



Visions of Valor portraits honor heroes

By Ann Patton Academy Spirit Staff

"Visions of Valor" are on display at the U.S. Air Force Academy as a collection of black-and-white portrait photographs of 140 Medal of Honor recipients was presented by TriWest Health Alliance officials April 3 at the McDermott Library here.

David McIntrye, the TriWest chief executive officer, expressed gratitude to the five Medal of Honor recipients who were present for their service.

"Thank you for illuminating the path," he said, and noted the collection reflects the pride and sense of duty in such service. "Cadets will

follow in footsteps of greatness."

Speaking to the Medal of Honor recipients, Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley said, "All of you are true American heroes. These photographs are a wonderful homage to America's most revered heroes."

At the ceremony, guests and Medal of Honor recipients included retired Lt. Col. Joe Jackson who rescued a three-man Air Force combat control team in Vietnam; retired Col. Bernard Fisher who held off hostile gun positions in the rescue of a downed pilot in Vietnam; former Army Sgt. Peter Lemon who used machine gun and rifle fire, grenades See PORTRAITS, Page 10

Photo by Mike Kaplan

CMSAF engages with Academy members

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher DeWitt Academy Public Affairs

The 15th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force visited the Air Force Academy April 2 to provide a leadership perspective to the graduating Class of 2009 and cadet candidates.



McKinley

This was the second such visit for the Air Force's top enlisted member, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley.

cers, enlisted and civilians.

"I've also spoken to ROTC units, group and wing commander's courses and SOS attendees, in addition to all the enlisted Airmen," Chief McKinley said. "If sharing my experience can help others become better leaders in the future, I want to take advantage of that opportunity."

Chief McKinley had the following advice for the members of the Class of 2009 as they near becoming second lieutenants.

"Be a sponge. As young lieutenants you need to be a sponge ... to observe and listen. You will still have the opportunity to lead. However, as young second lieutenants, you should learn from others who have gone on that path before youlearn from their experiences and their mistakes," Chief McKinley said. "Listen as much as possible and enjoy that time." A first for Chief McKinley, and high-

light for Academy Command Chief

Master Sgt. Arvin Davis, was a sit-down with the Preparatory School cadets during the visit.

"Having the chief master sergeant of the Air Force provide a first-hand leadership perspective to both the Class of 2009 and our Preparatory School cadet candidates is an excellent opportunity to hear his take on their roles and responsibilities as future Airmen and officers in our Air Force," Chief Davis said. "It definitely provides a unique perspective promoting their continued growth and development as leaders of character."

Chief McKinley speaks highly of the on-to-be second lieutenants.

Chief Davis said questions from both cadets and cadet candidates were especially timely and probing as they prepare themselves to become Air Force officers and to serve during difficult and challenging times. "All can definitely benefit from the direct interaction with one of our most senior Air Force leaders. Those who have served as chief master sergeant of the Air Force have unique views from the upper-most level and are in an excellent position to talk to us about many of the umbrella issues being tackled for all Airmen."

While here, Chief McKinley got an up-close look at the 306th Flying Training Group, responsible for all cadet flight and parachute training.

CMSAF McKinley shared his reasons for wanting to speak with cadets. "This is an opportunity I asked the Academy superintendent for," he said. "I thought it was important because I am not just the chief of the enlisted force and my concern is focused on all Airmen to include offi-

"I thought the seniors were great," he said. "They had very good questions and I felt a sense of camaraderie throughout the class. I'm very appreciative to have had this opportunity and want to thank Lt. Gen. [John] Regni and Academy Command Chief Davis for giving me the opportunity to come speak to them."

"Airmen are doing incredible things here," he said. "Visiting the 306th FTG was a learning experience for me ... to see all the great things our Airmen are doing better preparing cadets for their See CMSAF, Page 4



Energy Savings Tip of the Week: Close curtains and shades at night; open during the day.



Recovery time, process differs for all

By Capt. Mary McGriff 379th Air Expeditionary Wing

SOUTHWEST ASIA — For most survivors, a sexual assault, particularly rape or sodomy, is probably the most traumatic event to ever touch their life.

How you react and recover will be dependent upon many factors including the relationship with the perpetrator, the level of violence and duration of the attack, other life-crisis experiences, a support system, selfesteem and the strength to ask for and receive appropriate professional help.

Recovery does not mean to forget what happened. Instead, recovery is being able to understand and believe that the assault was not your fault. Recovery is accepting the reality of what has happened, while moving beyond the immobilizing emotions, which can dominate your thoughts, words and actions.

If no one has ever told you before, you need to know and believe the following statement: "A survivor of rape or sexual abuse will probably never fully forget what happened."

However, survivors can and do recover. The process of recovery can be confusing and painful. Throughout the process, remember that recovery can be a powerful and positive step in your life.

All crisis events effect emotions. Emotional memories never just "go away." Therefore, the first step in recovery is to admit that you may be living with some aspects of the attack forever.

The good news is that through recovery everyone can grow and become stronger. Everyone can resume a normal lifestyle. A person can regain control over their thoughts, memories and feelings.

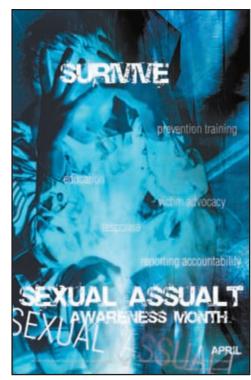
Recovery begins at different times for each survivor, but, generally, recovery begins the moment a person chooses to start taking control back from the perpetrator. For some, recovery may begin moments following the attack while others may not begin the process until years later. There is not a normal timeline for recovery. Everyone is different and every person should be able to move through the recovery process at their own pace and without pressure or judgments.

Recovery involves time, strength and courage. Recovery is believing in future goals and day-to-day achievements. Recovery means celebrating the positive aspects of life. Recovery is being able to enjoy sleeping, eating and simple pleasures as you did before the assault. Recovery is being able to trust and believe in your own judgments and choices.

The road to recovery can be long and emotional. Some survivors may, at times, want to quit the fight. They may want to bottle everything up inside or stop going to counseling or support group. Patience will help the process.

Remember that no one is born with the knowledge needed for recovery. Everyone must learn by working either with someone who knows or by trial and error on their own. Whatever the choice, be gentle and understanding with yourself knowing recovery takes time and persistence.

Recovery also takes commitment.



The decision to begin a recovery process will be one of the most important decisions you ever make. Remember that survivors will be better able to deal with this process through the acceptance, support and comfort of friends and family members. Counselors, turning point advocates and other community professionals can also be of great benefit throughout the days, months and years following an assault.

Talking to someone who will listen, provide support and offer information, helps far more than remaining alone and silent. Allow people to help. Believe in your strengths and look to the future with hope.

Begin the recovery process by calling Teresa Beasley, the Academy' Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, at 333-9578 or the 24 Hour SARC line (719) 333-7272.



To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy Lt. Gen. John Regni -Academy Superintendent Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth ----Director of Public Affairs Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch ----Chief of Internal Information 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 **Denise Navoy** — Graphic Designer

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

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

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



Physics 645: P215 (3) / (2F) = formula for lasting success

By Cadet 1st Class Kristen Wolverton Cadet Squadron 29

Physics 215: A course listing that sends shivers down the backs of Air Force Academy cadets. We are required to pass the course whether we want to take it or not. Whether we are Foreign Area Studies or Electrical Engineering majors; Physics 110 and 215 are in the core curriculum and cadets must take these course. And I can tell you what I thought every time I failed a graded review or missed points on a homework journal: "Why do I need this!? I'm never going to use it!" Indeed, I am confident when I speculate that many other 215 victims thought that same thing every day they entered and exited the classroom.

Having finally completed my Physics "645" course, I have answers to my questions (I am that foreign area major I mentioned earlier). Not to knock the Physics Department, but I should caveat that: I don't believe I will need the physics I "learned," but I do think I need the lessons in life I learned over the course of that class. learn something for which I have no aptitude, and how to humble myself and ask for help. These lessons are invaluable.

In the Air Force, we will all encounter complex tasks, difficult times and blows to our pride. It is during these times when I will recall what I learned in physics and I don't mean why an electron moves the way it does.

