

Cadets, faculty research use of 'ionic liquids'



By John Van Winkle
Academy Public Affairs

The Air Force Academy's Chemistry Research Center is crafting a fast, environmentally friendly method of neutralizing chemical warfare agents using "ionic liquids" — salts that take liquid form between 20 and 100 degrees Celsius.

The Chemistry Research Center has been investigating ionic liquids and their applications since 1963.

"Ionic Liquids are physically stable (and) chemically stable, and they have this property I like to call 'liquidus range,' the range of temperatures at which they stay stable at as a liquid," said Dr. John Wilkes, the research center director. "Once you have these materials — ionic liquids — you can start looking at applications of their properties: low volatility, wide thermal ranges, zero vapor pressure. That's where we've been working for the last 15 years."

Zero vapor pressure means an ionic liquid won't evaporate, unlike an alcohol- or water-based compound.

See **IONIC LIQUIDS**, Page 3



Photo by Johnny Wilson

Air Force Academy Cadet 1st Class Chris Horn examines an ionic liquid in a chemistry laboratory at the Academy March 15. The Academy is developing a fast, environmentally friendly method to neutralize chemical warfare agents such as sarin and VX using certain ionic liquids. Cadet Horn and Cadet 1st Class Joe Lewczyk are also conducting follow-on research with ionic liquids to determine whether the room-temperature molten salts can neutralize certain biological agents.

AF leaders expand force management options

Editor's Note: Lt. Gen. Mike Gould will conduct force management briefings for Academy personnel on April 1 at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Arnold Hall Theater. A question and answer session will follow the briefing.

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - Air Force leaders announced March 25, 2010 an expansion of force management measures designed to bring the service closer to its authorized funded end strength. Fewer Airmen than anticipated applied for voluntary programs offered under Phase One of the force management program initiated in November of 2009. This has prompted expanded programs to encourage more Airmen to apply for separation or retirement by Sept. 1, 2010, or earlier.

Both officer and enlisted accessions will be reduced to meet mission requirements. Voluntary and involuntary initiatives will also be implemented as appropriate. Eligibility for these programs will vary by Air Force Specialty Code and years of service to ensure the Air Force has the right balance of skills needed to meet current and future mission requirements.

"Air Force retention is at a 15-year high," said Brig. Gen. Sharon Dunbar, director, force management policy. "While this is tremendous testament to the dedication of our great Airmen, we now have more Airmen serving than our authorized, funded levels. We also have a number of career fields over-manned at the expense of other critical and stressed career fields. The challenge before us is to keep our force both sized and balanced within authorized, funded levels."

In an attempt to limit the impact to Airmen who are currently serving, the Air Force will adjust accessions. Decisions to reduce accessions will be based on career field manning and future growth.

Expanded officer measures include waiving active-duty service commitments in targeted year groups; waiving all but two years of commissioning commitments for U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC graduates as well as waiving their education and scholarship recoupment costs; and lowering the Reserve obligation for PALACE CHASE transfers from a three-year commitment ratio to one year for each remaining year of ADSC.

Phase Two of the force management program also involves a Selective Early Retirement Board. The SERB

will consider for early retirement Air Force colonels with four or more years time in grade and lieutenant colonels deferred for promotion at least twice. This board will convene July 19-23 to identify those who must retire by Jan. 1, 2011. Officers with more than six and less than 12 years of commissioned service in specific career fields and year groups will be offered voluntary separation pay as a means to encourage their transition from active-duty service. Should this incentive fall short of encouraging the number of transitions needed, a reduction in force board will convene in September to identify officers for transition by April 1, 2011. A force shaping board will also convene at this time to identify officers with less than six years of commissioned service in designated career fields and year groups for continued retention or separation.

Enlisted force management measures have been expanded to include waiving time-in-grade and limited ADSCs for Airmen in non-critical, overage Air Force specialties and year groups; and waiving up to two years of four- and six-year enlistments for those in non-critical, overage specialties and year groups. PALACE CHASE

See **FORCE MANAGEMENT**, Page 5

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
50 27
RAIN/SNOW/WINDY

SATURDAY
39 22
SLIGHT CHANCE OF SNOW

SUNDAY
54 25
SUNNY

AFSC Spotlight

A histopathologist thinks of his Air Force specialty as more than just a job.

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UAC reaches out

The Academy's Unit Advisory Council is looking for help with community outreach efforts.

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Cadet for a Day

A leukemia survivor and his family visit the Air Force Academy.

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'Girl talk' empowers, enriches Iraqi women

By Master Sgt. Trish Bunting
Air Component Coordination Element
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD (AFNS) — As I closed my eyes, I listened to the sounds all around me. The greetings and the laughing could have come from any group of women in the United States, Canada, Germany or even Iraq. Women are women, no matter where we are!

We all met at an agreed upon location on Victory Base Complex and the weekly meeting started with the Iraqi women greeting the America women with the customary kisses on the cheek followed by "Hello." As I watched the greetings, it seemed that the custom of kissing on both cheeks was natural for the American women.

As we filled the small living room, more than fifteen Iraqi military wives and daughters of various ages met with fifteen Air Force enlisted women ranging in rank from senior airmen to senior master sergeant to interact and learn English. Everyone intermingled, eventually settling down into their seats around the broken white board. The worn couches and simple décor in the room seemed to bring a comfort to those of us who missed home.

The Airmen take turns teaching the evening's lesson and any basic introductory level homework that might be given for the week. Senior Airman Alexandra Kurz's fair skin, blonde hair and confident personality seemed to automatically gain the attention of everyone in the room as she took charge of the group.

This evening, Airman Kurz's agenda was about learning articles such as "the, an, a, this, that, these and those," and how to use them in a sentence. In her native German/English accent she explained to

the ladies, when referring to just any clock you state "a clock." When speaking about a specific clock, state "the clock."

As I looked around the dimly lit room, there seemed to be no question as to what exactly she was referring to.

So how do you bring together outgoing, energized, United States military women and quiet, conservative Iraqi women and find ways to communicate? We did what most women do when we get together: We played games!

Each Iraqi woman received a card with a picture on it which she used to form a sentence about what was on the card. The simplest of games seemed to bring the most enjoyment.

"We took something very simple and we made it very entertaining," said Master Sgt. Angela Carter, a volunteer who attended. "A simple game like Tic-Tac-Toe. It's something we grew out of when we were children, but it brings us back being young again."

The lack of air conditioning in the room, with sweat rolling down the sides of our faces, didn't seem to matter. As the evening continued, with each game that was played, more hands would raise eagerly in anticipation of being called upon. With each correct statement the room would break into applause. To watch the Iraqi women's determination and desire to learn was an inspiration.

"There's a heart, there's a face, and there's a humanity to what we bring," said Master Sgt. Jessyca Hilar, a sweet Minnesota native on her fourth deployment and who currently runs the



Photo by Master Sgt. Trish Bunting

Air Force Master Sgt. Jessyca Hilar, a volunteer for the Iraqi women's English speaking group, shows an Iraqi woman how to write a sentence about the picture on the card, Victory Base Complex, Iraq, March 9, 2010. The purpose of the informal women's only group is to interact on a weekly basis and conduct English lessons for Iraqi women.

program. The excitement and sincerity shows each time she speaks about the program. "I've gotten their e-mail addresses and I hope they write."

As a deployed U.S. servicewoman, being the minority can sometimes wear you down emotionally. I signed up and I am always prepared to do what needs to be done, but there are just certain things a woman needs, and sometimes just a couple of hours with the "girls" can be enough to recharge your batteries. This gathering allowed me to be a girl again, if only for a few hours.

