said.

Commissary

From Page 10

to improve customer satisfaction through the upcoming World Class Customer Service training.

“I really love working at this store,” he admitted. “There’s great chemistry with everyone who works here, and the customers are really nice.

“But there are times when a customer will come in, someone who might not be having a good day, and I won’t know what to do to make it better for them,” Mr. Hawthorne said. “So, maybe with this training, I’ll learn how to handle customers like that, rather than having to go to get the manager or director.”

Carnegie’s World Class Customer Service training is expected to pay huge dividends to DeCA employees, customers and stakeholders by unifying best business

practices that will exceed customer expectations and strengthen customer ties.

Fort Lee Store Manager Michael Pfister said he sees where customers worldwide will definitely benefit from having DeCA employees attend this training.

“This is a great concept,” he said. “If you think about it, this training will help not only customer relationships; it will improve employee to employee relationships.”

Being in a management position, Mr. Pfister said he is keenly aware of the importance of good customer service, but also admitted that it is something that always can be improved upon, even with DeCA’s already outstanding customer satisfaction record.

“It’s extremely important to be committed to customer service,” he said. “It’s also important for

the military to know that we are all getting uniformly trained. That way, they will know that they will be getting the very same great customer service no matter what commissary they shop, either here or overseas.”

The World Class Customer Service training will take DeCA employees through a four-phase training improvement cycle, which includes reinforcing a positive attitude, building a knowledge base, applying knowledge to real-world situations and developing skills.

“The need for having everyone go through this course is consistent with our goal to provide the very best customer service possible,” Mr. Sakowitz said. “Once everyone is trained, our customers will see that their benefit is provided to them uniformly at each and every one of our stores.”

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Air Force announces hockey schedule

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

The Air Force hockey team opens the season Oct. 5 with an exhibition game against the University of Calgary at the Cadet Ice Arena. Four days later, the Falcons open the regular season with a two-game road series against the Bemidji State Beavers, a team that played in the 2009 Frozen Four. The regular-season home schedule begins on Oct. 16 with a two-game series against Alabama-Huntsville.

The Falcons begin Atlantic Hockey Association play with a two-game home

series against league power RIT, Oct. 23-24, at the Cadet Ice Arena. The home schedule is also highlighted by a game against the Denver Pioneers Feb. 6, 2010.

Air Force is coming off of three straight AHA championship seasons. The Falcons tied for the AHA regular season championship last season and then won the conference tournament with consecutive shutout victories over Bentley and Mercyhurst. After advancing to their third straight NCAA Tournament, the Falcons earned their first ever NCAA win with a 2-0 victory over third-ranked Michigan. The Falcons finished the season with a 28-11-2 overall

record, the most wins in school history. The regular season title was the first in school history and the Falcons beat two teams (Colorado College and Michigan) that were ranked third in the nation. Air Force was ranked as high as 10th in the nation last season and was 16-4 at home last season.

Five seniors from last season have graduated and will leave big holes to fill. However, goaltender Andrew Volkening returns for his senior season. A first-team all-AHA selection and two-time NCAA all-tournament team member, Volkening ranked second in the nation with 28 wins last season, was sixth with

a 1.97 goals-against average and 19th with a .920 saves percentage. He holds nearly every Air Force goaltending record and played every minute of every game last season.

The team's leading scorer, All-American Jacques Lamoureux, returns for his junior season. Last season, Lamoureux led the nation with 33 goals. The Falcons also return four of the top seven scorers. Air Force returns 70 percent of its goal scoring and 62 percent of its points from last season. Senior Jeff Hajner was selected as the team captain along with assistant captains senior Brett Nylander, senior Matt Fairchild and Lamoureux.

Falcons Football 2009 Schedule Games

09/05/09 vs. Nicholls State
09/12/09 at Minnesota
09/19/09 at New Mexico
09/26/09 vs. San Diego State
10/03/09 at Navy
10/10/09 vs. TCU
10/17/09 vs. Wyoming
10/24/09 at Utah
10/31/09 at Colorado State
11/07/09 vs. Army
11/14/09 vs. UNLV
11/21/09 at BYU

*Home games in red



Air Force Football, Hockey tickets available

Falcon Football season and individual game tickets are on sale now.