Maybe the rumors are true that the Physics Department has taken it upon themselves to weed out cadets. I am certain however, we, as cadets, must learn to raise ourselves up and learn how to fail in order to learn how to truly succeed. Physics "645" taught me that.

credits in order to graduate.

Physics 215 was my Waterloo; I took it three times ... really, I did.

I like to think of myself as among a select few who have completed the Physics 645 (215 x 3)

Ann Bray

Family member

I learned how to fail, how to persevere, how to



"My husband Sheldon. He is always there for me and always goes way beyond to help me."

Do you have a hero in your life?

"Our granddaughter, Emily. She keeps us going and feeling young, and she keeps us smiling." "John Wayne. I always went to the drive-in and watched all his movies when they came out." "My parents. They are very different people and excel in their own ways."



Charles Eachen Academy commissary



Ted Ely Retired Air Force member



Cadet 3rd Class Jessica Rowe Cadet Squadron 14



Social media surfers catch Internet wave

By Butch Wehry Academy Spirit staff

Even when intended as innocent fun, just because something can be done doesn't always mean it should be.

Budding cadet communicators may want to consider propriety before engaging in today's social media options that are crossing the Internet like a tsunami.

A quick search of increasingly popular social media Web sites will uncover content surely to cause both smiles and raised eyebrows as Air Force leaders of today and yesteryear explore what Academy cadets have produced for the world to see. Air Force officials say content, which many may consider humorous, can quickly cross the line from funny to distasteful.

Recent guidance from Washington is helping ensure Airmen around the globe have a clear picture of what is and isn't acceptable interaction with (or use of) various forms of media.

"The Air Force needs to turn all its Airmen into communicators who combat negative influence of enemy propaganda, misinformation and misrepresentation," reads the booklet New Media and the Air Force recently produced by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency Emerging Technology Division.

Misrepresentation of the profession of arms through humorous accounts of life at the Academy may seem insignificant to some ... while others might ask what perception does it give to viewers around the world? That's the question facing today's leaders who are keeping an eye on popular Web sites like You Tube where keyword searches can reveal much.

"Cadets (and others as well) may need a friendly reminder from time to time that we, via the Internet, globally represent the Academy and the U.S. Air Force," said David Cannon, Academy director of communications. "Any video posted that puts the Academy specifically, or the profession of arms generally, in a questionable light is clearly not prudent behavior. Furthermore, any online social media format that brings

potential discredit upon the Academy and/or the Air Force is at best unprofessional and could conceivably be punishable."

Times have changed and so have the ways the Air Force communicates.

"The days of only public affairs folks being the conduit for Air Force or unit information are over — the Internet, and in particular, social media or new media Web sites, have taken care of that," Mr. Cannon said. "Sites like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube and the like are instantaneous potential communication challenges. The days of a 24-hour news cycle are gone. The news cycle is now."

How does that affect the information battle space?

One just needs to look at how groups like Al Qaeda use information they post videos of attacks on U.S. troops immediately. They post videos of their pronouncements immediately. They use the Internet to tell their story, to recruit, to keep a continuous presence of their activities and their goals in front of the world.

"While groups like Al Qaeda do not have to abide by any sort of rules or values such as Integrity, Service and Excellence, we do," Mr. Cannon said. "The Air Force's goal is to have 'every Airman serve as its communicator.' We want our Airmen to tell their stories - collectively, the Air Force story."

One way to do that is through the appropriate social media sites.

Those with Facebook pages, for example, are encouraged to tell their stories ... and to do so with appropriateness in mind. "This is a great medium to tell the world what a great organization and opportunity the Air Force is," said Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth, Academy director of public affairs. "The Academy is full of stories deserving to be told."

The long-term key to success will be finding the perfect blend of traditional and modern communication tools.

"We'll continue to use the traditional means of telling the Academy story: external news media, our speakers' bureau program, advertising,

General guidance when communicating through social media:

- Don't discuss classified information. - Stay in your lane. If you're an aircraft mechanic, you're well suited to communicate messages about aircraft maintenance. If you are blogging about legal issues, reconsider your content.

— Don't lie. Credibility is crucial Without it, no one cares what you have to say.

-Always identify yourself. It makes your post more creditable.

- Safety.Videos that get widespread attention or become "viral" feature death-defying stunts or acts. Don't let the desire to get your message across compromise personal safety.

 Be aware of the image you present. If using a visual medium, don't let your message get overshadowed because the viewer's attention is drawn to your improperly worn uniform or something occurring in the background. The image you present will set the tone for your message and often mean the difference of whether or not people listen to your message. Your tactical representation could have strategic and international consequences for the Air Force and the nation.

— Use common sense. If you wouldn't say it in front of your mother, you probably shouldn't say it on YouTube. Your words and images will go out to thousands, possibly millions, of people around the world and once out there it's out there for good. Your public affairs staff should always be a source of advice and guidance in this medium. Be careful of what personal information you divulge, such as address, phone numbers or any information that could aid thieves or the enemy.

For local and Air Force updates, visit: www.af.mil or www.usafa.mil.

hosting groups and the Academy Spirit, for example," said Mr. Cannon. "We also need to look at leveraging social media to tell our story. The same rules apply: talk about your area of expertise and don't say or post anything that is disparaging to your unit, the Air Force Academy or the Air Force.

Twitter away and tell your story, our story!"

NEWS BRIEFS

Bear proofing

Bears are coming out of hibernation and are on the prowl for food. If they found food in the trash containers near your home or office last year, that's likely the first place they will go this spring. To keep them away, ensure the lid to your bear-proof dumpster or toter receptacle is closed and properly latched. If a bear finds an easy place to get food, they will return for more. Items in typical household trash can kill a bear. To report a bear-proof trash receptacle needing repair in the Pine Valley or Douglass Valley housing areas; call Forest City maintenance at 867-9675. For all other non-housing bear-proof containers needing repair, call civil engineer contract services at 333-3053. Residents of new senior officer's quarters who do not currently have a bear-proof trash receptacle must secure their trash in a garage until the scheduled trash collection day. Call 333-2000 with immediate bear problems. To report sightings, call Academy Natural Resources at 333-3308, or e-mail 10 CES/CECN (Bear Watch).

Sealed bid auction

The Academy impound lot currently has several unclaimed vehicles. The outdoor recreation center will hold a sealed bid auction April 24. A list of vehicles and more detailed information is available at www.usafaservices.com. The vehicles may be seen at the impound lot from 3 to 5 p.m. April 20 through 23. For more information, call 333-4753 and ask for Lee or Jake.

NCOA honors WWII Vets

On the 55th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, the Air Academy Chapter of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association will host a 6:30 p.m. banquet at the Chevenne Mountain Resort in honor of World War II veterans.

Reservations are required. If you are an eligible veteran and would like to participate in the event or would like more information, e-mail retired Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Zoebisch at Jerry@ *aancoa.org* or call 719-287-5654.

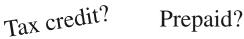
Writing Warriors Workshop

A post-deployment writing workshop is set for veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The workshop begins Tuesday and meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 555 E. Pikes Peak Ave, corner of Pikes Peak/Colorado Ave. The eight-week free workshop will be led by writing professionals to help attendees tap the transformative power of writing in order to understand and tell their wartime stories.

Experts say writing about important events in one's life is therapeutic and can be helpful in the post-deployment phase. To register for the workshop or for more information visit www.writin warriors.org.

Space is limited. Workshop facilitators include Academy professors Donald Anderson and Lt. Col. Tom McGuire. For more information call 333-8485.



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Heritage Coat uncertain despite favorable reviews

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

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Though Air Force officials here have not made a final decision on the new service coat, pre-decisional results show Airmen who sampled the Heritage Coat gave it high marks.

Focus groups at various locations such as the U.S. Air Force Academy, Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., Lackland AFB, Texas, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and the National Capital Region answered pre-set questions concerning the coat's fit, function, comfort and appearance.

Survey feedback showed 92 percent of wear test participants deemed the coat suitable for military uniform, and overall 66 percent thought the Air Force should adopt the new design, although favorable feedback alone does not decide the service coat's fate.

