



USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

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CST/SERE
 Academy cadets return to survival mode training following three-year hiatus.
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American Idol

Med Group NCO transitions from contestant to judge, at least for this year.
 Page 7



Hot dog!
 Fire Department's 18th Annual Open House draws 1,000 plus.
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Picnic
 Academy's annual event beckons members and families to festive setting.
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Photo by Dave Armer

Trainees join Cadet Wing

Members of the Class of 2012 pinned on their first military rank and swore to uphold the Academy Honor Code at their Acceptance Parade, Wednesday on Stillman Parade Field.

The parade marked the acceptance of 1,298 of the original 1,348 who in-processed on June 26. Since then they've transitioned from "basic cadet trainees" with no rank, to pinning on their fourth-class cadet rank and becoming fourth class cadets or "doolies."

The Honor Code is the minimum standard of behavior and performance expected of all Air Force Academy cadets, and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does."

The newly minted freshman cadets began their academic semester Thursday.

Beyond continuing their military training, athletic competitions and character development activities, each new cadet will take 15 semester hours, before ramping up to the average course load of 18 semester hours in the spring.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Cadet 1st Class James Caldwell pins the fourth degree rank of Cadet 4th Class Fanita Schmidt.

Senate confirms next AF chief of staff

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, a 35-year veteran in special operations and a 1973 Air Force Academy graduate, will be the 19th Air Force chief of staff, according to a Senate confirmation vote which occurred Aug. 1.



Gen. Norton Schwartz

General Schwartz provided testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee July 22, before the full Senate voted on his confirmation. Now the

president must appoint the general before he can assume his new position.

"I intend to embody the Air Force core values of Integrity, Service and Excellence as I lead the Air Force at this critical transition period," said General Schwartz.

He now serves as the commander of U.S. Transportation Command and will assume the position of Air Force chief of staff. Gen. Duncan McNabb, also recently confirmed by the Senate, will assume command of U.S. Transportation Command.

In his current position, General Schwartz' command is the single manager

for global air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense.

His command experience includes the 1st Special Operations Group and 1st Special Operations Wing both at Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Special Operations Command Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii; deputy commander U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill, Fla.; and commander, Alaskan Command, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

General Schwartz is an alumnus of the National War College, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a 1994 Fellow of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI.

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Air Force band musicians reunite

By Master Sgt. Steven Przyzcki
NCO-in-charge, Band Public Affairs

For more than 50 years the U.S. Air Force Academy Band has stood out as one of the finest musical organizations in Colorado Springs and the nation, providing free concerts in support of Air Force community relations and Air Force recruiting.

Today and Saturday the past, present and future of all Air Force bands will converge right here in Colorado Springs as the Academy Band hosts the retired Air Force Musicians Association's 2008 Reunion and Conference, "A Rocky Mountain Musical High."

The Air Force Musicians Association was founded in 1980 and is comprised of musicians who have served in any Air Force band in the world.

Some members have retired from the career field. Others served a four-year stint or more and went on to pursue other musical endeavors. Regardless of their amount of time spent in service, they all possess one thing in common, their overwhelming pride of having communicated the Air Force

message through the universal language of music. This year's conference promises to be the best ever, as it features four special guests and reach out to all musicians in the community through clinics and concerts. **The gala reunion concert is today, at 7 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center and features a mass band comprised of the current personnel in The Academy Band, as well as alumni from all Air Force bands worldwide.**

There are two halves to the concert, one featuring concert band/orchestra and the other spotlighting a powerhouse jazz band featuring the Air Force Academy Band's Falconaires and alumni. Colonel Lang invited four musical legends to guest conduct at the concert. First and foremost is Col. (retired) Arnauld D. Gabriel, the dean of America's wind band conductors, and commander of The U.S. Air Force Band, Washington D.C. from 1964 to 1985. The current Commander and Conductor of The Air Force Band, Col. Dennis Layendecker will lead the band as well as Col. (ret.) H. Bruce Gilkes, former commander of The U.S. Air Force Academy Band. Completing the list is former Chicago Symphony percus-

sionist Dick Schory who led his Percussion Pops Orchestra in concert from the Hollywood Bowl to Carnegie Hall, and enjoyed a fantastic recording career with RCA Victor Records. The performance will draw on old favorites and showcase some brand new compositions written specifically for band.

All area percussionists will not want to miss the percussion clinic with Mr. Dick Schory and the Academy Band percussion section today at 2:30 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center. All clinics and concerts are free and open to the public. Col. Larry Lang especially extends a welcome to music students of all ages stating, "This is a golden opportunity for any musicians in our community. The vast amount of talent that will be present in our city during this conference is world class. Anyone involved in the music industry, in any perspective, will benefit by attending this educational outreach program. The week's events promise to be spectacular and full of memories."

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Larry Hill at (719) 556-9950.

Alarm with no smoke, no fire? Still call 911!

By Ernst Piercy
Academy Fire Chief

When fire alarms sound in your building and you think you may have accidentally set off the alarm, please give us a call.

The Air Force has established a goal to reduce the number of false alarms and nuisance calls by 50 percent this year. In an effort to meet this goal, we would like your help by reporting what you know to our 911 dispatch center. On many occasions, fire alarms are activated acciden-

tally by building occupants. Occasionally, the fire alarm pull stations or sprinkler heads are struck while moving furniture or smoke detectors are activated by burned food. We have even seen ceiling sprinkler heads activated because someone thought it was a good place to hang their laundry.

We all know accidents happen, but a phone call to our dispatch center allows our firefighting units to respond in a safer, non-emergency mode.

With help from our community, we can achieve this goal and continue to

provide a stellar level of service to our customers. Please think about this the next time a fire alarm activates – if you believe you caused the alarm, gives us a call so that we can lower the risk of vehicle accidents and save valuable resources for the emergencies where someone's life is at stake. You can even use "911" to report these situations, which will ensure you will get immediate attention.

For more information on this or any other fire safety issue, call the prevention office at 333-2051.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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Submissions

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

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

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

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

Character Corner Parker's Rules

By Maj. Olivia Nelson
Center for Character Development

Shortly after arriving on active duty, my first wing commander assigned me as his speechwriter. For his next engagement, the general addressed a mixed group of Academy and ROTC cadets.

I was, well, speechless. This man had to be crazy to think a brand new lieutenant could even begin to comprehend the scope and priorities of a brigadier general. I mean, geez, I was still counting stripes and reciting the enlisted ranks in my head to recognize "types" of sergeants.

Determined to survive this seemingly insurmountable task, I turned to the only resource I could think of: the colonel who ran the AFROTC program at my alma mater.

This man who commissioned me was my first real mentor, and I hoped he might save me.

From a wing where he once served as vice commander, I called and begged for advice. Without hesitation, he answered the call with his top 10 points for success. And while I can't remember all the points in "Parker's Rules," I will never forget the one that hits me over and over again "No matter what, so long as you always fall back on what you learned as a cadet, you'll be alright."

At the time, the statement struck me as idealistic and irrelevant in the operational world. But as I look back, my career's every failure – each moment of shame – reflected a lapse in the values and professional qualities my upperclassmen and the officers in my detachment worked so hard to instill. Sadly, I've broken nearly every tenet of the Honor Code at some point along the way, and I am

constantly reminded of the wisdom in Parker's Rule.

The lessons you learn here are not simply about making it through the Academy – they are far more timeless. The temptations to your integrity will only become more subtle and seductive when no one is constantly reinforcing the doctrine of character. The greatest temptation? Toleration.

Always toleration.

In retrospect, I probably owe the general a bit more credit ... he knew precisely what he was doing when he assigned me to write his speeches. Despite the hours I toiled, he used nary a word I wrote in two years. It was the process – the journey of introspection – that has taught me more than he ever could have.