Additionally, the Mountain West Conference Front Range Kickoff Luncheon is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Denver Marriott South.

Over lunch Air Force Coach Troy Calhoun, Colorado State Coach Steve Fairchild, and Wyoming Coach Dave Christensen will preview their teams.

The Air Force Hockey team is coming off its most successful season in

school history. After a 2008 - 2009 season that saw a school record 28 wins, the first-ever Atlantic

Hockey Association regular season title, the third consecutive AHA Tournament title and a victory over Michigan in the NCAA tournament, the team is set to drop the puck on the 2009 - 2010 season.

Visit: www.goairforcefalcons.com or call the ticket office at 1-800-666-8723 to purchase your tickets or for more information.

Falcons Hockey 2009 Schedule Games

10/5/09 vs. Calgary
10/9-10/09 at Bemidji
10/16-17/09 vs. Alabama-Huntsville
10/23-24/09 vs. RIT
10/31 - 11/1/09 at Canisius
11/6-7/09 vs. Bentley
11/13-14/09 at Holy Cross
11/20-21/09 at Connecticut
12/4-5/09 vs. American International
12/11-12/09 vs. Mercyhurst
01/2-3/10 at Sacred Heart
01/8-9/10 vs. Connecticut
01/15-16/10 at Bentley
01/22-23/10 vs. Holy Cross
01/29-30/10 at Army
02/5/10 at Colorado College
02/6/10 vs. Denver
02/19-20/10 at RIT
02/26-27/10 vs. Sacred Heart

*Home games in red

Tennis team takes opponents to court

By Jerry Cross
Athletic Media Relations

Brett Rodgers placed second recently at the 2009 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Collegiate Summer Circuit event hosted by the Air Force Academy. Rodgers, one of four Falcons that entered the men's singles draw, won three straight matches before falling to Doug Mayeda of the University of Oregon, 6-2, 6-2, in the championship match.

Rodgers, who played the majority of the 2009 season at No. 3 singles for Air Force, rallied to beat Mark Miller of Regis (Colo.) High School, 2-6, 7-5, (12-10), in the first round, downed Colgate's Harry Jewett, 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals, then beat Connor Macey of Creighton, 7-6(4), 6-0 in

the semis. Mayeda, a product of Cherry Creek High School in Denver, did not lose a set in his four matches, including a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Air Force junior Taylor Soster in the quarterfinals.

Austin Francis defeated Macey, 7-6(5), 6-3 in the third-place match, while junior Alex Beaussart won a thrilling, 6-7(3), 7-6(5), (10-5) match over Aidan Reid of Lewis-Palmer High School in the consolation final.

Mayeda teamed with Utah's Stephen Jacobs to win the doubles title, beating Andrew Pack and Christopher Kennedy, 8-4, in the final. Utah's Paige Miles won the women's singles and doubles titles, defeating teammate Missy Harris, 6-1, 6-0 in the singles final and pairing with

Colorado's Erin Sanders to win the doubles championship. Miles downed Air Force' Tahlia Smoke, 6-4, 6-1, in the quarterfinals of the singles competition.

The ITA Collegiate Summer Circuit is made up of seven regional circuits (East, Southeast, Midwest, Central, Mountain, Southwest and West) for collegiate players (events are also open to junior players). Six of the seven regions consist of four consecutive open tournaments played during the month of July, leading up to the August 8-12 ITA National Summer Championships in Bloomington, Indiana. The ITA Collegiate Summer Circuit began in 1993 and over 22,000 players have competed in circuit events since its inception.

Husky Athletics

The Air Force Academy Preparatory School is soliciting a final call for a volunteer Wrestling Coach for the upcoming 2009-2010 season (Oct. 15-March 10, 2010).

This opportunity will allow for working with exceptional athletes and help molding them into future officers of character. Last season, the Huskies finished 7th in the nation—producing four National Collegiate Wrestling Association All-Americans and a National Champion.