"The fit and wear test process is but one step in a lengthy assessment the Air Force uses in deciding whether or not to proceed with production of a uniform item," said Ruth Ewalt, the Air Force Uniform Programs and Policy chief. "Participant feedback is vital to ensuring proper fit,

CMSAF

From Page I

futures as officers."

During the visit to the 306th FTG Chief McKinley received a mission briefing highlighting the cadet training and he also spoke with some of the enlisted members of the unit.

"The chance for our young, NCOs, and senior NCOs to interact with Chief McKinley was great, and for them to hear some of the important topics being discussed at the highest levels of the Air Force such as the changes in the PT Testing

function, comfort, durability and appearance of the final uniform item."

Ms. Ewalt said producing and fielding a new uniform item involves a collaborative effort among many organizations.

"The Uniform Board works with a cadre of officers and enlisted Airmen who represent a diverse group to make recommendations for future dress and appearance standards," she said. "Other agencies provide input for a number of considerations, including industry capability and current inventory of the item it is replacing."

Officer and enlisted male and female participants wear-tested three variant issue designs — the fabric belt and slide buckle, the honor guard style belt and buckle, and the four-button, no belt style. Of 362 responses (232 males and 130 females), 71 percent of participants preferred the four-button, no belt style coat.

The test phases were initial impression, belt-option fit test and wear test. Survey results indicated 72 percent of wear test participants prefer the coat's overall design to the current service coat.

The wear test results showed that preferences varied between males and females – 43 percent of men favored

the honor guard style belt, while 47 percent of women preferred the four-button no belt version.

"The honor guard style belt looks like something from a Star Trek convention! It's too bulky on what is otherwise a sleek uniform coat," wrote one participant.

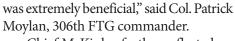
Another participant commented, "I like the hour-glass shape it gave my body, similar to how the Marine Corps jacket fits."

Some participants questioned the appropriateness of introducing a new service coat at all in light of the Air Force's current priorities.

"Being a nation at war, I'm not sure what message changing our service dress coats sends," wrote another participant. "Especially (considering) we're in need of more funds to upgrade airframes. Recommend putting service coat on hold to later date."

If directed to proceed, the Uniform Board will develop an implementation plan and will need to establish realistic expectations with regard to cost, schedule, performance, fielding and sustainment.

Other factors the board will consider are the unit price to Airmen, industry capacity limitations and the timeline to get the coat into the field.



Chief McKinley further reflected on the Academy visit as a whole.

"For me it's always a great pleasure to come to Colorado Springs and the Academy," he said. "There's something about being here that's truly 'Air Force' and makes me proud to be an Airman."

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher DeWitt Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney McKinley provides a first-hand leadership perspective to the Class of 2009.





All rates and offers current as of April 1, 2009 and are subject to change. 12.99% Balance Transfer promotion is available only to cardholders of any PenFed Visa Platinum card. *Balance transfer rate will have an Annual Percentage Rate of 2.99%; monthly periodic rate of 0.249%. A balance transfer fee of 2.5% (minimum \$10-maximum \$100) applies to this transaction. Rate shall remain in effect on the transferred balance(s) until it is paid in full. If you miss 2 consecutive minimum payments due, the 2.99% APR will revert to the default rate of 17.99% APR. Payments will be applied to the account balance in the order determined by PenFed in its sole discretion. The APR for purchases or cash advances (revolving balances) and the APR for prior promotional balances remains unchanged. Balance transfers are treated as cash advances, therefore there is no grace period and finance charges accrue from the date the transfer is posted to your account. Balance transfers of other PenFed loans are not eligible for this promotion. This promotion is subject to change or termination at any time and without prior notice. VISA Platinum Purchase APR: 13.99%

Web site promotes sexual assault awareness

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carden American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) - As part of a nationwide observance this month to raise awareness about one of the country's most under-reported crimes, Defense Department officials launched a new Web site and campaign April 3 that give military members fresh initiatives and new teaching methods to prevent sexual assault, the department's top prevention expert said.

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month is just our opportunity to heighten awareness and to make people aware of the programs in place to take care of them," said Dr. Kaye Whitley, director of the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. "(The observance) gives us a chance to reaffirm (the department's) commitment."

The Web site and social marketing campaign focus heavily on bystander interventions, encouraging military members to "take care of their buddies." Department officials want every man and woman in uniform to take an active role in and be responsible for preventing sexual assault, Dr. Whitley said.

Much like the "Friends don't let friends drive drunk" slogan of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving nonprofit group, bystander intervention means anyone has the ability to stop sexual assault before it happens, she said.

"(Bystander intervention) is calling on everyone to look out after each other and intervene in situations before a sexual assault occurs," Dr. Whitley said. "This is a concept we're familiar with because we look out for our battle buddies; we look for our wingmen.

"If you're out with your friends and partying, don't leave your friends alone," she said. "And if someone has had too much to drink, make sure he or she gets home safely. Everyone has a duty to prevent sexual assault."

The campaign's slogan is "Our strength is for defending," Dr. Whitley said, and beginning this month and from now on, department officials will emphasize bystander intervention as an important aspect for prevention.

Department officials "want every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine to know that it is his or her responsibility to intervene and prevent sexual assault from occurring," she said.

Throughout the month, officials at a number of military installations around the globe are expected to host guest lecturers as well as hold education seminars, classes and various other events, Dr. Whitley said.

The awareness month campaign will provide military members and their leaders helpful tools to educate each other to enhance knowledge and awareness. Schedules of events and activities throughout the year as well as training tools and materials can be found on the new Web site.

"Commanders and leaders worldwide ... we want everyone involved," she said. "This new campaign calls upon everyone at every level of military society to prevent sexual assault.

"The goal of the department is to get people to come forward and report," Dr. Whitley said. "We want to give you the care and the support you need. We want to decrease the stigma ... we want people to know that services are available to them around the clock."

New lieutenant named 2008 cadet of the year

Courtesv **Directorate of Personnel Services**

The Air Force recently announced the selection for the 2008 Cadet of the Year award

Now 2nd Lt. Kenneth P. Grosselin III, served as cadet wing commander overseeing Air Force standards and military discipline for more than 4,400 cadets.

Under his leadership, the cadet wing developed a previously non-existent summer standardization and evaluation program, significantly increasing cadet accountability. Additionally, he graduated number two of 1,012 in academic performance and number two overall in his class. Cadet Grosselin also received the Rand Doctorate Scholarship at Pardee Rand Graduate School, Santa Monica, Calif. Lieutenant Grosselin is currently attending training at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

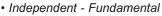
The British Air Squadron, a private organization comprised of British citizens, established this award to pay tribute to the U.S. military for its support of the United Kingdom over the years. The award recognizes the most outstanding cadet in an Air Force commissioning program.

The official presentation will be held in Washington D.C. later this year.



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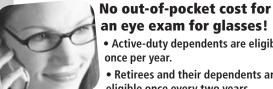
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Gates presents defense budget recommendations

By Jim Garamone American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, (AFPN) — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said the future of the F-22, the F-35 and the Air Force Combat Search and Rescue X helicopter are involved in his budget recommendations during a Pentagon press conference Monday.

The secretary said he included his experiences in national security to make the decisions.

To start, Secretary Gates plans to significantly restructure the Army's Future Combat Systems program.

"We will retain and accelerate the initial increment of the program to spin out technology enhancements to all combat brigades," he said.

But he said there are unanswered questions about the program's vehicle design strategy.

"I am also concerned that, despite some adjustments, the FCS vehicles where lower weight, higher-fuel efficiency and greater informational awareness are expected to compensate for less armor do not adequately reflect the lessons of counterinsurgency and close-quarters combat in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

The current vehicle program, developed in fiscal 2000, does not include the recent \$25 billion investment in the mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles that have saved so many lives in



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Marine Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speak to members of the media about the fiscal 2010 budget Monday at the Pentagon.

Afghanistan and Iraq.

Secretary Gates also noted problems with the current fee structure, which he said gives the government little leverage to promote cost efficiency.