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



"No. I haven't seen it and don't believe it."



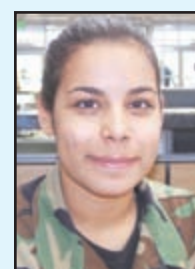
James Tailor
Retired Air Force
colonel

"Yes. He hates to party."



Cadet 4th Class
Alex Misch
Cadet Squadron 40

"Of course, I saw him shopping for peanut butter and apples at the commissary last week, wearing a cut-off T-shirt."



Airman 1st Class
Maria Barrett
Medical technician

"Yes. It's possible, due to the evolution of people."



Ms. Millie Holthaus
Lab tech

CST resumes; Leaders declare success

By Ken Carter
Editor
and Cadet 1st Class Rob Consiglio

The U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Academy are already planning for 2009 and beyond after resuming Combat Survival Training this summer following a break since 2004. Starting a program as important and complex as CST required a herculean effort from multiple mission elements. The goal for the 2008 program was to train more than 600 cadet instructors and staff execute the program again for the entire Class of 2012 next summer. The first year of the program was a huge success according to feedback from cadets, who especially enjoyed working with NCOs and Airmen. A new Academy tenant unit, the 22nd Training Squadron/Operation Location-A, was activated at the Academy to make this program possible.

Cadets were trained in survival and evasion skills in Saylor Park. They received three days of classroom training, two days of "base training," and four days each of survival and evasion training. Base Training included vectoring Civil Air Patrol aircraft, packing, signaling, land navigation and pyrotechnics. Additionally, many cadets received specialized instructor preparation for their roles as survival, evasion, or base training instructors.

"CST is part of an overall Air Force initiative to increase Survival, Evasion,

Resistance, Escape training for all Airmen," said Lt. Col. Timothy McCaffery, the CST Group Air Officer Commanding.

Future plans include the addition Evasion and Conduct after Capture for all students. ECAC is a course being taught at Fairchild Air Force Base that will migrate to the Academy, as well as Maxwell and Lackland Air Force Bases. The training will be required for all Air Force officers in the future and Academy cadets will receive credit for the ECAC course here starting next summer. One hundred cadets travelled to Fairchild AFB in May to attend the first two ECAC courses taught there.

According to Colonel McCaffery, the program was implemented this summer more effectively than even the most optimistic had realistically hoped for. First period students were trained by 44 SERE specialists from around the world, representing more than 10 percent of the career field Air Force-wide. That was no small feat given the operations tempo for the career field. Support from Headquarters Air Force, Air Education Training Command, and the 336th Training Group were vital to the success of the program.

This was and continues to be a fast-moving train to meet the Air Force chief of staff's goal of standing up a program in only seven months. The Academy and AETC worked together to keep the train on the track. Vice Commandant, Colonel



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Cadets enter the woods to an area where they will set up camp and bed down for the night. 660 cadets were trained as instructors in evasion, survival and base training during the 2008 summer period.

Jeffery Beene, led a 50-member task force of key players from most mission elements to ensure the program was as successful as possible. The 10th Air Base Wing, the Cadet Wing, Athletic Department, the Dean of the Faculty, and Headquarters staff all had roles in the effort. Furthermore, AETC headquarters personnel visited three times to provide guidance, monitor status and assist as necessary.

This was only the second time the

course has been started from scratch since 1959. Various SERE and CST programs evolved over the years, but the Academy always had something to build from. This year, the entire infrastructure from personnel, facilities, contracts, cadet equipment, and budget had to be regenerated. Twenty-three Academy Military Training NCOs filled the gap created by the lack of a trained cadet staff and made

See CST, Page 9



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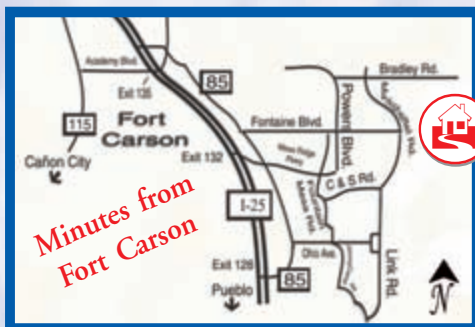
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Academy ranks top in professor availability

The Air Force Academy's professors are the most accessible in the nation for the fourth year in a row, according to The Best 368 Colleges text, released recently by Princeton Review.

Faculty availability is an expectation at a military service academy. At the U.S. Air Force Academy, the student-faculty ratio is 8:1, average class size is 20, 100 percent of the faculty is full-time and zero classes are taught by teaching assistants.

Several academic departments here also staff Extra Instruction laboratories throughout the academic day, with at least one professor available each class period to help cadets tackle questions arising from their latest lessons.

The Academy also came out in several other top-20

rankings in the nation, including:

- #4 Don't Inhale
- #4 Future Rotarians and Daughters of the American Revolution
- #5 Most Conservative Students
- #6 Stone-Cold Sober Schools
- #13 Everyone Plays Intramural Sports
- #17 Scotch and Soda, Hold The Scotch
- #17 Most Politically Active Students

The Princeton Review features the Air Force Academy and other local colleges in The Best 368 Colleges, the new 2009 edition of its annual "best colleges" guide. Only about 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges and two Canadian colleges are in the book. It has two-page profiles of the schools and student survey-based

ranking lists of top 20 colleges in more than 60 categories.

"We chose schools for this book primarily for their outstanding academics," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice-president of publishing. "We evaluated them based on institutional data we collect about the schools, feedback from students attending them, and our visits to schools over the years. We also consider the opinions of independent college counselors, students, and parents we hear from year-long. Finally, we work to have a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character."

The guide utilizes online student surveys in 62 categories to assess the academic, administrative, quality of life, social, extracurricular and other aspects of life at American colleges.

General McNabb confirmed by Senate

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) — Gen. Duncan McNabb, a 197 graduate of the Air Force Academy soon will assume command of the U.S. Transportation Command. With the Senate confirmation vote Aug. 1, the 34-year Air Force veteran will become the ninth USTRANSCOM commander.



Gen. Duncan McNabb

General McNabb provided testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee July 22 prior to the full Senate voting on his confirmation. The president must offer the official appointment to the general before he can

assume his new position.

"I know U.S. Transportation Command's success depends on the strength of the total force and of our industry partners," said General McNabb. "I will work to continue to strengthen and leverage these partnerships across the entire joint deployment and distribution enterprise."

General McNabb, who currently serves as the Air Force vice chief of staff, will assume command of USTRANSCOM once Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, also confirmed by the Senate Aug. 1, assumes his new position as Air Force chief of staff.

In his current position, General McNabb serves as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Requirements Oversight

Council and Deputy Advisory Working Group. He assists the chief of staff with organizing, training and equipping more than 710,000 active-duty, Air Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas.

His previous command experience includes positions as commander, 89th Operations Group at Andrews AFB, Md.; commander, 62nd Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash.; and commander, Tanker Airlift Control Center, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.

Immediately prior to his current position, General McNabb served as commander of Air Mobility Command, one of the three service commands comprising USTRANSCOM. The others are the Army's Military Surface

Deployment and Distribution Command, also headquartered at Scott AFB, and the Navy's Military Sealift Command, headquartered at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

General McNabb earned his Master of Science degree in international relations in 1984 from the University of Southern California. In addition, he attended the Program for Senior Officials in National Security at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Executive Program for General Officers of the Russian Federation and the United States, both held at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is an alumnus of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces as well as the Air War College.

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Photo by Dennis Rogers

Colonel Todd Zachary, Commander of the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School, attaches the Basic Military Training Outstanding Squadron Streamer to the Flag of Bravo Squadron presented by Cadet Candidate Matthew Barbazon.

