

Basic Cadets fight for top honors



Photo by J Rachel Spencer

The Class of 2013 basic cadet trainees put their physical skills to the test Saturday during the Sweepstakes competition. They battled it out to earn the men's and women's titles of Big Bad Basic champions. Big Bad Basic signifies the end of Jacks Valley events prior to the march back.

Faculty ranked #4 nationwide in professor availability

From staff reports

The Air Force Academy's professors are among the most accessible in the nation, according to The Best 371 Colleges text, released Tuesday by *The Princeton Review*.

Faculty availability is an expectation at a military service academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy ranks fourth in the nation in professor availability. The student-faculty ratio here is 9:1, average class size is 20, 100 percent of the faculty is full-time and zero classes are taught by teaching assistants.

Several academic departments here also staff Extra Instruction laboratories

throughout the academic day, with at least one professor available each class period to help cadets tackle questions arising from their latest lessons.

The Academy also came out in several other top-20 rankings in the nation, including:

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

The Princeton Review features the

Air Force Academy and other local colleges in The Best 371 Colleges, the new 2010 edition of its annual best colleges guide. The guide utilizes online student surveys in 62 categories to assess the academic, administrative, quality of life, social, extracurricular and other aspects of life at American colleges. Other student survey-based ranking lists in the book reveal the schools at which students most highly rated their administrators, campus career centers, and athletic facilities.

"Each of our 371 'best' colleges offers great academics," said Robert Franek, author of the book and vice president of

See RANKING Page 3

PRINCETON REVIEW

Category	Rank
Professor Availability	#4
Other national top-20 rankings	
Don't Inhale	#4
Stone-Cold Sober School	#6
Future Rotarians and Daughters of the American Revolution	#8
Most Conservative Students	#11
Everyone Plays Intramural Sports	#11
Scotch and Soda Hold the Scotch	#19

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
80 49
ISOLATED PM T-STORMS

SATURDAY
72 50
ISOLATED SHOWERS

SUNDAY
80 51
ISOLATED PM T-STORMS

Compassion

"I just cannot imagine having anyone else serving the USAFA families in a more professional and caring manner."

Page 6

Skate Park

"Ride at your own risk."

Page 9

Battlefield detectives

"We are the CSI of the Iraqi battlefields."

Page 10

Recognize suicide warning signs

By Tech. Sgt. Peter Long
386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Equal Opportunity Office

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) -- Those of us who serve or work for the military receive training on suicide prevention, but how many of us really apply what we learn? Are we watching for warning signs? Do we know who is at risk and how we can help them? Do we know what we can do to help?

I don't know about you, but I always thought this stuff happens to other people. I pay attention to my training and I know what to look for. I just always figured it would be someone else who would experience it. In July 2005, I became that "someone else."

I lost someone to suicide that summer. He was only 21, on break from college and working in Hollywood for Warner Brothers. I thought he was on his way. I was proud of him and so was everyone else. Less than 18 months before, he was the best man at my wedding. Over the years we spent hours talking about everything, and I was always impressed with how intelligent he was. I believed he was happy in life and on his way to greatness. I thought he was happy.

However, the truth was far different. After I found out Will took his life, I was in denial. No way! Not Will! He had everything going for him, he was just getting started, he just turned 21. How could he do this? These are just some of the questions I had. As time passed I started wondering if I missed something. I started wondering if I really knew Will as well as I thought I did.

Did I miss something?

About a month before he took his life he called me and asked if I wanted his stereo and fridge. He said he didn't need it where he was going. I drove down to Los Angeles and picked them up telling him if he moved again and wanted them back to let me know. Again he told me he wouldn't need them where he was going. I talked with him several times before his death and he sounded down and a bit "off." He sounded depressed, but I wasn't concerned. He had his whole life in front of him, and everyone has their ups and downs. I thought he was just experiencing some of life's little challenges.

He called for help, and I did not recognize warning signs.

On July 28, I received a phone call at work telling me Will was dead; an unfinished life because no one recognized the warning signs. No one was there to

answer his cry for help.

In retrospect it is clear he showed some warning signs, and my training taught me to recognize them, but because I did not pay attention to what he was saying and doing, I missed them. Now it's too late. I cannot go back and help him now because he's gone. I can only share my tragedy with you and hope you pay attention and recognize the warning signs of someone thinking about killing themselves so you do not have to live with the question, "Could I have saved him?"

Suicide is a concern for us especially when we're deployed. In 2008, 38 Airmen committed suicide as well as 140 Soldiers. 780 callers to the Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention hotline identified themselves as active-duty troops in 2008.

If we lose even one person to suicide, it's too many. We can prevent suicide, we have the knowhow. My own experience coupled with these numbers tells me to watch for the warning signs.

Maybe if I paid more attention to Will he would still be here today and I would be telling you how I saved him. I made a mistake and it cost me dearly. Suicides can be prevented. Watch for the warning signs, and maybe you can save someone's life.

Putting life in perspective 6,000 miles from home

By Maj. Paul Kopecki
379th Expeditionary Force Support
Squadron commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — What's the most important statistic of this war? Bombs dropped? Sorties flown? Territory secured?

I'd argue the most important number of this war as of mid-July is this: 5,059. Unfortunately, this number is not static. It grows every day. It's the number of American service men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since the commencement of *Operation Enduring Freedom* and *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

Almost daily there's a solemn event that occurs in Southwest Asia. While many of us press through the rigors of long work days, trying to find time for sleep or a quick workout, there are men and women of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing here performing, perhaps, the most important additional duties of any Airman here — honoring our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen who have made the ultimate

sacrifice for their nation.

These honors are often rendered in the wee hours of the night. Silently, with dignity, and with the respect of a grateful nation, those few Airmen who meet these planes carry out this special duty for all of us, as they honor those American heroes who are brought here en route to their families and their final resting place.

Sometimes it's easy to forget we're in the middle of a war — even here. Let's face it — it doesn't get much better than this. So, big deal, you have to walk to the bathroom from an air-conditioned trailer and our swimming pools aren't open 24 hours. But our warplanes fly unimpeded every day. We can order pizza while we drink beverages at the Desert Eagle Lounge and watch our favorite sports team on cable TV even at air bases throughout Southwest Asia. This is what I think about when I watch those fallen warriors come off the plane: they'd give anything to be where we are today.

It's also easy to forget our own vulnerabilities. We reside within a few hundred miles from a nation that openly

advocates the extermination of its neighbors and has violently suppressed its own citizens in order to secure a theocracy. This same nation has very capable weapon systems well within range of our comfortable confines. So make no doubts about it: we live in a dangerous part of the world and there are people close enough to cause us direct harm.

The Greek historian Herodotus said, "In peace, sons bury their fathers. In war, fathers bury their sons." We owe it to our families, and to the families of our fallen warriors, to be thankful for what we do have, and to maintain our vigilance to ensure our flight home to our families involves little more than a simple choice of chicken or beef.

Tonight before you go to bed, offer a silent "thank you" to those handful of men and women who carry the torch for all of us by quietly standing by to honor those fallen warriors who pass through here. And the next time you feel a sense of entitlement or self-pity, remember this: better men and women have sacrificed far more than you or I ever will.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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

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

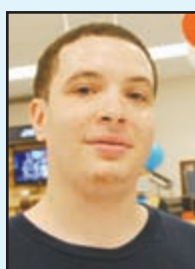


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North Gate Boulevard from Stadium Drive to Parade Loop will be down to one lane traffic in both directions 6 a.m. Monday thru 8 p.m. Wednesday. Those traveling thru this area should expect delays and plan accordingly. For additional information contact Christopher Padilla at 896-6445.

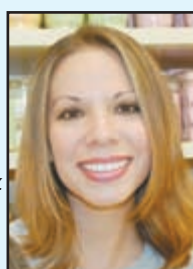
What do you think of the new Base Exchange renovations?

"It looks nice. It also looks bigger and better."



Mark Hebert
Air Force
family member

"It's pretty. The selection is good and it's very clean."



Vanessa Hernandez
Air Force spouse

"I think it's much easier to get around. It's organized very nicely."

