



USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO **ACADEMY SPIRIT**

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Humanities Summit

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Can concrete float?



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Cadets visit Algeria



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Falcons win in 10

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Photo by Trevor Brown, Jr.

Star-spangled salute

Academy members took part in a flag unfurling ceremony and the Cadet Singers sang the National Anthem April 4 before the Colorado Rockies home opener against the Arizona Diamondbacks at Coors Field in Denver. The baseball team annually invites active-duty members from Colorado military bases to take part in opening day ceremonies to pay tribute to the military.

President to speak at graduation

By Academy Spirit Staff

President George W. Bush will be the guest speaker for this year's graduation ceremony, the White House announced Thursday.

This will be President Bush's second visit to the Air Force Academy in this role. He last spoke at the U.S. Air Force Academy during the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2004.

"As your generation assumes its own duties during

a global conflict that will define your careers, you will be called upon to take brave action and serve with honor. In some ways, this struggle we're in is unique," the President said in his 2004 speech. "In other ways, it resembles the great clashes of the last century — between those who put their trust in tyrants and those who put their trust in liberty. Our goal, the goal of this generation, is the same: We will secure our nation and defend the peace through the forward march of freedom."

Prior to leading the nation, the President served for six years as the 46th Governor of Texas. During his governorship, he earned a reputation as a compassionate conservative who shaped public policy based on the principles of limited government, personal responsibility, strong families and local control.

The President was born July 6, 1946, in New Haven, Conn., and grew up in Midland and Houston, Texas.

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Photo by Ken Wright

President George W. Bush

SecAF tells cadets of changing times

By Ann Patton
 Academy Spirit staff

For the last 60 years, the Air Force has met the challenge of change with a combination of innovation, adaptability and flexibility, said Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne in his address to first- and third-class cadets Tuesday in Arnold Hall.

"Character and leadership skills are always in high demand and in short

supply," he said.

Secretary Wynne opened his remarks with praise and encouragement to both classes.

"We can't wait for you to come," he said of the Class of 2008. "You will find yourself joining a terrific group of people, and we hope you will have a wonderful, wonderful career."

To the Class of 2010, he said, "You are about to assume leadership positions next

year and the year after that. They will be tremendous opportunities."

Secretary Wynne reflected on the beginnings of the Air Force and the Academy. He cited the farsightedness of Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold, who recognized the force of air power as early as 1918, as well as Generals Billy Mitchell and Jimmy Doolittle, all of whom pushed the need for air power.

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Every job is important

By Lt. Col. Warren Barlow
386th Expeditionary Operations
Support Squadron commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — The Air Force team consists of individual Airmen accomplishing a wide array of jobs.

On the surface, many of these jobs do not appear to be interrelated, but if you step back and view the big picture, you will find that they are all working toward one common objective.

In reality, the big picture does not stop there. The Air Force is just a piece of the U.S. armed forces, working toward common Department of Defense objectives, which are just one arm our nation uses to achieve national objectives.

So what am I talking about? Every day, C-130 Hercules aircraft depart from a Southwest Asia air base transporting everything from passengers to equipment to forward operating bases in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. The aircrews receive their mission taskings from Combined Air and Space Operations Center officials, and it is the aircrew's job to execute the tasked mission.

I have seen aircraft depart with only one passenger onboard. On the surface, that may seem like a waste to fly an

airplane for just one passenger, but in the big picture, that one individual may be the critical link required to conduct an offensive operation to capture Osama Bin Laden. It is not the aircrew's decision to decide if the mission is important, but it is their job to execute the mission as tasked.

Let me give you another example closer to home. Members of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing recently conducted some leaflet airdrop missions into Iraq. This was the first airdrop conducted into Iraq during my eight-month tenure. While planning for the mission it was determined that we did not possess all of the equipment required to execute the mission.

As it turned out, we were short on the required number of carabineer clips to execute the airdrop. At 2 p.m., I contacted the local contracting squadron for assistance, and although I could not tell them mission specifics, I did let them know that we needed these by 6 a.m. the following morning. To top this off, it was a Saturday with the mission going down on Sunday. We attempted to purchase the carabiners through the area Army Air Force Exchange Service stores, but unfortunately, they were out of stock everywhere in the region. Next, contracting

energized their off-base contacts, despite being the weekend, and they delivered the carabiners to me at 8 p.m. the same day.

Although a bunch of \$8 carabiners does not seem like a big deal on the surface, they had enormous strategic effects. The airdrop went off without a hitch, and the leaflets hit the target on time. Immediately, improvised explosive device-cell leaders became nervous and bugged out of their safe areas.

Additionally, Iraqis learned that it was the coalition forces supporting their infrastructure improvements and not the local government/militias as was initially believed. This mission went a long way to help win hearts and minds in the region and ultimately saved coalition lives by significantly reducing the local IED threat to U.S. and coalition ground forces.

Who would have thought that an Airman in contracting could have a strategic impact in Iraq?

Remember that no matter what your job is, it is important! It is imperative that leaders — commanders down to first-line supervisors — remind Airmen that their jobs are important and that their failure can have strategic impact. Mission failure is not an option, and our nation's success in this war is in your hands.

Business School in 1975. After graduating, he moved back to Midland and began a career in the energy business.

"For four years, you have trained and studied and worked for this moment. And now it has come," President Bush said to the Class of 2004. "You are the ones who will defeat the enemies of freedom. Your country is depending on your courage and your dedication to duty. The eyes of the world are upon you. You leave this place at

a historic time, and you enter this struggle ahead with the full confidence of your commander-in-chief. I thank each of you for accepting the hardships and high honor of service in the United States military."

Graduation for the approximately 1,000 members of the Academy's Class of 2008 is May 28, starting at 10 a.m. in Falcon Stadium. Further details will be provided as they become available.

President

From Page 1

He received a bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1968, then served as an F-102 fighter pilot in the Texas Air National Guard.

President Bush received a Master of Business Administration from Harvard

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

Character Corner A Positive Attitude

By Capt. Dan Kenny
Center for Character Development

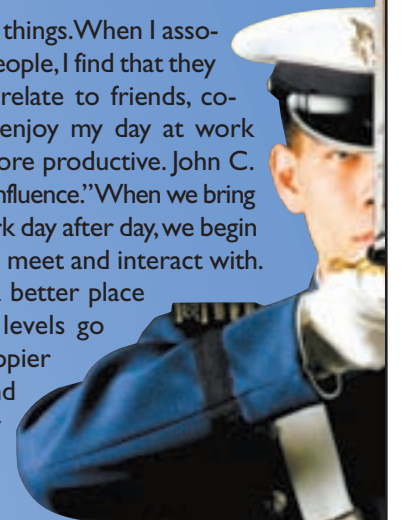
After years of struggling to find and hold a well-paying job, a close friend of mine was recently hired by an Air Force contractor. The hours were steady, and the pay was better than he'd seen in a number of years. It was indeed the best job he'd had in a long time, but he couldn't see that. Instead, he would dwell on the bad side. One day, a few months after he was hired, we were talking about his new job. I wanted him to tell me what he liked about it and highlight the good points. However, he spent most of the time focusing on the negatives: the old computers, the poor network

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

reliability, the long meetings and the people he worked with. It amazed me that after bouncing from one bad job to another for almost 10 years, finally he found a good one, but he still managed to complain. It made me wonder if he would ever find a job where he wouldn't focus on the negatives.

I wonder if he realizes how his negative attitude affects those around him. I don't know about you, but I'd much rather be around a positive person than a negative one. I'd rather talk to the one who can point out the good in a person, an organization, or a situation, rather than the one who gossips about the bad. I can find the bad things in my day-to-day job just fine; I don't want any help with that. I want to be with those who

tend to point out the good things. When I associate myself with positive people, I find that they begin to affect the way I relate to friends, co-workers and my family. I enjoy my day at work more and even become more productive. John C. Maxwell said, "Leadership is influence." When we bring the positive attitude to work day after day, we begin to encourage everyone we meet and interact with. The workplace becomes a better place to spend our day, stress levels go down, and we end up happier and more fulfilled at the end of the day. That's the power of a positive attitude.



What has been your best volunteer moment?



"I was on active duty and began a fund raiser for Vicenza High School's sports program. It provided them with funds when traveling to away games."

Don Heitman
Retired chief master sergeant



"When I worked with the Gold Camp Historical Society. It helps keep the history to the mining district alive."

Paul Martin
Academy Museum Specialist



"Giving back to the Boy Scouts. I teach different merit badges for the local Boy Scouts."

Staff Sgt. Rob Sawell
10th Mission Support Squadron



"Doing what I like to do -- playing music every weekend in the cadet chapel."