Description: Head Coach responsible for all aspects (budgeting, scheduling, logistics, conditioning, and competition) of a 10-to-12 man wrestling squad and a 15-meet season.

Qualifications: Division I wrestling experience, coaching experience, availability 3 to 5:30 p.m. weekdays, weekend travel, attendance at local/regional/ national competitions.

Contact: Lt. Col. Ken Korpak, at: kenneth.korpak@usafa.edu, 333-2291.

Walmsley claims 6th at USA Junior Championships

EUGENE, Ore. - Air Force' James Walmsley picked up a sixth-place finish in the 5000-meter run during the final day of competition at the 2009 USA Junior Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Ore. Crossing the finish line in a time of 14:59.66, Walmsley finished

sixth in a field of 25 June 28.

Additionally, former Air Force training partner Lopez Lomong won the U.S. title in the 1500-meter run with a time of 3:41.68.

Over the four-day competition (June 25-28), five current Falcons and four Academy graduates competed at the senior- and junior-level national championship meets at historic Hayward Field.

Intramural

Softball

July 6th
DRU/MSS 19
10 CS 18

RETIREES 26
10 SFS 4

RETIREES 26
10 CES 20

July 7th
MDG#2 24
MDG#3 14

RETIREES 18

MDG#2 14

MDG#1 24

10 CS 14

STANDINGS

	Won	Loss
1. RETIREES	10	1
2. MDG#1	7	2
3. MDG#2	7	3
4. 10 CES	6	5
5. DRU/MSS	5	4
6. 10 SFS	3	4
7. 306 FTG	4	5
8. 10 CS	2	9
9. MDG#3	0	11



Back-to-school party

A back-to-school party will be held at the Falcon Club from 5 to 7 p.m., Aug. 19. There'll be a pasta bar, games, prizes and fun for the whole family. One lucky club member will win a \$50 gift card and another member will win a \$25 gift card. Non-members are welcome for \$5 per person and club members are free. Sign up for membership at the event and get three months free dues and start benefitting that night.

Ballroom dance lessons

Ballroom dance classes begin the first week of August in the downstairs ballroom in the Academy Community Center. Learn to rumba, waltz, swing, polka, foxtrot and more. Classes consist of six weekly one-hour lessons and cost is \$70 per couple. Ask about salsa, belly and jazz dance classes. Sign-up deadline is July 31. For more information, call 333-2928.

Broncos tickets

Denver Broncos tickets will go on sale 7 a.m. Aug. 8 at the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center. Pairs of single-game

tickets are available for preseason games against Chicago and Arizona and regular season games against Cleveland, Dallas, New England, Pittsburgh, San Diego, NY Giants, Oakland and Kansas City. Camping out in line will not increase your chance of purchasing tickets. A lottery system will be used. At 7 a.m. customers will pull a number for purchase order priority. Customers can purchase up to four seats for one game. Call 333-4475 for more information.

Pikes Peak biking

When it comes to downhill bike rides, this is truly the granddaddy of them all. Sign up now for a bike ride down Pikes Peak Saturday. At the end of the ride, while the bikes are being loaded, enjoy a meal at the "Wines of Colorado" restaurant (at your own expense) before heading back to the Academy. Cost is \$59 and includes van transportation, Pikes Peak entry, guides and snacks. Call 333-4475 to sign up. Bikes can be rented from the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center.

Recreation opportunities

Don't joust for your tickets to the annual Renaissance Festival near Larkspur. Get them at the Information, Tickets and Tours office in the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center and save a few coins. Tickets are just \$15.95 for adults and \$7 for children. ITT also has great deals on discounted tickets to Denver summer attractions. Get Water World tickets for just \$27. Single day passes to Elitch Gardens are \$21 each or buy three singles and get one free. Elitch's parking passes are \$9. Meal deal coupons are \$8.25 each. For more information, call 333-4475.

Summer specialty camps

The Falcon Trail Youth Center will be offering a series of summer specialty camps. For more info or to sign up, call 333-4169. The camps are:

July 20 to 24: Sewing Made Simple – Youth ages 9 to 15 learn the art of sewing by making a variety of clothes and accessories. From 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$25.

