







### Ehn shines at skills competition

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# USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO

Vol. 48 No. 15 April 18, 2008

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# Dog handlers sink teeth into SWAT tactics

By Senior Airman Stephen Collier 21st Space Wing Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Guns up, safeties off and

the commands begin to fly.

Special Weapons and

Tactics officers move in

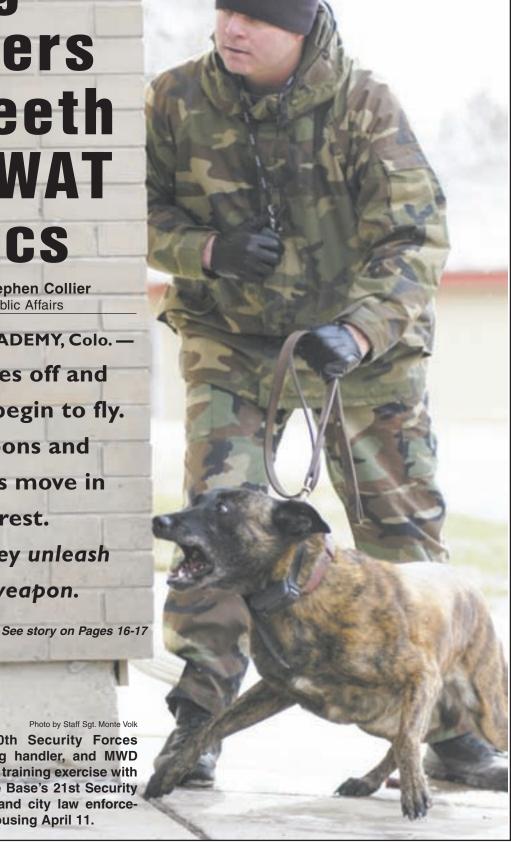
for the arrest.

their secret weapon.

But not until they unleash

Photo by Staff Sgt. Monte Volk

Staff Sgt. James Trimble, 10th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and MWD Kelly, prepare to participate in a training exercise with members of Peterson Air Force Base's 21st Security Forces Squadron and county and city law enforcement agencies in Pine Valley Housing April



# **CMSAF** addresses Academy cadets

By Academy Spirit staff

Academy cadets had an opportunity to receive insight from the Air Force's top enlisted member April, 10.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney McKinley visited the Academy to address cadets from the Classes of 2008 and 2009 in Arnold

Be a sponge and soak up all the knowledge you possibly can, he told junior and senior cadets here, while praising the Academy for educating and

training top-notch future officers.

"I think when young second lieutenants enter into our operational Air Force, there is a tremendous amount to learn," the chief said. "They need to utilize the best skill that sometimes is the most often unused, listening. They need to listen and learn from officers that have come before them and also latch on to a senior NCO that's going to be there to help them out, mentor and guide them and share their years of experience with them."

He stressed his position serves

every Air Force Airman, officer or enlisted.

"We have fantastic citizens that we select to attend our Air Force Academy and to become our future Air Force leaders," Chief McKinley said. "They will be leading Airmen for many years to come; both officer and enlisted. I think it's very important that I come here as the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, since I am their Chief as well. Also, I believe it's important to talk with them and give my perspec-

See CMSAF, Page 3

# Feeling stressed? Remember freedom

**By Maj. Jeffrey Ferrer** 386th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Det. 1 commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — It's been more than 80 days since I arrived at a Southwest Asian air base, and as I reflect upon my time here it feels as if we just arrived only a few days ago. While some Airmen deploy for as few as 60 days, others deploy for up to 12 to 15 months.

We military folks should be accustomed to being apart from our loved ones during deployments; however, there are a multitude of stresses on the military member, as well as on the families left behind. We sometimes are not there in person to take care of family issues or being at special events. We sometimes miss birthdays, wedding anniversaries, a sibling's wedding or holidays.

The stresses are often hard to bear. You can see them in the faces of our fellow Airmen. You may have experienced someone letting off some steam by chewing out someone in the office for infractions, yelling at roommates, throwing a tantrum (yes, some adults still do it), being unreasonable or experiencing someone who is normally polite turn into an angry, irrational person. We all need to keep these types of behaviors in check. The stresses will build up throughout the deployment, so we need to know when to take a step back and cool off for a bit.