Cadet Candidate
Edward Comacho
Preparatory School

SecAF



Photo by Dave Alschwede

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne told cadets the Air Force succeeds only because of its integrity of Airmen.

From Page 1

"We know our heroes in our U.S. Air Force," Secretary Wynne said and pointed out to cadets the buildings named after those heroes on the Academy are a reminder of their steadfastness.

After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in 1966, Secretary Wynne entered the Air Force and served for seven years. He ended his active duty career as assistant professor of astronautics at the Air Force Academy.

Secretary Wynne called the Academy's setting "stunningly beautiful" and a reflection of the American West, a symbol of what's new in America, of hope, of the future and of the frontier.

"How times change," he said of the history of air power.

He pointed out, for example, women in the Air Force now serve as Air Force pilots, air crew and in convoy operations.

"Valor and sacrifice are found in both men and women. They are innovators because we train them that way."

In addition, it is no longer just ground forces enemies consider a threat. It is also air power and cyber weapons they fear.

He said this year marks "a new birth in national defense" with the Air Force Cyber Command joining space and air missions as a new domain.

"Putting it in the Air Force is like ringing a bell that cannot be unringed," he said. "With these three domains in place, our total fighting force is multiplied."

Secretary Wynne told cadets they will be part of new ways of waging war.

"As warriors, you are a product of the timeless verities of war, a legacy shared with every Soldier, Sailor and Marine," he said. "But you are more. You are the product of a culture that has valued innovation over ritual and value in finding solutions rather than paying homage to tradition."

Character, defined by integrity, service and excellence all "define the culture that lives within the Air Force," Secretary Wynne said.

He cautioned cadets they will quickly be faced with temptations, which could compromise character.

"Our service succeeds only because of the integrity of our Airmen," he said.

He told cadets that service could demand separations from family, deployments, temptations of lucrative career opportunities and risking their lives.

"To wear this uniform you must be willing to put your own goods behind that of service and country," he said. "This is the meaning of service."

More than any other service, the Air Force must demand perfection. Secretary Wynne said fighter pilots have to be the best or they will die; plus survey, reconnaissance and logistics leave no margin for error.

"If character is about doing the right thing, leadership is about standing for something," he said.

Leaders look out for their people and must be accountable. Secretary Wynne said leaders also need to keep learning and know where they want to go and what to do to get there.

He praised cadets for their willingness to serve in the post-9/11 era and stressed war changes with time.

"I can't guarantee the war we are fighting today will be the kind we will fight in the future," he said.

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Airmen at war set cargo, passenger movement records

By Staff Sgt. Shawn J. Jones
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Air transportation requirements of cargo and troops within U.S. Central Command's 27-nation area of responsibility reached an all-time high in March, but Airmen responded to this demand with a record-setting performance, officials said.

U.S. Air Forces Central's air mobility professionals topped previous benchmarks in the number of passengers and amount of cargo moved in a one-month period.

Airmen exceeded the prior record for passenger movement by three percent, transporting nearly 120,000 troops into, out of, and within the Middle East and the Horn of Africa.

Airmen moved more than 41,350,000 tons of total cargo weight, exceeding the previous record by seven percent.

Furthermore, Airmen set a single-day record of 1,365 pallet-position equivalents, a standard unit of measurement that reflects the floor space occupied by both cargo and troops, by beating their previous best by seven percent.

A record was also set for the average daily pallet-

position equivalents moved.

Despite the record work load, the Airmen demonstrated mobility effectiveness with a 91 percent on-time delivery rate and maintained velocity by minimizing cargo inventory at the aerial ports.

"Maintaining effectiveness under these conditions is a significant accomplishment by our Airmen," said Lt. Col. Brian Robinson, the Air Mobility Division director at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center here.

The demand for airlift in March was high due to the transportation of particularly large warfighter units to and from Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to typical air mobility requirements, Colonel Robinson said.

While much of the credit for March's record-setting performances goes to deployed Airmen actively flying and maintaining aircraft in the war on terrorism and Air Mobility Division's planners and schedulers, two other mobility programs were essential elements to the performance, according to Colonel Robinson.

The Theater Express Program, which allows commercial air transportation companies to move non-sensitive coalition cargo throughout CENTCOM, saves money and eases the requirement on coalition aircraft and aircrews. Of the record cargo weight delivered in March, Theater Express transported more than 27 percent.

Also, coordinated and responsive reachback support from 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center temporarily brought forward strategic mobility crews and C-17 Globemaster IIIs which contributed to air mobility's big month. Reachback support ensured warfighters moved to the fight on time by airlifting over 4,698 troops, Colonel Robinson said.

They got us over the top, the colonel said.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Founders' Day salute

Retired Lt. Gen. Robert D. Beckel salutes during the pass in review of the cadet wing at the Founders' Day and Sponsors' Day Parade Saturday on the parade field. The parade, serving two purposes, honored the authorization and founding of the Academy, which began construction July 11, 1955. The parade also honored the 3,500 cadet sponsors; those men, women and families who open their hearts and homes to members of the cadet wing to enhance cadet life and develop officers of character. General Beckel graduated with the Class of 1959.

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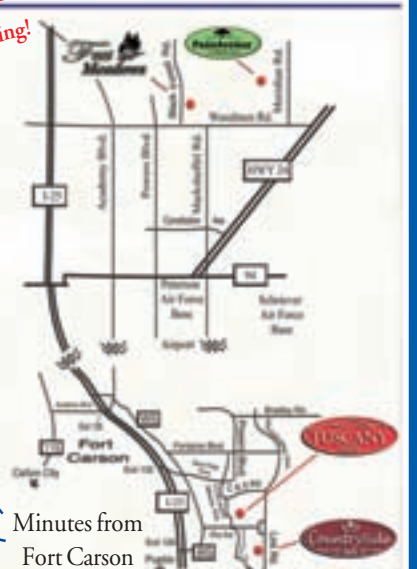
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Humanities Summit examines the literature of war

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The bi-annual Humanities Summit brought together faculty and cadets from five service academies April 3-4 in the discussion of the reading and writing of war literature and humanities studies.

"The study of war literature has always been important and personal to cadets and faculty," said Col. Kathleen Harrington, permanent professor and head of the Department of English and Fine Arts.

The Summit also paid tribute to the Academy's literary journal, *War, Literature and the Arts*, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year and is also now in the libraries of major universities in the United States and overseas.

Five seminar sessions were held in which each of the academies—the Naval Academy, the Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Military Academy, as well as the Air Force Academy—presented teaching philosophies, successes, practices and course approaches and methods.

Keynoting the Summit was author and Stanford University creative writing professor Tobias Wolff.

"War literature humanizes the imagination," he told about 900 service academy cadets in his address after the April 3 Summit dinner. "Statistics and numbers alone dehumanize the loss of human life—six million dead in Nazi Germany and 20 million dead under Joseph Stalin. Literature returns those numbers to flesh and blood."

Mr. Wolff is best known for his work in the short story and memoir, including *This Boy's Life*, which was made into a movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert DeNiro and Ellen Barkin.

He also chronicled personal wartime stories from



Photo by Dave Armer

Author and creative writing professor Tobias Wolff said war literature humanizes the imagination.

the front lines of Afghanistan and Iraq in his book *Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience*.

In a luncheon presentation to conferees the author and Vietnam veteran said the country has changed.

"Our sense of divisiveness among us comes through our reluctance to change," he said.

Mr. Wolff also read his short story *Say Yes*, which illustrated the isolation caused by a reluctance to try and understand each other.

In opening the Summit, Colonel Harrington noted the Air Force Academy offered its first English major in 1987 and that the study of humanities in training cadets is still growing.

"Our biggest stockholders are our future officers," she said.

During their presentations participating faculty touched on war literary works by such authors Homer, Ernest Hemmingway and H.G. Wells and on such films as *Platoon* and *Blackhawk Down*.

Cadet 1st Class Max Hinton, Cadet Squadron 10 and Wings of Blue member, attended the Summit.

"I think warriors must study humanities and war literature because, though war may be executed mechanically, it is fundamentally personal," he said. "It is only when one examines the psyche of the war fighter and explores stories of war survivors or widows that war can be fully understood. And I believe anyone in the profession of arms should seek to fully understand war before making it."

Cadet Hinton chose humanities as his major for its course flexibility in a divisional major.

Colonel Harrington looks forward to the next Humanities Summit.

"The study of war literature has always been important and personal to cadets and faculty. We know our graduates may see conflict—our job is to elevate their awareness and understanding of human conditions and help them articulate their experiences," she said.

"Great battles are not out there, but in the heart," Mr. Wolff also said, patting his chest, in his evening presentation.