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



Character Corner Influence

By retired Lt. Col. Ralph Hartman
Center for Character and Leadership Development

In the summer of 1988, I had an unforgettable experience with a true leader of character: I was the air officer commanding for Cadet Squadron 03. We were having a dinner to celebrate the doolies' completion of First BCT and motivate them for Second BCT. Our guest speaker was then — Col. Steve Ritchie, an Academy graduate, the first Vietnam ace and now a retired brigadier general.

As I listened to his story about his Vietnam experience, I couldn't help but reflect on some of my own experiences in Vietnam with the leaders that I had

the privilege to serve with. After Colonel Ritchie's presentation, he opened the floor for questions. Most of the questions related to dog fighting with enemy MiGs, but one cadet raised his hand and asked, "Colonel Ritchie, who is a leader that you most admired and respected in your Air Force career?"

Almost without hesitation, he replied, "That is an easy question for me to answer; it was my commander in Vietnam."

The cadet asked, "What was it that made you admire and respect him so much?"

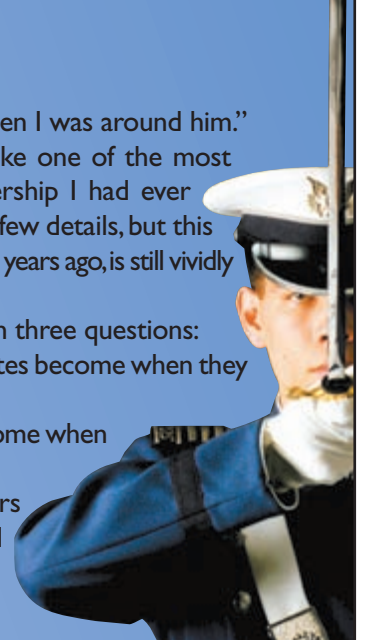
Col Ritchie replied, "I didn't just admire and respect him ... there was nothing that I would not have done for him to make our unit successful

because of who I became when I was around him."

Those words sounded like one of the most eloquent definitions of leadership I had ever heard. I may have forgotten a few details, but this event, which occurred about 20 years ago, is still vividly etched in my mind.

So I would leave you with three questions:

- (1) Who do your subordinates become when they are around you?
- (2) Who do your peers become when they are around you?
- (3) Who do your superiors become when they are around you?



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.

What do you like about your job?

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Tony Harris
Mitchell Hall waiter

"Working with the cadets. ... When they 'get it,' you can literally see the light bulb in their head turn on."



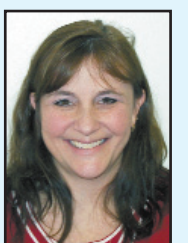
Dr. Gary Yale
Department of
Systems Engineering

"Working with our cadets. They are enthusiastic. They always have something interesting to share."



Maj. Kathy Fullerton
Department of
Chemistry

"The best part is my co-workers. It is fun to come to work every day."



Jennifer Robinson
10th Force
Support Squadron



Ionic Liquids

From Page 1

“They’ll sit there in a puddle forever, and thus stay physically stable forever,” Dr. Wilkes said, which translates to an almost infinite shelf life.

Work in applying these properties at the Academy has found more than 40 applications for specific ionic liquids. These include applications as battery electrolytes, electrowetting, to make lenses and thermal fluids store or transfer heat. The latest addition to that list is the use of an ionic liquid to neutralize certain chemical warfare agents.

Through a grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, cadets and Dr. Michael Wilcox, an Academy biology researcher, attempted to chemically convert specific chemical warfare agents into safer compounds. Substances being evaluated at the Academy are chemically identical to — but much less dangerous than — sarin gas, VX nerve agent and sulfur mustard gas.

“(The compounds) stink, but they won’t kill you,” Dr. Wilcox said.

The same can’t be said for sarin, VX or mustard gas. Sarin gas was used in the Aum Shinrikyo attack in a Tokyo subway on March 20, 1995. The group produced 2,000 pounds of Sarin gas and released five liters of the compound in five Tokyo subway locations.

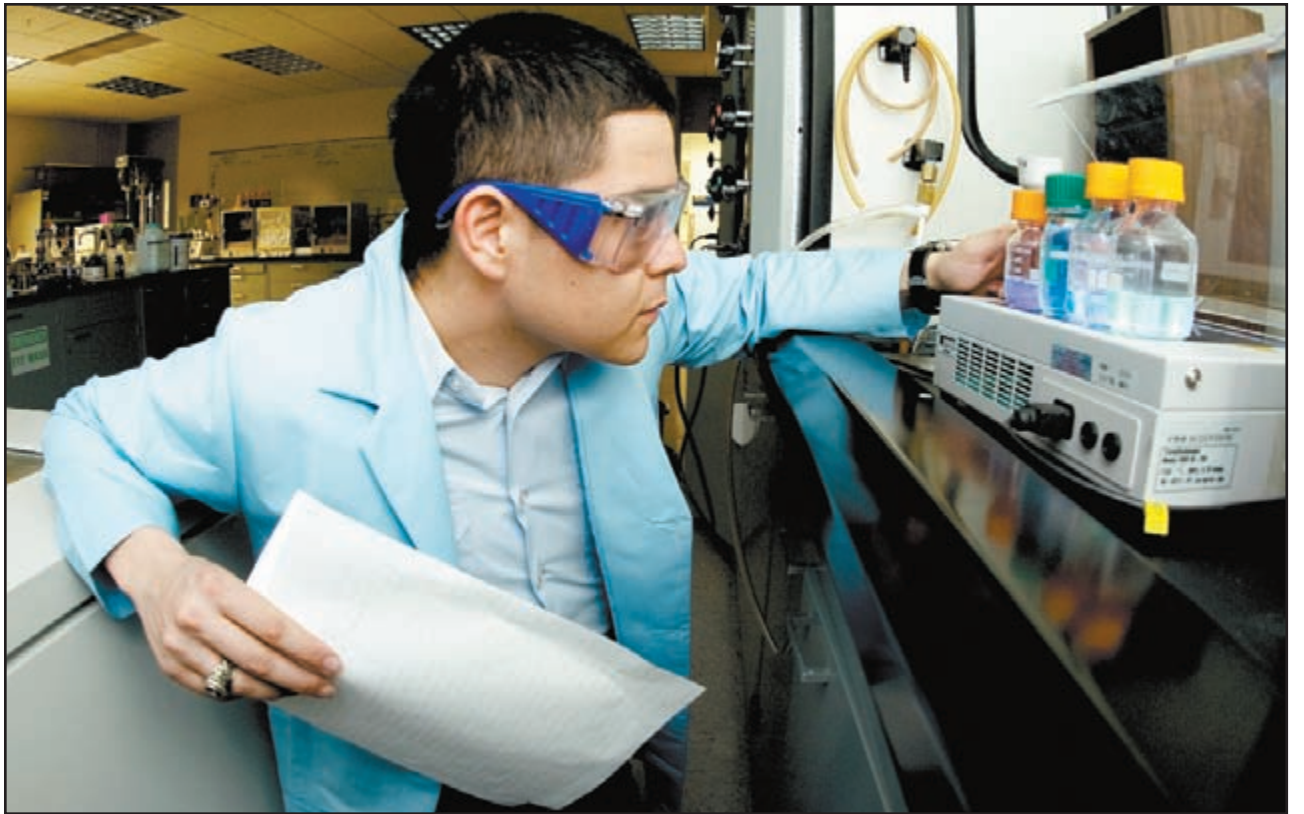
“That’s plenty, since it only takes a drop to kill you,” said Dr. Wilkes.

The subway attacks killed 12 and injured more than a thousand people. Only Aum Shinrikyo’s poor dispersal methods prevented more fatalities.

VX is an odorless and tasteless nerve agent first created in the 1950s. Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The United Nations has classified VX as a weapon of mass destruction.