"Because the vehicle part of the FCS program is currently estimated to cost over \$87 billion, I believe we must have more confidence in the program strategy, requirements and maturity of the technologies before proceeding further," he said. "Accordingly, I will recommend that we cancel the vehicle component of the current FCS program, re-evaluate the requirements, technology and approach, and then re-launch the Army's vehicle modernization program, including a competitive bidding process."

The Army needs a vehicle modernization program to meet the needs of the full spectrum of conflict.

"But because of its size and importance, we must get the acquisition right, even at the cost of delay," the secretary said.

Secretary Gates recommended halting the F-22 Raptor procurement at 187, and investing instead in the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The secretary also would like to end other under-performing programs, such

as the VH-71 presidential helicopter.

"This program was originally designed to provide 23 helicopters to support the president at a cost of \$6.5 billion," he said. "Today, the program is estimated to cost over \$13 billion, has fallen six years behind schedule, and runs the risk of not delivering the requested capability."

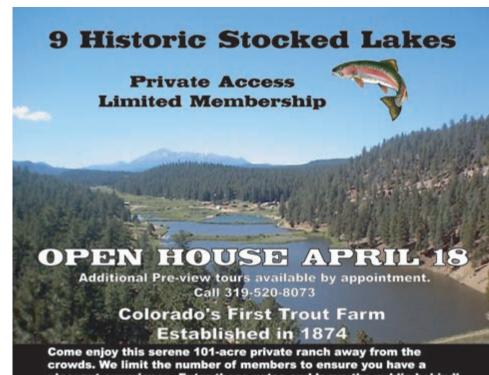
Secretary Gates said the military will develop options in fiscal 2011 for a followon program.

The secretary also would like to terminate the Air Force Combat Search and Rescue X helicopter program. The program has a troubled acquisition history and raises the question of whether this important mission can only be accomplished by yet another single-service solution with single-purpose aircraft.

"We will take a fresh look at the requirement behind this program and develop a more sustainable approach," he said.

Secretary Gates said he is recommending an end to the \$26 billion transformational satellite program, and instead would like to purchase two more advanced, extremely high frequency satellites as alternatives.

Turning to missile defense, he recommended restructuring the program to focus on the rogue state and theater missile threat, meaning the United States will not increase the number of groundbased interceptors in Alaska.





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Cadets and cultural awareness

A Knowledge Outcome

By Lt. Col. John Donovan Academy History Department

It was very puzzling.

Despite covering the topic through lecture and discussion in my History 101 (Modern World History) course, students were still not getting it.

During the Fall 2008 semester, when it came time to test their knowledge on the subject during a Graded Review, 30 percent of them could not tell the difference between Sunni and Shi'ite beliefs in the Islamic religion. This semester, I decided to change my teaching approach to the topic.

Instead of relying on lecture and a brief class discussion, I asked for volunteers in the class to help with a special assignment. I selected two students to present separate briefings. One student's presentation was on the beliefs of Sunni Muslims, and the other discussed the beliefs of Shi'ite Muslims and how they differed in their approach toward a successor for the Caliph.

Following the presentations, I opened the floor for any questions to the students making the presentations. Additionally, at the end of the class, I had all students write a one-paragraph summary of the major differences between the Sunni and Shi'ite beliefs. The



end result when it came time for the Spring 2009 Graded Review: a 97 percent pass rate on the same question assessed the semester before that only had a 70 percent pass rate. It may have taken more time from the curriculum to emphasize this aspect of Islamic culture, but it was worth it.

Why is it important to learn the difference between Sunnis and Shi'ites in the Islamic world?

Does it really matter to Air Force Academy cadets?

In actuality, it is just one aspect of the many knowledge challenges facing our cadets in today's multinational operations environment. It is critical that officers in today's international environment understand how cultural factors influence the decisions made in current and future war-fighting domains.

As one of the Academy's six Knowledge Outcomes, Civic, Cultural and International Environments, provides our cadets a knowledge and understanding of the historical and current perspective of leadership, cultures and traditions, as well as global issues and consequences in the context of the humanities and social sciences.

By attending classes from the Academy's core curriculum that emphasize history, language studies, economics, literature, ethics and geopolitics, USAFA cadets appreciate how different languages, religions, cultures and insti-



tutions, balanced by ethical principles and Air Force core values, affect deployment operations. This appreciation, combined with a comprehension of how historical events have produced today's world in terms of diffusion and interaction among nations, people, groups and ideas is critical to their personal growth as leaders and officers of character.

Understanding the difference between Sunni and Shi'ite beliefs may seem like a minor achievement for our cadets. Doing so, however, reinforces the fostering of a healthy command and work environment that increases the effectiveness and efficiency of both joint and multinational operations.

Armed with the knowledge of civic, cultural and international environments, Academy graduates will fully contribute to the full spectrum of missions requiring them to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace environments for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests.



Pikes Peak Children's Museum Asks Young Artists To Help Design A New Logo

> The Pikes Peak Children's Museum is holding a logo contest from April 1-17 2009, inviting kids in our community to give us their original, artistic ideas to inspire our new logo. The winning designs will ultimately be adapted for the official logo by a professional graphic designer. The PPCM logo competition is open to children in El Paso County from ages 1-11.

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Falcon Heritage Forum welcomes '59ers

By Maj. Olivia K.D. Nelson Center for Character Development

More than 40 members of the Academy's first graduating class – affectionately termed "59ers" – are set to participate in Falcon Heritage Forum beginning here Monday.

The three-day event, which offers cadets the opportunity to interact directly with veterans of dynamic backgrounds, carries the theme "The Class of 1959: Fifty Years of Excellence," and coincides this Spring with the 59ers class reunion.

The class set the standard for decades of excellence at USAFA, boasting such firsts as marching the last few miles from its temporary home at Lowry Field to the permanent Academy site on Aug. 29, 1958, selecting the Falcon as the mascot, and leading the 1958-59 football team to an undefeated season. Unsurprisingly, this superior group produced two All-American athletes in Cadets Robert Siteman and Brock Strom.

Perhaps the most interesting challenge for the new Academy was how to get around the absence of a robust upper class. Active duty company grade officers from all services – some previous instructors or recent graduates from Annapolis and West Point – filled the role as a cadre of Air Training Officers.

"They had lots of time to be upperclassmen," mused retired Col. Robert Browning. "The ATOs didn't have an academic load, so we would come back from class and they would have perfectly spit-shined shoes and new uniforms on ... they expected the same from us." According to Colonel Browning, despite the hard times dealt by the hands of the ATOs, he most enjoyed the chance to speak with them about things going on in the operational Air Force.

Executing a military training program from scratch was an incredible feat on the part of the ATOs. An

Schedule highlights:

Monday, 7 p.m. – Class of '59 Speaker Panels in Arnold Hall Theater, F1, D2, H1, H2

Monday, 8 p.m. – Cookie and Punch Receptions at Fairchild Hall Annex Bridge and Arnold Hall Banquet Room

Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. – '59er Discussions in Cadet Squadrons

Tuesday, 5 p.m. – Cadet Squadron-hosted Dinner and Fireside Chats

See the event program for a breakdown of speakers-to-venues and biographical data. For a complete schedule or more information, contact the Center for Character Development at 333-4904 or visit our Web site at *www.usafa.af.mil* and click on the link for Falcon Heritage Forum.

accomplishment, said Colonel Browning, the first class didn't recognize until years later. "Since graduation, they've become good friends and are considered part of the class."

The 59ers have gone on to prove their mettle with 19 reaching the general officer ranks and soaring to important leadership positions. Many served with pride, among them the first cadet to report to the Academy in that summer of 1955, Valmore Bourque of South Hadley Falls, Mass., who later became the first graduate to fall in combat as a graduate of the Class of 1960.

"We are proud to honor these pioneers who have had so much to do with making our Academy great," said Col. John Norton, director for the Center for Character Development, which hosts the semi-annual Falcon Heritage Forum. "We're especially delighted to have them spend most of their time with cadets."