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Making a pilot; the first step

By Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo
Air Force News Agency

PUEBLO, Colo. (AFPN) — The road to becoming an Air Force pilot begins in Pueblo, Colo., where the Air Force has charged Doss Aviation, a contractor, to provide an Initial Flight Screening course under the Air Education and Training Command.

The purpose of the IFS is to screen aviation candidates and prepare them for the more rigorous flight school programs that will place them behind the most powerful, technologically advanced airplanes in the world.

The course takes on students with a wide range of skill levels from civilian certified flight instructor trained students, to students with no flight time at all.

“Our primary mission here, as the Gateway to Air Force aviation, is to ensure that our graduates have the attitude, aptitude and motivation to succeed in follow-on pilot training,” said Lt. Col. John Tomjack, the 1st Flying Training Squadron commander.

The plane used for the IFS course is the DA-20 aircraft, a \$250,000 low-wing plane, armed with a single-engine, a 125 horsepower engine with a maximum altitude of 13,120 feet.

The training site is equipped with a 209,000 square foot building that acts as a miniature Air Force base. The state-of-the-art facility has six flight rooms and academic classrooms, maintenance hangars, two auditoriums, a shoppette, barbershop, gym, dining facility and an all-faith's chapel.

From day one the students are tested physically and mentally in a high-intensity environment. The first week of class is filled with a tidal wave of academic training. The pressure is purposely applied to measure the student's resolve to complete the course.

“If you pass (IFS), there is a high possibility of you making it through the advanced pilot training programs,” Colonel Tomjack said.

Second Lt. Dylan Rudolph, a student who arrived at the school a week ago said, “It can be overwhelming! Our first academic test is in two days, and it covers more than you would normally cover in a whole semester.”

“Getting used to terms that flyers use such as pitch and power is hard for somebody who has never flown before,” said 2nd Lt. Brandon Magnuson, a student pilot preparing to graduate. “My advice is to press through that first week and learn as much as you can.”

Students must also be in excellent physical shape to withstand G-forces associated with the Air Force's supersonic jets. “Physically, students are tested on day one with a fitness test, and if they don't pass with an 80 percent or above they are assigned physical trainers and are tested regularly,” said Lee Hall, the IFS deputy program director.

The program is set-up for success, but given the nature of the flight screening business not everyone can make it. Since the inception of the 6-week course Oct. 1, 2006, approximately 10 to 15 percent of the IFS students do not graduate. “It is a very challenging course, and you have to come prepared,” Colonel Tomjack said.

Ensuring the highest military pilot training standards, IFS has steadily graduated more students each year. In 2006 IFS graduated 350 students, in 2007 there were 950 graduates and 2008, IFS is poised to graduate between 1,300 to 1,800 students.

Students are lodged in a modern facility providing 195 furnished dormitory style rooms and is considered the largest hotel in the area.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

Second Lt. Andrew Barrier takes a test Monday during the Doss Aviation Initial Flight Screening Course in Pueblo, Colo. The course mission is to screen aviation candidates and develop student's aviation skills. From day one the students are tested physically and mentally in a high-intensity environment.

With the proper accommodations in-place, all students have to bring is their motivation and their desire to learn, course instructors said. To graduate from the course they are required to complete 19 sorties and 25 hours of flight time, to include two solo flights.

“My favorite part of teaching this course is to see students graduate and become successful pilots,” said Greg Dotter, an IFS instructor pilot.

In a week, Lieutenant Magnuson will graduate from this course and is looking forward to flying the T-6 Texan II, the follow-on training aircraft, because of its acrobatic capabilities, he said.

“My ultimate goal is to fly an F-22 Raptor,” he said.

If he makes it to graduation, he has a good chance of reaching his goal.

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Petraeus cites 'significant, but uneven' progress

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The efforts of U.S. and Iraqi surge forces have boosted security in Iraq, but those gains are uneven and subject to reversal, the top U.S. military and diplomatic officials in Iraq testified before the House Armed Services Committee here Wednesday.

“There has been significant, but uneven, security progress in Iraq,” Army Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multinational Force Iraq, told panel members.

“Levels of violence and civilian deaths have been reduced substantially,” General Petraeus pointed out, noting that al-Qaeda in Iraq and other extremists “have been dealt serious blows” by surge-fortified U.S. and Iraqi security forces.

Iraqi security forces capabilities and numbers have grown over the past seven months, General Petraeus said, noting there are now nearly 550,000 Iraqi soldiers and police. Membership in concerned Iraqi citizens groups that aid in local security efforts also has increased to more than 91,000 participants, he added.

However, the security situation in some areas of Iraq remains uneven and unsatisfactory, General Petraeus said, citing recent flare-ups of violence in parts of Baghdad and in Basra. Those incidents, he said, indicate security challenges that remain to be resolved.

The recent violence in Baghdad and Basra has demonstrated that “the progress made since last spring is still fragile and reversible,” General Petraeus said.

“Nonetheless, security in Iraq is better than it was when we reported to you last September,” the general told the panel members. “And, it is significantly better than it was 15 months ago when Iraq was on the brink of civil war and the decision was made to



Photo by Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

Gen. David Petraeus

deploy additional U.S. forces to Iraq.”

General Petraeus attributed recent security gains in Iraq to three factors:

- The engagement of some 30,000 U.S. and more than 100,000 Iraqi surge forces;
- Employment of U.S. and Iraqi security forces in joint counterinsurgency operations to safeguard the Iraqi people and battle extremists and criminals; and
- The Iraqi people’s adoption of anti-insurgent attitudes, as Sunni tribes in Anbar province have united to fight al-Qaeda extremists and Shiia-based anti-insurgent groups also have emerged.

However, a multitude of forces — not only al-Qaeda and Iranian-allied terrorists, but also garden-variety criminals — are competing to sow destruction and discord in efforts to topple Iraq’s government for their own purposes, General Petraeus said.

“This competition continues, influenced heavily by outside actors, and its resolution remains the key to producing long-term stability in Iraq,” the four-star general said.

Ethno-centric disagreements continue to occur among Iraq’s population, but there are signs of improvement and growing accord, General Petraeus said.

“Iraq’s ethno-centric competition in many areas is now taking place more through debate and less through violence,” he told the panel. “In fact, the recent escalation of violence in Baghdad and southern Iraq was dealt with, temporarily at least, by most parties acknowledging that the rational way ahead is political dialogue, rather than street fighting.”

Five years ago today, U.S. troops pulled down Saddam Hussein’s statue in a Baghdad square, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker, who accompanied General Petraeus at the hearing, told panel members.

Ambassador Crocker concurred with General Petraeus that things are looking up in Iraq. Enhanced security and other positive developments achieved in Iraq over the past several months “have strengthened my sense of a positive trend,” the diplomat said.

Yet, immense challenges remain in Iraq, Ambassador Crocker said, describing the progress achieved there as “uneven and often frustratingly slow.”

However, the Iraqi government recently passed some key legislation dealing with the vital issues of reconciliation and nation building, Ambassador Crocker pointed out. Newly passed laws that reform the de-Baathification process, establish pensions, and define the relationship between the central and provincial governments help to solidify Iraq’s political landscape, he said.

Sustaining the gains made in Iraq “will require continuing U.S. resolve and commitment,” the ambassador said.

“What has been achieved is substantial, but it is also reversible,” he added.

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Cadets inspire at *Expanding Your Horizons*

By Lt. Col. Lynnane George
Deputy Head, Department of Astronautics

Academy astronautical engineering majors and the Academy chapter of Women in Science and Engineering cadets and faculty were invited to participate for the second year in a row at two Expanding Your Horizons workshops in New Mexico recently.

Three faculty members and four cadets traveled to Albuquerque, N.M., to give three workshops to students, as well as an overview presentation to adults and mentors at the University of New Mexico March 15.

One faculty member and four cadets also traveled to Los Alamos, N.M., to give the keynote workshop, as well as two other workshops to students at an Expanding Your Horizons Conference at the University of New Mexico, Los Alamos, April 2. Conference attendees at each event were about 150 6th-12th graders interested in science and engineering.

Presenters at the Albuquerque workshops were Lt. Col. Anne Clark, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Officer-in-Charge of the Academy Women in Science and Engineering chapter; Lt. Col. Lynnane George, Department of Astronautics and Capt. Carolyn Bartley, Department of Computer Science. Cadet presenters were Cadets 1st Class John Richmond, Cadet Squadron 39; Nathan Nordby, CS-27; Rachel Washburn CS-14 and Danielle Paya CS-14. The Academy offered three workshops as well as an overview presentation of the workshops in the adult session.

Workshops included a chemistry magic show, Strength in Structures: Building and Breaking Bridges, and a course on groundwater purification systems.