Preppies take first step

Prep School commander Col. Todd Zachary presented the top squadron award to the Thunderbolts Squadron for its performance at graduation from Basic Military Training Aug. 2 on Black Field.

Of the 233 cadet candidates in-processing July 16, 226 completed the 18-day training to equip them physically, mentally and academically for the 10-month Prep School year.

During BMT, the Commando, Raptor and Thunderbolt squadrons received briefings, took in the battle

history of the Air Force, mastered the Airman's Creed, drilled and squared off during sports intramurals. They also met rope challenges, land navigation and tactical self-aid. Field Day presented them with a 5-K run, rifle relay, team integration, combat movement, tug of war and litter race.

On weekends, the new Preppies underwent room inspections, drill competitions and knowledge and honor tests.

Off-limits during BMT were desserts, phone calls and day-room privileges.

Mountain lion spotted in base housing

At about 10 p.m. July 30, a Douglass Valley housing resident was alerted by barking dogs that something unusual was going on in the neighborhood. According to Mr. Brian Mihlbachler from the Academy's Natural Resources office the resident had spotted a mountain lion that wandered into Academy housing. The resident, who lives on West Bighorn Drive, reported the sighting the following morning without incident.



File Photo

No one faced immediate danger that evening, however, the natural resources staff reminds all to be alert to the possibility of encountering a mountain lion in the area with the safety tips below.

Mountain lion attacks are rare, but they may key in on easy prey such as pets or small children. Do not approach a lion. Most mountain lions will try to avoid confrontation if given a way to escape.

If you encounter a mountain lion:

Immediately call the 10th Security Forces (333-2000) or the Academy Natural Resources office (333-3308).

STAY CALM. Talk calmly and firmly to the lion and move slowly.

STOP OR BACK AWAY SLOWLY. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright.

DO ALL YOU CAN TO APPEAR LARGER. Raise your arms or open your jacket if you're wearing one. If you have small children with you, protect them by picking them up so they won't panic and run. If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. You want to convince the lion that you are not prey and may pose some danger to the animal.

FIGHT BACK if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back. People have successfully fought off lions with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and even their bare hands. Hit the lion's eyes, ears and nose.

Additional information on mountain lions is available through the Colorado Division of Wildlife Web site: (<http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Mammals/LionCountry1.htm>) and in the "Living with Wildlife in Lion Country" brochure that is available at the Academy Natural Resources office, Bldg. 9030.

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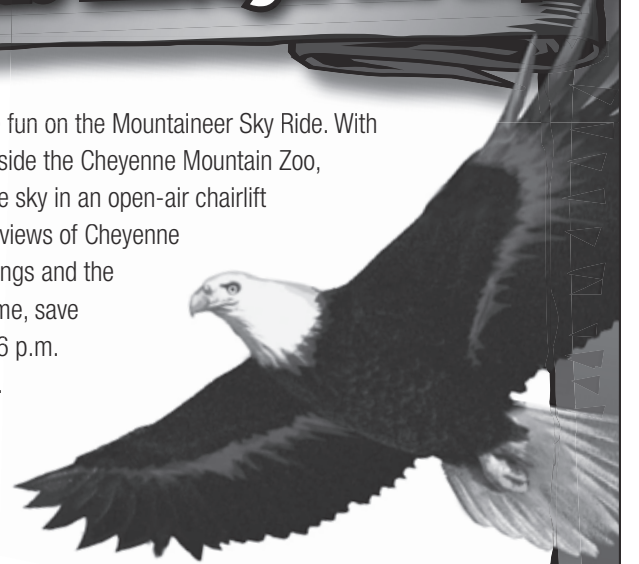
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Panel recommends changes to military retirement

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A panel looking at military compensation has recommended dramatic changes in the military retirement system.

The recommendations are part of the second volume put out by the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation.

The first volume — released in March — looked at cash compensation. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jan D. “Denny” Eakle was director of the panel, and she briefed the press during a Pentagon news conference today.

Eakle said critics of the current military retirement system say it is not equitable, it is not flexible, and it is not efficient.

“There is a perception that the system we have today is inequitable because only 15 percent of all enlisted personnel and less than half of officers will ever receive anything in the system,” she said. Reserve-component personnel also believe the current system discriminates against them, especially at a time when reserve forces are being called on more, she said.

The retirement proposal would offer a defined benefit, defined contributions, “gate” pays and separation pays.

The defined benefit would be 2.5 percent of the average basic pay for the highest 36 months of the individual’s career multiplied by the number of years of service, with servicemembers vested at 10 years of service. Payments to retirees would begin at age 60 for those with less than 20 years of service and at age 57 for those with 20 years of service or more.

Servicemembers could opt for an immediate

“Critics of the current military retirement system say it is not equitable, it is not flexible, and it is not efficient.”

Brig. Gen. (retired) Jan Eakle

annuity, but the payout would follow the Federal Employee Retirement System methodology — a 5 percent penalty per year for early withdrawal.

The defined contribution portion would be an automatic government-funded Thrift Savings Plan. Servicemembers would not have to match any government payment. The government would not put any money in for the first year, but would put in 2 percent of base pay for two years of service, 3 percent for three and four years of service, and 5 percent for five and more years of service. Again, this would be vested after 10 years of service.

The military also would make “gate pays” to servicemembers who reach specific years of service. These would vary by years of service and skills, Eakle said.

“This is a payment made for achieving a particular year of service,” she explained. “And within the services, they would have the flexibility to vary this by year of service as well as by skill. That way, they could begin to shape the skills by dragging people further into their career by offering them an incentive.”

Finally, the system would include separation pays to servicemembers that would also vary by years of service and skills.

“The separation payments would be made available by the service to members that they wished to entice to leave,” Eakle said. This would be a permanent tool services would have available, she added.

The panel used a Rand Corporation computer model to test the recommendations, but Eakle said the panel members would like a large-scale test in the Defense Department.

“Therefore, the recommendation of this QRMC is that the Department of Defense conduct a multi-year test of this system,” Eakle said. “The way the test would work is this: All four services would be asked to identify some skills that have different types of retention patterns — some that stay not very long, some that stay longer periods of time — and ones they wish to influence.”

The test would offer people in those skills in the first eight years of service an opportunity to volunteer.

“If someone was selected for the test, they would be paid all of the TSP that they should have earned up until that point, and it will be put in their TSP account for them,” she said. “The program’s vesting rules would in fact apply to all those individuals. So should they achieve 10 years of service while they are in the test, they would fully own it.”

At the end of the test period, people who are in the new system who wish to revert to the original retirement system would be allowed to do so, she said.

Any change in the retirement system would require action by Congress. DoD officials said they will carefully examine the panel’s recommendations and then decide if they should move forward. The study will take at least six to 12 months, so any decision would be made by the next administration, DoD officials added.

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Former Idol contestant now judges

By Ken Carter
Editor

A day without singing is like a day without breathing for a rising star in the 10th Medical Group.

"A passion is a very hard fire to put out, but in my case, it's impossible to extinguish!"

That's how Staff Sgt. Shelton Franklin, an Academy diagnostic imaging technologist, describes his life when it comes to pursuing his dream and having his voice heard.

The aspiring entertainer from Sumter, S.C., says his mother and aunt were the two biggest influences on him and in shaping his love for music and singing. Little did they realize (or maybe they did) as his vocal skills developed as a child in the Presbyterian Church choir, the places he'd go.

"Ever since I was a kid, I've been singing along side them and learning to love music. Once they instilled that in me, I couldn't let it go," he said.

Soon the songbird will have more time to focus fulfilling that dream as a civilian.

Sergeant Franklin was selected to judge contestants from the area for this year's American Idol competition.

