Vol. 50 No. 3 January 22, 2010



Photo by Johnny Wilson

### Exercise tests responders' readiness

Staff Sgts. Jason Reeves and Adam Pedersen conduct a search during a readiness exercise at the Air Force Academy Jan. 20, 2010. The exercise tested how personnel at the Academy would respond to an "active shooter" incident. For more coverage, see the Jan. 29 *Academy Spirit*.

## Cadet Squadron 06 acts to help Haitian quake victims



Courtesy Photo

Members of Cadet Squadron 06 hold an auction Tuesday to raise money for Haiti relief efforts. The auction raised more than \$2,000, which the squadron will donate to the Combined Federal Campaignapproved relief fund.

By Ann Patton Academy Spirit staff

"Bull Six" cadets jumped into action after hearing about the severe earthquake in Haiti Jan. 12 that may have left more than 100,000 people dead.

With a can-do spirit, they set about doing their part to help the Caribbean nation that was — and is — desperately in need of assistance.

"We should do something," said Cadet 1st Class Jeff Faulkner, cadet service officer for Cadet Squadron 06.

With only the cost of some envelopes and poster board, the squadron completed an auction, offering everything from shoe shines, bed making and use of a privately owned vehicle for a weekend,

"I was hoping for \$1,000. I would be happy with \$20 or \$200," Cadet Faulkner said before the auction. The squadron raised \$2,037.

The economics major said more than half of the 117-member squadron joined forces to make it work, either through contributions or volunteer help.

He said proceeds will be forwarded to a relief fund,

See HAITI, Page 9

# WEEKEND WEATHER FRIDAY 44 19 RAIN/SNOW SATURDAY 35 16 SNOW SUNDAY 33 12

### No 'kaboom' for FalconLaunch-8

Cadets conduct a static test fire of the newest Academy-built rocket.

Page 3

### Entry controllers step up

Airmen at the Cadet Area entry control points get upgrades.

Page 6

### Haiti Earthquake

The Air Force plays a vital role in delivering much-needed relief supplies to Haitians.

Pages 10-11

## The high cost of freedom

By Cathy L. Francis Military Spouse

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. (AFNS) — The cost of freedom cannot and should not be measured in mere dollars, or even in millions or billions of dollars. Today's large military budgets are spent on equipment, buildings, airframes, maintenance, personnel and training. These are the items that are most commonly thought of when people consider the cost of the freedoms we enjoy.

These costs are also paid by countries that have large military forces, but little or no freedom. The true costs of freedom are not found in a balance sheet or in the pages of a budget document.

The hidden costs of freedom include the birth of a child, missed by a deployed father. Also included are the birthdays and anniversaries missed by a parent or spouse on temporary duty, and even the simplest things we take for granted, such as missing a child's first steps, first words, first day of kindergarten or their last day of high school.

The costs can be high for many military families who support their activeduty spouses and parents. These professional warriors often struggle to maintain their ties with their families while working to ensure that everyone has the rights and freedoms we all expect.

Sadly, the cost of freedom is sometimes counted by the number of flagdraped caskets returning from overseas. These are the men and women for whom the ultimate cost of freedom was their lives, and the impact on the lives of their families.

This ultimate cost is one that is not fully measured by the cold, sterile numbers of casualty reports. It is measured in the amount of unheard advice, unshared joys, unshared sorrows and in the hearts of children who only know their parents through stories and photos.

These hidden costs of freedom began in the War of Independence. They continued through the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War.

The costs were very high during the

Civil War when freedom was extended to some for the first time. The costs then included brother fighting against brother and friend against friend.

Still the costs rose, through the Spanish-American War, two world wars, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam and the long Cold War. The cost continues to build as we fight today's war, both at home and abroad.

However, with this cost, we have paid for freedom for ourselves and for others who may have never known freedom. Even though we have paid a high price for freedom, we are among the few who have given freedom to others regardless of the cost we bear.

Editor's note: Cathy L. Francis, spouse of retired Master Sgt. Mitchell J. Francis, was recently awarded one of 25 \$1,000 scholarships offered through the Air Force's Club Membership Scholarship Program for this winning essay. Mrs. Francis is currently attending Metropolitan Community College where she hopes to earn an associate degree in medical billing and coding

### AGADEMY SPIRIT

To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy Lt. Gen. Mike Gould Academy Superintendent Capt. Corinna Jones Deputy Director of Public Affairs Staff Sgt. Don Branum NCOIC of Internal Information donald.branum@usafa.af.mil Ken Carter — Editor kenneth.carter@usafa.af.mil **Butch Wehry** — Senior Staff Writer whalen.wehry@usafa.af.mil Ann Patton — Staff Writer elizabeth.patton.ctr@usafa.af.mil

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Denise Navoy — Graphic Designer

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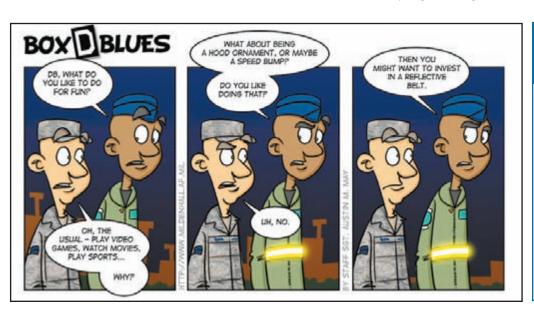
Send submissions to: HQ USAFA/PAI, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3100, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5016 or deliver to Suite 3100 in Harmon Hall.

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

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





### **OPSEC Corner:**

### **Stay Safe Online!**

Social networks are a great way to connect and talk to friends and family, but don't give away too much! Details about current or future deployments or operations can give the enemy vital information. Always remember OPSEC when you're online.

### Character Corner What do you stand for?

By Maj. Tom DeVore

Center For Character and Leadership Development

According to my good friend, retired Chief Master Sgt. BobVasquez, "If you don't stand for what's right, you'll fall for what's wrong."

In recent months I've heard many cadets express regrets about the constraints they must live with at the Air Force Academy. They must live under "the Code" while many of their friends are living the

good life, doing what they want and partying it up. They may think, "It is not fair, it is not right. Why should they get to do all this stuff that I can't?" Sad to say this situation will never change, and it will never seem fair.

As a cadet and as a future Airman, whether officer or enlisted, you will interact with friends, family members and acquaintances who will influence you in ways that will affect your life and future. When you agreed to serve our country, you placed constraints on yourself, and you moved yourself into a separate category from the

majority of Americans. We have all committed ourselves to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, which means we all must make sacrifices. The first big commitment you have made is be living under "the Code."

The next time you feel like you are being treated unfairly and you feel left out because you can't do everything your friends back home are doing, ask yourself, "What do I stand for?" Stand for what's right, so that you won't fall for what's wrong.

Tune into KAFA, 97.7 FM for Character Matters, Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Also on iTunes or www.usafa.org.

George Williams

Retired Soldier



### Do you have any thoughts on the earthquake in Haiti?



"It's a terrible tragedy and a shame people have lost their lives because of Aristide and Duvalier's embezzlement and failure to make

failure to make improvements in infrastructure."

Myron Gelsinger Retired Airman



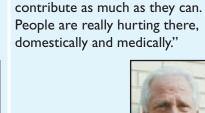
"It's been a poor country for decades, and it's been on my mind. I'm thinking of donating to a charitable organization."



thing on my mind. We're pretty fortunate here. We're thinking about making a contribution to charity."

"The devastation was the first

Tim Alger Preparatory School Athletics



"I think everyone should

Bill Schohn

Retired Airman





## Cadets test-fire FalconLaunch-8 rocket

By Academy Public Affairs

Cadets in the FalconLaunch program conducted a successful static test-fire of the FalconLaunch-8 rocket's propulsion system Jan. 15.