Do you miss your family? I know I do. I miss my 2-year-old son, and I am missing the moments when he learns a new word or experiences something for the first time. I miss my wife, as she always finds ways to make me laugh and smile each day. I miss their hugs and kisses and the simple things in daily life, but despite being apart from them, I realize that as an Airman we have a responsibility to uphold for the Air Force, our sister services and our nation.

If we do not support our mission, meet career field standards, fulfill job requirements or take care of ourselves, then a part of the overall mission will fail. Basically, the big picture is we will hurt the mission, career field, job and ourselves if we cannot live up to our responsibilities during our deploy-

Just the other day, I was saddened and reminded of why we are here in theater. Several military members from the Marines, Army, Air Force and contract civilians witnessed the arrival of a C-130 Hercules carrying our fallen comrades who were killed by a suicide attack recently in Iraq. We held a procession and rendered them the proper salutes during an offload honor ceremony.

The stresses we face back home or during our deployments do not come close to what our fallen comrades in arms had to face. This brings home a true reminder of our involvement in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Rather than worrying about stress or feeling the stress, we need to remember what we are fighting for. That is why I'd like to impress upon all of us, whether you are military or civilian, that we are here for freedom.



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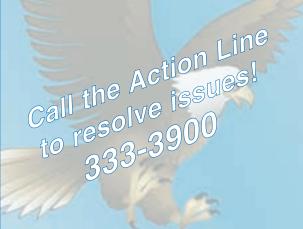
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# Character Corner A Little Time Away

By Maj. Shane Coyne

Center for Character Development

Maybe it takes a little time away from the Academy and the Air Force to truly appreciate and understand this "character thing" we do here. When I reflect on my ten years at the Academy (two active and eight reserve), I can't think of many events or undertakings where character wasn't the focus. At first, I probably treated character as another Air Force buzz word.

After I left active duty, my perspective started to change. During that first year away from the active Air Force I found a job

as a wildland and forest firefighter. I soon discovered that things didn't function the same as in the operational Air Force. At the Academy, leadership and character development were the intensive focus for training our future officer leaders."

I recognized a huge disconnect in the fire training system, which only seemed to care about technical competence and addressed nothing about character and leadership. When it came crunch time, it showed. Our fire crew was challenged with racial, gender, respect and substance abuse issues, and I found myself wishing I had six Academy cadets with zero fire experience rather than

the six firefighters I had who had a plethora of fire skills — but were missing the key ingredients of integrity, core values and honor. Don't get me wrong—these were very brave and hard-working Americans trying to make a difference. But the system they were being trained under did not acknowledge how critical character was to success. It was then that I finally realized this character piece so often preached at the Academy was not a fad, but the essential foundation of any career.

Fortunately, the wildland fire community has begun to recognize the importance of character development in their training

and fire qualification system. Leadership, values and human factors classes are now required to move up in rank, in addition to the fire skills traditionally taught. Core values are now common on wildland fire crews, and values discussions directly link leadership to what happens on the fireline. I'm proud to be part of this effort in our wildland fire community, but even prouder to be a member of the Air Force.

Sometimes, it takes time.

## If you had a weekend all to yourself what would you do?





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

"I would have a

barbecue and

get a nice tan

Prep School."

outside the

Cadet Candidate Michael Beaulieu Preparatory School



"I would try to find time to relax from the go, go, go that happens every day."

Aletha Chambers Air Force spouse



"I'd go and see at least one movie, go hiking, sit on the porch and enjoy the view and go out with girl friends."

Maj. Amanda Fellows Reserve National Security Space Institute



"I would stay at home and work on my hobbies, sewing and quilting."

Kristen Peckham Air Force spouse



### **CMSAF**

#### From Page I

tive on leadership in dealing with all Airmen. Just providing that perspective and being able to answer any questions they may have, based on my experience in leading Airmen, could help them from the very beginning to be more successful as they graduate and enter our operational Air Force."

He also emphasized that a new second lieutenant shouldn't take themselves for granted.

"You may be a second lieutenant, but you are a valuable member of the team and you bring a lot to the table. Be ready to provide inputs on how to improve our Air Force. Our youngest Airmen, whether they are a one-striper or a second lieutenant, brings value and can improve our Air Force."

Chief McKinley began the session by reciting the Airman's Creed with the cadets.

"Just don't learn it and murmur the words," he told cadets. "Learn it to understand it."