For the first time since the Forum's 1996 inception,

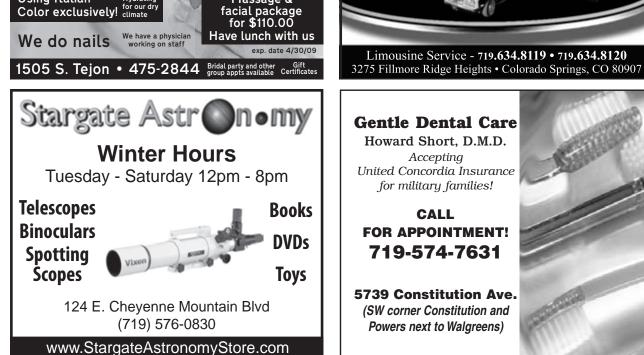


Capt Arnold C. Brasswell, AOC, sixth squadron, inspects the uniforms of one of the upperclassmen. A place for everything and everything in its place. The cadets endured a 'white glove inspection' every Saturday.

instead of highlighting a handful of keynote speakers, the cadet wing and center staff will present five panels of four guest speakers – each with very dynamic and varied backgrounds – to maximize the interaction for both cadets and graduates.

When originally conceived, the symposium began as a small gathering of interested cadets and veterans. Since then, it has matured into a major twice-yearly event spanning three to four days, bringing veterans from all around the world to share their experiences with the entire cadet wing.





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Symposium: space education seeks prominence

By Capt. Ben Sakrisson Air University Public Affairs

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's newlyreleased special area of emphasis, "Space as a Contested Environment," draws attention to the reality that the United States can and will be challenged in space, and that military education needs modification to address this reality.

The overall goal expressed in the special area of emphasis is for space education to permeate all levels of joint professional military education.

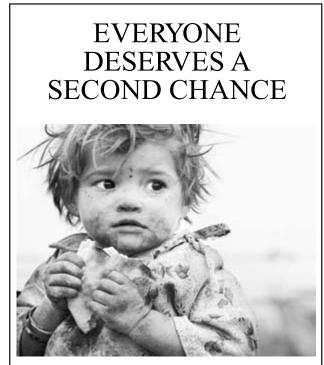
"We do see a future national security environment that is far more uncertain, far more complex and far more changing than ever before," said Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of Air Force Space Command, to an audience here March 31 at the 25th National Space Symposium. "We already see challenges in space, and we see them equally in cyberspace ... and of course cyberspace is where all of the operations that support our daily lives reside."

The realization that space and cyberspace are inextricably linked is evidenced by the planned creation of a cyber-focused numbered Air Force under Air Force Space Command.

"The intersection between space and cyberspace requires active consideration," urged Navy Vice Adm. Carl V. Mauney, U.S. Strategic Command deputy commander. "Many of our networks go through space ... so it is clear that both of those global domains are intertwined. We need to explore that carefully in terms of command and control responsibilities, coalition and clearly identifying who has what authorities and making sure they are best employed to accomplish the mission."

Many of the presenters at the symposium focused on the same general topic: U.S. leaders must not assume the country will always have unfettered access to space.

"We are going to have to learn to operate in a



degraded environment," said Army Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and commander of Joint Functional Component Command-Integrated Missile Defense of U.S. Strategic Command.

Part of learning to operate in such an environment is developing educational programs that address potential future space challenges, in order to get people thinking toward general solutions before an actual crisis occurs.

Toward that end, according to Col. Sean D. McClung, director of Air University's National Space Studies Center, the number of hours focused on space studies in the Air War College core curriculum was increased from six to 22 for all students, as well as an additional 30 hours in an elective course for mature space professionals to enhance their joint military, interagency and government perspectives.

Air University officials also are working in tandem with experts at the National Security Space Institute in Colorado Springs, Colo., to develop a new three-hour joint professional military education course on space to augment current PME training.

Focusing in on the other end of the educational spectrum, the special area of emphasis fits in as "the beginning point to make cadets aware early in their educational experience at the Academy of the opportunity and challenge of space," said Ambassador Roger Harrison, director of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies.

Cadets at the Academy are exposed to a wide variety of space opportunities, from internships with private industry, space research, satellites construction and summer seminars with students from other colleges to fellowships and graduate schools with a space emphasis following graduation from the Academy.

While acknowledging that half of the Academy's





Gen. C. Robert "Bob" Kehler speaks to a packed conference center about the vital roles the Air Force and Air Force Space Command will play in the next space age at the 25th National Space Symposium March 31 in Colorado Springs, Colo. General Kehler is the commander of Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

graduates will go into the cockpit, Ambassador Harrison said the eventual goal is to "inspire 10 percent of the best 10 percent of graduates each year to see space as their professional future."

"Our goal is to make the Air Force Academy the leading undergraduate institution in the country concerned with space policy," Ambassador Harrison said.



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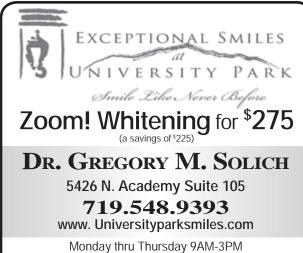
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Portraits

From Page I

and hand-to-hand combat in defense of a fire support base in Vietnam; and former Army Pfc. George Sakato who led the assault to rescue members of the "Lost Battalion" from the Germans during World War II.

Also on hand was honoree retired Lt. Col. Leo Thorsness who was shot down in Vietnam on his 93rd mission while defending U.S. helicopters from MiG fighters. He spent six years as a prisoner of war.

During his Medal of Honor perspective during the ceremony, Mr. Thorsness stressed many others also deserved to be honored.

"We wear this for everyone," he said of the medal. "Everybody is just a regular guy. They trained well and did their job."

Mr. Thorsness also reminded those present freedoms are not to be taken for granted.

"We are so fortunate to have these rights," he said. "All of us are free to choose our professions, our jobs."

He also reflected on the personal impact of his imprisonment.

"I never truly have a bad day now. We're stronger than we think we are," he said.

Also present was the photographer for the "Visions of Valor" portraits, Nick Del Calzo. The Denver resident who started photographing Medal of Honor honorees in 1999 in cooperation with the Medal of Honor Society.

"It's an ongoing process. I was on a plane every week, and it was fun," he said, and added a small handful of recipients have yet to be photographed.

The project required travel to 35 states.

His book and national exhibition, "The Triumphant Spirit: Portraits & Stories of Holocaust Survivors," received high accolades from many sources,



Medal of Honor recipients Leo Thorsness (left), Bernie Fisher, Joe Jackson, George Sakato and Peter Lemon were honored guests during the presentation of the Visions of Valor portrait collection in the McDermott Library April 3.

including CNN and the American Library Associations.

His second book, Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty, features 116 Medal of Honor recipients.

The journalist, public relations professional and photographer regards the project as his way of saying thank you to veterans.

A self-described "fierce patriot," Mr. Del Calzo used national monuments as backdrops for a large number of the Medal of Honor portraits.

"Our monuments are so meaningful and beautiful," he said. "I wanted to associate the images with the individuals."

Among others, the Vietnam, Korean War and Lincoln memorials, Mount Rushmore and the White House have appeared in his photographs.

"I wanted to preserve a sense of reverence for the meaning and value of the medal," he said.

TriWest previously presented a "Visions of Valor" collection to the Pentagon, which now hangs in the Pentagon Library and Conference Center.

Twenty of the 24 feet by 30 feet Academy photographs were framed and on display during the presentation. Academy museum specialist Paul Martin said the remainder will be framed at a later date, and the Academy is exploring potential display areas.

"We want these portraits to communicate the values of 'service before self' and patriotism to the cadets," Mr. Martin said. "We are considering locations in the cadet area for their permanent home."