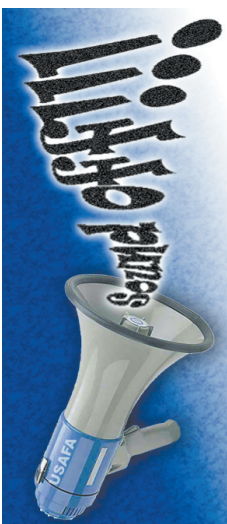


Norma Potter
Air Force spouse

"I think it's really nice. I can find things easier, and the whole layout is better and more open."



Alice Pratt
Army spouse



Academy diversity spans entire spectrum

Diversity Affairs Coordinators Conference

By Tammie Adams
Academy Admissions
Marketing and Media Writer-Editor

USAFA Strategic Goal #4:

Enhance faculty, staff and cadet diversity. Ensure we have the faculty, staff and cadet diversity to broaden the cadet learning environment and prepare USAFA graduates to lead in a global expeditionary Air Force. We will use our total force expertise to expose our cadets to new ideas, beliefs and experiences while emphasizing language and culture to enhance their worldview.

In April 2008, the Air Force Academy Superintendent signed the first-ever Cadet Wing Diversity Plan, an action plan that identifies the Academy's recruiting objectives and diversity recruiting initiatives.

Since then, the Academy Admissions staff has developed and implemented many new initiatives toward diversity recruiting.

Already in place to aid Air Force Academy applicants through the application process are Admissions Liaison Officers, or ALOs, who are primarily active-duty, Reserve and retired Air Force officers responsible for different geographic sections throughout the world. Approximately 1,600 ALOs are under the leadership of the director of admissions, with 86 who specialize in diversity, called Diversity Affairs Coordinators.

"The mission of the ALO force is to inform potential candidates about the Academy, guide students through the intensive Academy application process, and interview and mentor them along the

way," said Col. Chevalier Cleaves, Director of Admissions.

One of the most important strategies was the creation of the Diversity Advisory Panel, a senior board-level panel of nine members who advise the director of admissions on diversity issues.

Subsequently, under the direction of the Diversity Advisory Panel, Air Force Academy Admissions hosted the first-ever Diversity Affairs Coordinators Conference at Doolittle Hall July 20 to 23.

"We want the DACs to become experts and propagate knowledge to the rest of the ALO force on diversity issues," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lum, Admissions Diversity Recruiting Division Chief.

The conference attendees totaled 69, to include 64 ALOs and five special guests.

The main goals of the conference were to express to DACs the superintendent's intent regarding diversity; establish a baseline of knowledge on diversity issues and initiatives at the Academy; gain feedback from the DAC force with respect to diversity; and to provide the

best practices when it comes to recruiting for diversity.

Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould addressed the conference members and expressed his thoughts on diversity by saying, "I have learned that a diverse organization brings more brain power, initiative and ingenuity to almost any problem than when everybody comes from a similar background."

When diversity is addressed at the Academy, it encompasses much more than race, ethnicity and gender. According to the June 2009 USAFA Diversity Plan, diversity is defined as "a composite of individual characteristics that includes personal life experiences, geographic background, socioeconomic background, cultural knowledge, educational background, work background, language abilities, physical abilities, philosophical/spiritual perspectives, age, race, ethnicity and gender."

"Diversity strengthens the ability of our graduates to more effectively lead an increasingly diverse Air Force and an increasingly global expeditionary Air

Force into the future," said Lt. Col. Bill Shelton, Diversity Advisory Panel Chair. "Our graduates must be prepared to understand and work with people of differing cultures and perspectives. The notable lack of a diverse officer corps threatens our ability to most effectively and efficiently lead our Air Force in service to our nation."

Colonel Lum began the conference by explaining the mission and initiatives of the Diversity Recruiting Division. Some of the other main topics covered during the conference included candidate interview techniques, the importance of coordinating with diversity recruiting lieutenants, how to approach the current generation of candidates, whole person development, identifying quality candidates, the population shift in the United States and the selections process.

Guest speakers included Dr. James Johnson Jr., Distinguished Professor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Dr. Geoff Cohen, Professor from the Stanford University School of Education; and Dr. Dean Chavers, Director of Catching the Dream.

"We thought the conference was a huge success, and we appreciate the access to senior leadership," Colonel Shelton said. "Going forward, we anticipate some fine tuning for the next conference and will incorporate the feedback we received from the attendees. We were very happy to meet so many motivated DACs."

Ranking

From Page 1

The Princeton Review. "However, we don't rank schools academically because our goal is to help students find and get into the best school for them. Instead, we tally 62 ranking lists based how students at these schools rated their campus experiences, plus ratings based on institutional data we collect on issues important to applicants. It's all about the fit."

Other ranking lists in the book and #1 colleges on them are:

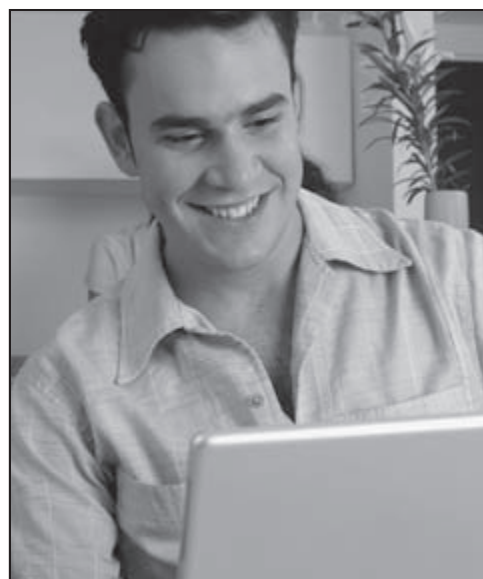
- Best Career Services – University of Florida
- Best Classroom Experience – Pomona College (CA)

- Most Accessible Profs – U.S. Military Academy (NY)
- Most Conservative Students – Texas A&M University
- Most Liberal Students – Warren Wilson College (NC)
- Most Politically Active Students – George Washington University (DC)
- Least Religious Students – Bennington College (VT)
- Race / Class Relations Friendliest – University of Miami (FL)
- Top Party Schools – Pennsylvania State University
- Top Stone-Cold Sober Schools – Brigham Young University (UT)
- Everyone Plays Intramural Sports – University of Notre Dame (IN)

- Best Athletic Facilities – University of Maryland at College Park
- Best Town-Gown Relations – Clemson University (SC)

The 62 ranking lists are based on surveys of 122,000 students – averaging 325 per campus – at the 371 schools in the book during the 2008-2009 and/or previous two school years. The 80-question survey asks students about their school's academics, administration, campus life, student body, and themselves. Almost all of the surveys were completed online.

The Air Force Academy's fall semester begins Thursday.



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Flight 1549 co-pilot takes flight of different kind

Air Force News Service

MILWAUKEE (AFNS) — First Officer Jeff Skiles, co-pilot of the U.S. Airways flight that crash-landed in the Hudson River in January, took to the sky July 23 with the U.S. Air Force's Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds.

"Of all the things I have been involved with since the accident, this has got to be the top," said Mr. Skiles, who has been inundated with fan mail, media attention and has even spoken in front of the Federal Aviation Administration twice. "It was an honor for me to fly with the Thunderbirds. I salute every one of you for what you do for our country."

Mr. Skiles was chosen for the flight as part of a new Thunderbird initiative, the Hometown Hero Program. The team selects people from all walks of life, such as police officers, firemen and school teachers, to receive an orientation flight in a red, white and blue F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"The team started the Hometown Hero Program as a way to salute people who are doing amazing things in their communities, much like the 700,000 Airmen who are doing amazing things



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristi Machado
Staff Sgt. Robbin Bailon, aircrew flight equipment specialist, fits a helmet to Jeff Skiles prior to his flight with the Thunderbirds July 23. Mr. Skiles was the co-pilot for U.S. Airways Flight 1549 that crashed into the Hudson River in New York in January.

for America across the globe," said Capt. Jason McCree, Thunderbirds Public Affairs Officer.

After several safety briefings and flight equipment fittings, Mr. Skiles stepped to the F-16 waiting on the flight line at the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was flown by Lt. Col. Derek Routt, Thunderbirds

Operations Officer, who has more than 2,000 flight hours.

"Mr. Skiles was simply doing his job when Flight 1549 went down. However, thanks to his split-second reactions and calm response under emergency conditions, there was no loss of life," Colonel Routt said. "I am honored to fly this American hero."

