



Veterans Home Run
Worthy cause starts.

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USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO

ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 48 No. 26

July 3, 2008



Concrete floats?

Cadets travel to Canada for canoe competition.

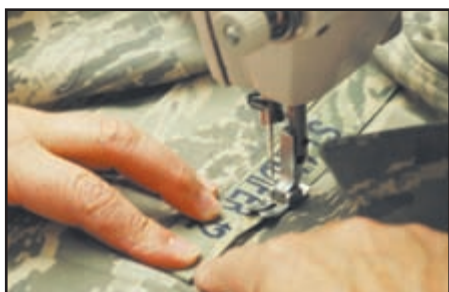
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Helping hand

Airmen help Iraqi air force become self sustaining.

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Seams perfect

Tailor shop prepares Basic Cadet uniforms during in-processing.

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Photo by Mike Kaplan

Get off the bus!

More than 1,300 members of the Class of 2012 caught bus rides from Doolittle Hall to the Cadet Area June 26. They came from all directions as individuals and were quickly introduced to heading one way as a team. The ride to the Cadet Area traditionally features cadet cadre members welcoming new arrivals. It's the first step each will take in joining the Long Blue Line. See Pages 14-15 for more.



Richter

Kenny Grosselin earns national attention.

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New leave liberty policies effective immediately

The following four new leave policies are effective immediately, retroactive to the date of National Defense Authorization Act enactment, Jan. 28, 2008:

1. Annual leave accrual is temporarily (until Dec. 31, 2010) increased from 60 to 75 days. Service members may now carryover up to 75 days of accrued leave, beginning with the fiscal year changeover from FY 08 to FY 09 (i.e. a service-member with 75 days of leave on Sept. 30, 2008 will not lose that leave on Oct. 1, 2008).

2. Special leave accrual retention limits are increased. Under the new limits, SLA earned in combat zones may now be kept for four fiscal years; SLA earned in support of operations may now be kept for two fiscal years. Absent further statutory revisions, the higher combat zone retention limit applies only to SLA accumulated during the period of Oct. 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2010.

3. An additional one-time SLA sell back is authorized for enlisted service-members. Under this provision, an enlisted service-member may sell back up to 30 days of SLA (this does not apply

to officers). Such a sell back counts towards the service-member's cap of 60 days over a career. This provision has no termination date.

4. Authorized special rest and recuperation absence with transportation benefit is increased from 15 to 20 days. This applies to personnel completing an overseas duty tour extension longer than 12 months. This SR&R authorization is distinct from and not to be confused with the rest and recuperation program in paragraph 6.15 of reference

(a). This provision has no termination date.

INSIDE

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Journey to American citizenship can be long, emotional

By Elisabeth Carter
Air Force Spouse

After living in the United States for more than 30 years I decided to take the leap toward becoming an American.

My husband and a co-worker prompted me to give it more thought. The uncertainty surrounding immigration issues was becoming more and more daunting and I wanted peace of mind.

Looking back on my experience in the United States I must say, it's been quite a journey.

I came to America from Germany as a young bride Aug. 22, 1973. My entry port was Miami and within six weeks I had my permanent alien registration card. While living in Florida, New York, Virginia and finally Colorado, I became "Americanized," learning to understand slang, paying taxes and was a "Lawful permanent resident for at least five years." (That's one of the check marks on the citizenship application).

Despite my sincere effort to speak "American" English well, I still speak "funny" not always putting verbs, nouns, participles and commas in the right places (in German they'd be in the right places). Oh, heck, "I'm a parrot," I tell those around me, deal with it. Some say that's what makes them love me.

After many years thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a U.S. citizen, I decided, it was time. The disadvantage is giving up my homeland – the advantage is I can now apply for government employment.

At first, I wasn't convinced becoming an American was what I really wanted. Giving up one's citizenship and giving up the land of your birth is not an easy thing to do. How would most Americans feel about giving up their citizenship? It made me think of my great-grandmother's family who immigrated to the United States in the summer of 1858. She stayed behind and was married – and here I am almost 150 years later and I was on the brink of becoming an American.

However, my family is here.

My son is proudly serving "his" country as a KC-135 crew chief in the U.S. Air Force in Wichita, KS. My

husband is retired U.S. Air Force and my daughter lives in Georgia.

This is clearly my home and I've known for many years I'd never return to Germany to live. So, why not become an American? Every time I hear "America the Beautiful," "God Bless the U.S.A.," or "God Bless America," I become teary-eyed. I've grown to love this country so much already.

My journey to become a naturalized citizen began Oct. 30, 2006. I printed form N-400 from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services web site. It is a 10-page document. My first step was to fill out this long application and send it into the regional office in Lincoln, NE. with a \$400 money order. They received my paperwork Nov. 6, and I was notified by mail that I "should expect to be notified within 450 days of this notice," to be invited for an interview. Wow – over a year wait to become a citizen.

What if I changed my mind?

Received "Fingerprint Notification" and had an appointment Dec. 12, 2006 in Denver.

This was a bit traumatic since the fingerprint machine seemed to have an issue with the ridges and valleys in my fingertips. It took the young man about half an hour before he had "acceptable" prints. Whatever happened to the "manual" finger printing? I was actually getting a bit concerned. What database could I have ended up in over all these years? Things that make you say "hmmmm." Figured since there was no notification about this process, all was well.

Next, the wait for an interview.

The fingerprint office provided study material with lots of questions about the U.S. Government, such as the branches, history questions about the original colonies, etc. When showing these to my co-workers I joked about reporting them to the Immigration Naturalization Service since most didn't know the answers. We're talking simple stuff every citizen should know! Had to answer 10 questions and get 60 percent correct to pass the future interview. My interview date was March 20, 2007. A young man in white shirt and tie was waiting for me. We had a short conversation and then he asked me six questions, which I aced. Requested the other

four since I had studied so hard. He obliged, and I didn't miss a single one!

Then several months to wait before the swearing in.

A bit nervous thinking I may have accidentally thrown away the letter from the mail, it finally came and the date was set for Sept. 20. Wow, this was it! I was about to become an American. My husband, my girlfriend and I drove to Denver early in the morning for an outdoor ceremony in the amphitheater near the capitol.

It was a beautiful day and thank God I chose a seat up front in the shade. Several guest speakers, including Denver's mayor, welcomed about 310 people from 130 nations as the newest U.S. Citizens. A gentleman from Australia was sitting next to me. We compared notes – why we wanted to become American citizens, etc. He lives in Trinidad with his American wife and their two beautiful children. He, too, thought it was time to become a citizen of this great land. We both became very emotional but made it through the oath and pledge of allegiance and became proud Americans.

The uncertainty of immigration laws no longer is an issue. For the first time in 35 years I have a voice concerning who our next president will be.

Do I feel different? I still love Germany and my relatives and friends who live there. I am also proud to be in America, the land of the free and the home of the brave. This Independence Day I truly have a lot to celebrate, as an American.

The U.S. Citizenship Oath

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;

That I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

And that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion;

So help me God.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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Will your next vehicle be a four, six, or eight cylinder and why?

"It will be a four cylinder because of the economy and fuel costs. I'm undecided whether it will be American or foreign-made."

Dan Carkner
Ret. Reserve
Component
Automation System
colonel



"Mine will be a six cylinder that gets decent gas mileage while still having some power. It will be American-made because of cheap replacement costs."

Cadet 2nd Class
Robert Rivera
Cadet Squadron 23



"It has to be an eightcylinder to tow our boats. It will be American-made; I never buy foreign."

Army Staff Sgt.
Robert Williams
Academy resident



"We do a lot of mountain driving so it has to be a foreign-made six cylinder. Have you ever tried to go up a mountain with a four cylinder?"

Susan Avila
Air Force spouse



Letter to Airmen

Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Recommitting to Our Own High Standards

I am honored to be back serving with you in the world's finest Air Force. You deliver Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power, defending and protecting the United States and its global interests. You excel in the domains of air and space, and you are growing a critical capability in cyberspace.

My immediate focus has been on gaining a clear sight picture on key Air Force issues and meeting with the Headquarters Air Force staff. I have also visited with our wounded comrades at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Their personal courage and determination to return to active duty is inspirational.

Right now, we need to direct much of our attention to the Air Force nuclear enterprise, which is facing cultural, systemic and institutional challenges. To begin restoring our inner confidence and credibility, I have directed the establishment of a Nuclear Task Force to examine the nuclear enterprise through the lens of Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel and Facilities. We will deliver a clear vision and strengthened performance - as an Air Force and as Airmen - to the President, Secretary of Defense, and the American people.

Recommitting to our own high standards is the foundation for our success in every mission area, not just our nuclear enterprise. To this end, I charge the Air Force to:

- Continue leaning forward in every respect in support of Joint operations.
- Ensure that our core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do underpin every action, by every Airman, at all times.
- Commit to individual and organizational

accountability.