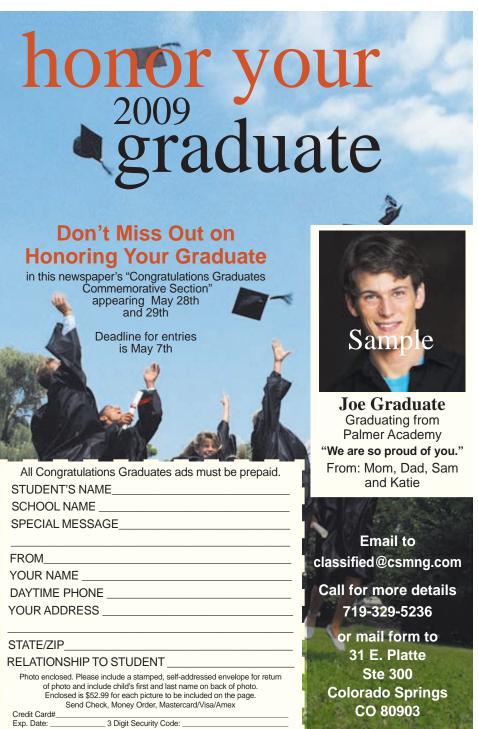
Fewer than 110 recipients are still living. A total of 3,447 Medal of Honors have been presented in the course of U.S. history.



here are some you may want to consider.



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31433 03/09

Plans underway for FalconSAT-6 Academy space fleet continues to grow

By John Van Winkle Academy Public Affairs

The Academy's space fleet grows even larger this year, with the launch of one satellite, continued operations of a second satellite and design work underway for a third.

The newest addition will be FalconSAT-6, which is on the drawing boards now.

The FalconSAT space fleet is a series of cadet-designed and cadetbuilt satellites, which carry scientific experiments in space to further military and academic research.

Satellite design, construction and operation is managed by the Department of Astronautics' Small Satellite Research Center, while the experiments are obtained and managed by the Department of Physics' Space Physics and Atmospheric Research Center.

The two centers sponsored a symposium here recently, to receive input from the space community to identify potential payloads, satellite technologies and mission concepts for the SSRC and SPARC.

Representatives from 27 separate military and civilian organizations presented their proposed scientific experiments in hopes of getting their experiment included in the scientific payload of FalconSAT-6. These included representatives from the Air Force Research Laboratory, NASA, MIT, Northrop Grumman, and Air Force Institute of Technology, as well as several American universities, space defense contractors and even Nanyang Technical University from Singapore.

The cadets are evaluating these presentations against a variety of criteria and are tasked with developing several satellite concepts for FalconSAT-6 using the best and most appropriate combinations of payloads. These satellite concepts will then be presented to several government agencies for funding decisions and to Space Test Program for manifest decisions on future launch opportunities. It is expected that FalconSAT-6 will be



Photo by Dave Arme

Cadet 1st Class Colby Kinsel of Cadet Squadron-18 cuts pieces for a display stand, which will support the FalconSAT-5 satellite for an upcoming event. Except for a few commercial off-the-shelf components, cadets create all parts of FalconSAT-5 in Academy labs like this.

funded in the \$5 to 10 million range and may have a launch opportunity in 2011 or 2012.

"This is a real opportunity for our cadets to develop as world-class space professionals," Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born, said to the symposium attendees. The general opened the FalconSAT-6 symposium with an overview of the FalconSAT program and key staff.

"This is the only accredited program where we have undergraduates build, launch and operate satellites. That doesn't happen in any other satellite program in the United States," said General Born. The program provides cadets the professional development opportunities, and understanding of the application of space power, as well as exercising their decision-making and critical thinking skills.

While the planning stages of FalconSAT-6 are well underway, work on the first physical FalconSAT-6 construct begins this fall, when a group of 30-plus senior cadets will be assembled to take a two-semester Astronautics capstone course to design and build the first model of FalconSAT-6. The FalconSAT program is currently a three-year program cycle, based off the classic Russian approach to satellite design — build three satellites per mission: engineering model; qualification model; and, flight model.

FEATURE

"This approach gives each cadet class a significant deliverable and milestone every year with a plan of completing a new mission every three years, while allowing the cadets to experience 'hands-on' assembly, integration, and test," said Lt. Col. Tim Lawrence, director of the Space Systems Research Center. "It reinforces the importance of documentation, since each cadet class must pass its work to the next class - approximately 30 senior class cadets take the course each year. Finally, it significantly reduces program risk by avoiding lastminute integration and testing issues which lead to scheduling and budget woes for many space programs."

Meanwhile, work is underway to complete FalconSAT-5, and operations continue with FalconSAT-3.

But that leaves out FalconSAT-4. When the plans for FalconSAT-4 were racked and stacked with other space projects for funding, it turned out that funds would not be available until three to four years later ... which would've put the Academy's satellite program on hold for that amount of times. So the plans for FalconSAT-4 were then scrubbed, and new scientific experiments were added to the payload to create FalconSAT-5. That satellite was funded.

"FalconSAT-5 is the current satellite under construction here," said Cadet 1st Class Tim Phillips, chief engineer for FalconSAT-5. "The basic objectives of FalconSAT-5 (scientific missions) are to characterize anomalies in space weather phenomena."

The satellite measures in as a 60 by 69 by 96 centimeter cube with a mass of 160.7 kilograms, and cadets will the complete the flight model of FalconSAT-5 this semester.

"We expect to deliver the satellite for launch Oct. 1," said Cadet Phillips.

Once the delivery is accepted, FalconSAT-5 will be one of several payloads prepped for a December launch, on the secondary payload adaptor of a Minotaur rocket. That rocket will be launched from the Kodiak Launch Complex on Kodiak Island, Alaska.

Once FalconSAT-5 is placed into orbit, it will be operated by cadets in the Academy's ground station, similar to what is being done today on FalconSAT-3.

Cadet crews from the cadet space operations squadron are currently operating FalconSAT-3, said Cadet 1st Class Sam Gay, chief engineer for FalconSAT-3.

That cadet-built satellite is a 120pound, 18-inch cube which houses five scientific experiments and was launched March 8, 2007.

FalconSAT-3 completed 149 operational passes during the fall semester, not counting other passes used for software upgrades and remote maintenance, or when Academy winds are too high and hinder the ground antennas.

Cadet satellite operators handle three passes per weekday to download experimental data. FalconSAT-3's experiments concentrate on space weather and satellite operations.



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Spring football outlook: "Every position is open"

By Troy Garnhart Athletic Communications

Air Force head football coach Troy Calhoun's philosophy with spring football drills is to think outside the box. The coach likes to take a look at things and see if anything sticks. He also likes competition at every position.

How much so?

The coaching staff moved starting tailback Asher Clark, a recruited quarterback, back to his original position to evaluate him. Clark was moved to tailback during fall drills last year and became the starter at mid-season.

"We never really had a chance to fully evaluate him



Photos by Mike Kaplar Coaching staff and players totally engage in gridiron strat- Aug. 1 as well," Calhoun said. "The work egy during practice Friday afternoon.

at quarterback last fall and I want him to get a spring practice under his belt at quarterback and see his development. We need to develop some depth at the position," Calhoun said.

Clark, who finished second on the team in rushing with 588 yards and five touchdowns, had his spring cut short with a slight knee injury that required surgery. The procedure was fully successful and Clark is expected back at full speed during the summer. Halfback Chad Hall had the same procedure prior to his All-American senior campaign in 2007. Clark could begin fall drills back at quarterback and split time at tailback.

Quarterback Tim Jefferson missed most of spring drills to concentrate on his academics and participated

> in only a handful of practices. The 2008 Mountain West Conference freshman of the year showed improvement and is expected to be back under center this fall.

> Jefferson hit 44 of 80 passes for 655 yards and five touchdowns a year ago. He also rushed for 387 yards and three touchdowns and started the last eight games of the season. He won his first five starts and proved the program has a bright future at the position.

> Ben Cochran and Connor Dietz received significant action at quarterback throughout the spring. Both will add depth at the position and greatly benefited from the additional spring work.

"We did a lot of work with these guys throughout the spring and we'll do a lot more Dietz and Cochran received will be benefi-



Numerous players are competing for the quarterback position as no one's role is final.

cial for us. We need to develop depth there."

"Every position is open," Calhoun said. "You have to have that at an Academy because you can't ever stop working to improve. We need to keep things as competitive as possible and keep our edge. We need to have a fire about us. This spring was hands down the most expansive since we've been here. We can never relax and just be vanilla."