"It was such a great experience being able to see the

Continued next page



Cadet 1st Class Elizabeth Bupane, Cadet Squadron 6 (left) and Cadet 3rd Class Christina Wamsley, Cadet Squadron 10, give a chemistry magic show to students April 2 at the Expanding Your Horizons Conference at the University of New Mexico in Los Alamos, N.M.

Courtesy Photo

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Courtesy Photo

Cadet 2nd Class Alex Kaszynski, Cadet Squadron 27, tests bridge strength with students at the Expanding Your Horizons Conference at the University of New Mexico in Los Alamos, N.M.

Horizons

Continued from previous page

excitement and intrigue the girls expressed during the chemistry magic show,” said Cadet Washburn. “You could tell they were drawn to see more and learn how each reaction occurred.”

Cadet Paya had the opportunity to visit some of the other workshops and learn from them after completing her workshop.

“Attending the EYH conference was a unique experience in that I was given the opportunity to both teach and learn,” she said. “From helping young girls gain a greater interest in science and engineering to getting a chance to see zoo animals up close and personal, I enjoyed all of the events and look forward to participating in future similar events.”

Colonel George, Cadet 1st Class Elizabeth Bupane, CS-6; Cadets 2nd Class Alex Kaszynski, CS-27 and Brooke Lunde, CS-4 and Cadet 3rd Class Christina Wamsley, CS-10, traveled to Los Alamos, N.M. All of the cadets and students in attendance were involved in the keynote workshop, A Bridge to Nowhere: Strength and Structures.

“The girls really enjoyed designing, building and then breaking their bridges,” said Cadet Lunde.

The cadets had the opportunity to speak to the audience about what led them to choose career fields in science and engineering and attend the Academy.

They then led the students through an exercise to build a bridge out of balsa wood and test it to breaking strength.

Cadet Kaszynski did much of the public speaking during the keynote workshop, and helped facilitate the groundwater purification system workshop.

“I was inspired to teach the next generation of American engineers,” he said.

Cadet Wamsley worked with Cadet Bupane on giving the students a chemistry magic show.

“I am glad I could show the girls a side of chemistry and science that is fun and exciting, hopefully leaving them with a positive, memorable experience,” said Cadet Wamsley.

Expanding Your Horizons Conferences offer a unique and entertaining opportunity for young women in middle and high school to explore their career options through hands-on technical career workshops led by professionals who have found satisfying careers in law, mathematics, engineering, computing, medicine and other technical and non-traditional career fields.

The conferences also include a component for the teachers and other adults who accompany the students. They also provide an outstanding opportunity for the Academy to advertise what we can offer students potentially interested in attending the Academy.

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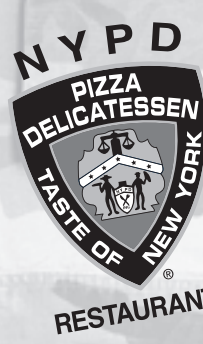
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Engineers fare well at ASCE conference

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

“Congratulations to all cadets, faculty, and staff on an absolutely outstanding American Society of Civil Engineers Regional Conference,” read the Monday message from the permanent professor and head of the civil and environmental engineering department. “Highest Academy finish ever at the ASCE Regional Conference.”

Col. Gregory Seely had reason to crow; the Academy took second place overall in the Golden competitions.

All the hard work, and fierce competition produced great results.

“Everybody learned something; but that wasn’t the best part of this weekend,” Col. Seely said. “The best part was the extremely professional manner with which everyone associated with the Academy conducted themselves during the conference. All the reports I heard and from my observations Friday and

Saturday were nothing but first rate.”

The Academy has had a student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers since May 14, 1968. In recent years the society holds regional student conferences for students to network and compete in engineering competitions. Competitions include concrete canoe, steel bridge, pre-design, mystery design, technical paper and non-technical paper.

This year the Academy competed in all events at the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference which includes 13 schools from as far away as New Mexico State and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

The concrete canoe competition became a national contest in 1988, and the Air Force Academy has competed ever since at the regional level. The contest includes a design paper, a technical presentation, the canoe final product including aesthetics, a display, and durability and races.

Colonel Seely singled out Cadet 2nd

Class Tyler Olmstead, Cadet 1st Class Jackie Taylor, Concrete Canoe Team Lead and Cadet 2nd Class James Elliot Steel Bridge team lead for leading the charge.

The Academy placed first overall in the Concrete Canoe competition. The team is on their way to the national competition in Montreal, June 19-21. It will be the second time Academy cadets have gone to nationals and the first-ever, outright win at regionals.

Individual results included 1st in Design Paper, 1st in Presentation, 2nd in Canoe Aesthetics, Display, Durability, 2nd in Overall Canoe Races, 2nd in Men’s Sprint, CoEd Sprint, and Women’s Slalom/ Endurance, 3rd in Men’s Slalom/ Endurance and 4th in Women’s Sprint.

Canoe participants were Cadet Taylor, Cadets 2nd Class Scott Adamson, Timothy Bent, Mark Bishop, Cameron Koehler, Ericka Fischer, Kathleen Grieshop and John King.

Cadets brought back a 1st Place Finish in the Pre-design Survey Problem. Participants were Cadets 2nd Class Olmstead, Michael Brittner and Mark Chinery, who were mentored by Master Sgt. John Agnew.

Other competitions helped the Academy gain the overall 2nd Place Finish.

“Steel Bridge also performed extremely well and would have been second in four of six categories and third overall, but was not able to officially compete due to a measurement not being within requirements,” the colonel said. “It was a great bridge and a super effort.”

Mentored by Capt. Dave Taylor

Photo courtesy of David and Susan Biba

Cadets 2nd Class Cameron Koehler, Timothy Bent and Mark Bishop paddle the concrete canoe during the mens’ endurance race.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Agnew

Cadets prepare to start the Pre-Design Surveying activity. They had to determine the number of gallons of paint required to cover an inaccessible water tank 2500 feet away.

were Cadets 2nd Class Elliott, Kathleen Grieshop, Brandon Biba, Joshua Martinez, Thomas Synovec, Cody Nelson and Cadet 1st Class Robert Shuler

Cadet 1st Class A.J. Harris participated in the technical paper *Alternative Energy – Solar Arrays at USAFA*.

Cadet 2nd Class Cody Nelson took part in the non-technical paper *Utility Privatization*.

Cadet 1st Class Will Parrish and Cadet 2nd Class Johnmichael King participated in the Mystery Design’s Retaining Wall Problem.

Cadet 1st Class John Thompson, Cadet 2nd Class Daniel Romero and Cadets 3rd Class Theodore Ornelas and Michael Winn worked as recorders and on logistics to help the team succeed.

The Academy team was led by Capt. Pete Crispell who was assisted by Capt. Andy Hoisington with Captain Taylor on the bridge and the lab staff of Mr. John Lobdell, Master Sgts John Agnew and Dennis Scott.

The Academy will host the ASCE Rocky Mountain Regional Conference in the Spring of 2010.

Photo by Master Sgt. John Agnew

The steel bridge is assembled during the timed event at the competition.

Photo by Cadet 2nd Class Michael Brittner

Inset: The team members stand on the assembled steel bridge prior to the competition.



Academy grad leads morale tour at Tampa VA hospital

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee
Air Force News Agency

TAMPA, Fla. (AFP) — The deputy director for the war on terrorism went on a mission to raise the morale of patients at the James A. Haley Veterans Association Medical Center and brought cheerleaders of the 2008 Women's Final Four teams and an Air Force Band April 7 in Tampa.

Brig. Gen. Michelle Johnson from the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and 1981 Academy graduate led the band members and cheerleaders through the halls of the hospital to lift the spirits of wounded American servicemembers.

General Johnson is the most decorated female athlete in U.S. Air Force Academy history. She was selected by the NCAA to speak to women athletes and participate at numerous NCAA events before the 2008 NCAA Women's Final Four basketball tournament.

The general visited many servicemembers at the hospital, which houses and treats hundreds of injured military members every day. General Johnson brought cheerleaders from the University of Tennessee, Stanford University, Louisiana State University and the University of Connecticut.

General Johnson said she felt the trip was very rewarding and enjoyed watching



Brig. Gen. Michelle Johnson talks with Ivoan Thompson, the wife of wounded Navy Corpsman Anthony Thompson April 5 at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Fla.

the college students interact with the patients.

"We got a chance to see how our wounded warriors are being cared for," she said. "It was fabulous to see these young people, who really haven't done this before, reach out to the patients and reinforce that America hasn't forgotten about you and we appreciate what you have given."

Patients were also treated to music performed by the Air Force Heartland Band's country/rock showcase group called Night Wing. The group played acoustically, which allowed them to roam

the halls of the hospital and entertain military members throughout the medical center.