■ Critically examine our internal processes, restore discipline, identify weaknesses, and aggressively solve problems.

■ Overcome any challenge that impinges on our credibility, readiness, or the trust placed in us by others.

■ Do our mission for the Nation, and do it well. America's Airmen are known the world over for

upholding high standards of excellence. From the Berlin Airlift to Operations *Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*, our Air Force has served with distinction and honor. I am absolutely confident in your ability to strengthen our performance, rebuild our nuclear enterprise, win today's fight, and prepare for tomorrow's challenges. Integrity, Service, and Excellence are our hallmarks - past, present, and always.



Photo by Brad Milliman

Paying tribute

Three names were added to the Graduate Memorial Wall on the Terrazzo June 24. The wall stands on the north end of the Air Gardens facing the American Flag and honors graduates who've died in combat. The wall was a gift to the Cadet Wing from the Association of Graduates. The names added include Col. Michael Wayne Butler, Class of 1976, killed June 12, 2007; Capt. Francis Louis Zavacki, Class of 1964, killed Nov. 15, 1969; and Mr. Wallace Blaine "Buzz" Sawyer, Class of 1968, killed Oct. 5, 1986.

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Air Force charts new course for 2009 force shaping

By Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials currently are deciding how to carry out force shaping plans in the coming year following a recent announcement by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to halt personnel cuts.

Active-duty end strength was projected to decrease from 328,600 to 316,600 by the end of fiscal 2009.

Stating his desire to ease the burden reduced staffing has created for some Airmen and their families, Secretary Gates told Airmen at Langley Air Force Base, Va., he intends “immediately to

stop further reductions in Air Force personnel.”

“This is good news for our Airmen,” said Col. Chuck Armentrout, chief of the military force policy division at the Pentagon. “We’ll have the resources we need to carry out the mission requirements of the required force.”

The halting of force reductions does not mean those officers and enlisted members already in the pipeline to separate will be required to stay, Colonel Armentrout said.

“We’re not talking large numbers here,” he said. “We’re talking about staying where we are [in terms of personnel numbers] for 2009, and then

increasing slightly to 330,000 in 2010.”

While force reductions will be halted, other force shaping measures are still necessary to balance the force, Colonel Armentrout said.

The first step for Air Force manpower and personnel is to identify the skills needed in the increase to 330,000. Simultaneously, the Air Force will be focusing on ensuring Airmen who are in overage specialties are retrained into shortage career fields.

Officials are also looking at the possibility of initiating a cross-flow program for junior officers — beginning with a small test group — to explore the possibility of retraining officers currently in

overage career fields.

“The personnel increases that do take place will be targeted toward new and emerging missions, and high-demand areas,” said Colonel Armentrout.

“Obviously, there will be no reduction in force, voluntary separation pay or selective early retirement boards for 2009, but we will continue to shape the force using other force shaping tools already in place,” he said. “We’ll continue programs to retain people in the ‘in-demand’ skills, retrain when possible and target accessions toward those skills.”

“As specifics become clearer, we’ll have a better site picture [of how we’ll proceed],” Colonel Armentrout said.

Troops beat the heat downrange with liquid refreshment

By Chris Ward
AAFES Media

DALLAS — With the dog days of summer upon them, troops downrange are beating the heat by purchasing a wide variety of cold drinks. In fact, of the top 20 items purchased in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom last month, 15 were in the form of liquid refreshment.

“It’s certainly no coincidence that with the temperatures ramping up there has been a significant increase in the number of cold drinks being sold at BXs and PXs downrange,” said AAFES Contingency Planning Chief Lt. Col. Peter Butts. “With an average temperature of 112 degrees this time of year, keeping cool definitely becomes a priority.”

Deployed troops seeking relief from the heat made Monster and Red Bull the top selling items at 85 BX/PXs scattered throughout OEF/OIF in June. Monster

was the biggest seller with troops knocking back 284,482 cans followed by 78,753 cans of Red Bull.

“As the heat builds through July and August, the public can help keep troops cool and refreshed while they carry out their daily missions through the ‘Gifts from the Homefront’ program,” said Butts. “Any American can keep deployed troops stocked with all of the necessities, without the hassle and cost of a traditional care package, with a BX/PX gift certificate that can be redeemed at any AAFES exchange, including 56 facilities in Iraq alone.”

Started soon after programs that allowed the general public to send mail addressed to “Any Service Member” were cancelled due to security concerns and transportation constraints, AAFES’ military gift certificate campaign allows anyone to make a direct and tangible contribution to military morale with a gift certificate that can be redeemed for nearly anything that

a specific service member wants.

“Gifts from the Homefront” can be sent to deployed troops by logging on to www.aafes.org <<http://www.aafes.org>> or calling 877-770-4438. From there, BX/PX gift certificates are sent to individual service members (designated by

the purchaser) or distributed to “any service member” through the Air Force Aid Society, American Red Cross, Fisher House, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society or USO. These charitable partners have distributed 24,815 certificates, totaling more than \$480,000, earmarked for “any service

Top Ten Sellers at BX/PXs Downrange in June 2008

Item	Quantity
Monster Energy Drink	284,482
Red Bull	78,753
San Benedetto Green Tea	75,316
Monster Low Carb	71,987
San Benedetto Peach Tea	59,139
Newport Kings	56,466
San Benedetto Lemon Tea	56,434
Marlboro Lights	47,114
Arizona Sweet Tea	37,700
Starbucks Frappuccino Mocha	31,937

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Cadet earns prestigious Spaatz award

By Academy Spirit staff

Cadet 3rd Class Erinn Scott earned the prestigious Civil Air Patrol Spaatz Award, the CAP Cadet Program's highest honor.

The General Carl A. Spaatz Award honors the first chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, and first chairman of the CAP National Board. According to the CAP web site, approximately 16 percent of CAP cadets earn the Spaatz Award

each year. Approximately five out of 1,000 cadets who join CAP will achieve the Spaatz Award during their service as cadets.

"Cadet Scott is unique in that she completed the Spaatz Award requirements while simultaneously excelling as an Academy cadet," said the Dean of Faculty's Maj. Gregory Christiansen Cadet Squadron 18's air officer commanding.

The first "atta-girl" announcing

Cadet Scott as the CAP's highest award winner came from Col. Russel Hopkins, Air Force CAP commander who referred to the cadet as a "rising second classmen."

"I had the opportunity to attend a recent ceremony in Hoover, Ala., where she was awarded the Civil Air Patrol's Spaatz Award," Colonel Hopkins said. "The Spaatz Award is the highest cadet award in CAP, and only a tiny fraction of CAP cadets ever reach this level.

Erinn is unique in that she finished the award requirements while a cadet at the Academy and as far as I know, she is the only cadet in recent memory to do so."

Cadet Scott maintained an excellent GPA and class ranking while earning the award.

"I don't think she can be accused of skating through the program there," Colonel Hopkins said. "She is certainly a great cadet and has the making of an outstanding officer."

Safety mindset key to enjoyable weekend

By Phillip DeRemer
Deputy Director of Safety

The Fourth of July can be a fun and exciting time for everyone if the proper safety is used when handling fireworks, barbecuing, dealing with watercraft and driving.

If you consume alcohol, make sure to give up the keys and designate a sober driver beforehand. Here are a few tips to consider when doing any of these activities over the weekend. Across the United States each year, millions of dollars in property burn, and thousands of lives are negatively affected by fireworks related accidents. It's extremely important to know the difference between legal consumer fireworks and dangerous explosive devices.

Items such as M-80's, M-100's and blockbusters are not fireworks! They are federally banned explosives that can cause serious injury or death.

Celebrate safely

To celebrate safely this Independence Day:

- Check for fireworks restrictions in your area.
- Always read and follow label directions.
- Have an adult present.
- Buy from reliable sellers.
- Use outdoors only.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing them.
- Never throw or point fireworks toward others.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Stay away from illegal explosives.

You drink, you drive, you pay!

About half of all fatal motor vehicle accidents involve the use of alcohol. Alcohol slows reaction time, blurs and distorts vision, impairs ability to judge distance and makes drivers think they are maneuvering their vehicle much better than they actually are.

Some common myths concerning alcohol are:

MYTH: Beer is less intoxicating than other types of alcoholic beverage.

FACT: One 12-ounce can of beer, one 4-ounce glass of wine or one mixed drink with 1 1/4 ounces of 80-proof liquor are equally intoxicating.

MYTH: Switching between beer, wine, and liquor will make you drunker than sticking to one type of alcohol.

FACT: Alcohol is alcohol.

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Cadet Rettler returns!