Joan Orr spouse award open for nominations

Air Force News Service

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Air Force members can now submit nominations for their spouses as the 2010 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year. The period of the award runs Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2009.

The Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award is sponsored by the Air Force Association and honors the significant contributions made by non-military spouses of Air Force military members. The nominee's husband or wife must currently be serving in the Air Force (active duty, Guard or Reserve).

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, field operating unit, direct reporting unit, or equivalent for the appropriate application due date and additional information regarding nomination procedures. Each MAJCOM, FOA, or DRU may submit one nomination. Completed nominations must be sent to AFPC by March 1, 2010.

For more information about the Joan Orr Award and application requirements, visit AFPC's "Ask" Web site and type "Joan Orr" into the search engine, or call the Total Force Service Center-San Antonio at: 1-(800) 525-0102.

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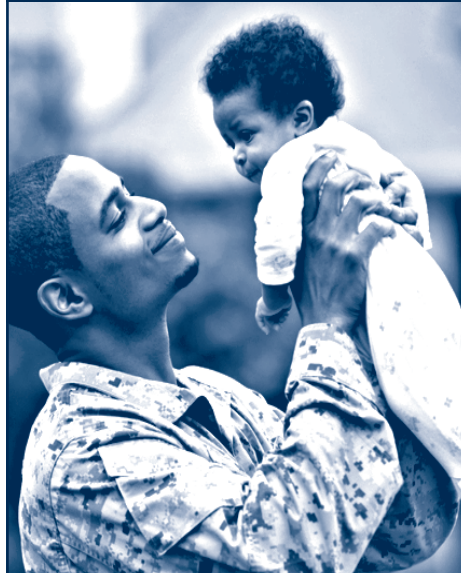
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Post-9/11 GI Bill guidance sent to Airmen

By Maj. Beth Kelley Horine
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force Personnel Center leadership provided updates to the field recently on the Air Force implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The updates include guidance on how eligible Airmen can choose to transfer part or all of their educational benefits to family members enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, effective Aug. 1.

“Since the Transfer Education Benefits Web site began accepting applications in July, more than 4,000 Airmen have requested transfer of benefits to their family members,” said Maj. Jamison Braun, AFPC’s Deputy Chief of Transformation.

The request to transfer is initiated by an Airman through TEB, a Department of Defense portal, to the Total Force Service Center-San Antonio for validation, and then sent back to the DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“However, the DoD portal experienced difficulties at first that limited our ability to push validation of eligibility back to the DoD and the VA in a timely manner,” said Major Braun. “Now that the kinks have been worked out, we anticipate the total process from application to approval to take between 30-45 days. Please be patient with the new rollout and we’ll continue to keep you up to speed on changes,” he added.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

All Airmen serving greater than 90 days of active duty, post-Sept. 11, 2001, are automatically eligible and enrolled for the new GI bill benefit. For additional information and eligibility requirements, visit www.gibill.va.gov/.

Next, if only applying for personal use of benefits (not transferring to dependents), go to the Department of Veterans Affairs On-line Application, or VONAPP, Web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/> to apply.

TRANSFERABILITY

Active duty and Selected Reserve Airmen who meet all of the VA’s Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit requirements, who are on duty as of Aug. 1, who have already served at least six years, and who commit to four more years of service, have the option to transfer their benefits to eligible dependents.

Before applying to transfer benefits, an Airman should do four things to ensure a smooth and efficient application process. The very first step for all Airmen is to seek counseling from your Education Center on GI Bill options, said Rudy Torres, AFPC’s Education Services and Benefits Program deputy chief.

“Next, ensure you have at least four years left of retainability before transferring benefits, unless retirement eligible. If you need additional retainability, visit your military personnel section for counseling on your reenlistment or extension options,” Mr. Torres said.

Third, Airmen must sign a Statement of Understanding to acknowledge acceptance of their active duty service commitment. The SOU is available in military personnel sections, education offices and on the “Ask” AFPC Web site.

“If you’ve already applied to transfer your benefits, a copy of the SOU will be sent to you for signature via email from the Total Force Service Center-San Antonio. In the near future, the SOU will be available on the virtual MPF to allow Airmen to complete this action digitally,” Major Braun added.

Finally, all Airmen should verify family member

information is accurate in DEERS. A printable version of this checklist is available on the AFPC Web site, www.randolph.af.mil, under the Post-9/11 GI Bill link.

HOW TO APPLY

After completing the checklist above, Airmen can apply to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the TEB site, www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/. Applicants must use a common access card, a DoD self-service user identification, or a Defense Finance and Accounting Service personal identification number to access the site. The TEB site is also posted on the AFPC Web site and the Air Force Virtual Education Center on the Air Force Portal.

“If for some reason an applicant doesn’t meet eligibility requirements, the application will be returned to the TEB site and AFPC will provide the applicant with a statement of why it was disapproved, or guidance on what actions are required before approval can be granted,” said Major Braun.

Once Airmen receive approval of their transfer application from the VA, family members may apply to use transferred benefits by completing VA Form 22-1990e in VONAPP. The VA Form 22-1990e should only be completed and submitted to VA by the family member after TEB approval. Further information is available at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

Additional guidance about GI Bill options can be found at the following resources: - DVA GI Bill site, www.va.gov/gibill - DoD Post-9/11 GI Bill site, www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/ - AFPC Post-9/11 GI Bill site, www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/gibill/index.asp.

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Families blessed with nearly two decades of compassion

By Ken Carter
Editor

For nearly two decades one Academy member has possibly brought more comfort, compassion and peace to hurting families than any other individual. She is a "behind the scenes" kinda girl who doesn't feel comfortable under a spotlight. For those whom she's served, however, she's been a bright and shining star who's provided light and hope for hundreds of families from around the world who've lost loved ones.

Janet Edwards began her service as the Academy's mortuary officer in March of 1992 and has since overseen the funerals and/or memorial services for some 900 people who've perished by every means imaginable. The whole time she's made the comfort of those left behind to grieve her top priority.

The Kermit, Texas native started her career as a clerk-typist, GS-3, at the Elmendorf Civilian Personnel Office in September 1985. By 1992, she'd relocated and her business became that of touching hearts over typewriter keys at the Air Force Academy. She's never looked back.

With countless deeply moving experiences over the years, Ms. Edwards says she has become close with so many families.

"I would have to say the most

recent memory that stays in my mind is the death of Donna Head in December 2007," she said. "I think of her every time I drive to the Academy Community Center or the cemetery. She and her family are very special people and assisting with her funeral was very moving because she was (and still is) an amazing woman and I was honored to be a part of honoring her."

Death and dying are a part of life ... but being continuously surrounded by them requires a faithful support group to keep it all in perspective.

"I enjoy tremendous support from my family, friends and the entire staff of chaplains at the Academy Cadet and Community Center Chapels," Ms. Edwards said. "Last but not least, my leadership including my immediate supervisor, Frank Gross, all the way up to the superintendent couldn't be more supportive — which helps me to do what I need to do to provide the best possible service to our families during some most difficult times."

There's always family pain in the loss of a loved one ... and sometimes that pain finds its way into the heart of the mortuary officer.

"My most painful memory was the suicide of a 13 year old boy whom I was close to," she said. "To deal with my emotions and yet provide



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Janet Edwards has served as the Air Force Academy's mortuary officer since 1992 and has helped more than 900 families through some very difficult times. Ms. Edwards also serves as the program manager for the Academy's Base Honor Guard.

support to his father was one of the most difficult and confusing times in my job. I remember coming to work the morning after the death, after a very restless night, sitting in my chair and feeling totally lost and helpless as

I began to prepare a case file not unlike the hundreds I'd prepared before."

She found herself completely lost asking internally how she would be

See COMPASSION Page 14

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Solar wall saves Air Force money

By Airman 1st Class Christopher Gross
3rd Wing Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFNS) — Air Force officials installed their first solar wall here in November 2008, and have saved the base \$15,000 in energy bills so far.

Francis Sheridan, the Elmendorf Air Force Base resource efficiency manager, was responsible for brainstorming the idea to install solar walls on the west and east sides of the 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron as a way to save the Air Force money.

“It is a passive solar heating system,” said Mr. Sheridan, explaining how the solar wall works. It’s a preheat for our outside air. It’s a perforated piece of sheet metal that hangs outside in ideal situations.”