Master Sgt. Douglas Montera, the Non Commissioned Officer in charge and drummer of the group, said he enjoyed seeing the effect the music had on the patients.

"The best thing is the immediate feedback, he said. "We have a job where we play live music for people and we don't have to wait a week to see how we did. We get to see the smiles on the faces and the tapping of feet."

Morale visits are the perfect medicine

for his patients, said Dr. John Merritt, chief of spinal cord injury at the hospital. He said one of the primary challenges of the hospital staff is to make sure patients don't feel isolated and lonely. He said he could see a positive change in his patients following a visit.

"It is a tremendous benefit to have visits like this," he said. "It helps patients identify with the community and gives an immediate lift. It gives them a break from all of the mundane exercise and therapy they have to do."

One of the patients who enjoyed the show was Army Sgt. Mark Lalli. The sergeant suffered a traumatic brain injury in a UH-60 Blackhawk crash during a training mission in Italy. After spending the first four weeks following the crash in a coma, the sergeant has worked hard to start walking again. He said it felt good to have visitors and seeing fresh faces helps fuel his recovery.

"Just having these guys here and listening to the music has been awesome," he said. "The support I have seen here has been great and undying. It feels good to know I haven't been forgotten."

Sergeant Montera said it is extremely important that heroes like Sergeant Lalli don't have to recover by themselves. He said it made him feel good to see how passionate the staff at the hospital is about taking care of their patients.



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Celebrating Arbor Day



Photos by Dennis Rogers

Academy forester Diane Strohm thanks Andy Schlosberg from the Department of National Resources for his support for Arbor Day activities at Pine Valley Elementary School.



Cainen Neri takes the first place prize in the Arbor Day poster contest. Smokey the Bear encouraged the youngsters to take care of his forests.



Ms. Strohm explains how to care for the infant trees that each student took home to plant.



With support for the Colorado Division of Fish and Wildlife, kindergartners at Pine Valley Elementary School learned why trees are important to the planet and received their own small tree to plant. Academy forester Diane Strohm explained how to care for them. Smokey the Bear, a popular visitor, awarded the top poster prize to Cainen Neri.

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Wishes come true for Cadet for a Day

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Perfect weather was the order of the day April 4—Colorado blue skies and cool, with wind speed on the runway a mere four knots, as the Air Force Academy's newest Cadet for a Day, in flight suit and bomber jacket, took to the skies for a bird's eye view of the area around Colorado Springs.

"I got to fly the plane," JaVaughn Nelson said excitedly. "It was awesome."

A sortie in the Cessna, compliments of the Academy's Aero Club, was just one stop among many last weekend for the 12-year-old who was sponsored by the Colorado Make-A-Wish Foundation.

JaVaughn, who has sickle cell anemia, is one of two sons of 1st Sgt. Albert and Geana Nelson with Fort Carson's 59th Military Police Company.

Good-natured rivalries between the Air Force and Army were put aside for the weekend.

"As the war has progressed, the military has come together as a team," said Sergeant Nelson, who was home on R & R from training Iraqis in Baghdad, Iraq.

"The Army, though, will always be there deep down in his heart," Sergeant Nelson said.

Cadet Nelson's schedule included a tour of the air traffic control tower,

getting acquainted with the controls of a sail plane at the 94th Flying Training Squadron, experiencing parachute training in a harness at the 98th FTS, hanging out with squad mates and test-piloting flight simulators in Fairchild Hall. He also enjoyed tours of the Cadet Chapel, the falcon mews and a canine demonstration by the 10th Security Forces Squadron.

During Friday's noon meal formation, he commanded Cadet Squadron 19 into action and led squad mates to lunch in Mitchell Hall.

Friday evening he was officially welcomed into the Cadet Wing, complete with all the fanfare of cadet Recognition, including sabers, salutes and pinning on of the prop and wings.

The squadron unveiled a wall mural in the newest cadet's honor, which he inaugurated with his handprints.

"The Academy is amazing for Make-A-Wish," said Peggy Nightengale, Make-A-Wish volunteer. "Cadets are very busy but still have time to plan these events, and without cost to Make-A-Wish."

Cadet 1st Class Erik Gonsalves, CS-37, will be headed to Shepherd Air Force Base, Texas, after graduation next month.



Photos by Dave Armer

It's all ten-hut as Cadet for a Day JaVaughn leads squad mates during noon meal formation.



JaVaughn (left) and brother Dimitri try on a glider for size.

He has helped host about 20 Cadets for a Day during his time at the Academy, an accomplishment he takes pride in.

"Of all the programs I've been involved with, this is the best," he said. "It gives us cadets an amazing perspective. Every kid is special."

JaVaughn's visit to the Academy was the second Cadet for a Day for Cadet 1st Class John Pavlus, CS-19, the Wolverines.

"All 120 of us were so excited he was coming to visit us," Cadet Pavlus said of his squad mates. "It makes us realize what opportunities we have."

The experience of Cadet for a Day doesn't end for youth when Cadets go back to class. Academy cadets write letters and follow up in various other ways with their Cadets for a Day.

"We like to keep in touch," said Cadet 1st Class Ryan Nissim with CS-19.

JaVaughn's mother, Geana Nelson, is grateful for her son's experience.

"They made everything happen,"

she said of JaVaughn's wishes. "I've never seen him happier. Everyone on the Academy has been great. We are blessed to be here."

Sergeant Nelson was also impressed by the cadets' hospitality.

"He's overjoyed. This is something he'll never forget."

Mrs. Nelson said JaVaughn has good days and bad days with his disease, but it rarely keeps him down. He loves sports, "is very competitive" and always enjoys new adventures.

Sergeant Nelson said JaVaughn and big brother Dimitri, who accompanied his family for the weekend, are close.

"They're like two peas in a pod. His brother is his 'right-hand man,'" he said. "I couldn't ask for two better sons."

Ms. Nightengale and Maggie Appenzeller have been accompanying Make-A-Wish children for nine years. Best friends for nine years, the two have lost track how many wishes they have helped come true.



It's a total thumbs-up for members of Cadet Squadron 19.

Relationship building between countries

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

A trip to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria by an Academy captain and four cadets combined military and cultural elements and may have set a precedent.

"The Academy hosted a group of four Algerian cadets last year and spring break was probably the first opportunity to send a U.S. delegation to their institution to develop this into a two-way exchange," said Academy French instructor Capt. Steven Bury.

Cadets had to have at least a 2.0 Grade Point Average with no probations.

They completed an application and an essay specifying why they wanted to represent the Academy in that area of the world. Arabic language ability was desired, but not required.

Each member required an entry visa from the Algerian consulate in Washington D.C. in order to enter Algeria.

The first portion of the trip involved a very formal meet and greet and dinner with the staff of L'École Supérieure de l'Air De Tefaraoui. This formal tea ceremony included the school commandant and his entire staff, as well as a visit by the inspector general equivalent, Gen. Ali Mirabet.

Tourism is still somewhat rare in Algeria, and it was the first known visit by Academy officials. After enduring centuries of conquerors, military rulers and controlling empires, including the Ottoman Empire, Turks and Napoléon III, Algeria finally broke free and gained its long-sought independence from France in 1962.

It is the second largest country in Africa, with its main population centers located along the Mediterranean Sea coastline. The huge landmass is dominated by the Atlas Mountains of the north and the vast barren reaches of the Sahara Desert, central and south. The country is more than 80 percent desert, including three gigantic sand seas.

The visit required extensive coordination with points of contact within the U.S. Embassy in Algiers.

The first few days featured extensive visits to the academic, technical, flight training areas and ES Air heritage museum.

March 26 through March 28 was spent experiencing the culture.

"We visited the fortress of Santa Cruz, went shopping in the city of Oran, visited the national Zabana museum, the Bey's Palace, the beach on the Mediterranean coast and the historic city of Tlemcen," said Captain Bury, a 10-year Air Force veteran from Plainwell, Mich.

"We learned a great deal about their culture, especially regarding Islam," said Cadet Squadron 1's Cadet 2nd Class Philip Veltre from Massapequa, N.Y. "Their pilot training system is very similar to ours. We really aren't that different from Algerians, especially on the military side of things."

It occurred to him that the best way to build relationships was by asking many questions and being open to learning and experiencing their culture.

"We showed respect for their way of life and doing thing," said Cadet Veltre. "One thing that helped us was that every night after dinner we would all sit down and 'hang out' and ask more questions and get to know each other even better."

Cadet 1st Class Keith Rizza said he learned a great deal about the Algerian Air Force and their Academy.

He quickly noticed that northern Algeria is green and not desert.