Faith to spare with cadet's biggest challenge

Story and photos by Ken Wright
Association of Graduates

The humble and quick-to-smile 20-year-old Cadet 2nd Class Greg Rettler is entering another year at the Academy as a cancer survivor.

When the Green Bay, Wisc., native arrived at the Academy in summer of 2005, he was certain the next four years would be some of the toughest and most rewarding of his life. That prediction could not have been more true.

One of the things that helped him handle the stress all doolies feel the first year was finding a niche on the Academy's Marathon Club.

"I loved running since middle school because it took lots of hard work and didn't take as much talent as some other sports," Cadet Rettler recalled. "So I was a little bit

better at it. I got more pay-off for the work I did. Running is a bit more about pain than some other sports like golf."

Though he tried out for the track team his first year, Cadet Rettler's initial trial was a bit of a false start.

"I tried out for track as a decathlete because I wasn't really talented enough in any of my high school events to get on a collegiate Division 1 team," he said. "I did the 800 and 400[meter] in high school, but couldn't post good enough times to be competitive," he recalled.

The team accepted one cadet that day, but it wasn't Rettler.

Fortunately, he soon received a serendipitous E-mail saying the Marathon Club was looking for new members. Though he hadn't pursued marathon running in the past, Rettler thought the long-distance races might be a

good fit. Training for the endurance sport was a tough adjustment, but the biggest hurdle was learning good time management.

"Pretty much all your time is taken up your first year here. For my first marathon I ran only two or three times per week. My biggest run was on Saturdays. I ran as long as fast as I could, and then spent the rest of the week recovering," he recalled.

He worked up to running 20 miles on those Saturdays. Recovery days included one or two runs for as long as time would allow, but he knew he had found his sport when he finished his first race with a respectable time of 3:07 in Ft. Collins, Colo., in the spring of 2006.

A few months later he felt even prouder when he and his classmates completed their doolie year; a feat all cadets relish. For the next year-and-a-half, Rettler solidified his position in the club by working as hard and long as he could to improve his speed. By the start of his junior year, he was in the best shape of his life and looking forward to another year of chasing the finish line.

But everything dramatically changed one weekend in October 2007.

During a morning shower, he noticed soreness in his groin. When the pain persisted through the weekend, Rettler decided to not take any chances and went to the Cadet Clinic to get a doctor's opinion.

"The doctor said I couldn't rule out something serious, so I had an ultrasound the next day," he said before graduation in May.

A few hours after the procedure he received an ominous call from a urologist from Ft. Carson Army Hospital. The specialist told him to come in the next day and to not eat anything after midnight in preparation for possible surgery.

"I kind of knew then that it was cancer, but he didn't tell me until we were in person. He said he wanted me on the operating table by 9 a.m.," Cadet Rettler recalled in a matter-of-fact manner.

Continued on next page

"I just PCS'd here... Now What?"

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Rettler

Continued from previous page

The cadet's parents were notified immediately of their son's condition.

"My mother was more distraught than I was. My family and friends were all worried about me."

Though he knew his life was threatened, Cadet Rettler focused on recovering and comforting his mother and girlfriend, who were understandably shaken.

"It's scary to know you have no control over your life, but the peace I had from trusting that Christ had control of my life made me less afraid of dying," he said.

The timing of the ordeal also made him more confident that everything was going to be alright. About a week before he found out he had cancer, the cadet prayed for great things in his life, no matter the cost. "And then this happened," he recalled. "So I thought it was related. And I knew He was going to do some amazing things with it. And I think He is."

With his mother by his side as he recovered at the home of a friend in Colorado Springs, the aspiring fighter pilot was faced with a tough decision.

"The way cancer works is that they use a CAT scan to look at your lymph nodes and can tell if there is lots of cancer there, but not if there are only one or two cells; and that's all you need for it to spread," he said. "The test and blood work showed no sign of cancer, but statistically there was still about a 30 percent chance of cancer being there."

The only way to be certain he was clear of the deadly disease was to have an invasive surgery that includes a painful recovery period. The procedure is called Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Dissection, commonly referred to as RPLND, which helps determine the stage and type of cancer. Because the lymph nodes behind the abdominal cavity are the most common place for the cancer to spread, examining them is highly encouraged.

"The cancer can go from your lymph nodes to your



Courtesy Photos

Cadet 2nd Class Greg Rettler, center, maintains fitness with peers.

lungs and brain and all over the place. So if they found nothing in your lymph nodes, then you are usually good," he said.

The idea of another surgery was anything but attractive, but Cadet Rettler knew he was not alone.

"Thousands of people from all over the world were praying for me. It was an amazing experience," he said gratefully.

The Academy excused him from all his classes while he and his family flew to the University of Indiana where 20 lymph nodes were removed. The results confirmed that he was again healthy.

Remarkably, the young racer was again testing his endurance by running up Academy mountainsides a month later, but that first jaunt was a little premature.

"They told me I could resume full physical activity in four weeks, but I don't think they understood what full

physical activity for me was. Going up the mountain was fine, but coming down was kind of painful," said the cancer survivor.

Cadet Rettler said getting through the entire experience was understandably tough, but one thing in particular helped him sleep at night when his future was in question.

"My faith in God was definitely crucial to getting me through the ordeal," he said. "It helped me be stronger for my family and friends who were afraid I could die. I was able to accept that things were out of my control and I had to learn to trust God and doctors more than I had before."

Cadet Rettler is working hard to return to his former fitness level, but his outlook has shifted a little. Instead of focusing as much on grades and race times, he wants to invest more in people; and eventually a family.



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Bomber, tow pilot remembered by family, friends

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Lt. Col. (ret.) Bill McCarthy has left behind a rich legacy for aviation, his family and the Academy.

He flew "Diamond Lil," the B-52 now on display at the intersection of Academy Drive and Stadium Blvd. near the North Gate, and he served as a tow plane pilot for the 94th Flying Training Squadron.

Colonel McCarthy, 78, passed away June 9 at his Colorado Springs home.

Peggy, his wife of 53 years, died last October. He is survived by a brother, three daughters and two sons.

The grandfather of seven entered the Air Force in 1949, and his career spanned 26 years as a bomber pilot. In addition to the B-52, he flew the B-45, B-66 and B-47 and piloted 200 combat missions over Korea and Vietnam. Colonel McCarthy spent 22 years as a tow pilot and became chief tow pilot for Fischer Aviation.

He accumulated more than 11,000 hours in Air Force aircraft and 60,000 glider tows for a lifetime total 26,400 flying hours.

"He loved the Academy," said his son Mike. "More than that, he loved flying."

Mike added he liked people as well and was good friends with other Academy tow pilots.

"He was very much the military man," said son Bill Jr. "But when he was home out of uniform, he was just Dad, a great guy."

Mike said, until recently, the family knew little of the challenges and dangers Colonel McCarthy had endured.

One story, told by others, involved a mission to test a new aircraft over England. The plane malfunctioned during a practice refueling. Colonel McCarthy turned off the auto pilot and sent the plane into a steep climb. He



Lt. Col. (ret.) Bill McCarthy

rolled out just in time and missed the refueling tanker by only feet. His quick thinking and actions saved the lives of the entire crew.

"That took a huge amount of strength," Bill said of his father's heroism. "In any situation or major emergency, he was cool, calm and collected."

Mike said he was a great father. "He took care of his kids. We were always first. He was always there to help."

Mike recalled the family moved many times, making it hard for the McCarthy children to make new friends. Outgoing, Colonel McCarthy taught them how.

"He had a definite sense of humor," said Bill.

The avid bird hunter and dog lover, loved to tell funny stories about himself and his family. One story involved visiting an Air Force museum in Phoenix. While sitting in the back of the bus, he supplemented the script the tour guide was repeating, to the point he took over the narrative.

"It was hysterical," Mike said.

In another story, while stationed in England, he and Peggy found themselves floating on top of flood waters in a Volkswagen beetle. When the car reached shallow water, the two waded to shore and were assisted by an

Englishman, who became a long-time friend.

Colonel McCarthy was somewhat of a mechanical wizard. Mike said many of his repairs appeared as though they resembled work done by Jed Clampett of *The Beverly Hillbillies*.

"But they always seemed to work," Mike said. "Only my dad could figure that out."

Colonel McCarthy was famous for his loud laughter. "We always knew when something was funny to him," Mike said. "You could hear him laugh for blocks around."

Jerry Doebele, a Colorado Springs friend of more than 20 years, recalls the colonel's sunny disposition.

"He was always easy-going and always had a smile on his face," said Mr. Doebele, a fellow parishioner at Holy Apostles Catholic Church. "He never let things get him down."