FalconLaunch is a two-semester senior capstone design course for cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy where they gain hands-on experience, "learning space by doing space."

Over the course of the year, the multidisciplinary cadet team, with faculty mentors from several academic departments, design, build, test, and fly a solidfueled sounding rocket carrying cadet-designed and Department of Defense payloads.

"We're the only program in the world that produces sounding rockets and microsatellites at the undergraduate level," said Col. Marty France, head of the Department of Astronautics.

Initial data showed that FalconLaunch-8 produced 3,300 pounds of thrust for about 10 seconds, Colonel France said.

"That's a little lower thrust and a longer burn than we expected," he added. The rocket is designed to produce 4,000 pounds of peak thrust during a 7.8-second burn. However, Colonel France also cautioned that the data was preliminary.

Cadets will analyze and compare the actual thrust and chamber pressure data received from this test against predicted values from simulations to ensure the motor design meets program requirements.

The FalconLaunch-8 rocket launch is supported by the Department of Defense's Space Test Program and is designed to support an experimental winglet payload sponsored by Air Force Research Laboratory and the Air Force Institute of



Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The winglet experiment is being investigated for use on future reusable space flight vehicles. The supersonic speeds provided by FalconLaunch-8 will simulate part of the environment the fin tip will see during the space vehicle's launch phase. To do so, FalconLaunch-8 must reach Mach 3 and maintain that speed for three to five seconds.

Once the full analysis is complete, some design modifications to the FalconLaunch-8 rocket are possible, Colonel France said. Currently, the rocket is scheduled for launch from the White Sands Missile Test Range in New Mexico.

The previous rocket in the FalconLaunch series, FalconLaunch-7, was also launched from White Sands. That April 2009 launch put the FalconLaunch-7 rocket's boosted dart payload section up to an altitude of 354,724 feet, setting a world altitude record for university-built rockets.

The first five FalconLaunch rockets have each been successful, advancing the Academy's sounding rocket program. FalconLaunch-6 was found to have a crack in its solid fuel grain as part of pre-launch

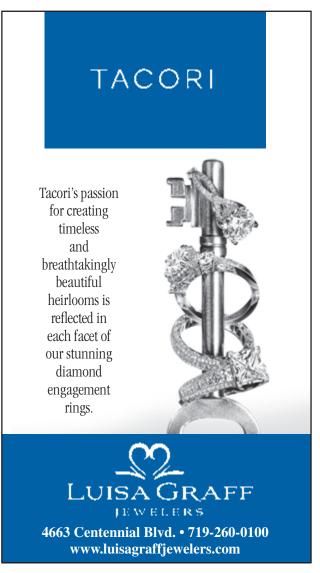


Cadet 1st Class Stephen Renner prepares the FalconLaunch-8 rocket for test-firing. The FalconLaunch program's end-goal is to provide the Air Force and Department of Defense with a cost-efficient, operationally responsive method of delivering small scientific and engineering payloads into low-Earth orbit.

inspections in 2008, and its launch was scrubbed. That rocket exploded during a static test fire Nov. 4, 2009, and cadets used the findings of the FalconLaunch-6 investigation to adjust FalconLaunch-8's design.

The FalconLaunch program's end goal is to provide the Air Force and Department of Defense with a cost-efficient, operationally responsive method of delivering small scientific and engineering payloads into low-Earth orbit.









the sight of the Blue Star Banner in homes will remind in the U.S. Armed Forces us of the personal sacrifices being made to preserve our preserving America's freedom demands much. way of life.

Americans ... we say. "Thank you."



## Four cadets awarded at annual LOD Conference

By Tammie Adams Academy Admissions

Four cadets with the Class of 2012 received awards for outstanding performance as freshmen during the annual Liaison Officer Directors' conference in Colorado Spring Jan. 14.

Cadets 3rd Class Nicholas Cataldo, Andrew Haus, Joshua Linsell and Susan Vanden Dries received awards, with Cadet Haus being named "best of the best" among the four finalists.

Cadet Haus was ranked fourth in his class militarily, had a 3.8 mid-semester GPA and earned a 445 of 500 possible points on his physical fitness test. In addition, he was a class representative for Cadet Squadron 04 and dedicated his spring break to Habitat for Humanity.

"I think my biggest accomplishment was simply keeping up good grades," he said. "Academics are everything here, and I'm definitely not a genius in any way. I have never worked so hard on schoolwork, but it really paid off."

Cadet Cataldo was named the Cadet Wing Open Finals' most outstanding boxer. His leaders referred to him as "an allaround leader who always looks after his peers and shows great enthusiasm and motivation," according to his award nomination.

"I am absolutely honored to receive this award," Cadet Cataldo said. "The



Cadet 3rd Class Andrew Haus receives an award for outstanding performance as a freshman from Paula Gould, the wife of Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, and Larry Jones, the acting director of admissions, during the Liaison Officer Directors' conference Jan. 14.

Academy is one giant balancing act, and finding your own personal formula for prioritizing and completing all assigned tasks is a necessary skill set here."

One of Cadet Linsell's most notable accomplishments was his leadership position as the honor guard team commander, the highest position to be held by a freshman. He also excelled militarily and physically.

"I came here with the notion that everyone accepted to the Academy would be the same," Cadet Linsell said. "The reality is that people here have some really

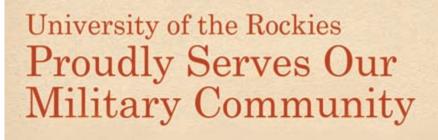
Cadet Choir, cadet orchestra, astronomy and physics club, ski club and space club.

"The biggest lesson I learned is that it's okay to make mistakes, and this is the place to do it," Cadet Vanden Dries said. "Kind of like warming up for a soccer game — get all the mistakes out before the game starts.

"All throughout middle and high school I was the definition of a perfectionist. But the Academy has made me a lot more relaxed and able to see that as long as you get something done on time and up to standards, it doesn't matter if there's no extra flourishes or if it's not revolutionary. You save the revolutionary stuff for when it counts," she said.

The award ceremony gives liaison officer directors a chance to recognize the outstanding achievements and hard work that cadets put into the Academy, said Larry Jones, acting director of admissions.

"These are the same cadets our



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## Apollo 16 astronaut to speak at prayer luncheon Feb. 9

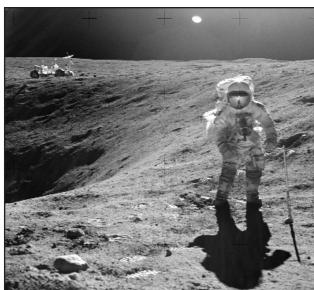
By Staff Sgt. Don Branum Academy Public Affairs

The 10th man to walk on the moon will speak at the Air Force Academy's national prayer luncheon, scheduled at the Falcon Club Feb. 9 at 11:30 a.m.

Retired Brig. Gen. Charles Duke Jr. served as a member of the astronaut support crew for Apollo 10, the capsule commander for Apollo 11, the backup lunar module pilot for Apollo 13 and the lunar module pilot for Apollo 16.

The 10th Air Base Wing Chapel has partially funded the luncheon, reducing ticket costs to \$5 per person. Meal options include Italian or vegetarian lasagna.

"The Air Force Academy is honored to host such an event for the entire Colorado Springs military and civilian community,"



said 10th ABW Commander Col. Rick LoCastro. "This is certainly an event nobody will want to miss as we celebrate National Prayer Week."

Mr. Duke is a Christian lay-witness and president of Duke Ministry for Christ. The theme of his speech will be "America's Godly Heritage."

While in the Air Force, he logged more than 4,100 flying hours, 265 hours in space and 21 hours of extravehicular activity on the moon's surface. His achievements include a Legion of Merit medal, a NASA Distinguished Service Medal and two Air Force Distinguished Service Medals. He received his commission through the U.S. Naval Academy in 1957 and earned a master's degree in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1964.