He said once the air is ventilated inside the building, it is already 10 degrees or more warmer than the outside temperature. This means less energy is being used to heat the air, which saves money.

Even though the solar wall is an efficient money saver, it is not all that new. The solar wall was developed after much research and several prototypes done by John Hollick, president of the Conservall Engineering Inc., located in Toronto.

“It actually works better on cold winter days when there’s snow on the ground,” Mr. Hollick said. “The snow will reflect up to 50 percent more sunlight. It is ideally suited for Northern latitudes.”

“More than 1,000 of these systems are out there. We have them in about 30 countries and most took place in the last six years,” Mr. Hollick said.

Mr. Hollick said the solar wall wasn’t initially a big hit when it was first invented because fuel cost was still reasonably low. However, since the high rise



Photo by Airman 1st Class Christopher Gross

A solar wall collects rays at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Two of these walls hang on the outside of the 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, and have saved base officials \$15,000 in energy costs since they were built in November 2008.

in fuel costs during the past decade, ways to conserve energy in some areas has become a top priority.

“The people who put them in seem to really like them. I think it’s the fact there’s no maintenance with it,” Mr. Hollick said. “It does provide a lot of energy on a sunny day it should heat the air between 30 to 40 degrees.”

As far as for its durability, Mr. Hollick said, “The solar panel itself should last as long as the building because it has no moving parts. It’s all metal construction.”

So far, about 10 of the solar wall structures have been installed at eight Air Force bases in the past six years and future plans for more are under way.



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Come out and shred; let the good times roll

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Grab your board, drop in and let the good times roll.

The new skateboard park in Memorial Park near downtown beckons both beginners to “rippers” to come out and shred. Bikers and inline skaters are also welcomed.

With its three bowls and street course, the park now sports lighting so skaters don't have to head elsewhere when the sun sets.

“Since it's opened, it's packed all the time,” said Shannon Davis, organizer and one of the founders of Colorado Springs Skatepark Friends. “It's getting 100 percent use.”

It was even very busy Christmas morning last year.

The Memorial skate park at Union Boulevard and Pikes Peak Avenue is in addition to the city's Gossage and John Stone skateboard parks. The \$1 million cost for the new park was covered by the city, businesses and CSSF, which raised nearly \$9,000 through auctions, concerts, bracelets and baked goods.

Team Pain Enterprises, based in Florida, designed and built the park which is drawing competitions and out-of-towners whom make it a destination in itself.

Skateboarding is becoming a mainstream sport, Ms. Davis said, as media coverage and skaters' ranks have expanded.

Skaters range from tots as young as 4 to pros in their 30's and 40's.

Ms. Davis said early morning hours are better for smaller boarders when the course is not so crowded.

Skateboarding is anything but an exclusive club.

“It's little kids and older skaters cheering each other on,” said Jared Langer, 22. “They give help to



Photo by Ann Patton

The skateboard park in Memorial Park has proven to be a haven for beginning to pro boarders. Its three bowls plus the street course can accommodate all skill levels, plus competitions. Lighting has been added this month to extend hours.

each other, and it's always good to see new people try out the sport.”

The park is free and strictly “ride at your own risk.” Ms. Davis added skaters pretty much police each other. Unruly boarders quickly get the message uncooperative behavior is unacceptable.

Greg “Wolfman” Mullenax, 19, began skating when he was 12. He said he now has “been doing it so long, it's kind of instinct.”

He said the people are a big part of the sport's attraction.

“It's amazing how we can meet,” he said. “Other things can't give you the same experience.”

Mr. Langer said the sport is great for relieving stress and added, “You don't need a team to participate.”

Non-boarders can take advantage of many other activities at Memorial Park. Prospect Lake features boarding, water skiing, fishing and a swimming beach.

The park also is home to Sertich Ice Center for public ice skating and lessons, an aquatics and fitness center, velodrome, a tennis center, sports fields, horseshoe courts, picnicking, a walking/jogging loop and universally accessible playground, plus memorials to veterans and firefighters.

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Battlefield detectives fight with fingerprints

By Staff Sgt. Joshua Strang
Weapons Intelligence Team 7

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFNS) — Television has glorified the crime scene detective to an almost supernatural level. Sharply dressed investigators can scan through a crime scene draped in a steel blue light and can instantly tell who committed the crime even though police officers have worked the scene for a long time. In a 60-minute episode a crime is committed, the scene processed and the killer is caught. In real life it is not that easy.

Police work long hours and often are granted unlimited amounts of time to sift through the smallest details of a scene in order to catch the suspect at large. However, when the landscape of the crime scene is transformed from a city street into a battlefield, the time allotted to process a scene can be limited to only seconds. In lieu of police detectives, battlefield detectives arrive to the scene, who are also known as the WIT.

Weapons Intelligence Teams are made up of individuals from about 20 different career fields spanning the Army, Navy and Air Force. The individual skill sets consist of different intelligence ratings, photographers, explosive ordnance disposal, master at arms, administration, management and Air Force Office of Special Investigation members. The four- to five-man teams are equipped with many skills and are constantly prepared for calls that lead them outside the wire in a moment's notice. When that call comes in, it is usually for the No. 1 threat to troops on

ground in Iraq, improvised explosive devices.

An IED is defined as a bomb deployed in other than conventional military means. First used in World War II, they can have devastating effects on personnel and equipment. WIT teams are called upon to process both pre- and post-blast incidents and can obtain valuable biometric evidence from the largest piece of ordnance fragmentation to the smallest twisted circuit boards and wire. WIT members put the pieces of the scene together to answer what, when, why and how, and in turn, catch who.

"We perform sensitive site exploitation of battlefield attacks where improvised explosive devices are used against coalition forces or Iraqi security force personnel and equipment," said Capt. Daniel Tufts, a Combined Joint Task Force Troy WIT operations officer. "We are the CSI of the Iraqi battlefields."

Trained at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., WIT teams are trained in many areas of scene exploitation.

"We photograph the scene, gather and catalog evidence, take samples, fingerprint and analyze the incident against all other incidents within that operational element," Captain Tufts said.

WIT first showed up in country in 2005 as a joint venture with British forces. It has evolved from an under used group of people more commonly known as "wait in truck" in the early days to a well-trained unit on the forefront of battlefield forensic technology through its use of biometrics.

"People leave their traces every-

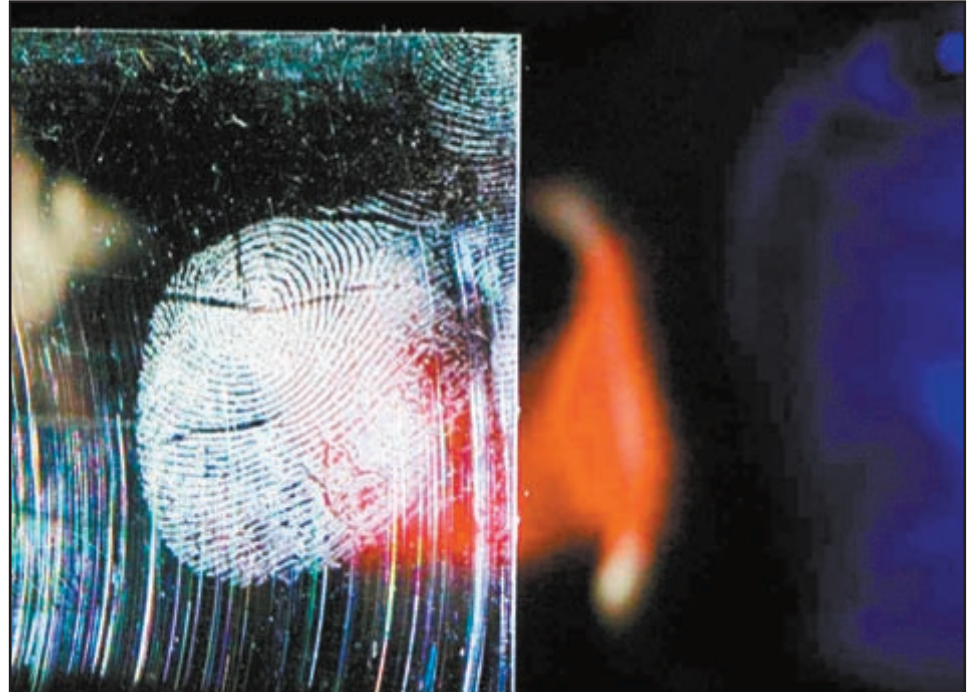


Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Strang

A Weapons Intelligence Team member examines a fingerprint on a hinge lifter while exploiting evidence from a recent incident May 10 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. WIT members are skilled in improvised explosive device construction, fingerprinting, biometrics, foreign weapons, media exploitation and sensitive sight exploitation.

where," Captain Tufts explained. "We find that trace and exploit it to the fullest extent. Our main job is to collect the evidence; however, we too can recover biometrics to include DNA, fingerprints and facial recognition."