Aug. 3 to 7: Adventures in Fine Arts – Youth ages 9 to 14 explore the world of fine arts and gain an appreciation for artists

and their work through visits to local museums and pottery studios with hands-on experiences. Times TBD. Cost is \$30.

Aug. 10 to 14: Colorado Adventure Camp - Youth ages 12 to 15 explore the wonderful Colorado outdoors with activities such as rock climbing, orienteering and ropes courses while building self-esteem and teamwork skills. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$75.

Transportation to Rockies

The Information, Tickets and Travel office offers \$15 round-trip van transportation to some of the Colorado Rockies' July home games at Coors Field. Check with ITT for the dates, times and opponents, call (303) ROCKIES for game tickets and then call 333-4475 to reserve your seats on the ITT van.

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 Wednesday. For safety reasons, the track is unavailable for use during the construction period. Call Tricia Borsos at 333-3400 for more information.

Academy Flea Market

By popular demand the Academy Flea Market will be held twice monthly through July and August. The dates are as follows: 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.

A&FRC Offerings

Group Pre-Separation Counseling
Held every Monday (except during TAP week) – Monday, July 20; 2 to 4 p.m. Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing assists in identifying benefits and services

associated with your transition and beyond.

Sponsorship Training

Tuesday, 8 to 9 a.m. This class is for those who have been assigned to sponsor a newcomer to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

Resume writing

Wednesday, 9 to 11 a.m. Learn different types of resume and cover letter styles and how to improve your own.

Medical records review

Monday and July 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review their medical records.

You're hired!

July 22; 8 to 11 a.m.

This 'how-to' e-networking course will cover online networking sites, netiquette, and making online connections. Popular networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and others will also be featured.

Contact the A&FRC @ 333-3444 for any questions and/or registration.



Save \$\$, take a faircation

Come "Rediscover Your Smile" at the 104th El Paso County Fair from July 18-25 in Calhan, Colo., just 30 minutes west on Hwy 24. This year for the first time the El Paso County Fair is going to honor our local active duty Military and their dependents with free admission to the Fair on Military Appreciation Day, July 18. Experience the new entertainment of Bear Mountain, Reptile Adventure, and Michael Harrison the Ventriloquist as seen on America's Got Talent. We will also host our traditional fair favorites like 4-H shows and exhibits, arts and crafts, petting zoo and rodeos. Nightly events of auto races, Got Talent contest, modified truck and tractor pull, monster truck show and demolition derby provide thrills and spills. For more information call 719-520-7880 or visit www.elpasocountyfair.com.

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

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



Photo by J. Rachel Spencer

The winners are ...

Recently the winners of the Douglass Valley Elementary Earth Day art and poetry contest were recognized for their efforts. Front row: Spencer – 1st grade, Jade – 2nd grade, Conner – 3rd grade, Abigail – 3rd grade, Noah – 3rd grade, Jaila – 3rd grade, April – 3rd grade, Sarah – 3rd grade, James – 2nd grade, with Ms. Jeanie Duncan, 10th Civil Engineer Squadron pollution prevention manager. Back row: Rachel – 4th grade, Jacob 5th grade, Sterling - 5th grade, Ashley – 5th grade, Carsyn – 4th grade, Emily 4th grade, Matison – 5th grade, Katie – 4th grade, Malik – 4th grade, Troy – 4th grade, Trevor – 3rd grade. Program officials say the students really enjoyed the event and learned more about conservation and the environment.

Not pictured: Kayla – kindergarten, Jack – 1st grade, Breana – 3rd grade



August 29th

Red White & Brave

Welcome Home Parade

On August 29th, thousands of active duty military will march proudly in the

Red, White & Brave *Welcome Home Parade*

No imagine the thrill of participating in the Parade! Your organization or group can be part of this historic event by creating a float.



Call 635-8803 or contact the Parade Committee
through their web site
<http://csbj.com/welcomehomeparade>
to request an entry form