Cycling enthusiasts in for a treat

Academy Public Affairs

The 2009 Front Range Cycling Classic time trials are set to kick off at 7:15 a.m. April 18 on the Air Force Academy followed by the Fighting Falcon Road Race the next day.

The Academy-hosted event will involve traffic-flow changes April 18 during the criterium portion from 10:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Specifically, southbound Stadium Blvd. traffic will be rerouted onto the western lane of the normal northbound traffic pattern for approximately 400 meters in front of Falcon Stadium. There will be corner martial's, signage, cones and 10th Security Forces members present. There are no road closures planned for April 19, however, event officials caution motorists to drive using extra caution when passing

cyclists, especially along Pine Drive where riders will be travelling from 12 to 30 m.p.h. uphill. Motorists should not attempt to pass cyclists travelling in packs. They will be travelling at higher speeds and delays will be minimized.

The weekend promises to be filled with excitement according to Academy event representative Jim Weinstein. "The criterium action Saturday will be a fantastic event for families to enjoy with the best races at 11 a.m., noon, 1 and 4 p.m. The criteriums are fast, fun and



very spectator friendly.

See next week's Academy Spirit for much more detail concerning this event, including a map of the time trial and road-race routes and a full schedule of events. Recommended spectator viewing areas will also be identified.

Members of the cadet cycling team Justin Goodin and William Gates gut it out to the finish of a criterium in downtown Colorado Springs March 1. Expect similar excitement and spectator friendly viewing April 18 at the Front Range Cycling Classic's criteriums held in front of Falcon Stadium from 10:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Women s tennis

The Air Force women's tennis team wrapped up its home schedule Sunday splitting a pair of matches here. The Falcons lost to Mountain West Conference foe and 37thranked San Diego State, 4-1, then defeated CSU-Pueblo, 7-0. Air Force is now 10-13

overall and 0-4 in MWC play. In the first match, SDSU took the double point with wins at the top two spots. Air Force's No. 3 duo of Christen Monreal and Allie Chermel defeated Kathryn Kitts and Olivia Colman, 8-4. In singles play, Sarah Cassman won the No. 4 match, defeating Emma Cioffi

6-3, 7-6(4). SDSU won the top three singles matches all in straight sets and the Nos. 5 and 6 matches were then pulled off the court after the Aztecs clinched the team match. Against CSU-Pueblo, the Falcons rolled to easy victories at all three doubles spots and won all six singles matches in

straight sets.

Baseball

Despite two home runs from Matt Alexander, Air Force dropped a 12-10 hit-fest to Northern Colorado Wednesday at Falcon Field. The loss drops the Falcons to 10-20 on the season, while the Bears

improved to 9-17. Northern Colorado erased a 9-5 Air Force lead with six runs in the sixth inning and relievers Forbes Scott and Kevin Sandberg combined to hold Air Force to one run over the final four innings. Alexander continued his recent home run barrage, hitting two more. The hot designated hitter

Falcons reflect on record-setting season

By Ann Patton Academy Spirit staff

The Falcon hockey team left the ice for the season with heads held high even after a double-overtime battle with the University of Vermont in the NCAA East Regional Final March 27.

Even in the heart-breaking loss, the Falcons had a record-breaking season. The team earned its first ever NCAA tournament win, and the Elite Eight finish was the farthest an Air Force hockey team has ever advanced finishing the season with a 28-11-2 record.

Head coach Frank Serratore said other highlights this season included defeating Colorado College for the first time in 23 years, ranking in the Top 15 virtually the entire season, winning the regular season Atlantic Hockey Association championship and securing the number-one seed for the conference playoffs.

The team also boasted All-AHA players Greg Flynn, Jacques Lamoureaux and Andrew Volkening and Matt Fairchild third team AHA place. The team was honored with two All-Americans, Flynn and Lamoureaux, and a Hobey Baker top ten candidate finalist in Lamoureaux.

There remains no shortage of pride among team members as they reflected upon the most successful season in Academy history.

"It has been an amazing ride and transformation over my four years. Seeing the team go from 11 wins in '05-'06 to only 11 losses in '08-09' makes me feel very proud to have been part of the team," Mike Phillipich said. "I will carry this season's success and memories with me for the rest of my life."

Jeffrey Hajner and Volkening have different takes on the winning season.

"It is nice knowing that a school that has been predominantly a football and basketball school turned into a hockey school with winning three consecutive championships," Hajner said.

The management major has been on the team for three years and will return next year.

"I play with an awesome group of guys who have a great amount of talent, work ethic and character," Volkening said. "I don't think of it in terms of being the best team ever. I just see it as a group of guys who all bought in and contributed to the mission of winning hockey games."

The behavioral sciences major has also been a team member for three years and will return next year.

Coach Serratore is the fourth head Falcon hockey coach in 40 years. The season was his ninth. He said this year's team benefitted from the confidence and experience gained over the previous two years.

"You can buy everything at Wal-Mart except experience," he said. "In addition to experience, this team was competitively deep. I believe Academy teams need to have two ingredients in order to be successful-depth and experience. This team had both."

Flynn said the ability to come together as a team has been the main reason for successes over the past few seasons.

Lamoureaux agreed.

"As a team, we get along great. We motivate each other to work our hardest, and we do not settle for mediocrity," he said. "Our ability to accept each role on the team and perfect that role is what enabled us to play so well as a team on the ice."

Brent Olson is graduating next month. For him, the team is like a big family.



"Most of us on the team have played together on teams growing up, or we played against each other so we have a history that goes back, for most of us, about 15 years ago," he said and added being a cadet at a military academy creates an even stronger bond.

"We all know the pains and trials of the others which allows us to hear each other's burdens, creating a pretty tightknit bunch of guys," he said.

Matt Fairchild also believes being a cadet gives Falcon players an advantage over other teams.

"We all see each other in Fairchild Hall in the morning, then we eat together for lunch. After that, we have practice, then most of us usually eat dinner together as well. Seeing each other all day every day has definitely made us a strong team," he said.

He also believes the teamwork, leadership, working toward a common goal and overcoming obstacles will help him as an officer and in his personal life.

The Falcon hockey season runs from early October through late March. The team typically is on the ice five days a week, including games. Practices generally shorten as the season progresses.

Coach Serratore said next year's team is shaping up well with a very solid nucleus of players returning.

In the meantime, he is not resting on the laurels.

"I look at my job as a work in progress," he said. "As much as I am pleased with the accomplishments this season and our work to date, the job is far from complete. I will continue striving to produce winning teams on the Academy."

He also said he plans to continue living in the present and let history be the eventual judge of which team was the most successful in Air Force hockey.

"One thing is for sure, the 2008-09 team has set the bar extremely high."

Air Force wrestlers earn WWC Academic Honors

By Melissa McKeown Athletic Media Communications

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa - Four Air Force wrestlers have been named to the Western Wrestling Conference All-Academic Team, as announced by the league Tuesday. Meanwhile, seven other Falcons have been named to the

academic standing. This year's WWC All-Academic squad honors 14 student-athletes. Meanwhile, the Coaches' Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes who have maintained a 3.0 grade point average. This year's Coaches' Honor Roll is comprised of 38 WWC student-athletes.

Named to the WWC All-Academic Team for Air Force this season were team captain Stephen Crozier along with Brett Boyce, Neil Delaney and Joshua Smith. Crozier, the NCAA West Regional runner-up at 174 pounds this season, earns all-academic honors for the thirdstraight season. Crozier, an economics major with a 3.62 GPA, led the Falcons in total wins for the second-straight season, compiling a 25-16 record on the year.

istry double-major with a 3.79 GPA. He finished the year tied for second on the team with five falls. Delaney, who saw action at 197 pounds, holds a 3.24 GPA in systems engineering management. Smith, who also recorded five falls on the year, currently holds a 3.58 GPA in aeronautical engineering.

Meanwhile, earning spots on the Coaches' Honor Roll

Coaches' Honor Roll for the 2008-09 season. This year's academic awards will honor a total of 52 student-athletes from the seven conference schools.

Air Force's 11 academic honorees this season are the most for any conference institution.