Sulfur mustard gas goes back even further; the chemical warfare agent was first introduced in World War I.

Cadets found that certain ionic liquids can neutralize each of the three test compounds. Through informal market research, the cadets also discovered that the commercial manufacturing capability to create large volumes of these particular ionic liquids already exists, and that manufacturers can produce the necessary compounds with a per unit cost equivalent to a



Photos by Johnny Wilson

Cadet 1st Class Chris Horn examines ionic liquids in a chemistry laboratory at the Academy March 15. The Academy is developing a fast, environmentally friendly method to neutralize chemical warfare agents such as sarin and VX using certain ionic liquids.

gallon of unleaded gasoline.

The ionic liquids also offer a greener alternative to current decontamination options, as current technologies for chemical decontamination and demilitarization of these chemical warfare agents are not the most environmentally friendly. Bleach is one of the reagents used in the chemical conversion process, but bleach combined with the chemical warfare agent creates hazardous byproducts which — while being far less toxic than the original chemical warfare agent — create other issues such as groundwater runoff. Some chemical warfare agents can become chemically embedded in certain paints and thereby deny reuse of contaminated equipment and facilities for lengthy periods of time.

The Academy has presented its results to DTRA. In the meantime, Academy cadets and researchers are conducting follow-on research, investigating the potential use of ionic liquids to neutralize biological contaminants.



Ionic liquids such as the one shown here may be able to neutralize chemical warfare agents such as sarin and VX. Cadets 1st Class Chris Horn and Joe Lewczyk are conducting follow-on research with ionic liquids to determine whether the room-temperature molten salts can also neutralize biological agents.

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AFSC SPOTLIGHT

Duty a bit off beaten path

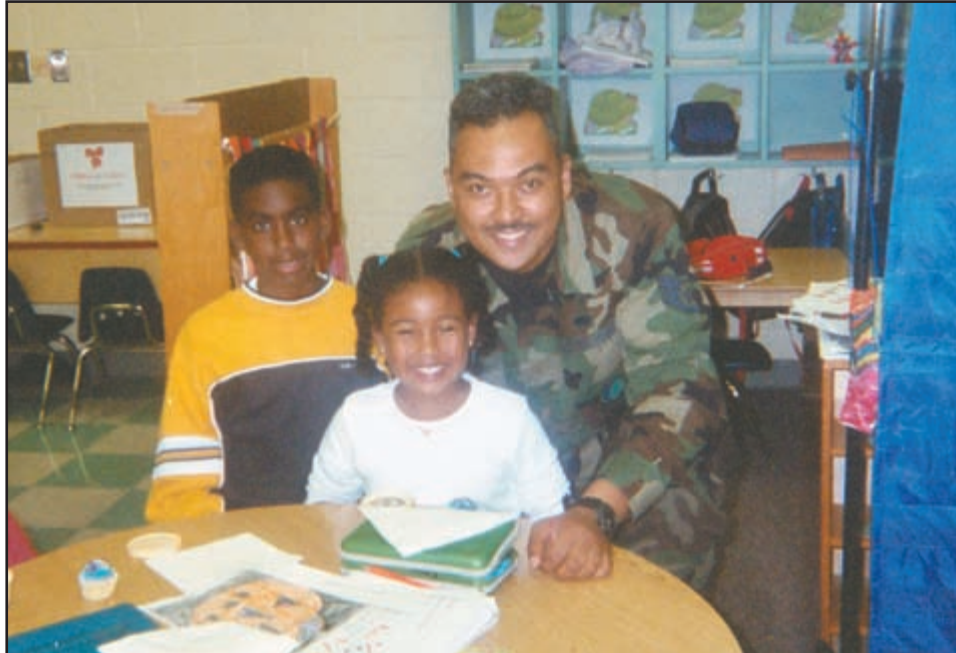
By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit Staff

The NCO in charge of the Air Force Academy's Histopathology Lab thinks of his Air Force specialty as more than just a job. To Tech. Sgt. Ian Bernard, histopathology is both a science and an art.

Sergeant Bernard is part of the laboratory team, which collects blood and other biological fluids to help medics at the Academy Clinic diagnose disease or injury.

"We focus on a patient's tissue from biopsies (and) surgeries," said Sergeant Bernard, who was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Trinidad, a Caribbean island nation. "We receive most specimens in formaldehyde preservative, and ... we convert the patient tissue specimen into a stained slide." Doctors or pathologists view the slides he makes under a microscope to provide patients with timely and appropriate care.

Promotion opportunities in his career field are limited. The Air Force



Courtesy Photo

Tech. Sgt. Ian Bernard poses for a photograph with his two children, Jon Paul and Iman Bernard. Sergeant Bernard is the NCO in charge of the Air Force Academy's Histopathology Lab.

promotes one, perhaps two, histopathology technicians a year.

"I hope to make master sergeant after a last-bid try in 2011," he said. "Otherwise, I'll retire in two years."

He participated in cadet in-processing for the Class of 2013 and will do so again with the incoming Class of 2014 in June.

"My job is important to patient care,

our doctors and clinicians depend on us," he said. "At this assignment, I most enjoy working with my co-workers and bosses. We are a team that works great together to serve our customers with excellence."

The NCO balances his work with his two children, his church and the community. Sergeant Bernard said he instills the Air Force's core values into his children, 17-year-old Jon Paul Bernard and 12-year-old Iman Bernard.

"You get back to the basics by showing value, providing motivation and, most importantly, being an example," he said. "The next time you quote our Air Force core values look within and ask yourself if you truly live them."

Jon Paul completed an Eagle Scout project in January to have a flagpole installed at his school, Air Academy High, Sergeant Bernard said. He is also an honor student, stays involved with Air Force Junior ROTC and hopes to join the Air Force through ROTC.

Sergeant Bernard said Iman is also a good student, athlete and a girl scout.

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Force Management

From Page 1

transfers are also available for enlisted personnel with a one-to-one rather than a two-to-one year commitment.

Dates of separation rollback will result in early release of some Airmen with less than 14 years of service or more than 20 years of service who have declined training, failed initial training, declined retainability for an assignment, or who have negative quality indicators.

Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and Department of Defense civilian hiring opportunities are open to all Airmen, officials said. Airman and Family Readiness Centers host the Department of Labor Transition Assistance Program, offering Airmen vital information for a successful transition from the Air Force. Veterans also receive hiring preference for federal service and are eligible for GI Bill Programs.

"The Air Force has a long-standing tradition of offering comprehensive transition assistance programs," General Dunbar said. "It is important for our Airmen to know the full range of options and benefits available to them."

For more information on force management options call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or at https://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cgi-bin/askafpc.cfg/php/enduser/home.php?p_sid=pf8ohfXj&p_accessibility=0&p_re_direct.

(Daniel Elkins contributed to this story)

16 officers selected for promotion

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum
Academy Public Affairs

Sixteen officers here were selected for promotion Tuesday. Nine officers were selected for promotion to colonel, with one selected for lieutenant colonel and six selected for major. The officers selected for promotion are:



Colonel

Justin Davey, 10th Civil Engineer Squadron
Michael Greiner, Finance
Steve Leftwich, Department of Management
John Plating, Department of History
Michael Schaub Jr., Department of Political Science
Ted Detwiler, Cadet Group 4



Lieutenant Colonel

Penny Spaid, 10th Medical Operations Squadron



Major

Brigitte French, 10th Aeromedical Squadron
Steven Kelham, 10th Surgical Operations Squadron
John Macgregor, 10th Medical Operations Squadron
Randall Pope, 10th Surgical Operations Squadron
Charles Toth, Athletics
Suann Davison, 10th Medical Operations Squadron

Don't miss that appointment

The 10th Medical Group wants to reverse an upward trend in the number of patients who miss appointments, the 10th MDG's senior group practice manager said March 9.