"National American University, the local college that I graduated from, was a sponsor for the Southern Colorado Idol competition at Chapel Hills Mall this past weekend," he said. "My advisors all remembered I'd auditioned last year and made it through a few rounds and said they thought I'd be the best person to judge for them."

Sergeant Franklin will also judge the 2008 Front Range Idol (previously Peterson Idol) competition in September at Peterson Air Force Base.

"I was also selected to judge last year after making it to some rounds of American Idol. That was also a great honor and experience to be chosen," he said.

With separating from the Air Force just around the corner, a hectic pace has prevented the vocalist from competing for American Idol himself this year. A different work schedule and all that goes with preparing to out-process has left the NCO doubting time will allow for an audition.

One might think the lack of an audition opportunity would be naturally troubling to someone pursuing the entertainer's dream. For Sergeant Franklin, it's quite the opposite.

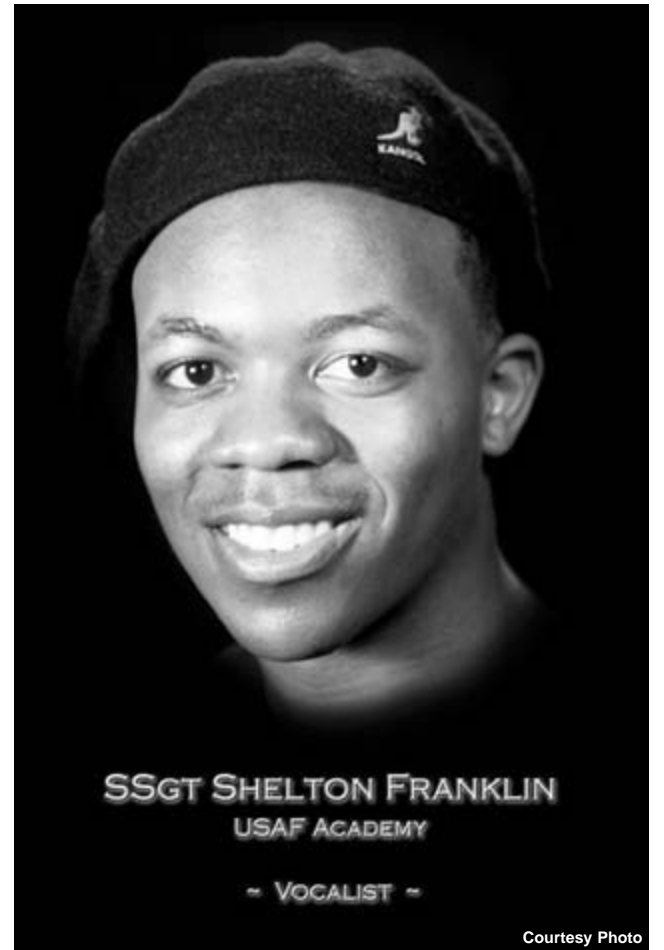
"I felt great being chosen as a judge," he said. "It's as if a confidence was placed in me to be able to have the judgment to make a decision that could affect someone's life in a major way!"

Sergeant Franklin auditioned for the same local competition twice but never made it to the finals. When he went to the actual American Idol auditions, and waited in line, he made it to round "3" and therefore, finds both irony in, and feels honored by, the whole situation.

Not one to give up the un-extinguishable passion, the preparation for next year's Idol audition is already underway.

"I constantly sing whether it is at home, at church or on base for events," he said. "Singing is like breathing to me, if I'm not doing it every day then something is very wrong!"

To stay on top of his vocal game, Sergeant Franklin records with friends periodically giving him opportunity to hear myself, take some criticisms, and work to improve, because "no one is a perfect singer."



What does it take to come out on top of the competition that has tens of millions of Americans mesmerized week after week during American Idol competition? "Practice, practice, practice," Sergeant Franklin says. "It also takes a little bit of luck."

Having "It" seems to be a big plus as well.

See IDOL, Page 16

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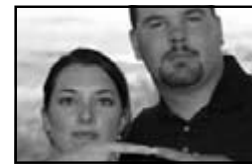
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CST

From Page 3

the impossible a reality. As the cadet cadre roles were formalized, some of those AMTs were able to return to their cadet squadron duties. "The cadet staff really stepped up and impressed our permanent party staff with their dedication," said Colonel McCaffery.

According to student feedback, cadets are excited about what they have learned. They see the real-world



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Cadets 2nd Class Cory Tintzman and Evan Robinson take a break during Combat Survival Training in Saylor Park, near Woodland Park, Colo.

utility of the training. They are very impressed with both the permanent party and TDY SERE specialists. Operational Risk Management was in full effect and the low number of injuries in the field shows that—there were no injuries worse than cuts, bruises or sprained ankles. During the three summer periods, June 1 through Aug. 2, 643 cadets were trained to be future CST instructors. Among them were 212 rising second-class cadets who acted as instructors. They were trained during the first summer period and then instructed during either second or third period. Additionally, 37 rising first class cadets oversaw the program as group and squadron leaders.

"We're training better lieutenants because of this course," Colonel McCaffery said. "It supports many of the Academy's desired outcomes. They get a great opportunity to lead small groups of fellow upperclassmen under stressful field conditions, which is a great leadership laboratory. They are better warriors because of the skills they learn, the people they are exposed to, and the experiences they've had." Third period CST Group Commander, Cadet 1st Class James Bowron, said the program was one of the most difficult ones he has ever been a part of, but also the most rewarding.

"Leading more than 300 people is no easy task for anyone, let alone a college senior," he said.

According to Cadet Bowron, working with the SERE specialist NCOs and Airmen in challenging situations was vital to the experience. The SERE specialists bring a fresh perspective to the Academy and proved to be an invaluable help to the cadre. Also beneficial to the cadre was simply being able to see how well the NCOs and Airmen performed their jobs. CST is being counted as a success by leadership and the cadre alike, not only because of the overwhelmingly positive reviews from students, but because it has been the most valuable leadership lesson many cadets have had while at the Academy.

The 22nd TS runs the S-V80-A SERE program at Fairchild AFB – they are the subject matter experts at training students in SERE skills. They activated an oper-

ating location at the Academy to run CST and selected Master Sgt. Chad Watts as the superintendent. According to Colonel McCaffery, "The chain of command at Fairchild AFB has been great – this timeline would not have happened without their help. AETC-assigned experts help ensure the course remains current, relevant, and safe."

Sergeant Watts and three other newly Academy-assigned SERE specialists run the program: Tech. Sgt. Anthony Raciborski leads survival training; Tech. Sgt. Jarod Savage leads evasion training; and Staff Sgt. Jon Wirsing leads base training. They will run the program with augmentation from TDY personnel during future summers. Unlike past years, all Conduct after Capture training will be run by professionals from Fairchild AFB who will relocate their operation to Colorado each summer. The Academy also has two Academy Military Training NCOs assigned as full-time liaisons to the CST program. Master Sergeant Mark Crespo and Master Sergeant Teresa Hatch ensure the OL has support needed from the Academy and the training provided aligns with Academy policies.

The 10th Civil Engineering Squadron is working projects to build a warehouse, adapt the existing Resistance Training Lab to the ECAC course, and construct a new Urban Evasion Lab in Jacks Valley. All of these projects require a quicker than normal timeline to ensure the program's success, and the 10th Mission Support Group has been a key player in the program's overall success.

Many Academy graduates will never attend SERE training at Fairchild due to the career fields they enter upon graduation. Those might include contracting officers, communications officers leading convoys, or civil engineers working infrastructure among local populations. According to Colonel McCaffery, "This is vital training for all of them". Our former Air Force chief of staff agreed. Plans are in motion to ensure that all Airmen receive more SERE training than in the recent past.