"Their academy is much more focused on graduating pilots than on the variety of career fields available after graduation from our Academy," said the CS-37 cadet. "It was interesting to see how similar their academy was to ours in some respects, such as academics, even though they had fewer resources to work with."

He found Algerian cadet escorts great and believes lasting friendships were built over the few short days despite language and cultural barriers.

"We look forward to hosting the four cadets coming to our Academy for international week from April 13 to 19," Cadet Rizza said. "Our trip accomplished a great deal in improving Algerian-

U.S. relations and specifically between our two academies. It would be great to visit Algeria again in the future as an air attaché or exchange pilot."

It seems that international Airmen have a lot in common.

"I was struck by the fact that their esprit de corps and way of conducting business was similar in many ways to how we do things in the U.S. Air Force," Captain Bury said. "This was particularly true of their pre-flight air operations briefings. The cadets mentioned to me how similar this was to pre-flights they had been to back in the United States."

The Algerian institution has a six-year program for cadets to become pilots and engineers.

Graduates normally serve a full career of 25 years in the Algerian Air Force once they are commissioned. They also have a reserve officer training program for men coming from the Algerian Universities who will normally serve their mandatory 18 months of military service required under Algerian law.

"Very few of the reserve officers will serve beyond their 18 month service obligation," Captain Bury said.

"Our food was taken care of by our hosts in a private dining room with the exception of one meal that we ate with the Algerian cadets," said Captain Bury. "They eat a lot of lamb, turkey, cous cous, soup, deserts such as flan, crème caramel and fruit. All meals were four or five courses, and it's extremely common to have mint tea four to six times a day and after meals."

Security played a large role in their trip.

"Although I did not get the sense that Algeria was unstable or dangerous, our hosts did not take any chances with our safety, and we were very well taken care of," the captain said. "We had an armed, personal security detachment with us at all times when not on their installation. Our off-base excursions consisted of a police motorcade."

He was struck by the remarkable textures of the country that defies how some may imagine Algeria to be.

"The first thing you think of is the Sahara when you think of Algeria," said Captain Bury. "In fact, it's very lush and green with date, olive and apple trees, and grapes for wine. It also has a beautiful Mediterranean coast that we were fortunate enough to see even though most beaches are not open to the public this time of year."

The escort officer was particularly struck by the bonds of friendship Academy cadets forged with their Algerian counterparts. Everyone became very close friends in a short time and were sharing their experiences openly. The cadets from both the Academy and ES Air were sad to see the visit end.

"I was overwhelmed by the openness and the hand of friendship that was extended to us by everyone we came in contact with," said the French instructor. "They treated us incredibly well and shared their experiences with us in a way that we left Algeria having become friends and hopefully having established a tradition of exchange that will continue."

"This trip gave the cadets the unique experience of seeing another culture and military force through the eyes of an extremely accommodating and friendly host," said Captain Bury. "Every day we learned something new about the Algerian military, people and culture. It reinforced how important relationship building between countries is for future leaders and the importance of understanding foreign culture and language."



Courtesy Photo

(L to R) Cadets 1st Class Noel Trew and Keith Rizza and Cadets 2nd Class Bradley Ward and Philip Veltre with Algerian Cadets Moumene Imad Eddine and Abdel Moumen Zabayou Abayou (rear) listen to a briefing in a technical training area at L'École Supérieure de l'Air De Tefaraoui, Algeria, before trying out the aircraft ejection trainer seat.

Air Force rallies to 10th inning win

By Nick Arseniak
Athletic Communications

Josh Meents doubled in Tytus Moss in the 10th inning as Air Force walked away with a 9-8 win over Colorado Christian Tuesday afternoon in non-conference baseball action at Falcon Field. The Falcons improve to 11-19 on the season while the Cougars fell to 10-28.

Matt Alexander led off the tenth with a double down the left field line. Moss then came in to replace Alexander as a pinch-runner. Two batters later, Meents slapped a shot down the left field line as the Falcons rallied to the win.

Falcon closer Michael Ruvolo (3-3) picked up the win, tossing a scoreless ninth and tenth inning. Cougar reliever Lawson Cook (0-4) took the loss, pitching the final 2.1 innings for CCU.

The Falcons rallied back after Chris Guyer of Colorado Christian hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning to tie the game up at 8-8. CCU pushed across four runs in the inning. Guyer led CCU's 16-hit attack by going 4-for-6 with three runs and three RBIs.

The Cougars put up three runs off five hits in the first inning to stake an early lead. The Falcons chipped away at the lead by scoring at least one run in each of the first four innings to take an 8-4 lead. The Falcons scored one run in the first, two in the second and third innings and three in the fourth.

The game settled into a pitchers duel as CCU went scoreless for five innings beginning with the third inning. Air Force also went scoreless for five



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Falcon sophomore K.J. Randhawa slides into third while the throw to Colorado Christian junior Matt Jones gets under his glove. Randhawa had two hits, a walk and scored three runs in the 9-8, 10th-inning victory over the Cougars.

innings, starting in the fifth.

Falcon starter Matt Barattino went four innings, allowing four runs. Gregg Laswell and Alex Truesdale also pitched in relief for AFA. Colorado Christian starter James Dinges went two innings, giving up three runs. Nicholas Leader, Brett Myatt and David Hendricks also pitched in relief for CCU.

Air Force had 12 hits and did not commit an error in the field on the day. Addison Gentry went 3-for-5 with a pair of doubles and three RBIs. K.J. Randhawa and Jason Griggs also had two hits for the Falcons. Randhawa also scored three runs. The Falcons also had another strong day on the basepaths, stealing four bags in four tries.

The 11 wins is the most in a season so far in the Head Coach Mike Hutcheon era and most since the 2003 team won 15 games.

Air Force returns to action with a three game set against New Mexico today, Saturday and Sunday. The series will be played in Farmington, N.M. at Ricketts Park.

Six falcons selected to NCAA Championships

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

Six members of the Air Force men's gymnastics team were invited to compete at the 2008 National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics Championships, the NCAA selection committee announced Tuesday. This group of Falcons will travel to Palo Alto, Calif., for the annual three-day competition Thursday to April 19 at Stanford's Maple Pavilion.

"The coaching staff is so proud of our guys qualifying to the NCAA meet," head coach Kip Simons said. "With a strong showing, I believe that we can bring home a couple of NCAA All-Americans."

Senior Greg Stine was chosen to compete in the all-around, as the top-ranked individual qualifier. His National Qualifying Score of 86.880 was nearly two points higher than the rest of the field. Junior Jacob Schonig is also the top-ranked individual specialist on the still rings. His NQS of 15.520 is currently ranked second in the nation.

Fellow junior Josiah Loeser and freshman Aaron Zaiser each qualified in a pair of events. Loeser will participate on the still rings (14.220 NQS) and parallel bars (13.500), while Zaiser will compete on the floor exercise (14.200) and parallel bars (13.520).

"To have two top-ranked qualifying individuals in Greg (all-around) and Jake (still rings) is a real testament to the direction that this program is heading," Simons continued. "Plus, having Aaron qualify on two events as a freshman is encouraging for the future



Photo by Dennis Rogers

Senior Greg Stine was chosen to compete in the all-around, as the top-ranked individual qualifier. His National Qualifying Score of 86.880 was nearly two points higher than the rest of the field. Also chosen for the team are junior Jacob Schonig, junior Josiah Loeser, freshman Aaron Zaiser, senior Brian Boardman and sophomore Brennan Wolford.

of Air Force men's gymnastics.

Senior Brian Boardman and sophomore Brennan Wolford were also invited to the national meet. Boardman will compete on the vault (14.990), while Wolford will take part in the floor exercise (13.940).

The championship weekend begins Thursday

with two sessions of the national qualifier. The top three teams, the top three all-arounders not on an advancing team and the top three individuals not on an advancing team or holding an all-around spot from each qualifying session will move on to the NCAA finals, which will be held April 18 and 19.

Winter sports clinic helps veterans

By Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo
Air Force News Agency

SNOWMASS, Colo. (AFPN) — The 22nd National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the largest disabled learn-to-ski clinic in the world, helped motivate and heal nearly 400 veterans this year at Snowmass Village, Colo.

The six-day winter sports clinic hosted 64 Airmen, 182 Soldiers, 66 Sailors, 60 Marines, and five Coast Guard veterans. The program instructs disabled veterans on adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, rock climbing, scuba diving, snowmobiling, curling and sled hockey. The recreational activities and sports give them the inspiration to help them reach higher levels in their rehabilitation.

"This clinic provides healing through physical challenge," said National Commander Disabled American Veteran Robert Reynolds.

In fact, most veterans say skiing down a mountain is a life changing experience.

"Racing down the mountain in a mono-ski and being in control is amazingly therapeutic," said disabled veteran and first time participant to the clinic, Senior Airman Shawn O'Neil.