As the Iraqi legal system continues to form and develop, the evidence collected becomes integral in the conviction of insurgents.

"The evidence is used in the Iraqi court system to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes," Captain Tufts said. "We help bring the criminals to justice through exposing their involvement in crimes against coalition forces and Iraqi security forces. How we collect, handle and exploit the evidence

can determine the outcome of a conviction."

Not only are WIT teams responding to incidents, but also they are aiding in the transition to an all Iraqi response force.

"We provide the Iraqi army, police and national police with much needed training to allow them to take over these duties when we fully withdraw from Iraq," Captain Tufts said. "We are training them to be self sufficient in SSE."

As American forces draw down in Iraq and head to Afghanistan, the future of WIT will be directly determined by the enemy, their tactics, techniques and procedures and their use of IEDs.

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War hero brought home, laid to rest after 40 years

By Senior Airman Kenny Holston
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AFNS) — As three rifle volleys rang throughout Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery Monday, the sounds meant a Vietnam War veteran who had been missing in action for more than 40 years was finally home to rest.

Active-duty members, retirees and their families gathered at Chief Master Sgt. Quincy Adam's final resting place to pay their respects. Among them was Staff Sgt. Adam Blankenship, cousin of Chief Adam.

"It's been a long road for our family waiting for this type of closure," said Sergeant Blankenship, assigned to the 436th Security Forces Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, Del. "I received the news while deployed to Afghanistan, and it really redefined the pride that I have in serving our country."

In keeping with tradition, the Whiteman AFB honor guard gathered its entire fleet to ensure a proper and honorable military funeral was carried out for the late Chief Adam and his family.

"Today is a good day," said Tech. Sgt. Dave Giberson, Whiteman AFB honor guard NCO in charge. "One of our own has been brought home; we've practiced long and hard for this day, so let's go out there and do what we do best."

As the funeral commenced and respects were paid, a Vietnam-era C-130 Hercules flyover was performed by an



Photo by Senior Airman Kenny Holston

Airmen from the Whiteman Air Force Base Honor guard fold a flag Monday to honor Chief Master Sgt. Quincy Adam at Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery. Chief Adam is a Vietnam War veteran who was MIA for more than 40 years.

aircrew from the 62nd Airlift Squadron at Little Rock AFB, Ark. However, in homage to Chief Adam and his tie to the 41st Tactical Airlift Squadron, all of the crewmembers were former members of the 41st TAS and volunteered for the opportunity to honor Chief Adam.

After the rifle volleys had been fired, Master Sgt. Gregory Giles of the honor guard detail presented Kenneth Adam, father of Chief Adam with a folded American flag on behalf of the United States for all his son had sacrificed for his country.

"The feeling of handing over that folded flag was like nothing I've experienced in my 21 years of performing in

the honor guard," Sergeant Giles said. "The fact that his son passed away before him while serving his country made my feelings that much more overwhelming. I was honored to perform such a service to say the least, and proud to have been a part of a very important funeral."

Chief Adam served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War as a C-130 loadmaster. Growing up, Chief Adam wanted nothing more than to fly, so joining the Air Force was only natural for him.

As the United States moved forward with efforts in Vietnam, Chief Adam and the rest of his crew got the call

letting them know they were needed in Asia. Without hesitation, they set off to war in their C-130, call sign "Blind Bat 01."

Chief Adam and his crew carried out a regularly scheduled night flare drop mission over eastern Laos, adjacent to the northern most provinces of South Vietnam near the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail. The trail, a crucial target for U.S. forces, was used by the Communists to transport weapons, supplies and troops from North Vietnam into South Vietnam.

As Chief Adam and his crew continued their routine mission, orbiting the target area, "Blind Bat 01" made its last radio contact with the airborne mission command and control center at 8:30 p.m., May 22, 1968. At 9:15 p.m., however, "Blind Bat 01" could not be reached and another C-130, "Blind Bat 02," was dispatched to search for the missing aircraft.

While searching, the aircrew of "Blind Bat 02" saw a large fire on the battlefield below. This was later deemed to be the wreckage of "Blind Bat 01." The entire crew was listed as MIA.

After 40 years, Chief Adam's remains were discovered in Southeast Asia and he was brought home to Kansas City, Kan., to rest.

"It's such a relief to finally have this closure," said Kenneth Adam. "I've waited and prayed for this moment to come every day for the past 30 years, and now that's its finally here I can rejoice and rest easy knowing that my son is home."

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Jacks Valley dust settles; basics soon face academia storm

By Ken Carter
Editor

The Class of 2013 has returned to the Cadet Area after demonstrating a “consistently high level of motivation and energy,” that, according to the Basic Cadet Training commander.

“2013 did an excellent job throughout the challenges of Jacks Valley,” said Lt. Col. Ted Detwiler. “The class can certainly be proud of its performance.”

The trek back to the Hill isn’t the end, rather, just one of many more beginnings.

“While the basics may want it to be the end of BCT, the march out of Jacks Valley really only marked the end of the fifth week of training, we still had another solid week filled with evaluations,” Colonel Detwiler said.

Training in Jacks this year was not significantly different than last, Colonel Detwiler said. However, cadet leadership changes every year, which brings new leadership styles and techniques to the program. “The end result being that, although the training events themselves are the same, the delivery of the training is always unique.”

The one unanticipated challenge for the Class of 2013 was basic cadets who developed symptoms after being exposed to H1N1. Overall, the impact on the Academy mission was mitigated through effective crisis action planning and execution.

“Impact from H1N1 has been relatively minor from an overall standpoint,” the BCT commander said. “Although we had to reschedule some courses (Assault Course, Obstacle Course, Confidence Course, etc.) we were able to ensure all basic cadets were given the opportunity to complete each course at least once.”

With H1N1 related concerns looming, the traditional Doolie Day Out became Doolie Day In and a total USAFA team effort made for a near seamless change in plans to ensure the health and safety of all and an overall boosted morale.

“Within 36 hours, a team put together an outstanding plan,” Colonel Detwiler said. “The 10th Communications Squadron installed a bank of 150 phones in Arnold Hall Ballroom and phone cards were given to basics so they could call home free of charge. Mitchell Hall put together a BBQ offering burgers, brats, hotdogs, ice cream sundaes

and hundreds of pizzas were brought in.”

The Arnold Hall staff arranged to show movies in the theater and basics had Arnold Hall to themselves for the day. Furthermore, they were given back their cell phones for the day and care packages were delivered from their sponsors and families.

“While it may not have been exactly what they were hoping for, I think it’s fair to say they all enjoyed themselves,” the colonel said.

Despite the varied times, locations and overall nature of BCT events, the overall Academy mission remained constant.

“Our mission is to produce highly trained, disciplined, physically fit, motivated, mission ready fourth-class cadets and provide a professional leadership experience for upper class cadets consistent with Air Force training practices and USAFA Officer Development System,” Colonel Detwiler said.

The field training environment in Jacks Valley simply gave all the opportunity to focus on the training from a different perspective.

Colonel Detwiler salutes the support received from units across the Academy in making the Jacks Valley experience the best and most comprehensive possible.

“The number of agencies required to make BCT run smoothly from in-processing to the Acceptance Day Parade spans all of USAFA and the 10th Air Base Wing,” he said. “The support we have received across the board has been tremendous.”

There are two sides to every story and this story includes benefit to more than just the basic cadets.

“The other half of the program is about providing leadership experience to the upper class cadets,” the BCT commander said. “The leadership and professionalism shown by the cadre themselves has been phenomenal.”