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ALO: 'Students desire public service, are very patriotic'

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

It's not always easy for Air Force Lt. Col. (retired) Ed Sanchez to juggle his work as IT manager with his area liaison officer duties.

"But it's worth the effort," said the Folsom, Calif., resident who spent 30 years in the blue uniform and 13 as an ALO. ALOs nationwide recruit for the Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Some prospects approach him. Others, he goes looking for.

"Web content and technology are making things much easier now," Colonel Sanchez said. "I am learning how to text message which the students appreciate. The best place to meet prospects is at a conference or classroom. I find speaking to small groups most effective. You have a lot of great interaction with small groups and the questions become very creative and energetic in these settings."

Some trends he noticed is students desire public service, are very patriotic and find the Academy and service to the military as a profound commitment to their country.

With the Global War on Terror, parental attitudes have changed and affect his efforts.

"There are more concerned, given the number of theaters and threats, but in the end are very supportive of their children's decisions," he said.

The retired colonel became an ALO in 1995 at the recommendation of several of his peers in the

Medical Service Corps.

"I had an additional duty as a medical administrator in a traditional Reserve unit but I loved the idea of talking about the Air Force and opportunities at the Academy with high school students," he said.

He goes out of his way to share information that either confirms a student's desire to attend or shed light on the challenges and responsibility he or she will be assuming.

He had two young people report to the Academy this year.

"I am always impressed with the individuals applying to the Academy. They give me great hope for the future given much of the negative news about our youth we see in the media. I am fortunate to share both my experience and love of the service which hopefully helps the applicant arrive at their decision independently," Colonel Sanchez said.

What does it take to be a successful ALO?

An ability to talk in multiple settings, large groups, small groups and one-to-one in a comfortable manner, said the colonel. Public speaking skills are essential along with the ability to connect to a student or a group. Furthermore, continuing education to keep up with the changes at the Academy, and in the application process, is essential.

"The toughest part is the administration and reporting requirements," Colonel Sanchez said. "Time management is tough given the number of schools, personal and family contacts, interviews to



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. (retired) Ed Sanchez of Folsom, Calif., seeks prospects to come to the Academy while other young people come to him.

be conducted and miles driven to meet with applicants. It's a tough but rewarding endeavor."

ALO's are not recruiters but a part of the applicant process and many times serve as the first face-to-face meeting these students will have with an Air Force officer, he clarified.

"It's a great position and one that requires a deep level of personal commitment and superb time management skills to balance our civilian responsibilities and role as an ALO," said the colonel. "I continue to enjoy meeting with young people providing both information and address questions and concerns as they consider military service."

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Photo by Ann Patton

Baggers Chloe Hansen (left), Ryan Rosa and Amanda Humphrey will soon set sacks aside as they return to college this fall.

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Paper or plastic?

Baggers at the Academy commissary, one cart at a time, are lessening the hassle of grocery shopping.

By packing items efficiently and quickly, they cut time waiting in line, and shoppers can expect to find their food, cleaning, paper products and toiletries well-organized when unpacking at home.

"They are people the commissary couldn't live without," said Judy Rodriguez, Academy commissary administrator, of the baggers.

Plus, baggers aren't on the commissary payroll. They are independent

contractors and work strictly for tips.

All baggers receive training. They learn to start with canned goods on the bottom, followed by small boxes. Cold and frozen items are bagged separately, as well as chemical items, which are bagged to avoid contact with food items. Eggs and bread are protected by separate paper bags.

"We bag groceries like we would like our groceries to be bagged," said Head Bagger Chuck Nelson.

It is labor-intensive work. Besides filling, lifting and carting bags, baggers organize shopping carts, keep the checkout area clean and orderly and stock bags.

"I'm pretty exhausted," Amanda Humphrey said at the end of her shift.

"I never take a break."

She is a student at Nebraska's Hastings College and headed back to school this fall.

Of the 67 baggers this summer 19 are college students. In the past, three Academy cadets were former baggers.

"We have at least one every year," Mr. Nelson said.

All baggers are military retirees or dependents.

He appreciates the students' hard work.

"They're really a good bunch of kids," he said. "I've never fired a student."

Tip or no tip, or small or large tip, baggers keep cheerful attitudes and enjoy helping customers and chatting with them.

"It's nice to see people you know in the commissary," said Ryan Rosa, a student at Colorado State University. "It's always fun."

Chloe Hansen, a student at the University of Arizona, also likes her job.

"It's really nice here and a good, safe environment," she said.

Mrs. Rodriguez, who started as a commissary cashier more than 20 years ago, said baggers in small commissaries get to know their customers and look forward to helping them.

The job is not without its hazards, however, including winter weather, making it hard to push carts through snow.

Weather is not the only one. Ryan was nipped by a customer's small dog as he attempted to load up bags.

Baggers are also prohibited from carting groceries to the parking lot when lightning is close. In that case, customers pull their vehicles to the front of the store for loading.

Bagging is a popular job. Mr. Nelson said there is more than a year-long waiting list.

Candidates must be at least 16 years old. Teenagers, 14 and older, may retrieve carts from the parking lot.

The commissary now has self-checkout lanes, but Mrs. Rodriguez urges shoppers to take advantage of the baggers' help.

Once an item is scanned, it becomes the responsibility of the baggers, who must replace items out of their own pocket if they are damaged during bagging. If a customer leaves items behind, a bagger will tag it and set it aside for the customer's retrieval.


Baggers chip into a common fund to cover damaged items. Out of that fund, they contributed \$500 to the Academy's *Operation Warm Heart* holiday charity last year.

Mrs. Rodriguez also encouraged shoppers to take advantage of coupons and the commissary itself, which on average reduces prices by 30 percent versus shopping on the economy.

"If you're looking to save money, use the commissary fully," she said.

According to Mrs. Rodriguez, with high gas prices slicing into family budgets, shopping at the commissary makes sense.

The Academy's next case lot sale is Sept. 17 through 19.



















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Open House quiets Academy dogs

By Ken Carter
Editor

More than 800 dogs vanished on Academy grounds Saturday but there were enough current and past Academy fire-fighters on hand for it not to become too alarming to pet owners.

That's the report from Academy Fire Chief Ernst Piercy who said the turnout for the Air Force Academy's 18th Annual Fire Department Open House was hot. "More than 1,000 community members turned out for the event and the 800 hot dogs we had on hand vanished quickly."

The highlight of the day, according to the chief, was Academy firefighters demonstrating a rescue technique involving sheering the roof off an auto following a simulated accident with victims still trapped inside.

Three puppet shows were also a hit among the children of all ages and each

performance was before a standing-room-only crowd. Combine puppets, hot dogs, chips and lemonade and the children present were a captive audience for the real reason for the event, promoting awareness and personal safety by teaching proper responses to a fire. Children were shown how to low-crawl and avoid the dangers of inhaling smoke while working their way to safety.

Other community participants in the open house represented the 10th Security Forces Squadron, El Paso County and an American Emergency Response team. There was even a retired helicopter pilot from the Houston Police Department who not only came ... but brought his own fire truck with him.

Among special guests who turned out for the event was Col. (retired) Sarah Gella, former 10th Air Base Wing vice commander. She was in town to attend a retirement ceremony and decided to check

out the action. Some 40 others were part of an annual fire fighters reunion consisting entirely of former members of the Academy Fire Department.

Smokey and Sparky present? But, of course.

Chief Piercy attributes the smashing success of this year's open house attendance largely to a "fantastic and aggressive fire safety public education program."



Photos by Mike Kaplan
Saturday's Academy Fire Department Open House featured displays equally beneficial to children and adults alike.



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Base Picnic '08

Photos by Dave Armer



Party on ...