Chief McKinley focused heavily on Air Force priorities during his remarks.

"This is a long war," he said of the Air Force's first priority—winning the global war on terror, which he stressed, is truly global.

"It's all over the world. The terrorists' goal is to change our way of life. We are in this war against any terrorist who plans to do harm to America or our allies."

Chief McKinley urged the cadets to realize the value of every position in the Air Force. "Your job here is equally as important as that of

those deployed," he said. "You have to do it right. Take pride in your job."

He encouraged cadets to keep career goals in mind, but to do one job at a time with a commitment to excellence and sense of pride.

"You first need to be the best second lieutenant you can possibly be, and then be the best first lieutenant," he said. "Don't get ahead of yourself."

On the second Air Force priority, taking care of Airmen and their families, Chief McKinley said budget



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley talks with Cadet 1st Class Michael Rivera, Cadet Squadron 25, during a cadet call held April 10 in Arnold Hall.

constraints may limit other areas of the Air Force, but today's Air Force senior leaders are Academy graducaring about Airmen is free.

Caring for Airmen could easily begin with getting to know more about them—their goals, family members, leisure activities and birthdays and anniver-

"Inspire people by going out there and show you care. Little things can mean a whole lot," he said.

On the Air Force's third priority, recapitalization and modernization of Air Force assets, Chief McKinley said the practice of flying decades-old aircraft needs to change. The need for new tankers, search and rescue helicopters and space assets is absolutely imper-

Chief McKinley reminded cadets that many of

"Every class produces great leaders. In here, right now, are sitting some of those future, great leaders,"

The chief added that he is very pleased with the quality of Airmen coming into today's Air Force from all sources.

"The quality of Airmen we have in our Air Force is the best ever," he said. "Whether it is enlisted graduating from basic training, or officers graduating from the Air Force Academy, OTS or ROTC. The young Airmen we have coming into the Air Force today, no matter where they come from, are the future; and the future of our Air Force is absolutely bright."

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# CSURF highlights regional undergrad research

By Julie Imada

Dean of Faculty research staff writer

Diversity would be the key word at this year's fifth annual Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum, which was hosted by the United States Air Force Academy Saturday.

The topics ranged from nanospheres and chemical warfare to medical and social examinations to artistic interpretations of the human experience in the world. The event was also an opportunity for students and faculty of Colorado College and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs to connect with their peers at the Academy.

This year's event organizers, comprised of leadership from all three institutions, declared the event a resounding success. More than 100 undergraduate students and their faculty mentors displayed poster or oral presentations on their research. The number of art presentations at the forum has grown considerably over the past few years, and this year's forum was no exception. With more art submissions than any previous forum, participants had the chance to view a wide range of artistic endeavors including black and white photography, mixed media and renderings of social perceptions through art and written word.

Lt. Col. David Bell, Academy Director of Research, said, "CSURF is a celebration of students who have moved beyond mere rote learning of material to reach the peak of what higher education is really about: learning to think about problems that have no known answer and then propose an answer."

Besides bringing together civilian students and the Academy's cadets, the forum is also one of the rare chances to recognize top-notch undergraduate research.

"Traditionally, research has occurred at the graduate level of education; at CSURF we are recognizing this advanced thinking ability at the undergraduate level. The students presenting are truly phenomenal. CSURF also lets Colorado Springs college students interact with students from the other local universities helping to expand their awareness of the wider world and emphasize the value of diverse experiences," Colonel Bell added.

Lt. Col. Joseph Derdzinski, Academy chair of the event, added that even 10 years ago undergraduate



Photo by Julie Imada

Dr. Peg Bacon, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, speaks to Academy cadets during the fifth annual Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum Saturday. The event is a partnership between Colorado College, UCCS and the Academy, which was the host for this year's event showcasing undergraduate research efforts in the region.

students would not have had the opportunity to conduct or present such impressive research.

Col. Neil Barlow, the Academy's Vice Dean, offered his welcoming comments to the attendees, as did Dr. Susan Ashley, Colorado College Dean of the College/Dean of the Faculty, and Dr. Peg Bacon, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Both Drs. Ashley and Bacon commended not only the quality of the research presented, but they also praised the students' dedication to the higher calling of research.