Missing appointments without canceling them in advance directly affects the number of appointments available to other patients and is further compounded when the person who missed his first appointment takes a second slot by rescheduling, Maj. Jennifer Garrison said.

"Missing a medical appointment could hurt the co-worker or family member right next to you," she added.

The top three clinics that have seen an


upswing in no-shows are the Mental Health, Physical Therapy and Women's Health clinics. Seventy percent of no-shows in February were Air Force Academy Tricare enrollees, with fully 50 percent of no-shows coming from active-duty servicemembers, Major Garrison said. Servicemembers who fail to show for an appointment can be held responsible for violating Article 86 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"Our goal is to serve our patients with 'right time, right care' as much as possible," she said. "We understand that our beneficiaries have very busy schedules and that events sometimes make keeping an appointment difficult. If you can't make

an appointment, please call us 24 hours in advance to cancel so that other patients have the opportunity to fill that slot."

Patients may reschedule appointments by calling 457-CARE (2273) or by going to www.tricareonline.com.

In order to help prevent no-shows, the clinic has an audio care support system that calls the patient directly with an automated appointment reminder, Major Garrison said. Some clinics call the patient the day of the appointment as an additional reminder. Finally, the Patient Appointing Service at Fort Carson calls patients the day prior to an appointment to see if they need to cancel or reschedule.




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UAC a voice for Cadet Wing, community

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The Unit Advisory Council wants others around the Academy to join them in improving the Cadet Wing and the Colorado Springs community.

The UAC meets monthly at one of four Cadet Group locations to consider suggestions and ideas concerning the Cadet Wing, community projects and quality-of-life issues, said Tech. Sgt. David Johnson, the council's special events chairman.

Suggestions brought up at past meetings have included a parent gym area where parents can work out and keep an eye on children in a play area at the same time.

UAC president Master Sgt. Brady McCoy, the Academy military training NCO for Cadet Group 4, said that the group wants to become a voice of those issues.

"The more eyes; the more thoughts; the more people involved, the better the product will be," he said.

The council has grown from about a dozen members last year to about 35 this year. In addition to serving as a voice for those supporting the Cadet Wing, the council also performs fundraising, special events and charity projects.

Sergeant Johnson, the AMT for Cadet Squadron 19, said spring events such as an Easter egg hunt and a sports day are in the works, with the sports day currently scheduled for May 6. During the winter holidays, the group raffled holiday-themed baskets and assisted with Cadet Wing event preparation to raise money in support of projects like Recognition and award ceremonies.

Sergeant McCoy said the council also needs to be involved with outreach efforts.

"We need to be more than problem solvers," he said. "We need to become more involved in the community. As the community gives back to the military, the military can give back to the community that has supported them."



Photo by Ann Patton

Capt. Gena Parkman, Master Sgts. Kim Mann and Dan Spain prepare meals at Marian House March 2. The three Airmen are part of the Air Force Academy's Unit Advisory Council. Captain Parkman is assigned to the Academy's Cadet Counseling Center. Sergeant Mann is superintendent of Cadet Wing Human Relations, and Sergeant Spain is superintendent of Basic Cadet Training.

This month 16 volunteers pitched in at the Marian House Soup Kitchen to help feed 604 Colorado Springs residents. The council is also considering quarterly Adopt-A-Highway events, food and clothing drives and assisting with Habitat for Humanity and city park maintenance.

"It gives people ... the opportunity to get involved," Sergeant Johnson said. "We have people out there with great ideas."

The council meets the first Tuesday of every month from 10-11 a.m. at revolving Cadet Group locations and

welcomes both servicemembers and civilians. For full membership, participants must attend three meetings a year and participate in at least one fund-raiser.

"We want people to be involved," Sergeant Johnson said. "It shows commitment toward wanting to make the Academy better and help the community. But you don't have to be a member of UAC to speak up."

For more information on the Unit Advisory Council and meeting locations, contact Sergeant McCoy at 333-6689 or Sergeant Johnson at 333-8834.

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AFA language programs form 'onramp' for cross-culturally competent leaders

By Kathryn Gustafson
Air Force Directorate of Manpower and Personnel

WASHINGTON — The future of the Air Force's culture and language initiatives looks much like a classroom of energized cadets fully engaged in a Chinese foreign language course at the United States Air Force Academy, participating and responding to Haning Hughes' high energy, expressive body language and animated facial expressions.

"When (Ms. Hughes) leaves the classroom, a swarm of eager students follows her to continue asking questions," said retired Brig. Gen. Gunther Mueller, the foreign language adviser to the Air Force Culture and Language Center. "It's every teacher's dream."

Ms. Hughes began teaching at the Air Force Academy in 1995. Active engagement, learner-centered teaching and production at all levels of language and culture education are the centerpieces of her classroom and the language program's cornerstones.

The Air Force codified its strategy to develop future Air Force officers who are trained and equipped with the language and cultural knowledge to influence policies and operations across the globe in the Culture, Region and Language Flight Plan, which was developed in May 2009 and is being implemented Air Force-wide.

The Academy expanded its opportunities for cadets to become cross-culturally competent in 2005. Every cadet now receives exposure to at least two semesters of required foreign language coursework. This exposes cadets to college-level language courses and identifies cadets with an interest in and aptitude for continued

language study, said Col. Dan Uribe, permanent professor and head of the Department of Foreign Languages.

Not all cadets will be language-qualified or proficient, but those who have a genuine interest will continue to develop these skills. Mr. Mueller said the way ahead is to encourage and support Airmen who are motivated to learn and maintain language proficiency.

Languages taught at the Academy include French, German, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Japanese and Portuguese. Portuguese was recently introduced to the curriculum in recognition of Brazil's status as a major Western Hemisphere power in the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

The Academy has continued to grow the number of foreign language minors, especially those studying "strategic" or "investment" languages, since 2005, Colonel Uribe said. Overall foreign language enrollments almost doubled between Fall 2005 and Fall 2009, with an increase from 1,226 to 2,364 enrollments.

With the language coursework growth have come expanded opportunities for cadets to study and travel abroad. In a typical year, cadets may travel to one of more than 20 countries for periods ranging from 10 days to six weeks. According to a 2005 report published by the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, "Study abroad is one of the major means of producing foreign language speakers and enhancing foreign language learning. In today's world, study abroad is simply essential to the nation's security."

Language and culture immersion and study-abroad programs at the Academy include the Cadet Summer Language Immersion Program, the Olmsted Cultural

Immersion Program, the Cadet Semester Study Abroad Program and the Foreign Academy Exchange Program.

As the number of participants increases, the faculty continues to promote the available opportunities to all cadets, including those less likely to pursue such programs, said Col. Dave Larivee, director of the International Programs Office. Instructors work to target cadets who have not expressed interest in such opportunities or whose demanding curricula otherwise preclude participation.

The Academy's language programs are a primary "onramp" for the Air Force Culture and Language Center's recently established Language Enabled Airman Program, said Jay Warwick, director of the Air Force Culture and Language Center's Language Department. LEAP will focus on those early-career Airmen most likely to take full advantage of career-long, postgraduate training and immersion opportunities.

"The Air Force has never fully capitalized on the language abilities that cadets have gained through their classroom and in-country experiences once they enter into active duty," Mr. Warwick said. "With LEAP, we hope to drastically change this situation."

Cadet 2nd Class Brandon Odum said language and culture immersions help bridge the gap in culturally complex environments, and Cadet 1st Class Derrick Kline observed that the combined efforts of the Air Force Academy and Air Force Culture and Language Center are already taking hold.

"Things are changing," he said. "The Air Force is moving in a direction where language is useful and where Airmen can work in foreign operating environments."