Academy senior enlisted members including Basic Cadet Training Superintendent Master Sgt. Dan Spain and Master Sgt. Christopher Bell summarize the Class of 2013 BCT experience as follows:

“The Class of 2013 has overcome trials and tribulations with amazing grace and poise. Their motivation and determination remains high and this is a direct reflection of their cadre, AOCs, and AMTs mentorship. The BCT staff’s long hours of preparation have paid off and it’s seen through the basics’ performance.”

BIG BAD BASIC



Photos by J. Rachel Spencer

**Big Bad Basic Men’s Champion
Alex Means (right) of the Barbarians**



**Big Bad Basic Women’s Champion
Kathryn Hilbig (left) of the Cobras**

Airmen step back as Iraqis take control of mission

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Air Forces Central combat camera team

CAMP TAJI, Iraq (AFNS) — American Airmen don't run dining facilities for the Iraqi military here. They don't pump fuel and they don't make runs to ammunition storage points. At least not any more.

All of these daily tasks that require the utmost attention to detail to supporting mission readiness are handled directly by Iraqi soldiers.

"We're just here to advise them now," said Tech. Sgt. Willie Moorer, who provides "a safety net" for the Iraqi soldiers who run a dining facility that feeds more than 400 troops per meal. "My goal is to work myself out of a job. They understand what they need to do to maintain the dining facilities. They know how to get a refrigerator fixed if it breaks, they know why cleanliness is important and they know about health standards."

Iraqi army Sgt. Major Ahmed Atae is the manager at the dining facility at Camp Taji, a position he's held for a year and a half.

"Our soldiers have a hard job and they need good, healthy food," the sergeant major said. "If they have healthy food, they can do their job. My job is to give them that."

Sergeant Moorer, deployed from the Force Support Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, said the Iraqis are

95 percent ready to run the operation on their own.

"All they need me for now is to give advice on how to solve an issue they don't know how to solve," Sergeant Moorer said. "But they'll actually go and take care of it."

The same is true for ammunition. Staff Sgt. Eric Richards, deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, said it's been challenging for him and his Iraqi counterparts to bridge cultural differences. But they see eye to eye when it comes to protecting the munitions.

"It's very important to have skilled specialists to handle the ammunition," said Iraqi army Captain Isam Marai. "We need to prevent accidents. Ammunition is an important part of any army."

The Iraqis have dramatically improved their standards over the last several years. They have better documentation practices and are constantly upgrading them, Sergeant Richards said.

A new facility and modern book-keeping tools are also on the way for the Iraqi troops who run the fuel depot at Camp Taji.

"They already had a good system for documenting and verifying fuel distribution — almost as good as our own — but it's all on slips of paper and in ledgers," said Tech. Sgt. John Dukes, a fuels adviser to the Iraqi army. "They've



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael B. Keller

Iraqi soldiers eat lunch at their dining facility July 12 at Camp Taji, Iraq. This dining facility is run exclusively by the Iraqi army with some assistance from an American Airman assigned to the Logistics Military Adviser Team.

got computer laptops on the way. They already know how to do a spreadsheet, so they're almost ready to go."

The Iraqi army is also planning to install a new fuel storage area.

"The facility will be more environmentally friendly and will better enable the army to fuel their vehicles," said Sergeant Dukes, who is deployed from Hurlburt Field, Fla. "What we're working on now is improving the procedures already in place so it's as seamless a transition as possible when we leave."

Lessons it took much of the Western world to learn over 30 to 40 years about fuel and hazardous material storage the Iraqis have had to learn in four, Sergeant Dukes said.

"My role is just to step back and let them perform their mission on their own," Sergeant Dukes continued. "We're not here to tell them how to do their job. We're just here to offer advice based on the lessons we've learned. But they take a lot of pride in their work and the Iraqis are well on their way to running things on their own."

Airmen save Iraqi girl's life after IED blast

By Staff Sgt. Jake Richmond
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFNS) — Security forces Airmen, emergency medics and hospital staff here saved an Iraqi girl after an improvised explosive device detonated at her feet in July near Joint Base Balad.

The girl and her family had just attended a Joint Base Balad-sponsored clothing-and-toys distribution for local children at the east entry control point, but shortly after the event ended Airmen near the ECP heard an explosion.

Maj. David Haigh and Master Sgt. Sua'ava Poti, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing antiterrorism officers, along with Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Potts of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group, were meeting with Iraqi security representatives outside the ECP when they heard the blast. A few minutes later, a local man came running toward them, yelling for help.

Sergeant Potts saw a vehicle approaching behind the man, and he immediately got out of his seat and sprinted toward it. Sergeant Poti followed closely behind. They soon saw other men pulling a young girl, badly bloodied and burned, out of the vehicle. Together, they put the girl on a stretcher.

"What went through my mind right away, was seeing the kids happy one minute — telling us they love us, seeing the happiness on their faces — and then with the snap of your fingers, it went from happiness to tragedy," Sergeant Poti said.

In the immediate vicinity, a 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron fire team assigned to guard the east ECP — Airmen 1st Class Joshua Henry, Tony Gross, and Donovan Blount — were in a Humvee just starting the short drive back to their command post.

Airman Blount, from his turret-gunner seat, noticed something was amiss near the other vehicle down the road.

"We were starting to drive back when I heard Blount say, 'Whoa! Hold up!'" Airman Henry said. "We got out and saw a litter coming down the road."

Finding his radio inoperable, Airman Henry decided to drive to the nearest checkpoint that had working radios. When he got there, he told the Airmen inside to immediately call for medical assistance.

"Not even 30 seconds later, I saw them coming down the lane with the girl," Airman Henry said. He and his fire team hurriedly secured their weapons with an Airman at the checkpoint and went to help.

Assessing the little girl's injuries revealed a deep wound to her abdomen, serious lacerations and burns to her arms and legs, and several small shrapnel punctures.

The Airmen focused their attention on bandaging the open hole in her midsection, and then began trying to provide emergency intravenous therapy using the needles and catheters in their kits.

When they realized they needed smaller needles, Airman Blount didn't hesitate. In full battle gear, he sprinted for 500 meters to get more supplies.

"It was amazing to watch how fast he ran wearing about a 60-pound fighting load," Major Haigh said. "It was like he was running a track event."

As they waited, Sergeants Poti and Potts worked diligently with the Airmen to treat her extremity injuries. It took them less than four minutes to stabilize all of the girl's wounds.

"I was watching all of them as they made eye contact with her," Major Haigh said. "At that moment, there was no language barrier. She was giving them this look that said, 'Help me. This hurts.' And Sergeant Poti

was looking back at her (as if saying), 'Don't worry, we're here.'"

After treating the girl's injuries to the extent they could, the Airmen double- and triple-checked their combat lifesaver course checklists. Then, they started feeling the urgent need for an ambulance to arrive.

"It honestly felt like I was there for 30 minutes," said Airman Henry, echoing a sentiment shared by everyone involved.

In reality, the ambulance arrived about 10 minutes after the initial call. The medics took her straight to the Joint Base Balad Air Force Theater Hospital, where she was met by a trauma team in the emergency room. Maj. Mark Gunst, the AFTH trauma medical director, was one of the general surgeons who operated on the little girl.

"The hole she had in her belly was a potentially devastating problem," Major Gunst said. "She was lucky those Airmen treated her and made sure she got here as quickly as possible."

The medical team removed a thumb-sized piece of shrapnel from the girl's intestine and sewed up her wounds. They also performed neurosurgery on a partially severed finger, returning it to functionality.

The staff was relieved to find that what had previously appeared to be charred, burned skin on her arms and legs was actually just a layer of dark soot from the explosive. After a thorough cleaning, they casted her fractured left leg.

The girl had her cast and sutures removed in late July, and she is expected to make a full recovery.

"Every day since she came through our gate, I've felt like I could have done so much more, like I could have done a better job," Airman Henry said. "Knowing she's alive and that we played a part, it puts me at ease. It feels like a weight has been lifted."

Compassion

From Page 6

able to put on a 'professional face' while her heart was broken. At that very moment, the phone rang and it was the father asking her to come see him to provide him guidance. It all clicked into place; but it was still very difficult for Ms. Edwards.

One might think the compassion, empathy and support fuel tank could run dry after 17 years of faithful service centered on selflessness. For Ms. Edwards, however, it appears serving actually provides its own form of in-flight refueling.