Anyone who says being assigned at the Academy is no picnic was obviously in the wrong place Aug. 1. The annual event drew thousands away from their desks and offices for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. Numerous activities including sporting events, and special featured guests the Air Force Band "Wild Blue Country" and the Wings of Blue were also big hits among attendees. The near-record-high temperatures could not keep Academy members and their families from attending such a cool event.



Classics serve up feast for enthusiasts

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

When Lyle Ladefoged found his treasure, it was nothing more than a rusted out shell lying in a Kansas field with 1964 plates on it.

Shiny, tuned up and raring to go, it was among about 30 automotive classics on display at the base picnic Aug. 1. The show was coordinated by the Academy Skills Center.

The oldest vehicle was a 1930 Ford delivery truck. Models ranged from a '37 Ford Cabriolet to a '68 Mustang, a '66 Caddy and a '54 Chevy BelAir.

Mr. Ladefoged's 1938 Pontiac was a duplicate of the car he drove as a teenager.

"I had it restored just like the first one," he said. "I'm very fond of it."

The Air Force retiree secured the car in 1976, and, after four years of restoration work, it became road worthy.

Also a retired Air Force member, Jim Bacchus showed off his '70 Camaro Z-28 Rally Sport, often driven in drag racing circuits.

"I always liked 1970s body styles," he said. "It's one of my favorites."

He bought the car in 1990, and its stock parts were fully restored.

Mr. Bacchus drives it about once a month in the winter and about every week or two in

the summer.

Not surprising, the Chevrolet beauty only gets 12 to 15 miles per gallon of gas.

Dan O'Reilly, who grew up in an Air Force family, purchased his '71 Mustang Mach 1 in 1971. Except for the bright red paint job, he did all the restoration himself, including engine, brakes, fuel system and upholstery. The work took two years.

"I've loved Mustangs since 1964," he said.

During the week Mr. O'Reilly is a computer software specialist and buys, restores and sells Mustangs on the side.

"It's just a hobby," he said. "It gives me something to do in the winter."

Elmer Hess is the proud owner of a '03 Corvette, the line's 50th anniversary model.

"I like the power and gas mileage, plus it's a convertible," he said.

Mr. Hess has driven it to California. "It's not just a show car," he said.

Pat Carson's '58 Chevy Impala showed off its original color, "cashmere blue."

She found it on the Internet in Arkansas.

Ms. Carson farmed out various parts of the car for restoration. It always draws attention from other drivers.

"It's fun to drive when other people's heads turn," she said. "It bothers me when I hear tires screech, though."



Barbecue, horseback riding, children's games, special guests and sports events were all on the agenda during the Academy's annual base picnic Aug. 1. Attendees got away from normal routines for the afternoon and enjoyed a wide variety of sights, sounds and tastes.

For picnic sports results see Page 16.

Immunizations key for healthy servicemembers

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Obtaining proper immunizations against disease is a key factor in sustaining the health of servicemembers, military retirees and their families, senior defense health officials said Tuesday.

“As an infectious disease doctor, I’ve always felt that a vaccine is that ultimate victory in our war against bugs,” Dr. Michael E. Kilpatrick, the Military Health System’s deputy director for force health protection and readiness programs, said at the Pentagon’s DiLorenzo Tricare Health Clinic during the military’s Immunization Awareness Month kick-off ceremony.

The military’s immunization awareness program mirrors National Immunization Month, which is observed across America each August, and reminds servicemembers, retirees and their families to safeguard their health by keeping their shot records up to date.

“I think this month we really want to focus on the full spectrum, from the newborn to the older person, and the importance of vaccines and understanding when those are due throughout your life,” Kilpatrick said.

The Defense Department works hard to offer less-reactive, comfortable vaccines that provide tremendous protection for servicemembers, military retirees and their families, Kilpatrick said.

August is a good time to remind adults to check their personal and children’s shot records, Kilpatrick noted, because school will soon begin and the flu season follows soon afterward. Obtaining an annual flu shot remains an important measure, Kilpatrick pointed out, noting that about 36,000 Americans die from the flu each year.

The American military has been in the vaccine business for a long time, Kilpatrick said. Continental Army commander Gen. George Washington, he said, ordered that his troops be inoculated against smallpox during the Revolutionary War. Today, he added, the military’s vaccination program protects overseas-deployed

troops against potential biological threats such as anthrax and smallpox.

Pneumonia vaccine shots provided to older military retirees and their families also are extremely important and are known to save lives, he added. Yet, “because we have the vaccines doesn’t mean they get used,” Kilpatrick said.

Programs like Immunization Month are important, Kilpatrick said, because they remind hospitals and clinics to activate customers to obtain needed vaccines.

“Are you up to date on your shots?” Kilpatrick asked.

The DiLorenzo clinic provides vaccinations to about 17,000 servicemembers, defense civilians and contractors who work at the Pentagon, Army Col. Dale K. Block, the clinic’s commander, said.

Keeping immunization records current “is a big deal,” Block said, noting it affects force readiness as well as the individual health of servicemembers, retirees and their families.

Idol

From Page 7

The “It” factor is something a lot of those critiquing the entertainment business talk about ... just don’t ask any of them to offer a concise definition of what “It” is. Sergeant Franklin says one has to be the right person at the right place, at the right time.

“You just have to be yourself and show people who you really are, because people already make assumptions when first meeting you, let the assumption be made off of the real you.”

Many aspiring entertainers cling to the pursuit of the industry’s perks, which Sergeant Franklin says he wouldn’t turn them down. But for him, it’s not that kind of race.

“I want to have my voice heard and I don’t mean singing voice but more have my words heard,” he said. “I express my

emotions through my music. If I can connect with people then I’ve done my job. I want to be relatable with others, because at the end of the day, we’re all human.”

Other musical influences in Sergeant Franklin’s life include John Legend.

“His words have meaning and the message is usually very clear,” he said. “I also love music by Kirk Franklin, and John P. Kee. Music without meaning to me is worthless.”

Sergeant Franklin does not take the benefits of having served in the Air Force lightly.

“I’ve benefited from the Air Force by meeting lots of inspirational people musically inclined and otherwise,” he said. “I’ve also learned discipline and applied that to my diligence in perfecting my skill. I’ve learned to be dedicated to all I’m passionate about and held to the Air Force core value of “Excellence in All We Do.”

Academy Picnic Sports Results

There were six sporting events in the Academy picnic day competition Aug. 1. This year’s champion is the DRU/MSS unit with a total of 110 points. Final results were as follows:

10th MDG	100 points
10th CES	100 points
10th CS	90 points
CW	70 points
10th SFS	40 points

13 mile Mountain Bike race (13 participants)

1st Stephen Wade	10:09:54
2nd James Weinstein	10:10:22
3rd Chad Rauls	10:11:22
4th David Pike	10:16:35

5 K Fun run (22 participants)

1st Ryan Coyne -	21:54
2nd Ian Sablad	
3rd Troy Reichert	
4th Lee Kashka	

1-Pitch softball (three teams)

- 1st SFS (Coach Mike Wardingley)
- 2nd CES (Coach James Maestas)
- 3rd DRU/MSS (Coach Mike McMahon)

3 on 3 Basketball

- (three teams, one disqualified)
- 1st 10th CES (Coach Norm Henderson)
- 2nd 10th CS (Coach Terrance Purcell)
- 3rd 10th MDG (Coach Joe Mcilvaine)

3 on 3 Sand volleyball (seven teams)

- 1st 10th MDG (Coach Tevita Mafi)
- 2nd CES (Coach Ken Helgerson)
- 3rd 10th CS #1 (Coach Steve Temple)
- 4th MDG (Coach Jennifer Bricker)

Doubles horseshoes (two teams)

- 1st 10th CS Richard Fenske/Rocky McCollum
- 2nd DRU/MSS Jason Pollard/Dan Thompson

In the Chiefs and Eagles annual softball battle, the Eagles scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth defeating the Chiefs, 15-13, avenging last year’s 14-13 loss.