The Academy's prayer lunch is based on

the National Prayer Breakfast, held annually on the first Thursday in February in Washington, D.C. The National Prayer Breakfast was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. Attendees include the president, vice president, members of Congress and other government officials.

NASA photo

Retired Brig. Gen. Charles Duke Jr., seen here during the Apollo 16 mission in April 1972, is the guest speaker for the 2010 National Prayer Luncheon, scheduled to be held at the Falcon Club Feb. 9 at 11:30 a.m.

## Academy, AOG recognize distinguished grads

By Bob McAllister
Association of Graduates

The Air Force Academy and the Academy's Association of Graduates announced the winners of the 2009 Distinguished Graduate Award Tuesday.

The award recognizes Academy graduates whose singular and distinctive contributions to the United States have set them apart from other graduates

The winners of the Distinguished Graduate Award for 2009 are General John M. Loh and the Honorable Heather A. Wilson. They will receive their awards at a formal presentation during Academy Founder's Day in April 2010.

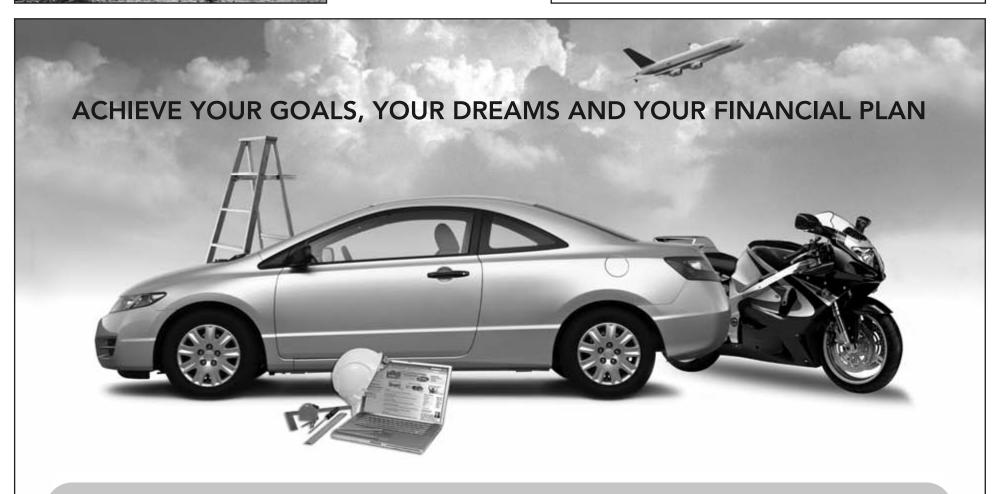
General Loh is a 1960 distinguished graduate of the Academy. His 35-year military career included a tour as Air Force vice chief of staff and was followed with his assignment as the last commander of Tactical Air Command. In this position, he successfully led the transition to Air Combat Command.

Following his retirement from active duty, General Loh has continued to share his expertise through service to a variety of organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences, the National Security Board of the Sandia National

Laboratory, the Falcon Foundation, the Armed Forces Benefit Association and the Boy Scouts of America. He has also remained involved with the Academy as a senior reviewer of the Honor Climate Assessment Task Force, as a guest lecturer in the Aeronautics Department and as a member of the Superintendent's Senior Advisory Board.

Ms. Wilson is a 1982 distinguished graduate of the Academy. As a cadet, she served as the cadet vice wing commander and was selected to attend Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. Her active-duty service included assignments in Europe where she participated as part of the secretary of defense' team in the Conventional Forces in Europe negotiations in Vienna, Austria. She then served on the National Security Council at the White House.

After her military service, Ms. Wilson joined her husband in New Mexico, where she founded a successful consulting service company. Returning to public service, she was appointed as cabinet secretary of the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department. In 1998, she became the first graduate of the Air Force Academy to have served in the U.S. Congress, representing the state of New Mexico until 2009.



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### January 22, 2010

## Ascots accentuate elite Academy entry controllers



By Butch Wehry Academy Spirit staff

A change in the face of Security Forces greeted those entering the cadet area starting Jan. 1.

Most visible is an ascot, a scarf that wraps around the sentries' necks of those who tend the posts at Cadet Drive and Faculty Drive.

"Elite entry controllers are the only ones who wear them," said Capt. James

1st Class Lakeysha Jefferson stands watch at the Cadet **Drive Entry Control Point on the Air** Force Academy Jan. 20, 2010. Officials with the 10th Security Forces Squadron introduced an "elite entry controller" program in January as part of the 10th Air Base Wing's "Falcon Eyes" initiative.

Coach, operations officer for the 10th serve as first responders for the cadet Security Forces Squadron.

"The 10th SFS changed the face of our entry controllers to a new 'elite entry controller' posture," Captain Coach said. "Col. Rick LoCastro, the 10th Air Base Wing commander, challenged the 10 SFS to 'Falconize' the way we do business. We accepted that challenge and started with the first face cadets see when they enter their cadet area through the protective perimeter."

On Dec. 31, at the stroke of midnight, while others were celebrating with friends, Academy entry controllers donned their ascots and ramped up their customerservice faces. All 10th SFS elite entry controllers had received extensive training in customer service, entry procedures, safety and security. While controlling entry for the area, these sentries also

The 10th SFS trains regularly with a joint cadre from the Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and Security Forces.

"We have started with 'Falconizing' our sentries at the gates, but we plan to continue our quest to 'Falconize' the gate facilities as well," Captain Coach said. "We have plans to remodel the inside of these facilities and raise the bar for the appearance standard by modifying the base cleaning contract and giving extra attention to detail.

"This is directly connected to the 10 SFS number one mission: 'Provide force protection for the Academy' ... enhancing the environment for educating and developing more than 4,000 future Air Force leaders," he added.

## Iraqi AF academy graduates 247 cadets

By Senior Airman Jarrod R. Chavana U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq (AFNS) — More than 240 cadets graduated from the Iraqi air force officer course basic military training course Jan. 10, here.

In the two-month course, the 247 graduates at Iraqi Military Academy-Rustamiyah were educated in professionalism, teamwork, management and the leadership skills required to be officers.

"The staff and students have a strong desire to improve their country," said Lt. Col. David Keller, the 821st Expeditionary Training Squadron chief of the Iraqi air force officers program.

"There is an intense national pride that is ener-

gizing to be around," added Colonel Keller, who is deployed from the Air Force Academy.

This class trained alongside more than 200 Iraqi army troops and is the largest Iraqi air force group to graduate from the Iraqi officer course since Operation Iraqi Freedom kicked off.

"This graduation is historic for the Iraqis because it's the first time there has been more Iraqi air force cadets graduate than army," said Capt. Brian Spliethof, the Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission personnel deputy director. "Also this will be the last air force class to graduate from Rustamiyah."

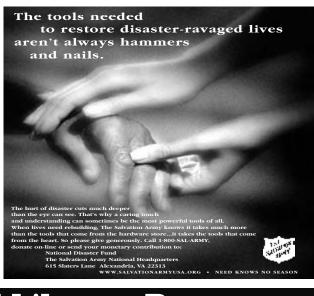
The Iraqis are re-opening the air force academy in Tikrit in mid 2010 that will host the future Iraqi air force officer course.

"The future of the Iraqi military, both airmen and soldiers, demonstrated in part the precision and coordination associated with professional, joint fielded forces," said Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson, the Coalition Air Force Transition Team commanding general. The graduates' families pride was evident, as they witnessed their sons who join today the ranks of those providing increasing security and stability for Iraq."

With the drawdown of U.S. troops in August of 2010, ITAMs continuing mission, in conjunction with NATO Training Mission-Iraqi, is to help the Iraqi schoolhouse build a self-sufficient, self-enduring technical training course. This will assist Iraq to build its own military, trained by its own people, without the need of U.S. forces.