Participants were also treated to an entertaining keynote address by Ambassador Roger Harrison. Mr. Harrison, former ambassador to Jordan, is the director of the Academy's Eisenhower Space and Defense Studies. He made a point of acknowledging a few of the forum's submissions including a presentation on

the political allegory of the *Wizard of Oz* and another looking at General Sherman's policy towards Native Americans.

Mixing both humor and seriousness, Mr. Harrison highlighted the importance of taking risks if one was to become a leader and that research, with its many opportunities for failure, was a courageous step for young people to take.

Next year's forum will be hosted at Colorado College, and organizers hope the energy from this year's successful event will inspire other undergraduate researchers.

"The very essence of progress in educational and, frankly in society, is developing, testing and applying new concepts and ideas among our peers. For many of the undergraduates at the Academy, CC and UCCS, this is their first step into making real changes in people's lives," Colonel Derdzinski said.

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# Hire-in-Advance one way into classroom

By Ann Patton Academy Spirit staff

Members of the armed forces looking to a teaching career after military service can get a jump start through the Hire-in-Advance program.

Two Pikes Peak area school districts will hire current military members and veterans up to two years in advance to teach elementary and secondary school

The agreement covers current and former military members who are registered with the Troops to Teachers program.

"This program allows military members still on active duty to plan for the future," said Joe Morgan, Troops to Teachers director. "A seamless transition from one public service career to another will now be possible."

Service members can sign up for Hire-in-Advance up to two years in



advance of their separation date.

The Colorado Springs-based Hirein-Advance program is the first to include a college or university and one of only seven in the nation.

It is only open to individuals interesting in teaching math, science, special education or foreign language.

"As a former U.S. Army intelligence officer who transitioned into teaching, I can attest to the value of this program," said LaVonne Neal, Dean of the UCCS College of Education. "The College is honored to support our military community with this milestone partnership."

Service members must be eligible to be both enrolled in a University of Colorado at Colorado Springs teacher licensure curriculum and eligible for employment with Colorado Springs School District 11 or Falcon School District 49.

Meghan Didderich, associate regional director for the Mountain West Troops to Teachers, said Hire in Advance also guarantees employment, unlike the basic Troops to Teachers program which offers no such guarantees.

"There is a huge demand for science, math, foreign language and special education teachers," Ms. Didderich said.

She pointed out, however, "Overall, there is a need across the board for all teachers."

Troops to Teachers provides a \$5,000 stipend for tuition, plus a \$5,000 bonus for teaching in low-income schools, some of which are in Colorado Springs.

Troops to Teachers places about 80 teachers a year in the Colorado Springs

Ms. Didderich noted several programs are available for teacher education, including online and for master's degree programs.

"There are very flexible ways to get into the classroom," she said.

The Spouses to Teachers program is now nation-wide. It opened in 2004 in six states with a large military population and need for public school teachers.

The program was launched after the Department of Defense tasked the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support to develop and manage a pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers.

For more information on Hire-in-Advance, Troops to Teachers or Spouses to Teachers, visit www.mwttt.com or call 262-3486.



### Leadership Panel

Lt. Gen. John Regni, Academy Superintendent, Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins, Commandant of Cadets, Col. Douglas Barlow, Vice Dean of the Faculty and Dr. Hans Mueh, Director of Athletics, speak with cadet candidates from the Preparatory School during the Academy Senior Leader Panel at the community center theater Monday. The session allowed Academy senior leaders the opportunity to motivate, inform and relay expectations of the cadet candidates who will make up the core of the incoming class of Academy cadets.

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# FYE shows 4-degrees off to a good start

**By Ann Patton**Academy Spirit staff

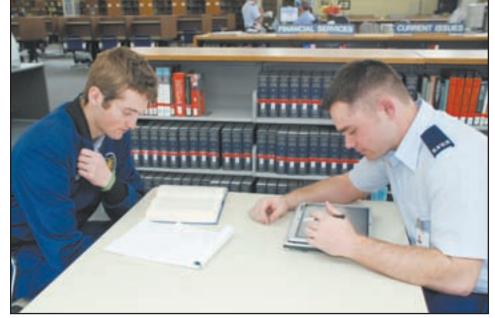
Academy cadets are no different from other college students. The first year can be a real shocker.

A new course, the First Year Experience begun this academic year on the Academy, is easing the transition from high school for four-degree cadets.

"Whether it's planned or ad hoc, from the moment they arrive on campus ALL college students have a first year experience," said Dr. C. Taylor Barnes, Distinguished Visiting Professor and this year's FYE director.