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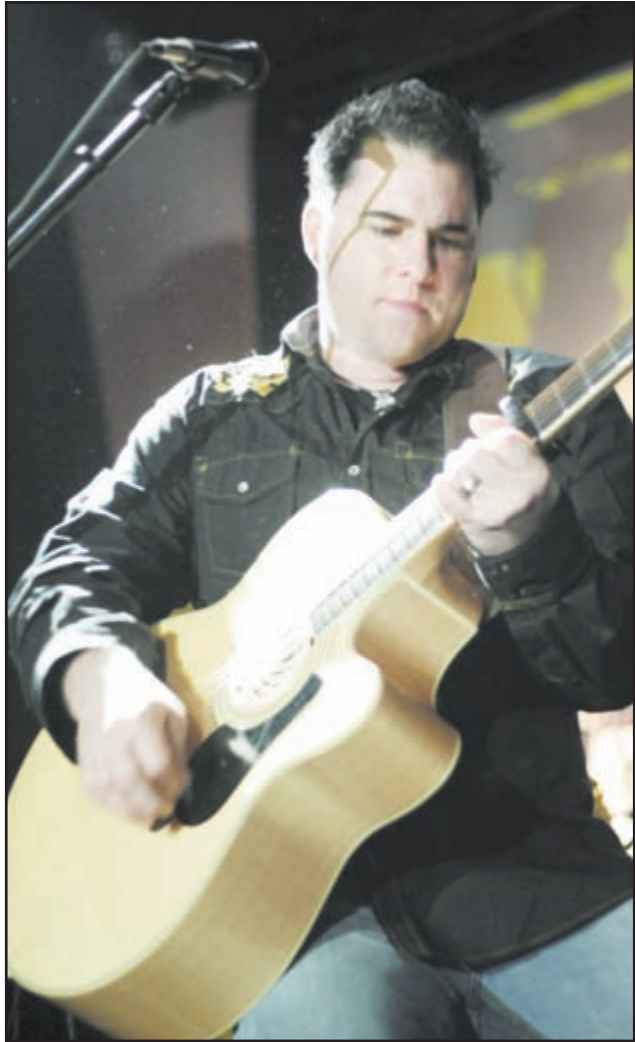
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Airman wins top songwriting prize



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Steven Wilson was among hundreds of servicemembers who submitted original songs for the Dallas Songwriters Association's "Songs From the Soul of Service" amateur songwriting contest. Captain Wilson submitted three songs, and one, "Ask Me To," was a first-place entry in the pop/rock category and went on to take the contest's grand prize.

By Sharon Foster
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — An Airman crafts an autobiographical pop song. A Marine pens a song about standing watch. A sailor scribbles a lullaby for his son. A soldier raps into a tape recorder to entertain his unit. Songwriters like these servicemembers were among the many who submitted their original songs to this year's "Songs From the Soul of Service" songwriting contest.

Now in its third year, the amateur songwriting contest is a collaborative effort between the Dallas Songwriter Association and the Defense Department's America Supports You program, which highlights corporate and grassroots support for U.S. servicemembers and their families.

Judges select winners and runners-up in each of 18 categories, which include country, hip-hop, inspirational, instrumental and pop/rock. They then select three of the category winners for grand prizes.

The top three songs for 2008 are: — First Place: "Ask Me To" by Air Force Capt. Steven Wilson, which took top pop/rock honors; — Second Place: "If Tomorrow Were a Dream" by Army National Guard Spc. Greg Pritchard, which was the contest's top country song; and — Third Place: "I Can't Wait to Love You" by Jill Charles, wife of Army Staff Sgt. Robert Charles, the top song in the inspirational category.

"Every military conflict from the American Revolution to the Civil War to the first Gulf War has spawned music that reflected the moods, emotions and sentiments of the nation's fighting men and women," said William Brown, Dallas Songwriter Association board member and committee chairman for Songs From the Soul of Service.

"Songs From the Soul of Service serves to capture

some of this history," he continued, "while providing recognition to talented songwriters and diversion and entertainment to participants and nonparticipants alike."

Captain Wilson, who earned the top grand prize, said his own life provides his songwriting inspiration.

"Over the years, writing music has been so autobiographical," he said. "It's so honest and personal. I think this contest truly personalizes the image of the military. It shows civilians that as 'the troops' we represent so much more than uniforms and duty. This contest gives us the chance to showcase what might otherwise remain silent or be forgotten."

The contest is open exclusively to amateur songwriters currently serving in the U.S. military and those currently inactive due to injury or disability suffered after the start of the war in Afghanistan. Eligible participants may submit songs on behalf of an immediate family member, a fallen comrade or a fallen comrade's immediate family member.

Mr. Brown said he thinks the contest is an excellent outlet for servicemembers.

"These songs provided respite, unit bonding and an expressive outlet during trying times," he explained. "In some cases, these songs will transcend their times and become permanent fixtures in the nation's patriotic songbook."

Captain Wilson, along with the other winners of each category, will be included on a compilation CD provided to radio and music industry professionals, as well as to the contest participants. The first-place grand prize includes a weekend stay at the Gaylord Texan Hotel.

Public events to showcase the winning songs and songwriters are in the planning stages. The events will culminate with a concert at the end of the year, headlined by well-known recording artists.

A complete list of the winners and runners-up is available at www.songsoulservice.org.

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Grads, volunteer coach shoot for Olympic gold



U.S. Army photo by Tim Hipps

U.S. Air Force World Class Athlete Program
Capt. Kevin Eastler earns an Olympic berth in the Beijing Games by winning the 20-kilometer race walk with a time of 1 hour, 27 minutes, 8 seconds at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team track and field trials July 5, 2008, outside Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Ore.

Academy Public Affairs

Four Air Force Academy graduates and an Academy volunteer coach will discover how they measure up with the world as they compete at the 2008 Olympics beginning Aug. 8 in Beijing.

Lt. Col. Dominic Grazioli, from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Capt. Kevin Eastler, from Buckley AFB, Colo. and Capt. Seth Kelsey, and Eli Bremer, from Colorado Springs, Colo., and Academy volunteer cross-country coach Lopez Lomong will represent the Air Force and nation at the Olympic Games.

"When you're competing at this level, the biggest competitor is yourself," Captain Bremer said. "I'm not really worried about other competitors. I'm trying to go out there and have the best day I can. If I have a good day, it can definitely generate a medal."

Captain Bremer is currently training for the modern pentathlon; a one-day-event consisting of five disciplines: swimming, pistol shooting, fencing, horseback riding and cross-

country running. He is a 2000 Academy graduate, who hails from Monument, Colo.

During training, Captain Bremer has shooting practice four days a week, fences three to four days a week and horseback rides once a month. He also runs approximately 60 miles a week and swims about 25 miles a week, six days a week.

"Many people say I have the best job out there, they don't see me throw up a couple of times a week because of training," Captain Bremer said.

This strenuous training is likely the recipe for producing a medal and Colonel Grazioli, trap shooter, wants to be on the podium as well.

"Winning a medal at the Olympics would be a tremendous honor," Colonel Grazioli said. "At this level, any time you can stand on the podium after the competition, you have done very well. It shows that on that day you were one of the best in the world."

A 1987 Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Grazioli was a collegiate national champion with the shotgun

during his cadet years.

For Captain Kelsey, this will be his second Olympic appearance. The 2003 Academy graduate and fencer competed in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece, where helping the U.S. fencing team finish in 10th place. This year, the expectations are higher, as *Sports Illustrated* predicted the fencer will take home the bronze medal in the individual épée competition.