## Security Forces to crack down on speeding

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum Academy Public Affairs

Security forces personnel want drivers to go easy on the gas pedal for the new

Speed enforcement was one of the most significant traffic safety tools for the 10th Security Forces Squadron in 2009, accounting for more than 600 tickets and more than \$30,000 in fines, said Bradley Wilson, chief of plans and programs for 10th SFS.

Speeders averaged 11 to 15 mph faster than the posted speed limit when they were cited, Mr. Wilson said. Based on those speeds, civilians paid an average of \$75 for speeding tickets issued from the Air Force Academy.

In many cases, drivers received additional citations for driving without proof of insurance or vehicle registration, Mr. Wilson added.

"Most people aren't familiar with the legal ramifications of speeding on base," Mr. Wilson said. The Air Force maintains a database known as the Security Forces Management Information System, which records incidents, accidents and traffic violations that occur on base. Security Forces patrollers can use the system to view a driver's previous violations along with any outstanding warrants, whether the driver is military or civilian.

Air Force Instruction 31-204, "Air Force Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision,"

and the Air Force Academy supplement to the AFI provide information on penalties for speeding and other driving violations on base. Points are assessed against drivers' licenses that can result in revocation of on-base driving privileges or even driver's license suspensions. Speeding incurs anywhere from three to six points on a driver's license, depending on the driver's speed. Following too closely is a four-point violation, as is failing to yield right-of-way to an emergency vehicle, failing to stop for a school bus or failing to obey stop signs.

In addition, littering from a motor vehicle will incur an automatic 30-day suspension, Mr. Wilson said.

"Our fire danger in this part of the country is high, and even something as small as a cigarette butt can be devastating," he said. "We will strictly enforce littering from vehicles. We deal with brush fires on a regular basis, and when someone carelessly throws a cigarette butt out the window, they put everyone's safety at risk."

Civilians driving on base are subject to Colorado Revised Statutes, which the 10th SFS enforces with cooperation from the El Paso County Sherriff's Office, Mr. Wilson said. Civilian citations carry a standard fine assessed as set by the Colorado State Legislature.

"The Academy is a concurrent-jurisdiction installation, which means the sherriff's office can enter the installation and provide police services just as they do off base," Mr. Wilson said.

Because of unit deployments and operational requirements, the partnership with the El Paso County Sherriff allows the 10th SFS to carry out its law enforcement mission, he said. A standing memorandum of agreement with the sherriff's office delineates what type of assistance El Paso County will provide for different infractions.

"Security forces personnel face huge

challenges meeting deployment requirements for operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom while still providing force protection and law enforcement for the Academy," which includes 18,500 acres, more than 10,000 employees and more than a million annual visitors, he said. "We ask everyone to do their part by following established traffic laws to create a safe, enjoyable working and living environment."



### Final honors

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould presents a flag to Barbara Knight Warren during the funeral ceremony for retired Lt. Gen. Robert H. Warren at the Air Force Academy Jan. 15, 2010. Ms. Warren is the daughter of General Warren, who was the Academy's fourth superintendent. General Gould is the current superintendent.





## Not all Academy wildlife hit sack in winter

**By Ann Patton**Academy Spirit staff

While wildlife appear sparse and out of sight in the cold, snowy months, the Academy grounds routinely offer plenty of sighting and photo opportunities.

"The Air Force Academy is a wonderful place to see wildlife throughout the year," said Julie Stiver, a Colorado Department of Wildlife biologist.

She said elk and deer (both mule and white-tail) are prevalent all over the base. Admirers can find elk on the golf course, white-tail deer near Interstate 25 and mule deer on Rampart Range's south-facing slopes. Juncos, chickadees and nuthatches hang out near the archery range. Wild turkeys flock near the Falcon Club and Fire Station 2.

While human visitors may stave off the wind and cold with a cup of hot chocolate or après ski in front of a roaring fire, Colorado wildlife have their own ways of enduring wintery blasts.

The state's black bears simply hit the sack and snooze. Colorado's black bears, depending on the weather, typically go into dens to hibernate in October or November and as late as December. Bear cubs are born in dens which can be in rock cavities or under trees and shrubs. On rare occasions bears will den under decks or in barns.

Ms. Stiver said bear populations are very hard to estimate but that the only species of Colorado bears are black bears, with the last confirmed grizzly sighting in 1979.

In the spring, bears emerge from dens in a "walking hibernation," a period of two or three weeks when they eat and drink little.

El Paso County has two species of deer: mule deer and white tail. In cold weather Mother Nature provides them with a heavy coat which is shed in the spring.

During bitter cold, Ms. Stiver said they will try to find shelter under trees, bushes or rocks and gather in large herds for warmth and food resources.



Photo by Paul Martin

A herd of elk forages for food on the south side of North Gate Boulevard on the Academy Jan. 7. A large number of elk populate the Academy and Fort Carson.

"The trees act like a blanket," she said. "They retain heat from the deer."

She added does and fawns, generally born in late May and early June, stay together in winter. Mule deer, smaller than white tails, only dine on shrubs for nutrients in winter. In areas with deep snow, they will paw down through the snow for the shrubs. Failing that, they will try to migrate to areas with less snowfall.

El Paso County is also home to an elk population, which Ms. Stiver estimated at a few hundred. A large number are residents of the Air Force Academy and Fort Carson.

Properly called cougars, pumas and mountain lions, Colorado's big cats remain active throughout the winter and feed on deer, bighorn sheep and occasionally rabbits.

"Like bears, mountain lion populations are very

hard to estimate," Ms. Stiver said. "They are incredibly elusive, so they are difficult to see at any time of the year." Found throughout El Paso County, their primary territory is the foothills west of Colorado Springs.

Smaller wildlife like wild rabbits, skunks, squirrels, fox and coyotes remain active throughout the winter as well. In winter, rabbits chow down on shrubs and find shelter under bushes or in borrows. Skunks head for underground burrows in cold weather and can eat a wide variety of foods, like insects, seeds and small mammals. Tree squirrels live up to their name, squirreling away a large cache of nuts in the summer and fall. In winter, they hunker down in nests in trees. Coyotes find shelter in dens and mainly eat rabbits in the winter. Foxes are known to share the neighbor

Continued next page

# Cork 'n' fork

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### 9

January 22, 2010

### Wildlife

From previous page

hood with human dwellers, though they've also been spotted in the Terrazzo.

"Some foxes do very well in human habitats because they can find an abundance of food sources, like garbage and pet food," Ms. Stiver said. Foxes also enjoy a meal of small rodents found in human habitats.

Snakes hibernate in cold weather in habitats called "hibernacula," and hundreds of snakes can often be found in a single hibernaculum. Common snakes in this area are gopher or bull snakes, garter snakes and rattle snakes. The eastern portion of El Paso County is likely home to a few ornate box turtles.

Many of Colorado's feathered friends stick around for the winter, to the delight of serious and casual bird watchers.

"We have many species of small birds that stay through the winter, including chickadees, juncos and nuthatches," Ms. Stiver said and added most of Colorado's hawks also stick it out in the winter, including red-tailed hawks, marsh hawks, American kestrels, Cooper's hawks and shape-shinned hawks.

Crows and magpies are year-round residents and are fond of entertaining visitors to the Academy. Many ducks migrate south during the winter, especially if lakes and rivers freeze. Canada geese, however, choose to stay and are frequently spotted around such areas as the Academy's lakes and Prospect Park.

Ms. Stiver believes fish slow down in the winter, but many Colorado species actively feed during the\ winter months. Lakes and ponds may become deoxygenated in cold weather, causing fish to migrate to more oxygen-rich areas.

Colorado insects also have their own ways of coping until the warm sun of spring arrives.