Over past years the two volunteered at the church and for various charities. Among other contributions, they mowed grass, picked up and delivered groceries for the Marian House and picked up donations of furniture and other household goods for U.S. State Department refugees.

"He was a man who really loved God, his family and country," Mr. Doebele said and added, "He was also the kind of person you could have fun with."

Colonel McCarthy's family also appreciates his contributions to his church and community.

"We're amazed at what he's done, what he's done for the family and other people," Bill said.

Mr. Doebele finds it hard to do the volunteer work now without Colonel McCarthy.

"He was my best friend, and I miss him a lot. It's not the fun it once was."

One Academy glider still bears the inscription "Lt. Col. William McCarthy, Mac."

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Taking flight



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins

Above: Ethan and Riley Slongwhite and Megan and Samantha Grant meet Oblio, one of the Academy's mascots, at the 2008 "Soaring Into Solstice" Thunderbird Show at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska June 24. Oblio and Cadet 2nd Class Ryan Kerns, a member of the Academy Falconry Team, were in Alaska to attend the Eielson and Elmendorf AFB airshows. The airshow attracted more than 175,000 guests.



Left: Cadet 2nd Class Ryan Kerns, a member of the Academy Falconry Team, talks to visitors about Oblio, a peregrine falcon at Arctic Thunder 2008 at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.



Right: Oblio, one of the Academy's 12 mascots, stands tall.



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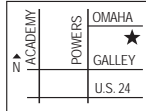
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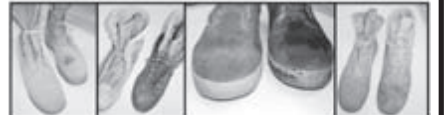
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Peterson Airmen support California fire fighting

By Senior Airman Stephen Collier
302nd Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AFP) — Airmen and aircraft of the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group here launched their fifth day of California wildfire support June 30 in an effort to control fires engulfing areas of the Tahoe and Los Padres National Forests.

The 302nd AEG C-130 Hercules aircraft carry the Modular Airborne Firefighting System, known as MAFFS, capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant per mission in support of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection missions.

With eight MAFFS-capable C-130s in the 302nd AEG, Airmen will launch as many missions as California officials require to contain the wildfires.

Aircrews have dropped approximately 117,000 gallons of fire retardant since airborne missions began June 26. The C-130s are based in Sacramento and allows the aircraft to fly with maximum fuel loads and operate MAFFS with full fire retardant capability.

The 302nd AEG is made up of two Air National Guard units — the 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyo., and the 145th Airlift Wing from, Charlotte, N.C. — and one Air Force Reserve unit, the 302nd Airlift Wing from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Airmen flying C-130s are fighting fires in the American River Complex, the location of the Tahoe forest that are 10 percent contained, while fires throughout the Basin Complex and Los Padres National Forest are 3 percent contained and have scorched more than 35,000 acres.

Airmen of the 302nd AEG, based out of McClellan Airfield in Sacramento, are now joined by Marines from the 3rd



An Air Force Reserve Command C-130H deployed from the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo., taxis toward the runway as another C-130 launches for a firefighting mission June 29 at McClellan Airfield in Sacramento, Calif. The aircraft are assigned to the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group that is fighting the Corral and Piute fires, each about 200 miles north and south of the California capital.

Marine Aircraft Wing of San Diego. Using the CH-46 Sea Knight and CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters, the Marines are battling fires in the Mariposa area of the Oliver fire complex. The helicopters and aircrews are currently based out of Naval Air Station Lemoore and fly more than 100 miles to reach fires. Fires being fought here by firefighters from 41 states and Marines from the 3rd MAW are 55 percent contained.

The American River Complex fires are located about 50 miles north of Sacramento and are threatening residential areas there. Fires raging in the Basin Complex include the Piute fire, which started June 28, is more than 260 miles south of Sacramento. That fire is uncontrolled, raging throughout the Sequoia National Forest near Lake Isabella. Fire officials are reporting that structures are being threatened by this fire.

More than 6,400 lives are being threatened by each fire. Fire information is current as of 2 p.m. June 30.



Michael Docklam, an aircraft structural repair specialist, watches as ground crews refill a C-130H Hercules with fire retardant slurry prior to a firefighting mission June 29 at McClellan Airfield, Sacramento, Calif. The 302nd AEG is made up of the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and two Air National Guard units from the 153rd AW, Cheyenne, Wyo., and the 145th AW, Charlotte, N.C.

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Ahoy, Airmen paddle aboard a concrete canoe

Courtesy Photos

Making their way in a concrete canoe are Cadets 1st Class Cameron Koehler, Phil Compton and Mark Bishop.

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

A cadet team at the Canadian National Concrete Boat Competition in Montreal, Canada June 18 to June 21 placed 18 out of 22 teams.

From a distance, the event being held in Canada's Olympic Basin may have looked like an ordinary canoe race. But the canoes these competitors were using were far from ordinary. In fact, the competitors themselves were not typical paddlers. They were civil engineering students from across the U.S. and Canada, and the canoes they were racing were made of concrete.

It might seem a bit incredible that a cadet-built 319 pound canoe floats, let alone carries a human cargo of three cadets.

"The principle of buoyancy is the reason why the canoe can float – buoyancy force of water is equal to the weight of water displaced," said Capt. Matthew Caudell, from the Academy civil engineer department. "In this case the weight of water displaced by the canoe (buoyant force pushing up on the canoe) is greater than the weight of the canoe itself."

The competition is by invitation only – a school had to win their Regional Competition and in the Academy's case winning the Rocky Mountain Regional

Competition against 15 other schools just to attend nationals.

With the captain were Cadet 4th Class Cameron Koehler, Cadets 2nd Class Mark Bishop, Phil Compton, Brandon Biba, Daniel Romero, Kathleen Grieshop, Cadets 3rd Class Catherine Robertson, Rachel Crawford and Lauren Franks.

They placed 18th place overall; 11th in paper; 14th in presentation; 16th in product.

"Students and faculty from other schools could see our cadets in action and gain a better understanding of our program and curriculum," the captain said. "Our cadets were able to see what other schools can do and how they use engineering to solve problems."

The races, both endurance and sprint combined, account for only 25 percent of the teams' overall score. The remaining 75 percent was based equally on a technical design paper that highlights the planning, development, testing and construction of the team's canoe; a formal oral presentation, in which the team details its canoe's design, construction, racing ability and other innovative features, as well as defend their choices to the judges during a question and answer session; and the end product—the final racing canoe and project display, which are scored on aesthetics and visual presentation.

After the competition, the cement

watercraft was transported a total of 4,212 miles by truck and trailer, driven by cadets, faculty and staff.


The canoe is kept as an educational aid for CE-352, and is used in future paddling practices for the competitions. It will also be on display at appropriate DFCE events.

The 2008 Concrete Canoe Competition teams in order of final rank were:

- 1) University of Nevada, Reno
- 2) University of California, Berkeley
- 3) École de technologie supérieure
- 4) California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- 5) University of Florida
- 6) University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 7) Clemson University
- 8) Michigan Technological University
- 9) University of California, Los Angeles
- 10) University of Wisconsin - Platteville
- 11) Polytechnic University
- 12) Drexel University
- 13) Florida Institute of Technology
- 14) University of Houston
- 15) Youngstown State University
- 16) The University of Maine
- 17) University of Washington
- 18) **U. S. Air Force Academy**
- 19) Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- 20) Fairmont State University
- 21) Louisiana Tech University
- 22) Milwaukee School of Engineering



Cadets remove the canoe from the transport trailer.




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Airmen help Iraqi air force become self-sustaining service

By Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq (AFPN) — High above the desert terrain, they fly in providing security to the people of Iraq. The airmen are vigilant, alert and ready to engage the enemy while patrolling the sky over Iraq. They are the new breed of Iraqi airmen.

The Iraqi air force has evolved by leaps and bounds in recent years, and guiding these airmen on their journey to rebuilding their service are American Airmen assigned to the 770th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron at Camp Taji.

The 770th AEAS Airmen train the Iraqi Airmen daily on all things helicopter-related. Their goals are already coming to fruition.

"When we got here about a year ago, there were maybe three helicopters that were capable of being able to fly outside the wire," said Master Sgt. Bradley Martens, the 770th AEAS operations superintendent and head instructor for the Iraqi air force aerial gunner program deployed from Hurlburt Field, Fla. "Today, we have 35 qualified gunners, a number of qualified pilots and we have operations going on in Basra and Mosul that are Iraqi only due to the training we have provided here."

"Rotary wing capability is critical to transporting people and supplies quickly and safely throughout the country and enabling security personnel to move more rapidly around the country to preempt or respond to security problems," said Lt. Col. Mark Daley, the 770th AEAS commander deployed from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. "Once this wing is fully operational, the Iraqi air force squadrons will be able to provide the government of Iraq the flexibility and functionality it needs to maintain its own internal security."