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'Dirty Dozen' hosts newest Cadet for a Day

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Kai Rackley became the Air Force Academy's newest Cadet for a Day March 4-5 in cooperation with Cadet Squadron 12 and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Kai, who is 10½, dreams of becoming a pilot or a chef someday. His favorite aircraft is the Airbus 380, and he loves Garfield the cat and drawing airplanes. His sister Lily, 12, said he is also funny and likes to make jokes.

"He's a good brother to have," she said.

High winds grounded the Aero Club flight normally scheduled for Cadets for a Day, but that didn't stop the fun for Kai, his father, Mark, and Lily — and, of course, the cadets.

"I liked all of (the cadets)," Kai said. "They are very friendly, and I like making new friends. It's nice."

The weekend opened with a Thursday dinner off base with cadets and presentation of his official, though pint-sized, flight suit and jacket. The first stop on Friday was the air traffic control tower, where Kai learned the ins and outs of managing air traffic, followed by a tour of the glider hangar, where he laid a claim to fame with his name painted on one of the sail planes.

Afterward, firefighters from Fire Station 3 rolled out the red carpet — and their red truck — so Kai could check out the sirens and nozzles. Then it was off to the 98th Flying Training Squadron for an introduction to parachuting, Academy-style, including strapping into training gear in the squadron's ground training facility. Before leading the cadet noon meal formation into Mitchell Hall for lunch and enjoying a flyover by a C-21 from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., Kai and his family visited with squadmates and made the traditional Cadet for a Day handprints on the squadron wall.

After lunch and photos on Spirit Hill, the family toured the Cadet Chapel and enjoyed a chemistry magic show from chemistry professor Dr. Ron Furstenuau, who entertained his audience with feats involving rocket fuel and blowing up a balloon using dry ice.

"It kind of looks like water, but it's not," the professor said good-naturedly.

The flight simulators in Fairchild Hall were a big hit for the whole family, Kai especially.

"It was really fun controlling an airplane," he said.

The day ended with a squadron party at the bowling alley.

Saturday brought a tennis match, a Falcons baseball game where Kai threw out the first pitch, a flyover of F-16 Fighting Falcons from Buckley Air Force Base, a visit with the Academy's feathered falcon mascots at the mews and a high-speed taxi on the Academy's flightline.

"We're a very family-oriented squadron," said Cadet 2nd Class Kathleen Muckenhirn from CS 12. "We love the program and a chance to share the Academy with a miniature cadet."

She said the Cadet for a Day is a favorite, and coveted, opportunity for cadets, and it took the squadron four years of trying to be included.

Cadet 3rd Class Evan Twohig from CS 25, said he also enjoys being involved with the program

"I thought it would be a great experience and a great chance to meet new people," he said. He and Cadet 3rd Class Kimberly Shealy from CS 25 both helped out.

Maj. Jon Veazey is an admissions liaison officer stationed at North American Aerospace Defense Headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base. He is the current officer in charge for Cadet for a Day and has been involved with the program since 2001.

"It's amazing every time just to see the amazement of the kids and families," he said. "Every child



Photos by Rachel Boettcher

Top: Lily Rackley, Cadet 1st Class Gary Whiteman and Cadet for a Day Kai Rackley salute during the noon meal formation at the Air Force Academy March 5. Cadet Squadron 12 hosted the Rackley family for the two-day event.

Left: Airmen 1st Class Jacob Frey and Travis Oster show Kai Rackley how to operate a fire hose near Fire Station 3.

Below left: Maj. Jon Veazey and Kai Rackley check out a signal light at the Air Force Academy's air traffic control tower.

Below right: Cadet 1st Class Lauren McKinnon and Cadet 2nd Class Keenan Ryner strap Kai Rackley into a parachute harness at the Academy Airfield March 5. Cadets McKinnon and Ryner are members of the Air Force parachute demonstration team Wings of Blue.



is different."

Peggy Nightingale, a wish granter with the foundation, said her motivation to help is simple.

"It's the smiles you see from just having a few minutes of not having the suffering they go through."

Kai, like his sister adopted from China, was diagnosed with leukemia in 2007 and underwent chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. He has been cancer-free for a year and is back in school. His father, Mark, said the weekend was a lot more than what he expected.

"I know Kai had a fabulous time," he said. "All the activities were appropriate, well-scheduled and ran

like clockwork."

Mr. Rackley said the cadets were fabulous as well: polite and very sensitive to Kai and his sister Lily.

"They made us all feel very welcome," he said.

As for Kai, he seemed to take it all in, smiling the entire time. He said he especially enjoyed the fire station visit and seeing all the tools firefighters use and the chemistry magic show, which he called "pretty cool." He wants to stay in touch with the cadets and would enjoy a repeat visit to the Academy.

"I would love that," he said. "I had a great time."

A great time made even better — no homework over the weekend.

Academy graduate shares OIF story

By Capt. Stacie Shafran
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFNS) — An A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot and 1997 graduate of the Air Force Academy shared her story with Women's History Month luncheon guests March 15 about a mission in which her A-10 Thunderbolt II was hit by enemy fire over Baghdad.

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Maj. Kim Campbell, then a captain, and her flight lead were flying over downtown Baghdad during a close air support mission April 7, 2003.

"We were originally tasked to target some Iraqi tanks and vehicles in the city that were acting as a command post, but on the way to the target area we received a call from the ground forward air controller, or FAC, saying they were taking fire and needed immediate assistance," Major Campbell said.

The FAC ultimately turned out to be a member of the captain's squadron. Once over the target area, they descended below the clouds to positively identify the friendly troops and the enemy's location.

"We could see the Iraqi troops firing RPGs, or rocket propelled grenades, into our guys," she said. "It was definitely a high threat situation, but within minutes my flight lead was employing his 30-mm Gatling gun on the enemy location."

The two-ship formation of A-10s made several passes over the enemy location, employing 30-mm bullets and high-explosive rockets.

"Yes, there was risk involved, but these guys on the ground needed our help," Major Campbell said. "It's what any A-10 attack pilot would do in response to a troops-in-contact situation. That's our job; to bring fire down on the enemy when our Army and Marine brothers and sisters request our assistance."

After her last rocket pass, the captain was maneuvering off target when she felt and heard a large explosion at the back of the aircraft.

"There was no question in my mind," she said. "I knew I had been hit by enemy fire."

The jet rolled violently left, pointed toward Baghdad and stopped responding to the captain's control inputs. Major Campbell's flight training kicked in, and she quickly reacted.

After realizing both of her hydraulics systems were impaired, Major Campbell said she put the jet into manual reversion — a system of cranks and cables that allows the pilot to fly under mechanical control.

"It was my last chance to try and recover the aircraft, or I would be riding a parachute down into central Baghdad," she said.

Luckily, the jet responded and started climbing out and away from the city. Not wanting to eject over Baghdad, the two-ship maneuvered south to get out of



Courtesy Photo

Maj. Kim Campbell, an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot and 1997 Air Force Academy graduate, spoke at the Women's History Month Luncheon at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., March 15 about a mission in which her aircraft sustained battle damage over Baghdad. In this photo, then-Captain Campbell inspects the damage to her A-10 after a close-air support mission April 7, 2003.

the city. Anti-aircraft artillery fired at the jets from every direction.

"I couldn't do much to keep the jet moving, so I was hoping that the theory of 'big sky, little bullet' would work in my favor," she said. "Amazingly, we made it out of Baghdad and above the clouds with no further battle damage."

Because of the A-10's design, Major Campbell said she couldn't see the damage to her jet, even with the use of her cockpit mirrors. Her flight lead flew closely beside her and performed an initial battle damage check. He told her she had hundreds of small holes in the fuselage and tail section on the right side as well as a football sized hole on the right horizontal stabilizer. She then ran several emergency checklists and knew she had a decision to make.