Bumblebees hibernate in hives and ladybugs in piles of grass, logs or inside houses. Grasshoppers die off when temperatures fall below zero, but females lay eggs in the ground before winter, thus ensuring a new generation as temperatures warm.

Worms lay eggs in cocoons before the ground freezes and hatch when the ground unthaws. Some worms burrow deep into the soil and can survive winter if the ground fails to freeze.

As enticing as it may seem to get up close to wild animals, Ms. Stiver warns against it.

"It is critical to just observe wildlife from a distance," she said. "Wild animals can be very dangerous if approached."

She also stressed that wild animals that become accustomed to humans' presence sometimes become threatening and must be killed, a lose-lose scenario for both animals and humans.

As spring arrives, Ms. Stiver especially advises against approaching bear cubs, even if they may appear to be abandoned.

"Mothers are very defensive of their cubs and might attack a human who approaches a cub," she said.

In the summer, bird lovers should only offer water as lure into the yard rather than a bird feeder, especially in areas with bears. Not only is food abundant then for the birds, feeders can become easy targets for bears.

One cheery reminder that spring is on its way is the reappearance of robins. Ms. Stiver guesses the first robins might arrive in early March.

"They follow weather patterns and insect availability as they're heading north," she said.

### Haiti\_

We help one another out. We think of the Haitian people as Bulls, and the squadron is taking it to heart."

Cadet 1st Class Jeff Faulkner
 Cadet Squadron 06

### From Page I

a Combined Federal Campaign-approved 501(c)3 charity.

Cadet Faulkner said the magnitude of the disaster drove the squadron to reach out to others. According to reports from several news media outlets, as many as 1.9 million people in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince are without basic necessities such as food, water and shelter.

The cadet remembered being at home in Spring, Texas, when the accounts of contributions came pouring in after Sept. 11, 2001, were made known. He realized the devastation in Haiti, in terms of human lives lost and survivors' needs, far exceeded that tragedy.

Cadet Faulkner said it was no surprise the squadron heeded the call to help others and that the squadron typically goes out of its way to lend a hand. He cited, as one example, cadets chip in readily to help others in their squadron when a family member passes away and has no funds for airfare to travel home.

"We help one another out," he said. "We think of the Haitian people as Bulls, and the squadron is taking it to heart."

Cadet Faulkner stressed squadron members are willing to share their experiences with the CS 06 auction with other squadrons. Cadets and others in the Cadet Wing are welcome to make donations to the effort after the auction, he added.

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Members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, Va. search for survivors during rescue operations Jan 17, 2010, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Department of Defense assets have been dispatched to Haiti to assist with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief after a magnitude 7 earthquake hit the country Jan. 12, 2010.



A pararescueman removes a lock from an access point as members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue observe during recovery operations Jan. 17. The pararescueman is assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Ron Wickbacher along with his dog, Dawson, prepare to load onto a C-17 Globemaster III on their way to Haiti Jan. 14 at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. Mr. Wickbacher is a canine search specialist from California Task Force 2, and Dawson is a live-scent dog trained for humanitarian search and rescue.



Haitian-Americans sit onboard on a C-17 Globemaster III Jan. 18 flying from Toussaint Louverture International Airport, Port-au-Prince, Haiti to Orlando Sanford International Airport, Fla. The C-17 crew is assigned to the 729th Airlift Squadron at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. The aircraft is from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March ARB.

## Secretary, chief of staff:

## Airmen integral to overall relief efforts

Photo by Tech. Sgt. James L. Harper Jr. Air Force combat controllers exit a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to set up for an air delivery of humanitarian aid into Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan 18. Department of Defense assets have been deployed to assist in the Haiti relief effort following a magnitude 7 earthquake that hit the city on Jan. 12. The combat controllers are assigned to the 23rd Special **Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt** Field Fla.



Secretary, chief of staff: Airmen integral to overall

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Since the startup of relief efforts following the earthquake in Haiti, activeduty, Air Guard and Reserve Airmen have been working around the clock to support aid missions to get people and supplies to the stricken island nation.

Both the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff are closely monitoring the humanitarian efforts being undertaken by the men and women of the U.S. Air Force.

"Airmen are supporting U.S Southern Command efforts in Haiti as part of the Department of Defense team, in conjunction with other U.S. government agencies and the international community, to help

critical aid and comfort to hundreds of thousands of Haitians at a time of great need," said Air Force Secretary Michael Donley

"Whether helping to ensure planes carrying much-needed supplies and personnel get into Port-au-Prince around-the clock, repatriating U.S. citizens out of Haiti, or assisting with desperately needed medical care, the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force supporting USSOUTHCOM have been integral to overall relief efforts," he said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz offered encouragement to the Haitians as relief efforts continue.

"We send our sincere condolences to the citizens of Haiti," General Schwartz said. "The widespread devastation and loss of so many of our neighbors is daunting, but the Haitian people are exceptionally resilient and the outpouring of support from around the globe has been nothing short of dramatic. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the president and the Department of Defense in our nation's resolve to provide assistance.

"I am extremely proud of the efforts of our Airmen, who were able to respond so quickly," he said. "Our special operators and contingency response group personnel were able to put their skills to immediate use in helping the Haitians manage airfield operations in Port-au-Prince, enabling the flow of much needed aid. Our airlifters were able to rapidly deliver personnel and supplies. And our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets provided a critical first look for damage assessment. Twelfth Air Force and 1st Air Force are providing essential command and control expertise.

"The Air Force," the general concluded, "along with our joint teammates, USSOUTHCOM, and other U.S. government agencies, will continue to do everything possible to assist in this massive disaster-response effort."



Photo by Tech. Sqt. James L. Harper J A C-17 Globemaster III delivers humanitarian aid into the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Haiti.



An Air Force combat controller watches pallets after an air delivery of humanitarian aid Jan 18, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti for distribution. The combat controller is assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field Fla.

## French wins NAC men's epee title

By Madeline McGuire and Timothy French Academy Athletics Department

Air Force Academy fencers were among the 1,300 fencers who competed at the 2009-10 North American Cup Saturday through Monday, at the San Jose Convention Center in California. Three Falcons placed in the top 10 of their individual events.

The highlight of the Falcon's trip to San Jose came on Saturday, when Peter French won his second consecutive Division 1 Men's Epee North American Cup. French defeated Igor Gantsevich, a current Canadian Senior World Team member and Pan American Games Gold Medalist, 15-13. Despite a discouraging beginning to the bout where Gantsevich gained a 6-0 lead, French rallied to defeat him and win the gold. French beat the current first, second and third-ranked U.S. men's epee fencers including Seth Kelsey, a 2003 Academy graduate, 9-8. French beat Kelsey, a 2004 and 2008 Olympian and the current No. 1 ranked fencer in the United States, in the round of 16 to advance to the guarterfinals where he bested Benjamin Bratton, the current second-ranked men's epee fencer. French then defeated Cody Mattern, the current third-ranked men's epee fencer and 2004 Olympian, 15-14, in the semifinals before winning the gold.

"I can't thank coach Salem enough for the effort he has devoted to me for the past four years. It felt really good to win my last NAC ever, but maybe even better to get a win for the coach who has already given me so much. I'm looking forward to enjoying the rest of the NCAA season, and giving my team the best effort I can," said French.

"Peter made a statement with his win," head coach Abdel Salem said. "By beating the top fencers in the country in a second-straight NAC, he confirmed that he is the best. Winning back-to-back NACs in Division 1 men's epee is an incredibly difficult thing to do, much less beating the first, second and third-ranked U.S. fencers and also the top-ranked Canadian. I am very pleased with the result and proud of Peter for his accomplishment."



Peter French, shown here (right) sparring with Daniel Trapani, defeated the nation's three top-ranked fencers during an epee competition at the San Jose Convention Center in California Jan. 16-18.