Competing in the 20-kilometer race-walk is Captain Eastler. The 1999 Academy graduate has been fighting through injuries this season, overcoming a sports hernia and knee tendinitis to qualify for the 2008 Olympics. Captain Eastler is a four time USA champion in the 20-kilometer race-walk and holds the U.S. record in the 30-kilometer race-walk.

In race walking, form is of utmost importance as competitors must appear to maintain contact with the ground at all times. Male and female world-class racewalkers can average under seven and eight minutes per mile in a 20 kilometer (12.4 mile) racewalk.



Photos by Mike Kaplan

Head Coach Troy Calhoun reacts to a reporter's question here July 30. Coach Calhoun enters his second year as head coach, after guiding the Falcons to their best Mountain West Conference record in school history in 2007 with a 9-4 record.

Lights, camera ... Football



Outside linebacker Hunter Altman (32) and quarterback Eric Herbort (7) also met with the local media.



Photo by Steve Nowland

Williams makes All-Academic Team

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Air Force's Matt Williams was named to the 2008 Division I All-Academic Track and Field Team, the U.S. Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association announced Wednesday. Williams, a behavioral sciences major, was one of 266 student-athletes from 111 Division I programs to make the all-academic team.

Williams is a three-time academic all-conference selection, who competed in the 3000-meter steeplechase at the regional championships after posting the fifth-fastest time in Academy history (9:05.30) to take fifth at the Mountain West Conference Championships. He improved that time to 9:01.34 at the NCAA Midwest Championships, where he placed ninth.

To qualify for the USTFCCCA All-Academic Track and Field Team, the student-athlete must have compiled a cumulative grade-point-average of 3.25 and have met either the NCAA Division I Indoor automatic or provisional qualifying standard or the NCAA Division I Outdoor regional and national qualifying standard in their respective event.



Falcons coach visits

Come hear Falcon Football Head Coach Troy Calhoun discuss the upcoming Air Force Academy Falcon Football season. He'll be on hand 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Stripes Pub (located at Peterson AFB, Bldg. 1013). Pub menu will be available and admission is free! For more information, call 556-4181.



INTRAMURALS

Golf

(Week 11)

Division 1	Pts.
1. 306 FTG	19.5
2. 10TH MDG 1	28.5
3. 98 FTS	21.5
4. NSSI 2	17.0
5. DRU 1	2.0

6. DRU 3	11.5
7. DFEG	17.0
8. 10TH CS	5.0
9. DFM	10.5
10. CW 1	18.5
11. DFP	15.5
12. MAINT 2	23.0

Division 2	Pts.
1. NSSI 1	28.5

2. MAINT 1	22.0
3. 94 FTS	23.5
4. 10TH MDG 2	13.5
5. DRU 2	8.5
6. DFL	23.0
7. CW 2	6.5
8. XP	15.5
9. CWCX	5.5
10. 10TH MSS/CCA	9.5
11. DFENG	8.0
12. LGR	24.0



The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers the following classes.

Pre-Separation Counseling

Monday, and Aug. 18; 2:30 to 4 p.m.

This mandatory briefing assists you in identifying benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

Virtual Assistants

Tuesday and Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Assistants are military spouse self-employed professionals who provide off-site support services to their clients from home. Learn more about it at this class.

Smooth Move

Thursday, 3 to 4 p.m.

Learn innovative ways to make your move a smooth one. This is a mandatory class for individuals departing the Academy.

Medical Records Review

Aug. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the Disabled American Veterans review their medical records. Must pre-register.

Heart Link

Aug. 20; 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This program is for Air Force spouses, especially those who are new to the military.

The goal is to impart information about Air Force life, provide a greater awareness of the Air Force and Academy missions, customs, traditions, protocol

and the resources and services available from our key base agencies. Must RSVP by Aug. 18.

Resume Writing

Aug. 20; 9 a.m. to noon

Learn different types of resume and cover letter styles and how to improve yours.

Civil Service Class

Aug. 21, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Learn how to submit a resume, search for positions, and apply for Air Force Federal Civil Service employment.

Orientation & Information

Aug. 21; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mandatory orientation for all newly assigned Academy personnel. Spouses are welcomed to attend at the Milazzo Center.

Red Carpet Tour

Aug. 22; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This informative, fun filled base tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals what there is to see and do here.

Guided Tours

The Cadet Chapel staff is now conducting daily public guided tours weekdays at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 and 1:30 p.m., excluding holidays. The 30-minute tours are designed to provide visitors with more in-depth knowledge of the Chapel. Reservations are not necessary. Interested visitors should arrive a few minutes in advance.

Celebration Tea

The Academy's Officers Spouses Club celebrates 50 years at the Air Force Academy with a 10 a.m. Tea at the Carlton House Sept. 3. Please RSVP to Debbie Kyger by Aug. 29. The event is for anyone who has been involved with the club over the last 50 years as well as newcomers who want to be a part of the next 50. For more information, call 282-0275 or e-mail d3ekyger@comcast.net

Home Buyers

Aug. 14 noon to 4 p.m., CE Conference room, Bldg. 8120, Edgerton Dr. This free home buying class will

provide participants essential information regarding the process of purchasing a home. It is provided by experienced, licensed mortgage lenders, realtors and inspectors. Topics covered include shopping for the right home, working with a realtor, obtaining pre-approval for a mortgage, loan types (including VA), inspections, understanding closing costs and more. Call 333-2247 for more information.

TAP Seminar

Aug. 26-29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? Call now to reserve your spot in the next available TAP class. It will guide through building a resume, interviewing skills, networking, Dressing for Success and more.

Call 333-3444 with questions or to register for any of the above.

Ice Arena Military Appreciation Day

Academy Ice Arena military appreciation day is set for 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 7. Skate for free, Win prizes and learn about "Learn to Skate" programs. The arena is located in the Field House, Building 2169, in the Cadet Area. The program is based on the U.S. Figure Skating Association Skate with US, basic skills program. Military personnel, family members and accompanied guests and government civilian employees are welcomed. For more information, call 333-0389.

The Next Level

The Protestant parish of the Community Center Chapel begins one night of ministry! The Next Level begins Aug. 20 and continues each Wednesday at 6 p.m. through May 2009. The night begins with a hearty meal followed by an inspirational opening assembly in the chapel and dynamic programs for all ages: TNL Youth (6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade classes), TNL Kids: Grades 1-5, rotating between five exciting stations: music, crafts, snacks, games, and surprises, as well as classes for Pre-K through kindergarten and infants, toddlers, and twos. Adult small

group studies are also offered as part of TNL.

Volunteers Sought

The Academy's Base Honor Guard needs volunteers. Join an elite group and gain valuable leadership skills while having fun and advancing your career. Training is held periodically. All ranks are eligible. For more information, call 333-5684.



YMCA outing

Join local military mothers and sons for an evening of food, fun, "Flick n Float," bounce house, games, climbing wall and photos from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 20 at the SE Armed Services YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Dri. To register or for more information call 719-622-9622.

Fairly Focused

The Colorado State Fair in Pueblo runs Aug. 22 through Sept. 1 and offers entertainment for the whole family. The hours of operation will be as follows: Grounds, daily, 10 a.m. to midnight; creative arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Monday through Thursday noon to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; exhibit halls, daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; fine arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Aircraft Hall, daily, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; carnival rides, weekdays, 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. to midnight weekends.

Directions: From the Academy, take I-25 South to Exit 97A (Central Avenue). Go north one block to Northern Avenue. Turn left on Northern Avenue to Prairie Avenue. Turn right on Prairie Avenue and go two blocks to fairgrounds. Driving time is approximately 50 minutes. For more information visit: www.colorado.statefair.com

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

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.



The 2008 Colorado State Fair will offer fun for all Aug. 22 - Sept. 1.

Photo by Ken Carter