"I could stay with the jet and try to land it or get to friendly territory and eject," she said.

With several positive factors on her side at that moment, such as the jet responding well and an experienced flight lead on her wing providing support, Major Campbell said she was confident she could get the jet

back safely to her deployed home at base in Southwest Asia, nearly an hour away by flight.

As she approached the base, the crash recovery team was waiting for her, along with the rescue helicopters in case she had to eject. Fortunately, she was able to safely land the jet and stop it using the emergency procedure for alternate breaking.

"I was impressed," said Lt. Col. Mike Millen, chief of the 355th Fighter Wing Commander's Action Group and an A-10 pilot. "Kim landed that jet with no hydraulics better than I land the A-10 every day with all systems operational." During the time of this incident, Colonel Millen was the chief of safety for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

After she landed, Major Campbell said her jet became the center of attention, as everyone — including her two crew chiefs — was eager to see the damage.

"Both of my crew chiefs did tremendous work on that jet and it performed better than I ever could have expected," Major Campbell said. "We put an incredible amount of trust in these guys, and they do great work."

As part of her presentation, Major Campbell showed the luncheon crowd photographs of the jet's damage.

"I am incredibly thankful to those who designed and built the A-10 as well as the maintainers who did their part to make sure that jet could fly under any circumstances, even after extensive battle damage," said Major Campbell.

The major also explained that the next day she was returned to flying — in support of a search-and-rescue mission to help find a downed A-10 pilot near Baghdad.

"I never really had time to think about the fact that I was going back to Baghdad where just the day before I had escaped a possible shootdown," she said. "In my mind, the only thing that I could think about was that I had a job to do. I knew that the SAR alert crews were there for me the day before and I was going to do the same for this pilot."

Major Campbell received the Distinguished Flying Cross, which is awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. A year and a half later, she deployed again, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. She has amassed 375 combat hours during her career.

"I found myself walking away from the presentation extremely empowered, not only from (Major Campbell's) words but from her actions amidst extreme adversity," said 2nd Lt. Sandy Spoon, chief of force management operations for the 355th Force Support Squadron. "As a woman, I have always felt I needed to work that much harder to make my mark, and it makes me proud to know that if there was ever a mark to be made, Major Campbell is living proof."

Academy team leaves for Rwanda

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

A team of four cadets led by Lt. Col. Scot Allen of the International Programs Office left March 19 for Rwanda on an Olmsted Trip.

"The four cadets have each chosen to investigate questions ranging from economic, educational and language effects of the 1994 genocide to using technology to help solve an urgent deforestation problem," said Cadet 3rd Class Andrew Petry from Cadet Squadron 34.

In addition to researching indi-

vidual projects, the team met with government and military officials, observed a genocide reconciliation trial, met with locals, and helped a successful orphanage on the shores of Lake Kivu.

During the return, they will stop in Belgium to visit a colonial history museum and make contact with representatives of the Belgian Royal Military Academy.

This journey differs from previous Olmsted Trips in the amount of preparation involved, and emphasis on researching and writing about a chosen topic. The cadets plan to present their findings during the Colorado Springs

Undergraduate Research Forum April 10, Cadet Petry said.

The group will return to the Academy by the end of March. Other cadets participating in the trip include Cadets 1st Class Anthony Hemphill, Jocelyn Booker and Lauren Kerdavid.

"Each cadet has been placed in charge of coordinating part of the trip. We've also formulated investigative questions that will lead our project plans. We are doing enough work, before, during and after the trip, to qualify for an independent study credit," said Cadet Petry, an aeronautical engineering major.

"We've read *Africa's World War* by Gerard Prunier and *A Thousand Hills* by Stephen Kinzer, which are about the causes, effects, and lessons learned from the 1994 genocide" he said and added Rwanda is a much safer place than it was in 1994.

"Rwanda has been transformed ... and is now a model for other African cities to follow," he said. "Rwandan citizens have completely changed their attitudes toward one another." Rwanda recently became a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and Kigali, its capital, is known as a safe place to travel.

Sacred Heart ends Falcons' season in AHA semifinals

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – After Air Force tied the game with 1:29 left in the third, Sacred Heart's Patrick Knowlton scored the game-winner with 42 seconds remaining as the Pioneers beat the Falcons, 2-1, in the Atlantic Hockey Association semifinal game at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester, N.Y.

Air Force's season ended, with the Falcons finishing at 16-15-4 overall. Top-seeded Rochester Institute of Technology won the tournament Saturday, defeating Sacred Heart 6-1 to advance to the NCAA tournament.

After a tight defensive game by both teams in the first period, it was Sacred Heart that got on the board first in the second period. Eric DeLong took a shot that was saved by Andrew Volkening. However, Erik Boisvert was there to clean up the rebound for a 1-0 lead. Early in the period, Air Force had two quality chances on the power play. Tim Kirby took the puck off the wall and skated right to the top of the crease, but his shot was saved by Steven Legatto. Less than 30 seconds



Photo by Johnny Wilson

Junior forward Jacques Lamoureux jockeys for position during Air Force's Feb. 27 match against Sacred Heart at the Cadet Ice Arena. Air Force lost to Sacred Heart in the Atlantic Hockey Association semifinals March 19.

later, Jacques Lamoureux's wrist from the right circle hit the cross bar behind Legatto.

With 1:37 left in the third period, Air Force pulled its goaltender in favor of the extra skater. The Falcons won the ensuing faceoff in the Pioneer end and Scott Mathis fired a slap shot at Legatto,

Lamoureux collected the rebound and tied the game with 1:29 remaining in the third. Derrick Burnett also assisted on the play.

With less than a minute remaining, Sacred Heart's Dave Jarman had the puck at the goal line to the left of Volkening. His centering pass was right on the tape

of Knowlton who was camped on the weakside post. His 13th of the season gave the Pioneers a 2-1 lead with 42 seconds left. The Falcons again pulled Volkening for the final 42 seconds, but were unable to tie the game.

Sacred Heart outshot Air Force, 34-33. Each team had three power plays in the game, but neither team scored. Volkening and Legatto each made 32 saves.

"This was a terrific hockey game," head coach Frank Serratore said. "They blew us out at their place and we blew them out at our place. I fully expected a low-scoring slugfest and that is what transpired. There is not much of a margin for error when you only score one goal. We died from a disease that has plagued us all season. We didn't score enough goals."

"Ironically, our magic run here at the Blue Cross Arena ended very similar to the way it started. Against Sacred Heart (in 2007) we pulled our goalie and scored and then scored in overtime to beat them. I thought we might do it again, but it was not be. I give Sacred Heart a lot of credit. They played the game hard and clean," Serratore said.

Three Falcons named to all-AHA team

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Three Air Force hockey players were named to the all-Atlantic Hockey Association team as announced March 18 at the AHA Tournament banquet at the Radisson Hotel Riverside in Rochester, N.Y.

Junior forward Jacques Lamoureux and sophomore defenseman Tim Kirby were named to the first team, and senior goaltender Andrew Volkening was named to the second team.

Lamoureux was one of two unanimous choices on the first team. A back-to-back all-AHA first team selection, Lamoureux tied for first in the AHA with 18 goals in 28 league games. He was also first with 11 power-play goals, tied for third with 35 points and tied for 11th with 17 assists in AHA games. The assistant captain led the team with 21 goals and 41 points in all games. He is tied for second in the nation with 13 power-play goals in all games and was named the AHA Player of the Month in December.