Also competing in Division 1 men's epee, Ben Rinaldi (Pittsburgh, Pa.) claimed the 75th place, while teammate Nathan Sorensen (Houston, Texas) finished 93rd among the country's top competitors. Sorensen also competed in Junior Men's Epee on Monday, finishing in the top 8.

In the Division 1 women's epee competition, Simone Barrette (Louisville, Ky.) took fifth among the field of 141 competitors. Barrette renewed her U.S. Fencing Association "A" rating. The finish was Barrette's best in Division 1 competition. She also competed in the junior division of women's epee and finished 55th among 115 fencers. Teammate Megan Brandt (Jefferson City, Mo.) tied for 101st in the junior division. This was Brandt's first national competition.

In Division 1 men's foil, Nick Stockdale (Lansdowne, Pa.) took 54th in the field of 186. Stockdale had early success, but lost in the round of 32 to the eventual gold medalist, Alexander Massialas. Phil Choy (Basking Ridge, N.J.) finished tied for 121st place.

Michael O'Connor (Charlotte, N.C.) was the Academy's top fencer in Division 1 men's saber. O'Connor took 60th in the field of 146. Heather Nelson (Clifton Park, N.Y.) finished 78th in the field of 91 in the Division 1 women's saber competition. Nelson also fenced in Junior Women's Saber on Monday, finishing ninth.

The Academy's fencers will travel to Brandeis University to compete in the Brandeis Invitational, Jan. 30, followed by the Duke Meet in Durham, N.C., Feb. 6-7.

## Intramural basketball brings medics to court

By Dave Castilla

Intramural Sports Director

The top 2 teams in the intramural basketball program, Hospital #1 and #2 squared off to decide who will be the #1 seed in the post season tourna-

Hospital #1 came out on the winning side with a hard fought 74-64 decision. There were three lead changes in the first half. However after a pair of fast-break buckets and three, three-point bombs from Ben Pilon, Hosp#2 had built up a nine-point lead, 31-20.

Med #1 then went on a 18-11 run to

close out the half down by four, 42-38.

The first-half momentum picked up by Med #1 continued at the start of the second half as they went on a 9-0 run and lead 47-42, later hospital #1 Derrick Thompson hit back-to-back threes making the score 55-50. Med #2 could never catch up.

Hospital #1 is now in 1st place with loss dropping Med #2 to second. Hospital #1 was led in scoring by Derrick Thompson with 26 points, 18 from three-pointers, Mike Davis followed up with 13 points. Med #2 leading scorer was Ben Pilon with 23 points to include four three-pointers and Fred Walker chipped in with 12 points

In the final contest of the night, a shorthanded 306 FTG played the entire game with four players and defeated the fire dawgs 77-67.

The game started very even in the first half.

However, the flight line started pulling away as Russell Pollard dominated the inside with his rebounds and put backs and led 23-14 at the first timeout. The flight line held an eightpoint lead at the half, 32-24.

At the beginning of the second half the Fire Dawgs started to trap the 306th players, which lead to some turnovers. CES went on a 14-6 run to tie the contest at 38.

After a brief timeout, the flight line settled down, with Pollard cleaning up the inside and Bre Quintero hitting from the outside. With about five minutes left in the game Quintero's bucket put the flight line up by six, 61-55.

The Dawgs got to within two as Steven Rousseau completed two free throws making the score 61-59. Quintero iced the game as he hit 10 free throws in a row, leading the team in scoring with 33 points followed by Russell Pollard with 32 points. Joe Stevens was CES' high scorer with 21 points many of the points coming on fast breaks Steven Rousseau and Leatrice Robinson both had 13 points apiece.

### Men's basketball

New Mexico's two leading scorers may have only combined for seven points, but it didn't cost the Lobos against Air Force at Clune Arena Wednesday night. Phillip McDonald had 25 points and New Mexico (17-3, 3-2 Mountain West Conference) connected on 13 3pointers en route to a 73-50 win over the Falcons (8-9, 0-4). The Lobos beat the Falcons for the fifth consecutive time and picked up their third-straight victory, while Air Force has dropped five of its last six games.

### Women's basketball

The Air Force women's basketball team lost to New Mexico, 62-42, Wednesday night at the Pit. The loss dropped the Falcons to 3-14, 0-4 on the

season and lifted the Lobos to 11-6, 3-2 New Mexico started the game off on a 14-0 run and never looked back. Against a stifling Lobo defense and faced with a significant height disadvantage, the Falcons trailed 33-12 at the half. Fourteen of New Mexico's 16 firsthalf baskets were in the paint. For the game, New Mexico out-rebounded Air Force 48-30 and won the points in the paint battle 42-18. Air Force played much better in the second half, outscoring New Mexico 30-29. The Falcons held the Lobos without a score for the first 5:30 of the second half and more than doubled their scoring.

### Women's tennis

Air Force's Tahlia Smoke has been named the Mountain West Conference

## Falcons place third at Rocky Mountain Open

By Valerie Perkin Athletic Communications

Highlighted by numerous top-10 finishes, the Air Force men's gymnastics team posted its best season-opening score to date at the annual Rocky Mountain Open Saturday at the Academy's Cadet West Gym. In front of a near-capacity crowd, the Falcons tallied a score of 325.850 to place third in the five-team event.

In his collegiate debut, James Okamoto earned the Falcons' best placement of the night, as he placed fourth on the pommel horse with a score of 14.050. Just one meet into the season, Okamoto recorded the second-best pommel score in Academy history and joined Jacob Houder as the only Falcon to clear the 14-point mark in that event.

Nash Mills was the Falcons' top finisher on a pair of events, leading to a sixth-place finish in the all-around (80.450). Mills tied for fifth on the vault with a score of 15.700, while placing sixth on the parallel bars at 13.950. His vault score, a personal best, is the thirdbest score in Academy history.

Air Force was well represented in the top-10 of the floor exercise, accounting for four spots. Tory Brown led

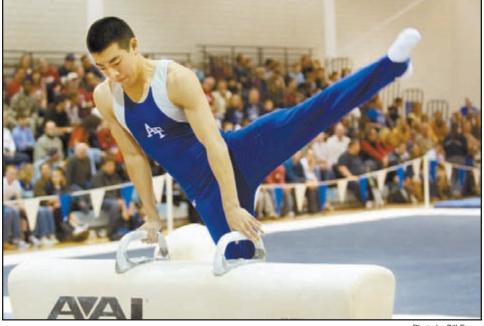


Photo by Bill Evans

James Okamoto performs on the pommel horse during a men's gymnastics competition here Jan. 16, 2010. Okamoto recorded the second-best pommel score in Academy history -- 14.050 -- and joined Jacob Houder as the only gymnast to break the 14-point mark.

the squad with a seventh-place score of 14.150, a mark that is already on the program's top-20 list. Aaron Zaiser (eighth, 14.050), Travis Langham (ninth, 13.650) and Joel Uptmor (10th, 13.600) helped Air Force tie with Oklahoma for the most gymnasts to finish within the top-10 of that event.

Uptmor was the top-finishing Falcon

on the high bar, placing 14th with a score of 12.400, while Devin Menefee paced the Falcons on the still rings, as he scored a 13.700 to place ninth.

In addition to their top-10 marks on the floor exercise, Uptmor and Langham joined Mills as some of the vault's top 10 finishers, as the duo posted matching marks 15.200 to tie for 10th.

In his first collegiate meet, Langham moved into a tie for 10th on the program's all-time scoring list for that event. The Falcons also earned a top-10 placement from Chase Nobles, who scored a 13.200 to finish eighth on the pommel horse.

Oklahoma won its 11th consecutive Rocky Mountain Open title behind a combined score of 347.400, while Nebraska placed second with a score of 337.050. Following Air Force's thirdplace score of 325.850 was Arizona State (319.400) and a small squad from Washington (277.950).