To qualify for the All-Academic team, student-athletes had to secure a minimum 3.20 grade point average, be a starter or key reserve and be a sophomore or higher in

Boyce, who moved into the starting lineup at 184 pounds in the latter half of the season, is a biology/chem-

for the Falcons were David Heitstuman, Kazden Ikehara, Samuel Mitchel, Mengyuan Qiu, Joseph Stafford, Wesley Stowe and Tanner Weltzin.

The Western Wrestling Conference is comprised of seven schools including the Air Force Academy, North Dakota State, Northern Colorado, Northern Iowa, South Dakota State, Utah Valley State and Wyoming. The conference formed in April 2006.

has smacked eight homers and driven in 19 runs in his last four games.

Mountain West Conference

Men's Track and Field Athlete

of the Week. It is the second

Athlete of the week Air Force pole vaulter Nick Frawley was named the

who was also tabbed Feb. 17. Frawley finished third in the elite section at the prestigious Texas Relays Saturday. Clearing a season-best height of 17'41/2", Frawley finished just one inch shy of his personal-best outdoor mark. The performance qualifies him for the NCAA

honor of the season for Frawley,

Regional Champion-ships. He is currently tied for the best clearance in the conference and the fourth-highest mark in the nation.

Star performance

Air Force designated hitter/first baseman Matt Alexander also picked up a couple accolades Monday for his weekend performance at Utah Valley. Alexander earned Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's Louisville Slugger's National Player of the Week honors and was named Mountain West Conference Baseball Player of the Week. Alexander was one of six players chosen to CBN's Louisville Slugger POW honorees. He batted .632 (12-for-19) from the plate, with six home runs, one triple, one double, 17 RBI and 11 runs scored in the Falcons' 2-2 series split vs. Utah Valley. He also tallied a 1.737 slugging percentage and touched 33 total bases





Community Center Happenings

Call 333-2928 for more information on any of the following three events.

April 17: 6:30 p.m. Family Fun Bingo in the Academy Community Center downstairs ballroom, Bldg. 5136. Card packs \$5 play all 10 games.

April 18: The Academy's first 2009 outdoor flea market will be held in the Base Exchange parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting. Space fee is \$10. Space with car is \$15; tables are \$5 each.

April 19: Open ballroom dancing from 2 to 5 p.m. in the downstairs ballroom, Bldg. 5136. Entry is \$10 per couple.

A&FRC offerings

The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes. **Group pre-separation counseling**

SCHEDDLE

CADET CHAPEL

<u>Catholic Masses:</u> Sunday Confession - 9:15 a.m. Mass - 10 a.m.

Wednesday Adoration of the Blessed Sarcrament - 5:30 p.m. Confession - 5:30 p.m. Mass - 6:30 p.m.

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

<u>Protestant Services:</u> Sunday Traditional/Liturgical - 9 a.m. Contemporary - 11 a.m.

Jewish Services Friday Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.

<u>Buddhist Worship</u> Wednesday Traditional Mahyana Service -6:30 p.m.

<u>Muslim Prayer</u> Friday Salaat ul-Jumman - 12:30 p.m.

All Other Faiths Call 333-2636 for more information Held every Monday (except during TAP week); 2 to 4 p.m.

Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing covers benefits and services associated with transitions.

Teen Job Search Workshop

Saturday; 8 a.m. to noon and April 15; 4 to 6 p.m.

(Must attend both days)

Workshop consists of job search information, volunteer opportunities, application/resume writing techniques, interviewing tips, and local employer panel. Open to dependent children of active duty, retiree, Reservists and DoD civilians only. Participants must be 14 or older. Call Jeannie Lopez at 333-3168 or 333-3444 to register.

Smooth Move

Tuesday; 3 to 4 p.m.

Learn innovative ways to make moves less stressful. This is a mandatory class for individuals departing the Academy.

Resume writing Wednesday; 9 to 11:30 a.m. Review resume and cover letter styles

and how to improve them.

Newcomer's Orientation & Information Fair

Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mandatory orientation for all newly assigned Academy members. Spouses are

COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Today Good Friday Catholic Liturgy - 6 p.m.

Saturday Catholic Easter Vigil - 6 p.m.

Sunday Catholic Mass: Catholic Mass - 9 a.m. (No Catholic RE)

Protestant Services:

Easter Sunrise Service, Tee House - 6:30 a.m. Evangelical service - 10:15 a.m. Gospel service - 11:30 a.m. Call 333-3300 for more information. welcomed to the event held at the Milazzo Center.

Newcomer's red carpet tour

April 17; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This informative tour gives insight

into the Academy mission and reveals much of what there is to see and do at the Air Force Academy.

TAP seminar

April 21-24; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? Call to reserve a spot in the next available TAP class.

Volunteer recognition

The "Celebrating People in Action ... Celebrating Academy Volunteers" awards ceremony is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 24 at the Academy Falcon Club. All can partake in the complimentary deli and hors d'oeuvres buffet from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The ceremony will immediately follow.

Medical records review

April 27; 7:30 am to 4:30 pm Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review their medical records.

Cadet Smooth Move briefings April 29; noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.

Sponsorship training

April 30; 8 to 9 a.m.

This class is for those who have been assigned to sponsor a newcomer to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

Veterans Affairs

April 27; 8 a.m. to noon.

This briefing provides information on VA benefits for separating/retiring military personnel.

Cadets getting married Smooth Move

April 28; noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.

April 30; noon to 1 p.m. Call 333-3444 for information and registration.

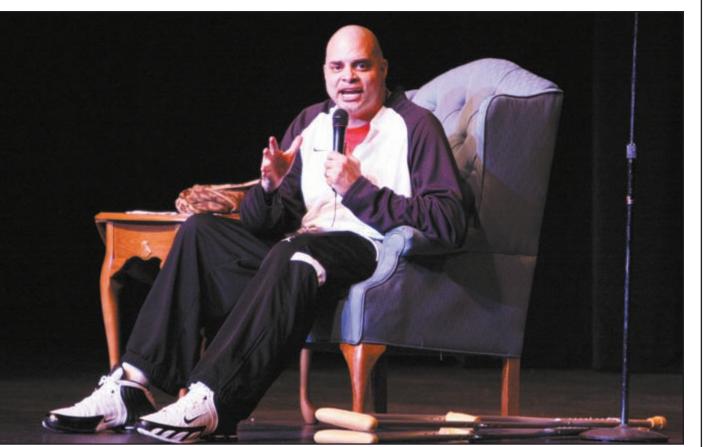
Law Day Golf Law Day was created in the late 1950s, by the American Bar Association to draw attention to both the principles and practice of law and justice. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day by proclamation in 1958. The staff's Law Day Golf Scramble is set for 11:30 a.m. May 1 on the Eisenhower Blue Course. Entry fees are: \$55 per person for active duty and USAFA DoD civilians; and, \$85 for those non-affiliated with the military or DoD. The cost covers: greens fees, cart fee, use of practice balls on the driving range, lunch, and prizes. Call Capts. Jacob Frank or Jay Bragga at 333-3940 for more information. Entry deadline is April 22.



Operation Purple

The National Military Family Association's Operation Purple® camps offer a free week of fun for military kids whose parents have deployed, are deployed or will deploy. Colorado offers three sessions of Operation Purple camps: May 31st - June 5; June 7-12; and, June 14-19. Outer Edge Performance and Operation Purple camps are designed to promote: Realizing Potential! The camps are all outdoor adventures serving youth and teens entering third through 12th grades. They will be held in Black Forest and will provide opportunities to participate in activities such as: high and low challenge course, teambuilding activities, outdoor rock climbing, mountainbiking, whitewater rafting, horseback riding and more. Each child may register for one summer camp. Deadline is April 20. For more information and to register visit: www.operationpurple.org

Call Vivian Sylvest, Alison Mckay, Tim Burke or Mary Marcantonio at Outer Edge Performance at: 303-458-1909.



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.

<u>Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:</u> Contact Tech. Sgt. Longcrier at 333-6178 Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu

Photo by Arnie Spencer

Comic relief

In his April 3 performance at Arnold Hall, Sinbad told parents who still have adult children at home, and who are trying to get them out on their own, there's a simple solution, "Come to the breakfast table nude."



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