The current Iraqi air force setup at Taji consists of four helicopter squadrons, a developing maintenance group and the beginning stages of a mission support group.



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

Master Sgt. Bradley Martens explains the proper clearing procedures for landing around obstacles to an Iraqi air force aerial gunner trainee during a training mission May 29 over Camp Taji, Iraq.

"We have been tasked by the 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, which is overseen by the Coalition Air Force Training Team in Iraq, to assess, advise, educate, train and assist the Iraqi air force helicopter wing personnel on providing counter-insurgency operations via air support," said Maj. Jiro McCoy, the recent 770th AEAS Mi-17 (multirole helicopter) commander of advisers. "This process will help us to transition the security of this country back to the Iraqis by providing them the tools to develop operations, maintenance and support capabilities through the establishment of self-sustaining training programs."

The 770th AEAS Airmen are advising the Iraqi air force about aircrew, maintenance, logistics and support personnel, which sets a strong foundation for the rebuilding of the force.

The training the coalition forces provide to the Iraqi air force differs from training provided in the United States, and the Airmen must come up with creative ways to multitask.

"In the U.S. you don't see an operational unit conducting aircrew training and maintenance training at the same time," Sergeant Martens said. "Here we have to come up with alternate ways of communicating. A lot of times we will use hand signals, interpreters or demon-

strations to explain what we are doing, but they (Iraqi students) are eager to learn and we have guys who are eager to train so that his been beneficial in this environment."

Even though this training is accompanied by various challenges, all of the participants involved in this mission recognize the impact of the work being done.

"The training we receive from the 770th AEAS personnel is very important," said Iraqi air force Col. Shamkky Abbas, Iraqi air force wing chief of operations. "Not only does it allow us, as an air force, to get more experience from the coalition forces, we also cooperate together for logistics assistance and to be able to strike the terrorists and critical militias."

Many of the Iraqi pilots came to the squadron with years of experience as Mi-17 multi-role helicopter pilots from Saddam's military. Still, quite a bit of training had to take place for them to fly in Iraq's current complex airspace filled with numerous coalition assets. The continued training is a two-way exchange of knowledge that makes this partnership work.

"They definitely have the flying expertise in the Mi-17s and they end up teaching us a lot about that particular aircraft," Major McCoy said. "However,

we are training them to operate in an environment that is English-language centric and much more complex than anything they've flown in the past. We are also teaching them tactics for employing helicopters in a counter-insurgency role."

"Training is a very important factor for building self-reliance," said an Iraqi aerial gunner. "Iraqi air force officers need to have the ability to eradicate terrorism and the conflict with the law. Being prepared and ready to train new aircrew members helps us to attain that goal."

In addition to operations training, the Iraqi air force is learning how to set up its own wing structure that will mimic that of the U.S. Air Force and have similar command and control elements.

"Our job here is to take the Iraqi air force and help them to expand their capabilities and to function as an equivalent to an Air Force wing," Colonel Daley said. "We are helping the Iraqis shape the development of Taji Base by combining their processes with our processes and coming up with new ways of making it work for both sides."

"The coalition forces try their best to help us by providing training and logistic assistance in the areas of advanced methods of training, to pilots, technicians, engineers and the Aero Ground Equipment personnel," Colonel Abbas said. "We are even able to send Iraqi technicians to the U.S. to get advanced training in their respective career fields which is a great way for us to develop (and maintain) our professional skills."

This education and guidance not only entails the air crew, but the maintenance of the helicopters as well.

"The people from the previous rotation were able to give these guys the basic knowledge regarding the ability to maintain the helicopters," said Master Sgt. Jerry Lindsey, a 770th AEAS combat airpower adviser of munitions and armament deployed from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. "Like the U.S. Air Force training system, once you get the basics down, you can move onto more

See IRAQI, Page 16

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Tailor shop keeps cadets looking sharp

Story and photos by Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Many hands make light work.

That is especially true for the cadet tailor shop in Sijan Hall where 13 seamstresses, tackling mountains of Airman Battle Uniforms, sewed on more than 1,300 nametags June 26 during in-processing for new basic cadets.

Over the next day and a half, they stitched on another three nametags per new basic cadet.

"They need uniforms fast," said Ken Rivera, Academy quality assurance manager for the shop, operated by contractor Front Line Apparel Group.

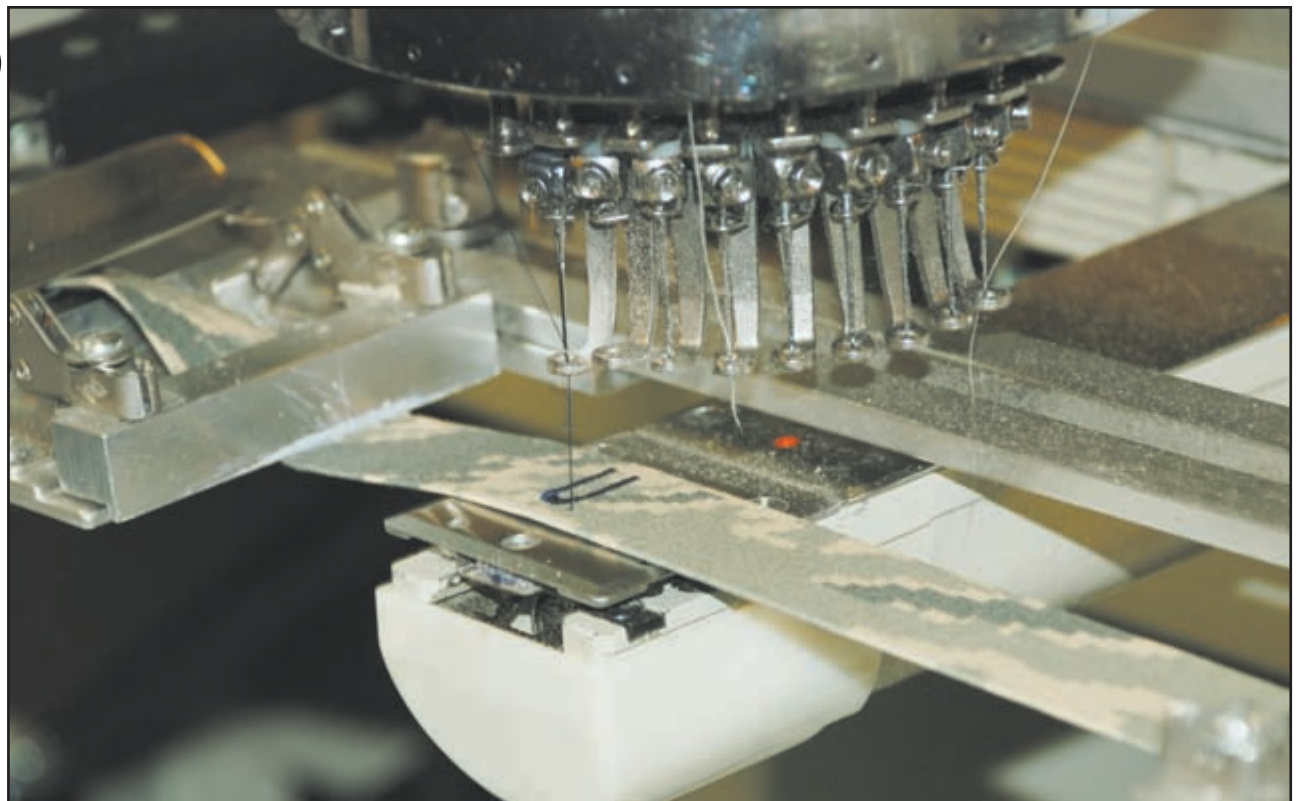
"Cadets need to walk across the Terrazzo and know who they're addressing."

Other members of the 20-member staff include administrative personnel and fitters.

The tailor shop is the last stop for in-processing doolies. After each shirt is determined a proper fit, basic cadets are assigned a seamstress who sews on the nametag on the spot.

Over the next few days fitters and seamstresses will measure, fit and sew virtually any clothing item needing alteration, as well as attaching cloth nametags on new basic cadet backpacks.

According to Mr. Rivera, fitting the ABU presents a huge challenge. Between the male and female versions, he estimates more than 120 different size



A computerized embroidery machine is used to electronically sew name strips.

variations - more than double the number for Battle Dress Uniforms.

"Fitting this uniform became very complicated," he said. "It was a huge animal."

Fitters must accommodate a wide range of sizes, from a female with a dress size two to males well over six feet tall. They also provide alterations in the case of gaining and losing weight or damaged uniforms.

The shop issues 30,000 garments a year.