Kirby earned his first all-AHA selection as he was named to the first-team. The team's top scoring defenseman, Kirby was third in the league with 23 points in 28 league games. He scored four goals on the season, including three game-winners in the final three minutes of a game or in overtime (RIT, UConn and Holy Cross). He was named the AHA player of the week when he had a career-best seven points in the Sacred Heart series, Feb. 26-27, as the Falcons earned four points and secured home ice in the AHA quarterfinals. Kirby had a career-best five



Photo by Johnny Wilson

Andrew Volkening



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Tim Kirby



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Jacques Lamoureux

assists vs. SHU on Feb. 27, which tied as the most ever by a Falcon in a Division I game.

Volkening, a first-team selection last season and three-time member of the AHA all-tournament team, ranked second in the league in goals-against average (2.24) and third in the league in saves percentage (.924) in 28 league games. Volkening posted four shutouts in league games and was named the AHA Goalie of the Week four times this season. He allowed more than three goals in a game just twice in 28 games and held his opponent to two or less 14 times.

Joining Lamoureux and Kirby on the all-AHA first team are Sacred Heart forward Nick Johnson (tied for the league lead with 18 goals), Canisius forward Cory Conacher (led the league with 44 points), RIT defenseman

Dan Ringwald (top scoring defenseman with 10 goals and 27 points) and RIT goalie Jared DeMichiel (led league with 1.78 gaa, .932 saves percentage and 21 wins). Joining Volkening on the second team are Army forward Cody Omilusik, Mercyhurst forward Brandon Coccimiglio, RIT forward Andrew Favot, Army defenseman Marcel Alvarez and Canisius defenseman Carl Hudson.

The third team was made up of Dave Jarman (Sacred Heart), Vincent Scarsella (Canisius), Cameron Burt (RIT), Paul Ferraro (Sacred Heart), Chris Tanev (RIT) and goaltender Ryan Zapolski (Mercyhurst).

Conacher was named the player of the year while Tanev was the rookie of the year. Sacred Heart coach C.J. Marottolo was named the coach of the year.

Lacrosse

Air Force dropped a 5-2 decision to Siena Tuesday at Siena Field, falling to 1-5 on the season.

Siena grabbed a quick 1-0 lead with a goal in the opening minute and held onto its advantage throughout the game with two goals in the third period and one goal in the final stanza.

Junior Brian Wilson had a solid

effort between the pipes for the Falcons, stopping 10 shots for a season-best .667 save percentage. The Falcons will play Denver Saturday at 1 p.m.

Men's Gymnastics

Air Force junior Nash Mills was named the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Week, the league office announced Tuesday.

The award is the second such career

honor for Mills, a native of Coto de Caza, Calif., and the first of the season for the Falcons' program.

In addition, the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame will induct men's gymnastics head coach Kip Simons into its ranks. Simons, a native of Bloomsburg, Pa., competed on the 1994 and 1995 World Championship teams and was a member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic Men's

Gymnastics Team.

Golf

The golf team returned to action Thursday at the Barona Collegiate Cup hosted by San Diego State University.

The 54-hole tournament continues through today at the par-72, 7,300-yard Barona Creek Golf Club in Lakeside, Calif.

Senior Tom Whitney picked up

Five fencers qualify for NCAA championships

By Madeline McGuire
Athletic Communications

Five Air Force Academy fencers have qualified for the 2010 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Fencing Championships.

The field of 144 competitors will compete at Harvard University through Sunday. The Falcons last had five qualifiers in 2007.

Making his fourth trip is senior Peter French, a native of Austin, Texas. Last week, French won the 2010 Western Regional individual men's epee title at UC San Diego after defeating Kevin Mo from Stanford, 14-13. The win was French's third region title of his career. He currently has a 166-49 career record. An All-American, French finished seventh at the 2009 national championships.

Also selected to participate in 2010 is junior Daniel Trapani from Houston. Trapani has qualified for the national championships three times. In 2009, he was fifth and earned All-American honors in men's epee. At the 2010 NCAA Western Regional Championships, he was fourth and finished with an 8-3 record. His career record is 145-44.

Nick Stockdale, a junior from

Lansdowne, Pa., qualified for his first trip to the NAAs. Last week, he finished second in the individual men's foil Western Regional Championships. Throughout his career, Stockdale has amassed an impressive 92-33 career record.

For the first time since 2005, the Academy will be represented by two women fencers: sophomore Simone Barrette, who competed in 2009, and freshman Heather Nelson, who is making her first appearance at the NAAs. In 2009, Barrette, from Louisville, Ky., finished 23rd in the individual women's epee championships. At the 2010 NCAA Western Regional Championships, she was 7-1 and was second in women's epee. She currently has a 70-34 career record.

Nelson, from Clifton Park, N.Y., is the Falcons' individual women's saber qualifier. She won both the Nick Toth Open and Falcon Open saber titles and tied for third place at the North American Cup Junior Women's Saber Championships in 2009. Nelson has quickly amassed a 30-7 collegiate record. She won the women's title at the regional championships last week.

"I am very sure that they will do their best to make the Air Force Academy proud. They have the skill and the talent to do well;



Photo by J. Rachel Spencer

Senior Peter French, seen here competing in the Nick Toth Open at the Academy's Cadet Field House, was one of five Air Force fencers who qualified for the NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Championships.

it is just a matter of how they will deal with the pressure of each bout and the tournament as a whole. It is a very long tournament with 23 bouts against the best fencers in the country," said head coach Abdel Salem.

The National Collegiate Men's and Women's Fencing Championships include individual events in each of the six weapons (women's foil, women's epee, women's saber, men's foil, men's epee, men's saber). Fencers will compete in a round-robin format of five-touch bouts. After the round-robin, the

top-four fencers fence semifinal 15-touch bouts, with the winners fencing to determine first and second places, and the losers being awarded a tie for third place.

Absolute ties for the seeding will be broken as follows: for positions one through three, by a coin toss; for position four, by a fence-off. An institution's place finish in the championships will be based on points earned by each individual. A team will be awarded one point for each victory by its student-athletes for duration of the championships.

Women gymnasts tally best score in 6 years

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

The Air Force women's gymnastics team closed out the regular season in stellar fashion Monday at the Academy's Cadet West Gym, posting a combined score of 193.300 — its highest team total since 2004 — with 12 career-best scores and an additional pair of season-high marks.

In addition to the individual personal-best scores, the Falcons tallied season-high team high marks in three of the four events.

The Falcons dropped a narrow 195.700-193.300 decision to local opponent Denver, which entered the meet ranked 20th in the nation. However, it marked the second time in as many dual meets between the two schools that the point differential was less than 2.5 points.

The 193.300 points broke the previous season-high of 191.725 that Air Force set against the Pioneers in late February. The score, just 2.375 off of the Academy record, became the best team score since first setting the program standard in 2004. The Falcons have now crossed the 190-point mark in two of their last four meets, while



Falcon senior Aftan Boudreaux performs on the uneven bars during the home tri-meet against Southeast Missouri State and Seattle-Pacific earlier this year.

missing that mark by just .025 in a third.

Junior Brittany Dutton and senior Michelle Denise tied for second on the floor exercise, while senior Aftan Boudreaux tied for the runner-up spot on the uneven bars. All three gymnasts



Photos by J. Rachel Spencer

Falcon sophomore Jenna Dudley flips on the balance beam while competing during the home tri-meet against Southeast Missouri State and Seattle-Pacific.

tallied matching scores of 9.750 on their respective events. Denise's score on the floor exercise was a personal best, while Boudreaux tallied a season-best score.

Sophomore Jenna Dudley, who accounted for career-best marks on the

vault (9.800), balance beam (9.750) and all-around (38.850), tied for fourth on the vault and earned third outright in the all-around. Britany Calley also accounted for a trio of personal-best scores, including marks that led to fourth-place finishes on the floor exercise (9.725) and all-around (38.600). In addition, the freshman scored a season-high mark of 9.600 on the uneven bars.