The Sooners claimed five of the six individual event titles, highlighted by Jake Dalton's first-place scores on the vault (16.250), parallel bars (14.900) and high bar (14.800). In addition to his three event titles, Dalton won the all-around with a score of 87.500. Steven Legendre tallied a 15.950 to win the floor exercise, while Alex Naddour scored a 15.200 to win the pommel horse. Nebraska's Anthony Ingrelli broke up the Oklahoma stranglehold on the top spot of the podium, as he scored a 14.650 to place first in the still rings.

Air Force will be off from competition until Jan. 30, when it travels to Minneapolis, Minn., for a tri-meet with Minnesota and Nebraska.

## AF claims third Denver Winterfest Classic

By Valerie Perkin Athletic Communications

DENVER, Colo. — The Air Force women's gymnastics team tallied a season-high score of 185.850 to finish third at the DU Winterfest Classic this Saturday in Denver, Colo. Three different gymnasts paced the Falcons in their second consecutive meet against a pair of nationally ranked teams in sixth-ranked Denver and No. 18 Penn

Host Denver won its own meet with a score of 194.650, just edging out Penn State, who finished second with 194.150. Air Force's third-place score of 185.850 is over a point better than its seasonopening score, as nearly every gymnast improved on at least one event score from last week.

Jenna Dudley recorded the program's best finish of the night, while Brittany Dutton paced the Falcons on a pair of events. Dudley scored a 9.725 to place eighth on the floor exercise, while tying with Dutton for 12th on the vault with a score of 9.575. In addition to tying for the team lead on the vault, Dutton paced the Falcons on the uneven bars with another score of 9.575. Dutton also earned a top-10 finish on the floor exercise, as she placed ninth behind a score of 9.675.

Tara Harris also earned a top-10 finish for the Falcons, as she scored a 9.475 to place 10th on the balance beam.

Michelle Denise finished just .025 out of the top 10 on the uneven bars, as she scored a 9.550 to place 11th. Lisa Wong, making her season debut, also picked up an 11th-place finish, scoring a 9.375 on the balance beam.

The Falcons return to action Sunday when they travel to Normal, Ill., for a quadrangular meet with host Illinois State, No. 30 Western Michigan and Wisconsin-La Crosse.

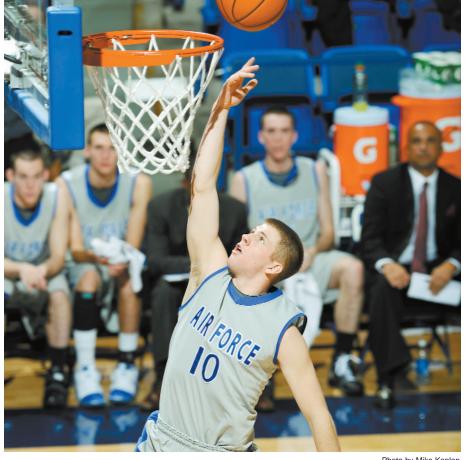


Photo by Mike Kaplan

Falcon guard Todd Fletcher goes in for the layup after a team-high two steals as the Falcons lost to the New Mexico Lobos 73-50 in Mountain West conference action at Clune Arena Wednesday. The Falcons are on the road for their next two games, starting in Salt Lake City Saturday

Women's tennis player of the week, announced Wednesday by the conference office. It is the first career weekly honor for Smoke. She posted Air Force's lone victory in a 6-1 loss to No. 60 Colorado. Smoke, who became Air Force's first female player to achieve a Division I national singles ranking, improved to 6-0 in singles matches this season with a come-from-behind 3-6, 6-2 (10-7) victory over CU's Michala Jensen. She is ranked 102nd in the country in the first rankings of the spring

Falcons @ Home Women's Tennis vs Seattle University -9 a.m.

vs Gonzaga - 4 p.m.

Friday Night Fights - 4:30 p.m. vs Holy Cross - 7:05 p.m. **Saturday** Women's Basketball vs Utah - 2 p.m. Women's Tennis vs South Dakota - noon Men's and Women's Swimming vs Utah-1 p.m.

**Boxing** 

Hockey vs Holy Cross -7:05 p.m. Sunday Women's Basketball vs UNLV - 6 p.m. Wednesday **Women's Gymnastics** vs Alaska-Anchorage - 6 p.m. **Thursday** Wrestling vs Utah Valley - 7 p.m.



#### Get Involved!

Reading: Spread the gift

The Children's Literacy Center seeks volunteers to tutor children who need help in their reading skills. Training and orientation sessions are from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at the center, located at 2928 Strauss Lane in Colorado Springs. Tutoring will begin in February. For more information, call 471-8672.

### Base honor guard

The Air Force Academy Honor Guard seeks ceremonial guardsmen to render final honors for fellow Airmen, participate in retirements, colors ceremonies, professional sporting events and

The honor guard will hold new member training Feb. 11-19 from noon to 4 p.m. for new volunteers. For more



### **CADET CHAPEL**

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### **Buddhist**

Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

### <u>Jewish</u>

Friday - 7:00 p.m.

Friday Prayer - 12:15 p.m.

### **Protestant**

Liturgical Worship Sun. - 8 a.m. Traditional Worship Sun. - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Sun. - 11:30 a.m.

### **Roman Catholic**

Mass

Sunday - 10 a.m.

Academic Year, when cadets are present Mon, Tues, and Thurs - 6:40 a.m. Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

### **Sacrament of Penance**

Sunday - 9:00-9:40 a.m.

Wednesday - 5:30-6:20 p.m.

Academic Year, when cadets are present Wednesday - 5:30-6:15 p.m.

### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Academic Year, when cadets are present

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality

Academic Year, when cadets are present Monday, 6:30 - 7:50 - Room 1M125 (1st Floor - Fairchild Annex -- Astronautics Museum) Contact TSgt Longcrier at 719-333-6187

### **COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL**

#### Catholic Masses: Saturday

Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.

Mass - 4 p.m.

Sunday

Mass - 9 a.m.

Religious Formation - 10:15 a.m.

(September - May)

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

### **Protestant Services:**

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Live - 6 p.m. Dinner followed by Religious Education

(September - May). Sunday

Evangelical - 10:15 a.m. Gospel - 11:30 a.m.

information or to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Michiyo Litynski at 333-5070 or Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Bess at 333-3811.

### **Get ready for SnoFest!**

SnoFest will celebrate its 20th anniversary Jan. 29-31 in Keystone, Colo., and will feature family events such as a cardboard derby, skiing and snowboarding. Guests qualify for discounted lift tickets starting at \$45 for Academy and Prep School cadets and junior enlisted Airmen and \$49 for others. Visit www.usafa services.com/homepage-stories/snofest for more details.

### Free tax preparation

The Air Force Academy will prepare tax returns free for active-duty servicemembers stationed at the Academy as well as cadets and retirees in Arnold Hall near Hap's beginning Monday.

To have your tax return prepared, you will need a military ID card, wage and earning statements from your employers and any interest and dividend forms. You will also need bank routing and account numbers if you would like your tax refund issued through direct deposit.

For more information, contact the tax center at 333-3905.

### Sports camps

Early bird registration is now open for 12- to 18-year-olds to attend 2010 Falcons Sports Camps. Sporting events include baseball, basketball, football, cheerleading, and diving and swimming. Prices start at \$150 for three-day commuter camps, \$325 for one-week commuter camps and \$500 for weeklong camps with boarding at the Academy. For more information on prices, check-in times and registrations, call the Athletics Department at 333-2116.

### 10th ABW commander's call

A 10th Air Base Wing commander's call is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Arnold Hall Theater. Contact the 10th ABW commander's office at 333-1010 for more information.

### Weight loss class

The Community Fitness Center will holds a free weight-loss class called "Losing Weight ... the Real Story," given by Robin Brandimore, an Air Force spouse and Air Force Academy fitness trainer.