"As long as they'll let me continue working, I absolutely plan to stay in my current job," she said. "I'm eligible to retire from civil service in approximately 14 years ... that seems so far away and I haven't given it much thought." When that day comes, she would like to spend more time traveling to see her family and squeeze in a trail run here and there.

Ms. Edwards' empathy for her 'customers' has not gone unnoticed by those in her chain of command, past or present.

"Since Janet's arrival here in the early 90's, she has shown the caring and professionalism one would expect from a person in her position. She also adds another personal aspect to this difficult environment and that is the sincere compassion she brings into each situation," said Operations Chief for the Force Support Squadron Franklin Gross.

Mr. Gross went on to explain how Ms. Edwards is totally engaged and even emotionally connected at times.

"It is an often occasion when I see her wearing

sunglasses at a funeral and know full well that she has gotten emotionally involved and has come to know the family on a more personal basis," he said. "I just cannot imagine having anyone else serving the USAFA families in a more professional and caring manner. Our hearts go out to her for the service she brings to the Air Force and its Academy."

Unknown by many is the scope of responsibilities this mortuary officer handles. Ms. Edwards also serves as the program manager for the Academy's Base Honor Guard, for example. "Many people are surprised that it's part of my duties," she said. "Most are also unaware the Academy maintains a cemetery and they're shocked that I'm a funeral director for the major part of my job."

Current Academy members have the benefit of many years of hard work that has led to even more comprehensive service from the mortuary officer. "One of the biggest and newest services we provide graduates on a pre-need basis is our Web site that took five years to develop and was implemented about 18 months ago," Ms. Edwards said. Its purpose is to provide a tool for pre-planning a funeral service and give families the opportunity to begin talking about their final wishes and have a document in hand when death occurs which will make the process easier for them.

"On any given day, I counsel grads (and their families) on the funeral arranging process at AFA and answer their questions," she said.

While serving in this capacity, Ms. Edwards has undeniably reached out and touched the lives of many family members, and built relationships along the way—among them Christine Adams.

"The love and pride Janet has for the Air Force Academy is quite evident," Ms. Adams said. "She also takes great pride in assisting families through a very difficult time of their lives."

Ms. Adams also suggests Janet employs the golden rule. "I believe she treated my family the same way she would want her family to be treated when burying a loved one. She was everything we needed, and just when we thought she couldn't possibly exceed our expectations, she did. The burial service was absolutely beautiful and my father-in-law would have been both honored and proud."

Ms. Edwards is quick to point out, that, by no means, is she a one-woman show and says communication with key Academy support agencies and maintaining great relationships are critical.

"Communication and respect are important to me and I do my best to exercise a little of both when dealing with everyone," she said. "There's no way I could do this job alone so it's imperative we maintain good working relationships."

When it comes to effective teamwork, Ms. Edwards has nothing but praise for Team USAFA.

"What's the saying, 'One team, no seams?'" she said. "Team USAFA is amazing when it comes to assisting our families in their time of need. We have a special opportunity to pay tribute to our fallen comrades since we are the only base in the Air Force with an operational cemetery. Our families deserve our utmost respect and attention and I do my best to give each of them just that — and the Academy organizations are always right beside me every step of the way."



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Air Force football practice starts Monday

The Air Force football team opens 2009 fall practices Monday at 8:40 a.m. at the practice fields located behind the Cadet Field House.

The team's practices are open to the public each day prior to the beginning of the season with the following guidelines. Those watching practices are not allowed to text message, blog or report

(including injuries) on anything that happens during a weekday practice. Only the first three periods of practice are open for photography/video. Failure to following these guidelines will result in closing future practices. Once the team hits game week, Aug. 31, practices will be open Monday through Wednesday only.



Photo by Mike Kaplan

Inside linebacker coach Matt Wallerstedt works out with a Falcon team member during a practice last season.

Practice Schedule

Next Week

Monday: 8:40 to 10:45 a.m.
Tuesday: 8:40 to 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday: 8:40 to 10:45 a.m.

Regular

Thursday: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 7: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 8: 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 10-15, 17-22, and 24-29

Mondays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Fridays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

Game Weeks

Mondays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Intramural softball playoffs tear up the turf

By Dave Castilla
Intramural Sports Director

The first pitch of the intramural softball playoffs was thrown here Monday night.

Monday night action consisted of three games. The fourth game between 10th Security Forces Squadron and

Retirees was canceled due to lightning and rain.

The fifth seeded DRU/MSS defeated the fourth seeded 10 CES 26-13 in the first game of the evening.

Riding on Tim Neuman's five hits and six RBIs, DRU/MSS built momentum throughout their first appearance of the night.

The momentum DRU/MSS gained was quickly lost as the first seeded hospital #1 defeated them 18-6. The medics jumped out to an early 13-6 lead by the third inning and cruised to the victory. Mark Lomenick led the medics' powerful attack with a grand slam and 7 RBIs.

In what turned out to be the final

game of the evening the 10 SFS walked away with a commanding 16-2 victory. The sixth seeded cops put on a home run clinic with 8 of their 16 runs coming off home runs. Gary Thompson drove in the only Hospital #2 runs off a single in the bottom of the fourth.

The installation championship game was scheduled to be played yesterday.

New men's soccer assistant coach named

By Jerry Cross
Athletics communications

Matthew Okoh has been hired as an assistant coach for the Air Force men's soccer program, according to head coach Doug Hill. Okoh, who has five years of collegiate head coaching experience, joins the Falcon coaching staff after serving as player/coach for the German club team SV-DJK Taufkirchen since January.

"We are very happy to have Matt on board with us," said Hill. "He has both a great playing and coaching background and will complement our current staff. The fact that he has been involved with the game of soccer at almost every level will help us continue moving forward as a program."

Okoh is familiar with collegiate soccer in the state of

Colorado, having played at the University of Denver. He is ranked fourth on the school's career list with 50 goals and seventh with 106 total points. His 26 goals in 1992 are currently tied for fifth on DU's single-season list.

His first head coaching job was with the women's soccer program at Division III Nichols College in 2001, where he led the team to the conference tournament final in his only season before moving on to Grambling State, where he established the school's first women's soccer team. He was also the women's head coach at Delaware State for two seasons before taking the head coaching job of the Delaware Dynasty of the USL Premiere Development League in 2007. After just one season, the league folded and Okoh was named an assistant coach for Spvgg Bayern

Hof of the German league, making him the first African American to coach soccer for a professional club team in Europe.

His professional playing experience began with the Colorado Foxes of the American Professional Soccer League in 1995. He later moved on to play professionally for Major League Soccer's New England Revolution and Colorado Rapids. In addition, he has an extensive playing resume in Europe.

Okoh, 37, is a member of the United States Soccer Federation and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He holds a Union of European Football Associations "B" License in addition to a United States Soccer Federation "A" License. He was characterized in EA Sports PlayStation 2 games FIFA 1996, FIFA 2001 and 2002.

Men's gymnastics adds 7 newcomers to roster

By Valerie Perkin
Athletics communications

Air Force men's gymnastics coach Kip Simons announced the addition of seven newcomers to the program from the upcoming 2010 season. The newest group of Falcons, who have been at the Academy for the past month participating in Basic Cadet Training, will begin classes next week.

"These seven young men are, by far, the strongest recruiting class that I have brought to the Academy," Simons said. "I expect an immediate impact on all apparatus, especially the pommel horse. I believe that the potential could be through the roof for these young men."

FRESHMAN GYMNASTS FOR 2010

- Tory Brown - Tigard, Ore.
- Alex Jessop - Sylvania, Ohio
- Travis Langham - Saugus, Calif.
- James Okamoto - Yorba Linda, Calif.
- Nicholas Owen - Graysen, Ga.
- Carl Rossi - Sterling, Mass.
- Thomas Wilkinson - Cedar Park, Texas

Half marathon

The Fitness Center is hosting the 3rd annual half marathon and 10K race on Aug. 15 at the south end of the Santa Fe Trail. Participation is free for DoD ID card holders. Cost for non-ID card holders is \$7, day of race \$10 Register by Aug. 8 to be guaranteed to

receive a T-shirt. Half marathon is open to individuals 18 and older and the 10K is open to individuals 10 and older who must be accompanied by legal guardian. Participants will compete for top male/female prizes in different age categories. Contact Dave Gray at 333-4567

for any questions.