He added, "There is a serious gap between academic expectations and academic reality of our entering cadets."

Academy cadets face, among those issues, transitioning from the relative ease of high school to the rigors of a highly vigorous academic, military and athletic university environment. Doctor Barnes added many are unaware of their academic strengths and weaknesses, resulting in no real plan for personal improvement. First-year cadets may have weak time management and information literacy skills and lack strategies for success know-how. They may be overwhelmed by too much to do in too little time and have poor decision-making skills.



With the First Year Experience behind them and finals looming, Cadets 4th Class Ryan Wilkinson (left) and Ben Brown hit the study table.

The Air Force Academy is the only service academy thus far to have a formal core course addressing issues of incoming freshmen.

Eighty faculty members, all volunteers, served as instructors for FYE 101, with 14 lessons, which ran from appointee orientation to recognition.

Topics include academic fitness, computer literacy, one-on-one planning for academic success and individual needs, a learning styles inventory, time management and leveraging strengths and compensating for weak-

nesses. The course also included an academic pep rally and final address from Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born.

"Freshman performance was the highest in several years," Doctor Barnes said in comparing the performance of the Class of 2011 to Classes 2008-10.

He added other factors played into the success as well. A total of 71 percent of cadets agreed or strongly agreed FYE was relevant and useful.

At the same time, 73 percent agreed or strongly agreed the course was a posi-

tive learning experience.

Cadets rated lessons for time management, learning styles, information literacy and one-on-one sessions with instructors.

Cadet 4th Class Ryan Wilkinson, Cadet Squadron 39, had an inkling of the challenges of cadet life before entering, but not their intensity.

"I didn't know how things will keep coming at you," he said. "It was constantly going."

He especially appreciated exploring what learning style fit him best, which is a visual or kinesthetic strategy.

Cadet 4th Class Ben Brown, with CS-9 and a Preparatory School graduate, said his Prep School background prepared him well, but he, too, appreciated the course.

"It was the smaller things they reminded you of," he said and pointed to time management as one helpful area.

The take-away for faculty from cadets was positive.

"We learned that the more purposeful and intentional we were in meeting freshmen needs, the greater potential for student success," Doctor Barnes said. "Their enthusiasm for learning was invigorating. We faculty got that that little extra spring in our step knowing that we might have had a small part in the Class of 2011's successful performance."



Chipotle.

# Cadets represent Peru at Model OAS

By Butch Wehry Academy Spirit staff

Ten Academy cadets represented Peru at the Model Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., April 8 to Saturday.

The OAS is the oldest organization dedicated to resolving issues between nation states much like the United Nations except exclusively in the Americas. It was hosted by the real Organization of American States.

"The Model OAS Conference gives college students a chance to experience the challenges facing real OAS delegates in mock committee sessions and debates," said Cadet Squadron 22's Cadet 2nd Class Joseph Migliuri.

Cadets designed, proposed and debated resolutions addressing hemispheric problems while immersing themselves in parliamentary procedure.

After spending half of the spring semester studying Peru's history, social and economical affairs and political issue, they went as Peruvian representatives.

They had learned correct parliamentary procedure and practiced debating their own draft resolutions in front of the class.

"We used the same rules and procedures member states must abide by during parliamentary procedures and used the real OAS building for the opening and closing sessions," said Maj. Luis Linares, who teaches Foreign Area Studies 420 and led the delegates as part of the course.

Topics debated ranged from integral development utilizing alternative energy resources to social cohesion through grassroots democracy.

"The issues were dependent on what committee they were assigned to," said Major Linares. "Cadets prepared resolutions related to their particular committee and debated them with the other 32 delegations for

Speaking Spanish was helpful, especially in communicating with students from five Latin American universities that were present.

The Academy's delegation consisted of Cadets 1st Class Dave Hernandez and Jen Rogowski, and Cadets 2nd Class John Lachiewicz, Joseph Migliuri, Zach Pendleton, Luke Kaspari, Nicole Paget, Caitlin Prantl, John Fugate and Danielle Rogowski. Cadet Rogowski will be returning next year, having been elected to serve as chair to one of

The debates themselves often resulted in important lessons in humility and compromise.