Airman O'Neil, 26 years old, is a paraplegic injured in a dirt bike accident which severed his spinal cord and broke his jaw.

The true healing comes from disabled

veterans meeting other veterans who have encountered the same challenges of reintegrating back into society. The clinic shows that the lives of disabled veterans can be changed forever when they discover the challenges they can overcome.

"Not only does the clinic's motivational activities help the veterans reach their full potential and enjoy a higher quality of life, but it also gives them a strong sense of purpose and camaraderie with their fellow veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

Airman O'Neil is from the small town of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He says everyday life isn't easy because there aren't very many disabled folks there. That means people don't know how to react and sometimes over-react to him. That, coupled with the difficulty of doing routine events like showering and getting dressed, can become frustrating. But at the clinic he found hope. "To be with a ton of people in the same situation that I am in is just so helpful," he said.

"I can totally see the difference in him here at this event," said Ashley, Airman O'Neil's good friend.

Young and old veterans alike share that same sentiment of camaraderie. Vietnam veteran, Chris Melin said, "We work in the unity of each other. And it is the little things like this event that truly helps us cope."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

Disabled Marine Corp veteran, Gregory Rodriguez, stops a puck against the blue team at a sled hockey game during the 22nd National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic held at the Snowmass Village, Colo., April 2.

The winter sports clinic is open to all military veterans with disabilities ranging from spinal cord injuries, amputations, visual impairment and neurological conditions.

In addition to the recreational games, participants have the option to enjoy scheduled gondola rides, massage therapy sessions, dances, concerts, and a trip to the local hot springs.

To further enhance a disabled veteran's life, the clinic offers educational workshops, such as the Secret Life of Horticulture Therapy, How Arts Training can Benefit Persons with Disabilities, and photography. This year, U.S. Secret Service instructors taught self-defense to participants who are in wheel chairs or visually impaired.

The clinic also provides opportunities for disabled star athletes to shine. It is offering innovative race training and a developmental program for top-notch skiers. Potential athletes could be selected to train and compete in the paralympic games. Several participants who learned how to ski at the clinic are now members of the U.S. Disabled Ski Team.

According to Sandy Trombetta, VA's national director for the clinic, interested disabled veterans need to send applications with medical approval from their initial physician. Scholarships are available for first-time participants, but everyone else pays for airfare and their rooms. Everything else is taken care of, such as equipment, meals, lift tickets and all other activities.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Disabled American Veterans co-sponsors this event to ensure veterans receive world-class health care at VA medical facilities.

The origins of the clinic date back to the early 1980s when Sandy Trombetta began bringing VA patients to a nearby mountain resort to participate in disabled ski programs.

After 22 years of coordinating this event, Sandy Trombetta says he still loves to watch veterans overcome the struggle and he likes to see the battle of the human spirit and to see that people can overcome any obstacle if they want it.

"I'll definitely do this again next year," said Airman O'Neil. "When I went down that mountain everything bad went out the window and it really made me realize that I could do anything I want."

Senior Airman Shawn O'Neil skis down a mile high mountain on a mono-ski with the help of an instructor.



SCOREBOARD

INTERCOLLEGIATE

Baseball
April 1 at Pueblo, Colo.
Falcons 1 Doane 11

April 2 at Salt Lake City, Utah
Falcons 37 Doane 13

April 4-6 at Fort Worth, Texas
TCU 5 Falcons
TCU 6 Falcons 3
TCU 3 Falcons 2

April 8 at AFA

Falcons 9 Colorado Christian 8

Lacrosse
April 6 at Columbus, Ohio
(18) Ohio State 16 Falcons 5

Men's Tennis
April 4 at Albuquerque, N.M.
San Diego State 7 Falcons 0

April 5 at Albuquerque, N.M.
New Mexico 7 Falcons 0

April 6 at Albuquerque, N.M.
Utah 7 Falcons 0

Women's Tennis
April 3 at AFA
Falcons 0 **BYU 7**

April 4 at AFA
Falcons 1 **Utah 6**

Track and Field
April 4-5 at Palo Alto, Calif.
Stanford Invitational

Ian McFarland, 5000 meter, 14:10.16, 2nd
Joe Curran, 10,000 meter, 30:54.34, 9th
Brittany Morreale, 5,000 meter, 17:06.55, 11th
Parker Cowles, 10,000 meter, 31:17.51, 14th

Sean Houseworth, 5,000 meter, 14:14.34, 16th
Matt Williams, 5,000 meter, 14:31.35, 20th

April 5 at Greeley, Colo.
Tom Benich Classic

David Lissy, shot put, 52' 1/4, 1st
Terry Robinson, 110 meter hurdles, 15:19, 1st
Troy Jensen, 200 meter dash, 22:50, 2nd
Dan Paladino, hammer throw, 186'10", 3rd
Jon Santiago, javelin, 166'9", 4th
Brad Bernard, javelin, 166'4", 5th
Scott Balcao, 5,000 meter run, 15:58.11, 5th
Rachel Miller, pole vault, 11'1 3/4", 2nd

Jessica Mapes, 200 meter dash, 26.41, 3rd
Jessica Soto, javelin, 118'7", 2nd
Tiffany Moore, javelin, 117'4", 4th

Men's Gymnastics
April 5 at Lincoln, Neb.
MPFS Championships

Oklahoma 359.150
Stanford 357.200
California 356.050
Nebraska 337.750
Falcons 328.500

'Campus Dining' to transform AF food services

By Tech. Sgt. Russell Wicke
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — Air Combat Command is leading the Air Force in a study that will change the way food service is delivered at Air Force installations.

Services officials in ACC are traveling to various installations within the command to assess current food operations; the research may result in Air Force bases mirroring the way college campuses operate their food programs.

"We think that we can find ways to support the mission at our bases with a food service capability that does more at less cost," said Maj. Christopher Harris, an ACC Services force sustainment official. Options they are considering include better variety and healthier food.

Change is necessary because the military has evolved significantly over time, Services officials said. As the Air Force has changed the way it fights wars over the past 60 years, its messing needs have changed also.

"We have a lot more capacity than what we need," said Sharon Wood, an ACC Services community support official. "We have a lot of infrastructure, we have a reduced military, [and] our mission has changed from what it has been in the past."

The Air Force has been reduced by almost half since World War II, from approximately 600,000 Airmen to little more than 300,000. But infrastructure hasn't changed and Major Harris said the average ACC dining facility is only being used at about 40 percent capacity.

"It's very inefficient to maintain that kind of infrastructure," he said.

Contributing to the dwindling dining facility use is the military/civilian ratio on base. There are fewer in uniform and more civilian workers on contract. Solving this problem may include opening a major messing operation available to both civilians and military, Ms. Wood said.

"One of the things we've been looking at is the way college campuses do their food programs," said Major Harris.

That effort would offer more options for Airmen residing in dormitories. It also would allow the meal-card holder to use meal entitlements at various facilities on the installation.

"We envision a system where dorm residents could apply their meal entitlement at any outlet operated by Services," said the major. "(This includes) clubs, dining facilities, bowling centers, golf course snack bars, community centers, wherever we serve food."

Additionally, more paying customers — both military personnel with sustenance allowance and civilians — would be an advantage, Services officials said.

However, implementation is still far off. Major Harris said ACC is in the research phase and won't have the final reports in until fall. Action plans will begin to take shape at that time.

"At the end of this we'll probably have a feeding platform that's not called a dining facility and not called a club either," he said. "We use the term 'hybrid.' We want it to be open to everyone, like a student union on a college campus. That's the most efficient

way to feed the base."

Numerous dorm residents said they welcomed a change that would give them a better variety, and healthier options.

"If they added more healthy food, it would probably help me during my PT," said Airman 1st Class Michael Caijo, a Langley AFB dorm resident. But healthier options are only part of the positive changes. Dining hours also may be extended.

"Sometimes because of my work schedule, I can't make it into the chow hall," said Airman 1st Class Aaron Kymble, a Langley dorm resident.

Airman 1st Class Lance Lindsey, another dorm resident here, mentioned he would save more money under the campus dining idea because he often goes off base and pays for food.

The goal of the program, however, goes beyond meeting the needs of Airmen. Mitigating the expenses of operating food services is also a priority.

But Major Harris made it clear that Services operations should not be looked at as a business with a goal to make money. Dining facilities are training platforms used for readiness.

"Readiness is an inherently inefficient thing," he said. "We try to build a capability to go to war that we all cross our fingers and hope we never have to use. That costs money to do ... but there's room to become more efficient, and we're trying to find ways to do that."

Navy, Army and Marine officials also have been assisting in data collection because they are involved in similar initiatives.