Soccer Championship

USAFA will be hosting the Rocky Mt Soccer Championship on Aug. 29 on the multipurpose field. Teams from Buckley, F.E. Warren, Schriever and Ft. Carson will participate in a double elimination format. DoD personnel 18 years and older

can participate, games will be played on 60x100 yard field, 9 vs 9, with the playing time set at two 25 minute halves. Capt Jeremiah Kirschman, a former cadet soccer player, will head up the squad. Contact Captain Kirschman at 333-9711 or Dave Castilla at 333-4078 for more information.

Flag football meeting

The intramural flag football coach's meeting is set for Monday at 3:30 p.m. in the sports and fitness center. Contact your squadron sports rep if interested in playing. Preseason is scheduled to begin Aug. 25 with the regular season starting on Sept. 1.





Open house

The Air Force Academy's Annual Fire Department Open House is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 8 at Fire Station #1, 6202 Pine Drive. The goal is to bring the most comprehensive Fire Prevention Education Program to Academy residents and the surrounding community. There will be fire truck displays from the local community, an auto extrication demonstration, a fire safety puppet show for the kids, Flight for Life helicopter, and the 1929 REO Speedwagon antique fire truck on display. Last year more than 800 attended the event and the staff hopes for this to be another great turn-out. For more information, call 333-2051.

Back-to-school party

A back-to-school party will be held at the Falcon Club from 5 to 7 p.m., Aug. 19. There'll be a pasta bar, games, prizes and fun for the whole family. One lucky Club member will win a \$50 gift card and another member will win a \$25 gift card. Nonmembers are welcome for \$5 per

person and club members are free. Sign up for membership at the event and get three months free dues and start benefiting that night.

Ballroom dance lessons

Ballroom dance classes begin the first week of August in the downstairs ballroom in the Academy Community Center. Learn to rumba, waltz, swing, polka, foxtrot and more. Classes consist of six, weekly one-hour lessons and costs \$70 per couple. Ask about salsa, belly and jazz dance classes. Sign-up deadline is today. For more information, call 333-2928.

Broncos tickets

Denver Broncos tickets will go on sale 7 a.m. Aug. 8, at the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center. Pairs of single-game tickets are available for preseason games against Chicago and Arizona and regular season games against Cleveland, Dallas, New England, Pittsburgh, San Diego, NY Giants, Oakland and Kansas City. Camping out in line will not increase your chance of purchasing tickets. A lottery system will be used. At 7 a.m. customers will pull a number for purchase order priority. Customers can purchase up to four seats for one game. Call 333-4475 for more information.

Summer specialty camps

The Falcon Trail Youth Center will be offering a series of summer specialty camps. For more info or to sign up, call 333-4169. The camps are:

Monday through Aug. 7: Adventures in Fine Arts – Youth ages 9 to 14 explore the world of fine arts and gain an appreciation for artists and their work through visits to local museums and pottery studios with hands-on experiences. Times are to be determined. Cost is \$30.

Aug. 10 to 14: Colorado Adventure Camp – Youth ages 12 to 15 explore the wonderful Colorado outdoors with activities such as rock climbing, orienteering and ropes courses while building self-esteem and teamwork skills. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$75.

Strength training

Many activities continue at the Academy Health and Wellness Center including a new strength training class called, "Basics to Strength Training." If you're intimidated by strength training machines, and techniques, then this class is for you. Every Friday at 8 a.m., Sharon Hawkes, fitness program manager, and assistant Victoria Green will teach. The goal is to ensure attendees learn to create a more efficient, productive, and healthy exercise routine. The staff will help demonstrate correct lifting technique, the proper machine functions, and the overall basics to an effective exercise routine. Call 333-3733 or 333-4522 for more information.

Academy Flea Market

By popular demand the Academy Flea Market will be held twice during August. The dates are: Aug. 15 and 22. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot between the Academy Exchange and the commissary. Set-up

time is 8 a.m. Spaces are \$10 each; \$15 for front-to-back space with auto and table rental is \$5. Call 333-2928 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays for more information or to reserve a space.

Spaced out?

There's space available at the Milazzo Center and Community Activities Center downstairs for functions. Rooms are available for military functions, retirements, promotions, dining in/out, off sites, meetings and training sessions, etc. Call 333-2928 to make an appointment to visit facilities.

A&FRC offerings

The Airman and Family Readiness Center will be hosting the following classes.

Group Pre-Separation Counseling

Held every Monday (except during TAP week); 2 p.m. 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.

Veterans Affairs Benefits Briefing

Monday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This briefing provides a comprehensive overview of VA benefits for separating/retiring military personnel. Topics discussed include: VA Medical Care, Disability Compensation, Education programs, Vocational Training, Veteran Preference, Small Business Loans, Home Loan Guarantees, and more.

Smooth Move

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Aug. 13; 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Being prepared certainly lessens the stress of an upcoming move. Learn innovative and proven ways to make your move a smooth one. This is a mandatory class for individuals departing USAFA.

Sponsorship Training

Tuesday and Aug. 11; 8 a.m. 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.

Disabled American Veterans Medical Records Review

Aug. 10 and Aug. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review their medical records.

Mock Interviewing

Aug. 12; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Preparing for your next career move? Feeling a little rusty or insecure about your interviewing skills? Sign up for the next best thing to the real thing! Mock interviewing with real HR reps!

Civil Service Class

Aug. 13; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Learn how to submit a federal resume, search for internal/external vacant positions, and apply for Air Force Federal Civil Service employment.

Career Tracks

Aug. 18 and 19; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This comprehensive two-day course assists military spouses with assessing and evaluating skills, values, and interests; building an effective 'toolkit' through a career plan, education, and volun-

teerism; conducting an efficient job search through research, networking, career fairs, interviewing, and resume writing; employer feedback on what organizations specifically look for in a candidate (local employer panel).

Must be registered to attend.

Newcomer's Orientation & Information Fair

Aug. 20 and Aug. 27 (if needed); 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mandatory orientation for all newly assigned USAFA personnel. Spouses are welcome to attend. Event is held at the Milazzo Center.

Newcomers Red Carpet Base Tour

Aug. 28; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

An informative, fun-filled base tour that gives insight into the Academy's mission and reveals most of the events/activities to see and do while stationed here at the Air Force Academy. Stops include: USAFA Stables, Cadet Chapel, Arnold Hall, Services Arts & Crafts Center, Outdoor Recreation, and much more.

Contact the A&FRC at 333-3444 for any questions and/or registration.



Got vocals?

The Team Pete Junior Enlisted Association will offer auditions for the 3rd Annual Front Range Idol Singing Competition from 4 to 7 p.m. today at the Peterson Air Force Base Auditorium. Contestants will perform with a live band, to music they choose, before a screaming crowd. This competition is open to all personnel and their dependents (minimum age of 16) assigned to the Air Force Academy, Peterson, Cheyenne Mountain and Schriever AFB. The winner will receive \$250 cash. For more information, call Tech Sgt. Alyse Partridge at 556-1097.

Concert in the Park III

The 21st Space Wing and the Peterson Air and Space Museum Foundation will once again sponsor Concert in the Park 2009. The event is today in the award winning historic district Airpark behind Bldg. 981, 150 East Ent Ave. This two and a half hour program will include free hot dogs, hamburgers, and bottled water. Active duty and retired military, civilian DoD employees and all their family members are welcome to enjoy this true Americana evening. Arrival time should allow for parking and time to walk around and enjoy the Airpark's displays. Food and drink will be served at 5 p.m., followed by the Air Force Academy musical group, Wild Blue Country, from 6 to 7:45 p.m. See aviation historical displays depicting the early days of aviation within the museum and the "Old City Hangar." A new display, the Peacekeeper ICBM Missile Procedures Simulator, will be open as will the last known fully equipped EC-121T "Connie". Bring lawn chairs or blankets to relax on the knolls in the Airpark. For more information, call 556-4915 or 556-8314.



CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 5:30 p.m.

Confession - 5:30 p.m.

Mass - 6:30 p.m.

Weekday

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

Protestant Services:

Sunday

Combined Worship - 10 a.m.

Jewish Services

No public services through Aug. 2, 2009

Buddhist Worship

No public services through Aug. 2, 2009

Muslim Prayer

No public services through Aug. 2, 2009

Call 333-2636 for more information

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.

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:

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