Junior Lisa Wong matched her personal-best scores on two of her three events, as she scored a 9.550 on the vault and 9.675 on the floor exercise. Freshman Erin Brown matched her career high on the floor exercise at 9.350, while classmate Tara Harris increased her score on the balance beam to 9.750.

The Falcons crossed the 48-point mark in all four events, highlighted by matching marks of 48.600 on the balance beam and floor exercise. In fact, the Falcons did not have to count a single score lower than 9.500 on any event.

Air Force begins post-season action this weekend when it travels to Seattle for the 2010 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships Saturday. The Falcons will face Alaska-Anchorage, Seattle-Pacific and UC-Davis.

his first individual victory of the season to lead the Falcons to a fifth-place finish at their last tournament, the Triumph at Pauma Valley, hosted by San Francisco March 15-16. Air Force posted a score of .917 for the tournament, with Whitney shooting 211 (-2).

Baseball

Air Force lost a string of games to Hawaii in a four-game series in

Honolulu, falling to the 'Bows 15-6 March 19, 4-0 on Saturday, 9-5 on Sunday and 13-1 Monday.

The Falcons drop to 5-16 with the losses, while Hawaii improves to 11-9.

Falcons @ Home

Today

Baseball

vs. TCU, noon
Double-header

Men's Gymnastics

USAG Championships, 5 p.m.

Saturday

Men's Gymnastics

USAG Championships, 5 p.m.

Sunday

Baseball

vs. TCU, noon

Men's Tennis -

vs. Illinois State, 10 a.m.

Monday

Men's Tennis

vs. Pacific, 10 a.m.

Tuesday

Baseball

vs. Colorado Christian, 3 p.m.

Thursday

Men's Tennis

vs. BYU, 2 p.m.



Cops vs. Youth Challenge

The 10th Security Forces Squadron challenges boys and girls between 10 and 17 years old to basketball, tug-o-war and volleyball during the Cops vs. Youth Challenge at the Falcon Trail Youth Center today from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m..

A free lunch of hot dogs, chips and soda will be available for children who compete.

For more information, contact Capt. James Couch of the 10th SFS at 333-3685.

Holocaust Observance

The Academy will hold a Holocaust Observance luncheon April 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Falcon Club.

Samuel Lauber is the guest speaker for the luncheon, which is themed, "A Hidden Child's Story."

Cost is \$10 for club members and \$12 for non-members. Meal choices are vegetable or meat lasagna. For more information or to purchase a ticket, contact Master Sgt. Annette Williams at 333-4258.

Summer employment

Students enrolled or accepted to a college, university, technical or vocational school may apply for summer jobs at the Air Force Academy through Wednesday.

Applicants must hold a 2.0 or better grade-point average and be 16 years old by June 1.

Positions available include clerical, food service worker and general laborer jobs. Announcements at www.usajobs.gov will contain details and specific examples.

Applicants may e-mail completed applications to the 10th Force Support Squadron at 10fss.seep@usafa.af.mil. For more information, contact 10th FSS at 333-4363.

MPF to close Thursday

The 10th Force Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight's customer service desk will be closed April 1 due to a mandatory training visit from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System office.

Anyone needing Common Access Cards or ID cards or who need to update family member information should contact the military personnel offices at Peterson or Schriever Air Force Bases or Fort Carson.

The Fort Carson and Peterson AFB military personnel offices will be closed April 5 and 6, respectively. For more information, contact the Academy MPF at 333-8766.

Volunteers needed

The Cadet Trap and Skeet Club needs volunteers to become officers and NCOs in charge of the program.

Duties include securing weapons from the base armory for cadet training and accompanying cadets to shooting competitions.

For more information, contact Maj. Joe Scholes at 333-1790.

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 through April 15.

Hours of service are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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.

Women's History Month events

The theme of Women's History Month is "Writing Women Back into History." For more information on Women's History Month events, contact

Senior Master Sgt. Alvena Salley at 333-4145 or Gina Moore at 333-4258.

Fun Run/Walk/Bike

10th ABW Flagpole - Monday, 1:30 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for the events, and drawings will be held. Points of contact are Tammy Facemire at 333-5101 or Amber Dancy at 333-5522.

Civilian tuition assistance

The Civilian Tuition Assistance Program has money available for appropriated-funds employees of the Academy who are in an active civilian pay status. For more information or to apply for tuition assistance, call Christy Pfalmer at 333-4821.

Sports camps

Regular registration is currently open for 12- to 18-year-olds to attend 2010 Falcons Sports Camps. Sporting events include baseball, basketball, football, cheerleading, swimming and diving.

Prices start at \$175 for three-day commuter camps, \$350 for one-week commuter camps and \$550 for week-long camps with boarding at the Academy.

For more information on prices, check-in times and registrations, call the Athletics Department at 333-2116.

10th MDG closure

Most 10th Medical Group clinics will close Wednesday due to a 10th Air Base Wing exercise.

The Acute Care Clinic and Cadet Clinic will be open for active-duty personnel and cadets on a limited basis.

For more information, call the 10th MDG at 333-5101.

A&FRC Offerings

The Academy Airman and Family Readiness Center will host the following classes in March. Contact the A&FRC at 333-3444 or 333-3445 with questions or to sign up for a class. Class dates and times are subject to change.

Group pre-separation counseling
Held 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 assists you in identifying benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

Red carpet tour

Today, 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This tour offers insight into the Academy's mission and reveals most of the events and activities to see and do while stationed here. Stops include the Academy stables, Cadet Chapel, Arnold Hall, Arts and Crafts Center, Outdoor Recreation and more.

'Iron Chef'

The Community Activities Office is looking for teams to compete in an "Iron Chef" competition April 10 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Falcon Club.

Each team must consist of no more than three people.

The cost to attend the event is \$25 per family. For more information, contact Ashley Royall at 333-2928.

Family Advocacy Classes

All Family Advocacy classes are open

to active-duty servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and family members unless otherwise specified. Classes are held at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center. 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

Thursdays through April 22, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

This is a skill-based parenting program for parents of children ages 5-18 that teaches parents practical and effective ways to increase their children's positive behaviors, decrease their negative behaviors and appropriate alternative behaviors.

Anger Management

Mondays through April 26, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

This class will help participants 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.

Couples Communication Seminar

April 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This one-day seminar teaches participants how to communicate more effectively and improve their relationships. Everyone is welcome, whether they are married, engaged, dating or single.

1-2-3 Magic Parenting

May 13 and 20, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

This class offers easy-to-follow steps for disciplining children ages 2-12 without arguing, yelling or spanking.



'Only Rock-n-Roll'

The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum presents a collection of rock-n-roll concert images by photography Larry Hulst through May 29. The exhibit includes photos of Janis Joplin, Jimmie Hendrix, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and others. Admission to the museum is free.

Pikes Peak or Bust scholarships

The Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade will sponsor scholarships to family members of servicemembers killed or wounded in action while in a designated combat zone.

The scholarships are awarded to family members who have been accepted to an accredited college or university or who are current college students and can be applied for either traditional degree programs or vocational and technical education.

Applicants must apply by May 30 and must be committed to attend during the 2010-2011 academic year. Students who have already been selected for full scholarships or have been selected to attend a service academy are not eligible.

For more information, contact the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce at 719-575-4325.



CADET CHAPEL

Call 719-333-2636 for more information.

Buddhist

Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Jewish

Friday - 7 p.m.

Muslim

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Academic Year, when cadets are present
Wednesday - 5:30-6:20 p.m.

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality

Academic Year, when cadets are present
Monday, 6:30 - 7:50 p.m. - 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.

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