Preparation for in-processing begins in January. As appointee names trickle in, the shop manufactures nametags and shoulder boards in-house using a computerized embroidery machine.

The staff of the tailor shop totals 20. In addition to fitting and sewing, the shop performs quality assurance, contract and specification writing and commodities inspection, which, in one case, involved spotting a faulty jacket lining seam allowance which frayed easily.

"We go through them with a fine tooth comb," Mr. Rivera said. "They have to be corrected before production."

The shop is only for cadets. Active-duty members are not eligible for the shop's services.

Each small sewing work place has, of course, a

sewing machine. But "our ladies," as seamstress Mara Tokalifa calls them, also grace their spaces with photos and personal memorabilia as well as an occasional radio, all of which contributes to the busy, and amiable, environment.

Seamstresses are under no quota for production.

Mr. Rivera said seamstresses thoroughly enjoy interacting with cadets during in-processing.

"It tickles them pink to see cadets put on a shirt and become part of the Air Force," he said. "It is the icing on the cake."

Debora Stout has worked at the shop for four years.

"I love it," she said. "It's an exciting, fun place to work, especially during in-processing."

She enjoys the basic cadets' excitement and wonders where they're from and what their futures will be.

"We can tell they are going a long way in life," she said.

Mona Moya enjoys the precision of hand-placing the nametags under the presser foot and the challenge of placing it exactly, with little or no allowance for error.

"I like details," she said. "I've always enjoyed that."

In the past she has taken pleasure in sewing Halloween costumes for her children.

"I like working with young people," Ms. Tokalifa said. "Every generation has something specific and all are unique in their own way."

Mr. Rivera heartily praised his staff.

"They are a terrific bunch of people," he said.



Mona Moya carefully places name tags with precision.



Shoulder boards lie ready in bins.

Basic cadets begin trek toward graduation

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The Class of 2012 crossed the Heritage Bridge at Doolittle Hall June 26, marking the beginning of their four-year trek to the hat toss.

"Life as you know it will change forever," Gary Howe, chief executive officer of the Association of Graduates, told the expected 1,373 incoming basic cadets.

"We are very glad you are here. Go forth and do us proud."

The first day of in-processing included medical processing, haircuts, clothing and equipment issue and squadron and dormitory room assignments.

Training in the cadet area will last 18 days. Then trainees march to Jacks Valley July 14 for another 12 days of field training. Classes start Aug. 7.

More than 20 percent of the new basics are women, the highest percentage of female cadets ever. The class includes 287 minorities.

The average high school grade point average for the class is 3.85 and average Scholastic Aptitude Test score is 1,290.

The Class of 2012 also boasts 16 international entering cadets from allied nations.

Family members, friends and incoming basics mingled in Doolittle Hall where representatives from cadet support organizations were on-hand to answer questions and distribute information.

Good-byes lasted briefly at the bottom of the Doolittle stairwell before the new basic cadets mounted the steps to begin their official in-processing.

"He's the last one out of the nest," said Rise Foster-Bruder, mother of Basic Cadet Jacob Bruder.

Leaving a son at the Doolittle stairwell was nothing new for her or husband John Bruder. They have an older son already at the Academy, Cadet 2nd Class Josh Bruder, who according to his parents, wants to fly. Basic Cadet Bruder is interested in electrical engineering physics.

"He will design planes and his brother will fly them," Mrs. Foster-Bruder said of her sons.

Basic Cadet Bruder isn't totally in the dark about what to expect.

"It's going to be tough but fun," he said. "I'll do the hard stuff first and then get to the good stuff."

Basic Cadet Stephen Wakefield of Gilchrist, Colo., said he had a good night's sleep, "off and on," before in-processing.

To prepare for basic cadet training, the potential physics major reviewed academics and worked out. He is anxious to get started.

"This is an opportunity to be able to serve," Wakefield said. "I'm here to do the job and get it done."

Basic Cadet Erik Von Husen left his parents at the bottom of the stairs before they shared their thoughts.

"I'm not surprised he wanted to come here," Robert Von Husen (Dad) said. "He's very determined and persistent."

The Preparatory School grad wants to fly eventually.

Mr. Von Husen was impressed with the Academy. "This is a tremendous operation, totally first class," he said.

Basic Cadet Clayton Arms, from West Memphis, Ark., said his good-byes at home and traveled to the Academy solo.



Photo by Dennis Rogers

Soon-to-be Basics cross over the Heritage Bridge before being invited for a bus ride to the Cadet Area.

Attending the Academy has always been his wish. "It's always been with me since I was a little kid," the grandson of a former Air Force member said.

Basic Cadet Arms is interested in meteorology as a major.

"I'm just anxious to get started," he said. "The hardest part is not knowing what to expect."

The look of pride was everywhere in Doolittle Hall.

"Yes, we are very proud of him," Lester Maragh said of his son, Basic Cadet Chris Lodge-Maragh. "I could go on about him without stopping. He has brought us a great deal of joy."

Cadet Lodge-Maragh prepared for basic by running in boots and going to the gym.

"I always wanted to be in the Air Force. That's why



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Once on the bus, Basic Cadet Cody O'Donnell interacts with an upperclassman one-on-one.



"Hurry up, move, move, move ... walk, do not run," Basic Cadets receive their first encounter with cadre members, including Ca



Photo by Dave Armer

Basic Cadet Jordan Johnson had the "foot prints" staging area all to himself, with no other Basics at least.

'm here," he said.
 cadet 2nd Class Lucille McMinn recalled her
 basic in-processing.
 his brings back memories," she said. "Everyone's
 because it is all new and different. But we all
 ed to it eventually."
 cadet 2nd Class Ruby Tamariz is glad the new
 s here.
 hat means we're closer to graduation," she said.



Photo by Dave Armer

Cadets make their way to the foot prints area for Basic Cadet 2nd Class Randall Mitchner.



Photo by Rachel Boettcher

The men's hair cut station includes no fairy tales, or pony tails for that matter, as Basic Cadet Charles Ringrose finds out.



Cadet 1st Class Jessie Prater inventories Basic Cadet Tate Montgomery's issued gear.

2nd Annual Judy Lombeida Golf Tournament set

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

The 2nd Annual Judith Lombeida Medical Foundation Golf Tournament starts at 8 a.m., July 14 (6 a.m. registration) at the Academy Eisenhower Golf Course.

Col. Judith Lombeida was an Academy neurologist who died in a car accident in July of 2006. She was born and raised in Ecuador and served on several medical missions to Central and South America, including Ecuador her last mission she led as an Academy representative in April 2006.

In honor of his wife's work there, Mark Backlin quit his job and created a foundation in her name to continue medical missions into Ecuador.

This year Mr. Backlin will see 3,000

people in a five-day mission in August followed by performing 30-60 cleft lip/palate surgeries on children in October. The clinical trip includes pediatrics, OB/GYN, internal medicine, dentistry, and optometry in five locations in the central highlands of Ecuador's Andes Mountains.

The Lombeida Medical Foundation Golf Tournament entry fees for senior airman and below is \$45 and \$60 for staff sergeant and above and Defense Department civilians. Civilian guest



Col. Judith Lombeida

fee is \$100.

The entry fee includes cart, green fees, range balls and donation fee and a free lunch. All proceeds go toward the Judith Lombeida Medical Foundation.

Prizes will be awarded to first-, second-, and third-place teams, male/female closest to the pin and longest drives and include a round of 4 at the Broadmoor and 2 sets (for 4 people each set) to attend the U.S. Senior Open.

Make payment, cash or check to

"Judith Lombeida Medical Foundation," at the tournament immediately prior to play at the registration table.

For more information and register, contact Tech. Sgt. Tammy Taylor at 333-5611 or tammy.taylor@usafa.af.mil, and Staff Sgt Karvin Vega at 333-5161. Contact either no later than July 10 for entry.

Prizes Include:

1st Place- Golf for four at the Broadmoor.

2nd and 3rd Place- Golf for four at the Academy.

Mr. Backlin also has two sets of four tickets for the U.S. Senior Open being played at the Broadmoor.

Spa donation from C'est Joli (beauty salon) in the Springs for a manicure, massage and haircut and style.

Iraqi

From Page 12

advanced training and that's what we are doing now."

Even this training; however, has not come without difficulties, mainly because of the language barrier.

"Some of the students had a decent grasp of the English language and they were able to blaze through the training on the airframes," Sergeant Lindsey said. "This helped us tremendously when it came to discussing why documentation of maintenance is so important and we were able to work together to combine ideas of their ways and our ways and come up with a new way that would work for both of us."

One way Sergeant Lindsey was able to work around communication difficul-

ties was by finding a way to relate to his students differently.

"I am not good with languages, but I am really good with numbers," the sergeant said. "So, one of the first things I did was to learn my numbers in their language, which gave us a common ground to start with since our jobs are based on a lot of numbers."