Call Ms. Brandimore at 200-8914 for more information or to register.

### HAWC offers 'healthy lifestyle' class

The Health and Wellness Center will offer a nutrition and exercise class on the first Wednesday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. Information in the "Healthy Lifestyle 101" class will focus on improving Air Force physical training test scores and improving nutrition and exercise knowledge. To enroll, or for more information, call Staff Sgt. Costinel Stefan at 333-3733.

### **A&FRC offerings**

The Air Force Academy Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes. Call 333-3444 with questions or to sign up.

Couples communication seminar:

This one-day seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Airman & Family Readiness Center features how to communicate more effectively and improve your relationship. Everyone is welcome, whether you're married, engaged, dating or single. Call 333-5270 to sign up. Open to active duty, DoD civilians, retirees and family members.

### Pre-separation counseling

Mondays (except during TAP week), 2 to 4 p.m.: Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing identifies benefits and services associated with transition and beyond.

### Medical records review

Mondays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review medical records in preparation of filing for VA Disability Compensation through the VA forms.

### VA benefits briefing

Mondays, 8 a.m. to noon: This briefing provides a comprehensive overview of VA benefits for separating /retiring military personnel. Topics discussed include medical care, disability compensation, education, vocational training, vet preference, small business loans, home loan guarantees and more.

### Family advocacy classes

For information on classes offered by the Family Advocacy Office or to sign up, contact Kristin Larkey of Family Advocacy Outreach at 333-5270.

### Common sense parenting

Wednesdays through Feb. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: All parents occasionally need help and advice when they're having a hard time with their children. This research-based, practical training program, designed for parents of toddlers and preschoolers ages 2-5, teaches parents how to set reasonable expectations, effectively use consequences, when and how to use timeout and how to teach instead of punish. The class is open to activeduty servicemembers, Defense Department civilians, retirees and family members.

#### Anger management

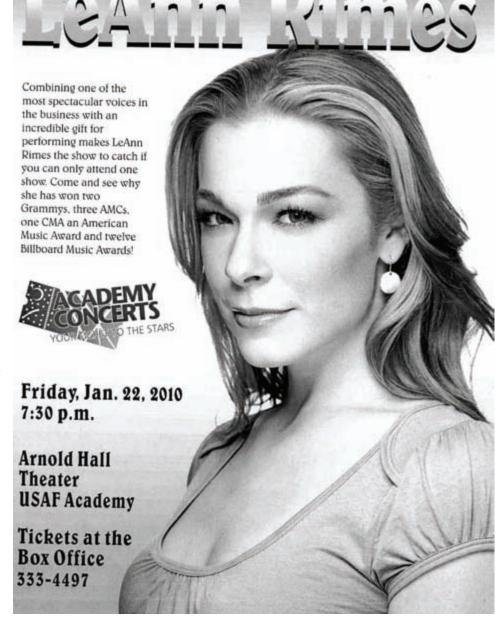
Thursdays through Feb. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Anger is a normal, healthy human emotion, but when it gets out of control, it can lead to problems at work, in relationships and in quality of life. Anger management classes will help attendees better understand their anger and where it comes from, how to handle conflict in frustrating situations and how to relax and de-stress their lives.

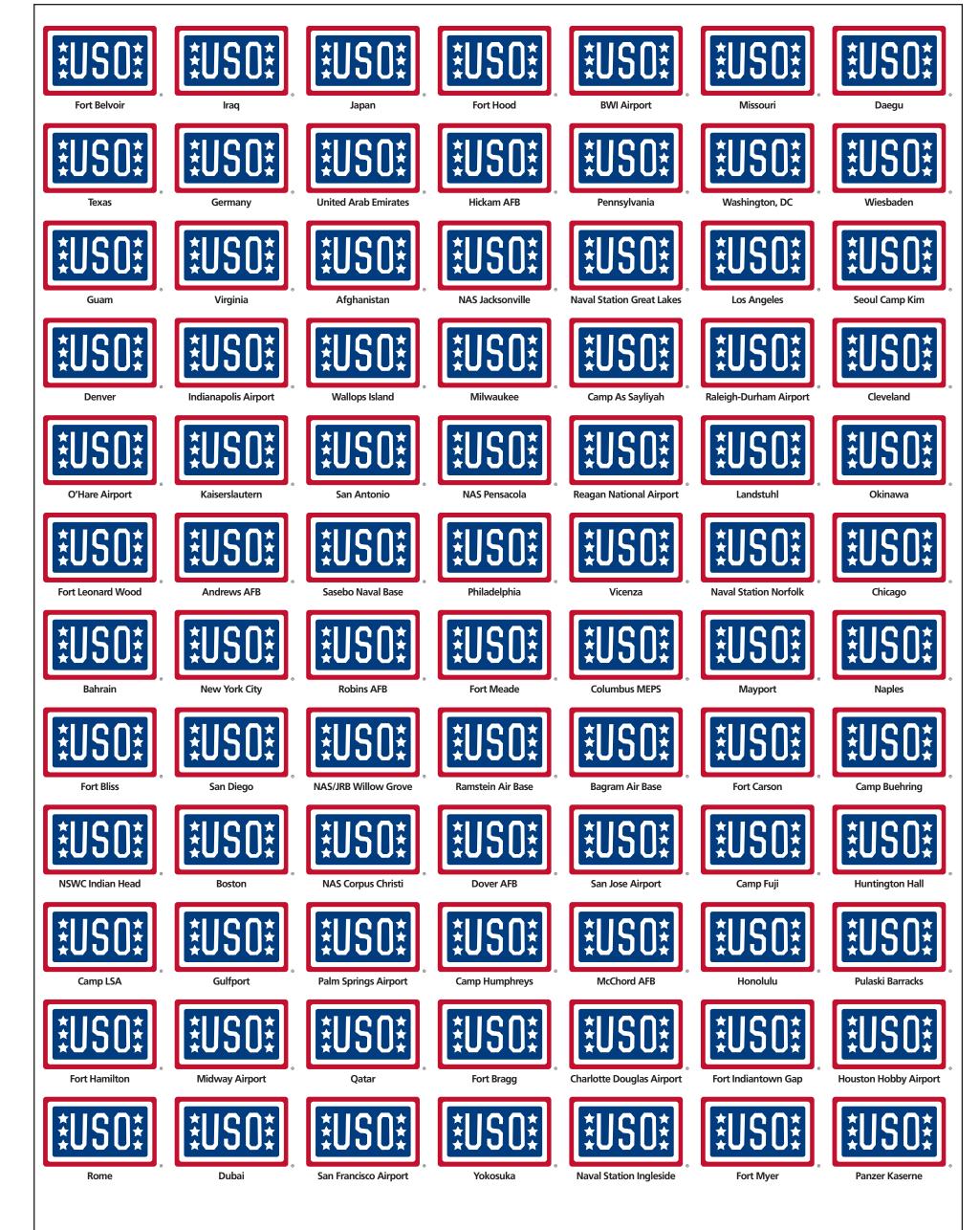
### H1N1 vaccine

TriCare beneficiaries can visit TriCare retail network pharmacies to receive seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at no cost. This expanded coverage is available to all TriCare beneficiaries eligible to use the TriCare retail pharmacy benefit.

To receive the vaccines, beneficiaries can call their local TriCare retail network pharmacy to make sure it participates in the vaccine program and has the vaccine in stock. To locate a participating retail network pharmacy, go to www.express scripts.com/Tricare or call Express Scripts at 877-363-1303.

At the Academy, the 10th Medical Group offers the H1N1 influenza vaccine to all servicemembers, TriCare beneficiaries, DoD civilians and contractors. Active-duty servicemembers are required to receive the H1N1 vaccine in addition to the seasonal flu vaccine. Visit www. usafa.af.mil/information/h1n1 for more information.





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