Besides Langley, food operations at several Air Force bases, including Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and Nellis AFB, Nev., are part of the study.



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Athletic facility closures

The Hall of Excellence, located in the Falcon Athletic Complex, is closed for minor construction through May 17.

AFRF offers options

The Airman & Family Readiness Flight presents:

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

-United States Secret Service Employment Opportunity Information Session; Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Learn about employment opportunities in Washington, D.C., with the United States Secret Service, Uniformed Division.

-Air Force Civil Service Class; Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Offers information on how to prepare and

apply for a civil service career.

-Newcomer's Base Red Carpet Tour; April 18, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: An informative, fun-filled base tour that gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals all there is to see and do here.

-Sponsorship training; April 29, 8 to 9 a.m.: This is a mandatory class for those who have been assigned to sponsor a newcomer to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

-Smooth Move; April 30, 9 to 10 a.m.: Lessen the stress of an upcoming move by learning innovative ways to make it a smooth one. This is a mandatory class for all Academy people going through a permanent change of station.

-Mock Interviewing Session; April 30, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Participate in a mock interview with a real HR representative.

-Transition Assistance Program Seminar: People separating in a year or retiring in two years can call the Airman & Family Readiness Flight to reserve a spot in the next available TAP class. The class guides people through building a resume, interviewing skills, networking, dressing for success and more.

For more information or to register for a class, call 333-3444.

OSC function

The Academy Officers' Spouses' Club hosts a Kitchen Bingo Luncheon April 23 at 11 a.m. at the Falcon Club. For more information or to RSVP, contact Deb Coppock at 574-1485 or kedekeka@aol.com by 9 p.m. April 20.

Ceremony recognizes volunteers

Academy volunteers who share their time and talents to make a difference in our military and local communities will be honored with a special Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony at the Falcon Club April 25. Deli sandwiches and light hors d'oeuvres will be served from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and the official ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. The Academy community is invited to attend and support its outstanding volunteers.

Law Day golf

The Academy legal office will host their annual Academy Law Day Golf

Scramble May 2 at the Eisenhower Golf Course. The event will be a morning scramble with registration, breakfast and driving range use beginning at 6:30 a.m. Fees for the event, being held on the Silver Course, are \$52 for active duty and DoD civilian personnel and \$85 for non-affiliated guests. The fee includes greens and cart fee, driving range use, food and beverage and hole prizes. For more information or to register, call Capt. Aaron Haase at 333-0739. Deadline for entry is April 24.

Spouse appreciation

A Military Spouse Appreciation Day event will be held May 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Armed Services YMCA at 2190 Jet Wing Dr. in Colorado Springs. The free event will feature hair cuts, cooking on a budget demonstrations, massages, fashion shows, lunch, crafts and more. Limited childcare is available with prior reservations. For more information, call (719) 622-9622.

Toastmasters sought

The Academy is starting a Toastmaster International chapter and is seeking those interested in attending. Those interested must submit their names, and once all the names are collected, a demonstration meeting will be scheduled with the regional director. To submit your name or for more information, contact Master Sgt. Angela Evans at angela.evans@usafa.edu or Master Sgt. Donald Comp at donald.comp@usafa.edu.



Scholarships offered

As part of the Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade, Aleut Management Services, in coordination with the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Division, sponsors scholarships awarded to deserving family members of U.S. Military servicemembers killed or wounded in action while in a designated combat zone. The scholarships

are awarded to family members who have been accepted into an accredited college or university, or who are current college students seeking support for either a traditional degree-seeking program up to and including master's degrees, or for vocational /career and technical education. Applicants must be committed to attend during the 2007/2008 academic year.

For more information or for a scholarship application, contact Brian Binn at (719) 575-4325 or brian@csc.org, or Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade event manager, Brenda Carender at (719) 262-7160 or brenda.carender@aleutmgmt.com.

Earth Day opportunity

Volunteers are needed to support Earth Day activities April 19 at Garden of the Gods. A start time is to be determined. Activities include cleaning up the park, 30th Street (along the front of the park) and cleanup of the mesa overview. Lunch will be provided to volunteers, and events promoting Earth Day for children will be offered after the cleanup. Volunteers are encouraged to bring work gloves, drinking water and to dress for the weather. For more information or to volunteer, contact Senior Master Sgt. Keith Roche at 554-2506 or keith.roche@peterson.af.mil by April 11.

Chorale concert set

The Colorado Springs Chorale offers "Music's Fire," a classical concert, April 19 at 8 p.m. in the Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets range from \$16-\$48 and a \$2 military discount is offered. For tickets, call (719) 520-7469 or visit the Pikes Peak Center box office or any TicketsWest outlet.

Cadets present concert

The Academy Catholic Cadet Choir and Cadet Community Orchestra are scheduled to present a public concert at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Colorado Springs April 20 at 2:30 p.m. The concert will feature sacred choral and patriotic music as well as instrumental chamber music and will include works by Palestrina, Hassler, Faure', Mozart and Vivaldi Gloria. The concert is free and open to the public, and tickets are not required. For more information, call Gary De Kler at 333-7868.



CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Sunday
Reconciliation 9:15-9:45 a.m.
(or by appointment)
Mass - 10 a.m.

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

Wednesday
Catholic Adoration - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Mass - 6 p.m.

Protestant Services:

Sunday
Traditional - 9:00 a.m.
Hill Fellowship - 11:00 a.m.

Jewish Services

Fridays - 7 p.m.

Buddhist Worship

Wed. - 6:30 p.m. - All Faiths Room

Muslim Prayer

Fridays - Noon - Muslim Prayer Room, Chapel Basement

COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Saturday
Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.
Mass - 4 p.m.

Sunday
Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m.
(Sept. - May)

Tuesday-Friday
Mass - 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Services:

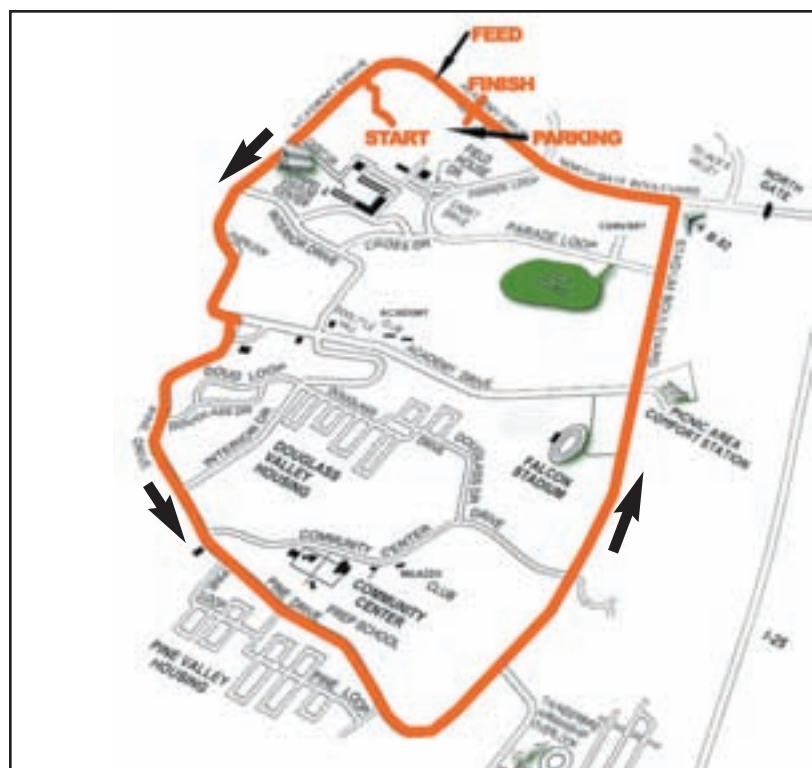
Saturday
Contemporary - 6 p.m.

Sunday
Traditional - 8 a.m.
Gospel - 11:15 a.m.
Religious formation - 9:30 a.m.
(Sept. - May)

Military Academy Pagan Society

Third Thursday - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
(For more info, call TSgt. Longcrier at 333-6187.)

For more information, call 333-3300.



Cycling Route

The Air Force Cadet Cycling Team hosts the Rocky Mountain West Cycling Conference Race at the Academy April 19 and 20. On these days, Academy drivers should be aware of cyclists on the roads and also be aware of the possibility of slight delays due to the race. Drivers are asked to be patient and not pass unsafely.

Races will begin April 19 from 7 to 10:30 a.m. and again April 20 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For spectators who would like to view the races, the best views available both days are on Pine Drive or by the cadet athletic fields on the uphill near the overlooks.

Anyone interested in participating, helping or getting more information should contact Maj. Jim Weinstein at 333-5305.

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