The Airmen also relate on a more personal level with their trainees by spending time with them outside of work.

"We would go over to the Iraqi offices and watch a show on television that is a big hit in their country," Sergeant Lindsey said. "Not only does this allow us to share their culture, but it also helps when we meet new people and we have that common thread, from a television

show. They realize that we have taken an interest in their culture and them as people. I never thought that doing something so simple, as watching a show, would help us build such a strong relationship with the people we work with here."

Although the main goal is to teach the Iraqi air force students, the U.S. Airmen often find themselves as pupils.

"Back at home station we normally are in charge of building the ammunition and delivering it to the flightline, that's usually where are job ends," Sergeant Lindsey said. "Here, we are learning at a high rate of speed, about actually loading the items on aircraft and performing all armament inspections on these airframes that we are not really familiar with, so I guess we are

students in a way as well."

With all of the obstacles and challenges the U.S. Airmen face, they are making great strides in providing the essential training that Iraqi Airmen need to master the critical skills required of a self-sustaining force.

By providing a foundation for the Iraqis to build upon, the American Airmen realize the importance of their contributions.

"There is a certain amount of satisfaction in watching a country go from nothing into what we are able to do today," Sergeant Martens said. "The ability to send all-Iraqi crews out to fly missions and have them return safely and successfully, with smiles on their faces, is well worth all of the effort that we are putting into this mission."

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Richter Class graduate earns national attention

Stories by Valerie Perkin
Athletic Media Relations

Kenny Grosselin, a 2008 graduate of the Air Force Academy, was named to the 2008 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® Men's Track and Field/Cross Country First-Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America recently.

Grosselin graduated from the Academy at the end of May with a 3.94 grade-point-average in mathematics. He becomes the third Academic All-American for the men's cross country and track teams, joining Chris Nelson (1990, 1991) and Nick Wilson (2005). He was the only member of the Mountain West Conference to earn first-team status and one of just two on the entire 45-member list.

It is the first such honor for Grosselin, who is a two-time Academic All-District first-team selection. A six-time academic all-conference selection for cross country and track, he was a recipient of the 2008

NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship and the athletic department's Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award.

The native of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, served as the wing commander for the summer session, overseeing the incoming basic cadets and the completion of Basic Cadet Training. A co-captain of the Falcons' cross country team, Grosselin competed at the conference and regional championships during each of the last two seasons. During the track season, he competed in the longer races, highlighted by participation in the 10,000-meter run at the MWC championships.

Grosselin was named Academic All-District in early June. His inclusion on the district first-team made him eligible for the national vote. To be eligible for the Academic All-America® award, a student-athlete must be a starter or key reserve for the varsity team, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.20 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her sports information director.



Courtesy Photo

Kenny Grosselin paces himself.



Photo by Danny Meyer

Dana Pounds prepares to release javelin.

Air Force athlete earns silver medal at Olympic Trials

EUGENE, Ore. (AFPN) — U.S. Air Force Academy record-holder Dana Pounds placed second in the javelin throw in the finals of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials June 30 at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore.

Posting a distance of 189 feet, 9 inches, Pounds finished just two feet behind the meet's winner, but despite the second-place finish, Pounds missed a spot on the Olympic team as a throw of 198'6" was needed during the qualifying period.

Pounds, a current member of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, had secured a personal-best throw of 195'6" prior to the trials.

Pounds opened the finals with a throw of 171'2", before posting the 189'9" throw that secured her the silver medal. Although she

fouled off three of her final attempts, she added a toss of 188'4" to her evening.

"I truly believe the throw is there," Pounds said after the meet. "I'm not sure why it didn't come out tonight. I've believed for the last six meets that I've thrown in this year, that I've had an 'A' standard throw. I've had more than an 'A' standard throw in me. I think I tried too hard. I don't think I relaxed enough."

Purdue's Kara Patterson won the meet with a throw of 191'9". Patterson, one of just two throwers who had met the Olympic "A" standard prior to the Trials, will be the lone javelin representative for Team USA at the upcoming Olympic Games in Beijing. Oregon's Rachel Yurkovich placed third with a throw of 185'1", while American record holder Kim Kreiner finished fourth with a toss of 183'5".

All-Freshman team players named

Air Force second baseman/outfielder Nathan Carter was named to the Ping!Baseball 2008 All-Freshmen Team, recently. Carter was a third team selection at second base.

He becomes the second Falcon to make the Ping!Baseball All-Freshman Team, joining K.J. Randhawa, who earned honorable mention shortstop honors in 2007.

Carter, a Concord, Calif., native and a product of De La Salle High School, led the nation with 10 triples. The 10 triples shattered the previous Mountain West Conference freshman triples mark of six. Starting 49 of 50 games played, he led the Falcons in hitting (.312), runs scored (51), slugging percentage (.577), walks (34) and on-base percentage (.430). He finished up second on the team in doubles (16) and stolen bases (19).

The rosters were selected by the Ping!Baseball staff after countless hours searching rosters for the premier freshmen players in the nation. Each year college baseball teams lose hundreds of quality players when the student-athletes graduate or advance their game to the professional level. However, every spring a new crop of future stars arises to replenish the lineups. This year's group is especially talented, with a number of competitors being good bets to spend their future summers swinging lumber instead of aluminum in the professional leagues.

Highlighting the team are Co-Ping!Baseball Freshman Players of the Year Scott Woodward of Coastal Carolina and Jedd Gyorko of West Virginia. Woodward, who can play nearly any position, sparked a Chanticleer offense that made their first

Super Regional appearance in school history. He started every game, batting .364 with 15 doubles, seven homeruns and 45 RBI. He also stole 42 bases to rank in the top 10 nationally. Gyorko, a second baseman for the Mountaineers, ended his freshman campaign with a .409 batting average with 95 hits, which included 17 doubles and eight home runs (two grand slams), and 63 RBIs.

Ping!Baseball Pitcher of the Year was Miami's Chris Hernandez, who went 11-0 in 112.2 innings, allowing just 92 hits while striking out 117. Even more impressively he only walked 18 batters and held opposition to a .223 batting average. He was also named as one of just four finalists for The Roger Clemens Award, an award given to the nation's top pitcher - the first freshman to be named a finalist for the award.

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INTRAMURALS

Softball

Standings

	Won	Loss
1. RETIREES	14	0
2. MDG #1	10	1
3. SFS	9	4
4. CD WING	8	4
5. MDG #2	8	5
6. CES	7	6
7. DRU/MSS	4	8
8. 10 CS	4	10
9. 306 FTG	3	8
10. MDG #3	0	15
11. ATH. DEPT 2	8	F-OUT

And they're off!



Photos by Dave Ahlschwede

The Pikes Peak Road Runners Veterans' Home 5K Run Saturday, with 266 runners, raised \$4,600, going directly to Crawford House in Colorado Springs. The home provides rehabilitation for homeless veterans. The event started at Air Academy High School and followed a route through the Academy. Race director John Cornick thanked Academy School District 20, the 10th Mission Support Squadron and the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron for helping make the race a success.



Left: Dawna Callahan pushes her road limits while helping raise money for veterans.

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Dining Out

The 2008 Academy Dining Out Committee meets at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the 10th Medical Group Dining Facility. The committee will discuss plans for the 2008 Dining Out and is looking for volunteers from across the Academy. For more information all Master Sgt. Lynn Barron at 333-5299 for more.

Independence Day

The Air Force Academy plans to celebrate the nation's birthday with music and fireworks. The celebration is open to the general public. Everyone in the community is welcome to view the show from 9:30 to 9:50 p.m. Visitors should enter the Academy through the North Gate as early as 6:30 p.m. Friday. Spectators can bring cameras, lawn chairs and blankets. However, no entertainment or food and drink vendors will be available and coolers and grills are not permitted. Water and portable restrooms will be provided. Cadet radio station KAFA (97.7 FM) will broadcast the music for the fireworks show. The viewing area is the grassy fields north of Arnold Hall.

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CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Sunday

Reconciliation 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.
Mass - 10 a.m.

Protestant Services:

Sunday

Traditional - 10 a.m.

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.
(September - 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.
(September - May)

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:

Contact Tech. Sgt. Longcrier at 333-6178
Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu

For more information, call 333-3300.

Play it safe, attend a public display.

Annual Base Picnic

The Annual Base Picnic is Aug. 1, at the Pine Valley Youth Fields adjacent to the Airmen & Family and Readiness Center. Parking will be available at Pine Valley Elementary school, Air Academy High School (with shuttle bus service to the picnic areas), and Pine Drive next to the fields. Price: \$3 per ticket, see your first sergeant.

Cadet Area construction

Construction remains underway on Vandenberg Drive causing road closures and impacting parking in the Cadet Area until its completion in early to mid August. During this time, drivers are asked to follow all warning signs and cooperate with restrictions needed to make improvements to the roads and parking areas. Obey all traffic and warning signs and only park in appropriate spaces. During the construction period, the Vandenberg/Field House Gate will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and will close weekends. The Sijan Gate will be open 24 hours a day. People are highly encouraged to use the shuttle service set up to alleviate parking challenges during the construction period. Shuttle buses will pick up and drop off in the lower east Field House parking lot every 15 minutes starting at 5 a.m. and running until late in the evening.

Sponsors needed

The Preparatory School for the 2008-2009 academic year needs sponsors. The Prep School is designed to prepare students for admission and success at the Air Force Academy. To apply to sponsor one or more of these students, call Mrs. Cleo Griffith at 333-2583 or e-mail cleo.griffith@usafa.edu

Rodeo volunteers needed

The 68th Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo "Break from the Herd" is nearly upon us again. Proceeds go toward programs and services benefiting local military personnel and their families. Since World War II, every performance of the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is dedicated to the men and women of America's Armed Forces to thank them for their service.

To make this event as successful as the past rodeos, volunteers are needed July 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Academy volunteers will serve as security, ticket takers and ushers. To volunteer please contact your respective representative:

-USAFA - Master Sgt. Jeremy Rennahan,
jeremy.rennahan@usafa.af.mil or 333-5645

-USAFA - Master Sgt. Steven Yoder,
steven.yoder@usafa.edu or 333-2132

-DRU - Master Sgt. David Gobin,
david.gobin@usafa.af.mil or 333-1755

-10 ABW - Master Sgt. Terry Best-Rennahan, terry.best-rennahan@usafa.af.mil or 333-7959

Volunteer recognition golf

The Volunteer Recognition Golf Fundraiser is scheduled for Aug. 7 at 1:30

p.m. on the Eisenhower Golf Club Silver Course. Entry fee is \$30 for airmen through staff sergeants and first and second lieutenants and \$40 for all other players. Entry fee includes lunch, golf cart, green fees, range balls, post round drinks and rental clubs if needed. Additionally, Professional Golfers Association staff will conduct a golf clinic from noon to 1:15 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Academy Volunteer Recognition Program. Awards will go to the first-place team, and men's and women's longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information or to register, call Tim Neuman at 333-2137 or Jeannie Lopez at 333-3444 by Aug. 5.



Farmers Market Opens

The Western Museum of Marketing and Industry's offers a Farmers Market in front of the museum's Reynolds Farmhouse. The market will be open throughout the summer months on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Renowned for being locally grown and fresh, farmers' markets allow farmers to avoid the middleman thus preserving the nutritional content of fresh produce. The market also allows consumers to talk directly to the grower, get the freshest produce possible and experience the health benefits of fresh

produce. Stop by the market and receive a free coupon to the museum with every purchase. For more, call the museum at 488-0880.

Rodeo coming

Tickets for the 68th Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo are on sale. The rodeo is Wednesday through July 12 with the Academy sponsoring the matinee on July 12. Adult tickets are \$10, \$15, and \$27 depending on seat location. Children's tickets are \$5, \$7.50 and \$12.50. Military personnel and groups of 20 or more receive a \$2 discount. For tickets, visit www.ticketwest.com or call 576-2626. Visit www.coloradospringsrodeo.com or call 635-1101.

Celebrate in Snowmass Village

If you're planning a July 4th getaway, Snowmass Village, Colo., offers summer values and Rocky Mountain adventure.

Today: Free Sunset Concert. Popular roots-rock specialists in the tradition of groups like The Eagles and The Allman Brothers, the Freddy Jones Band hits the outdoor stage on Fanny Hill

Friday: Free Independence Day Activities: Try a nature hike or nature trail walk guided by a naturalist.

Saturday: Free Sunset Concert and Fireworks by rhythm & blues trailblazer Mavis Staples, a rock 'n' roll Hall of Famer considered one of VH1's "100 Greatest Women of rock 'n' roll." 7 p.m. on Fanny Hill, followed by fireworks. (www.snowmassvillage.com)

Call Allison Johnson at: (970) 309-5485 for more.



Summer Fire Safety Tips

from USAFA Fire & Emergency Services

During the summer, especially around the Fourth of July, the number of children playing with fire dramatically increases. The consequences of just one fire play incident can be devastating to a family. In addition to burn injury, loss of life, and property damage, families can be held financially and legally responsible.

Keep your child and family safe with these precautions:

- 🔥 Put matches, lighters, and ignition devices in a safe, secure place. Treat these items as you would a dangerous weapon.
- 🔥 Set clear rules and expectations about their access to matches and fire play.
- 🔥 Talk about peer pressure and what your child should do if they are around other kids who are playing with fire. Teach them to leave the situation and report it to an adult.
- 🔥 Talk about the consequences of fire property damage, injury, and loss of life.
- 🔥 Practice fire safety in your home. Install and maintain smoke detectors and develop and practice a home escape plan.
- 🔥 Remember early identification and intervention is critical.



Have a Happy and Fire-Safe Summer!



COMMUNITY EDUCATION FAIR

Wednesday, July 16 • 11am - 6pm

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A Community Education Fair will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 11am-6pm at the World Arena. The event is FREE and open to the public. Parking is Free.

Representatives from 15 local, regionally accredited colleges and universities will be readily available to provide information about Certificate Programs, Associate Degrees, Undergraduate Degrees, Graduate Degrees and Doctorate Degrees.

One stop... and get all your higher education questions answered. Join in the food, refreshments and learn what choices you have for higher education in your community.

ACCEL members include: Colorado Christian University, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Colorado Technical University, DeVry University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, National American University, Nazarene Bible College, Newman University, Pikes Peak Community College, Regis University, Troy University, UCCS, University of Phoenix, University of the Rockies and Webster University.

ACCEL (Alliance of Colleges and Corporations for Education and Leadership) formed in 1995. We are a non-profit organization comprised of volunteer representatives from higher education institutions. All ACCEL members are regionally accredited and hold classes on-ground in Colorado Springs. www.accelcs.org

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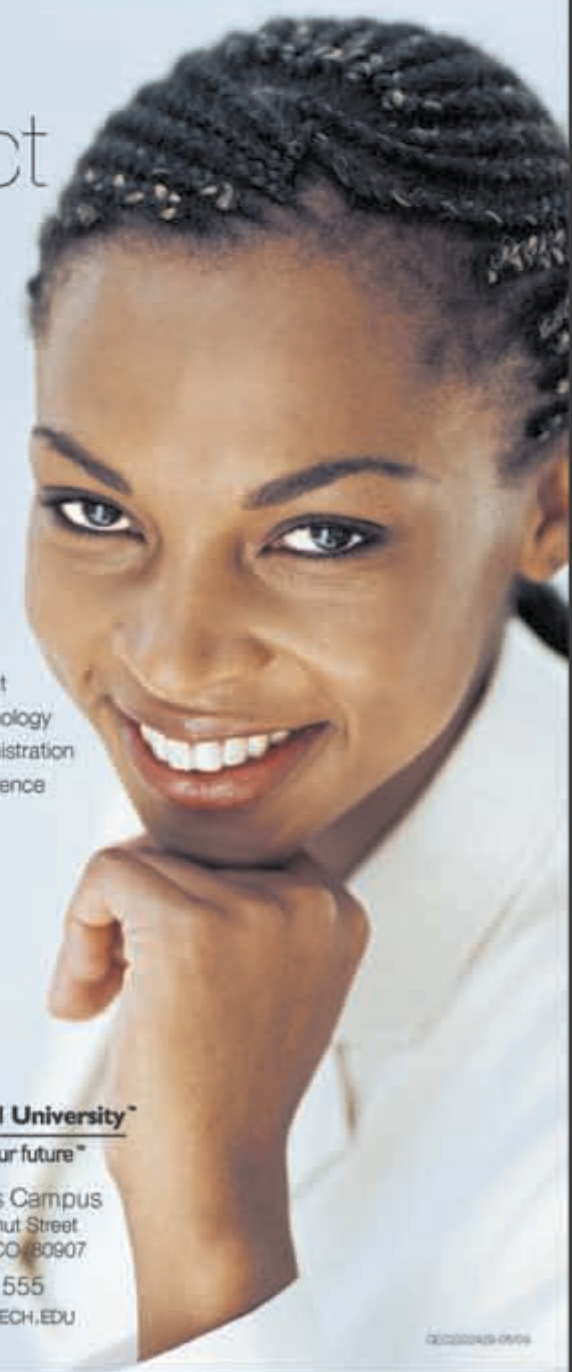
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