"It was the single greatest program I've been involved with to supplement my Latin American studies as a Foreign Area Studies major," said head delegate Cadet Lachiewicz from CS-4. "We met ambassadors, the secretariat-general of the OAS, and, without a doubt, future diplomats from countries all over our hemisphere. The contacts, friends and experiences I'm taking from the Model OAS will be useful in my future career as an intel officer and international affairs specialist."

The diversity of the delegations included college students from nations outside the United States, such as Guatemala, Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico.

Although the cadets spent long days behind closed doors discussing and amending resolutions, there was still time to enjoy several attractions in our nation's capital. The cadets took the initiative to visit "The Mall," the World War II Memorial, the National Air and Space Museum and caught the last half of the Cherry Blossom

The cadets also expanded their cultural diversity by treating themselves to authentic Brazilian dining at Fogo de Chao and Middle Eastern cuisine at the Lebanese Taverna.

"Many cadets found themselves bridging ties with their Latin American counterparts through salsa dancing at several of the capitol's infamous nightclubs and a hosted Gala event," Cadet Migliuri said.

Benefits for the cadets were many, according to Major Linares.

"It teaches them the art of diplomacy and consensus building, which requires strong interpersonal skills as well as well as the ability to build convincing cases using effective public speaking skills," he said.





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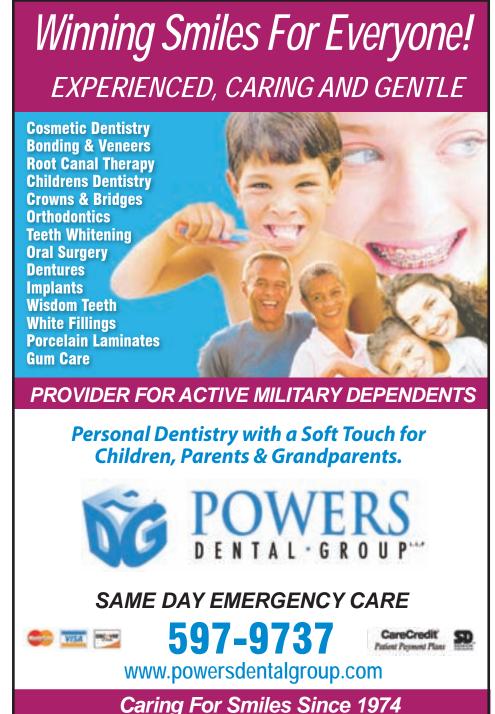
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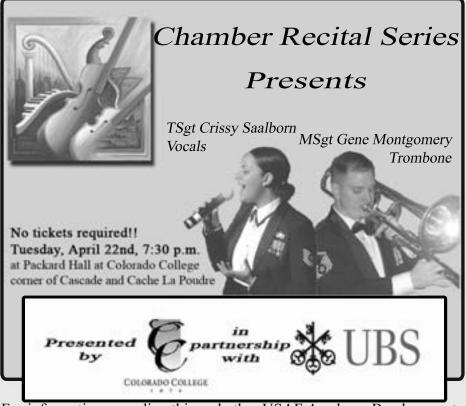
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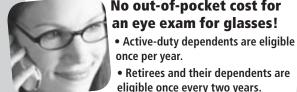
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# AF official calls for input from deployed Airmen

By Capt. Martin Gerst

380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — The assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and Reserve affairs met with Airmen here April 9 to discuss important issues as he tours the deployed theater.

Craig Duehring met with several Air Force active-duty, Guard and Reserve members deployed to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing and discussed deployment cycles, manpower cuts, Air Force end strength and the new airman battle uniform.

Mr. Duehring is a political appointee who heads a four-division department that deals at the policy level with Air

Force manpower and Reserve affairs issues. The purpose of his visit was to gather information on deployments and effects they have on Airmen.

"As an enlisted representative for my unit, I was able to express my concerns about (the) current ABU design," said Master Sgt. Keith Custer, the 380th **Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron** first sergeant. "Specifically, I addressed the weight of the material and its nonsuitability to this environment."

Airmen raised concerns about the increasing length and frequency of deployments. And some Guard members were concerned about the impact on them in filling those requirements and being able to maintain their jobs at home when called to active duty.



Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Craig Duehring talks to a group of Airmen during an April 9 visit to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at a base in Southwest Asia.

"Our goal is flexibility," Mr. Duehring said. "If we don't meet their needs, they're not going to be able to meet ours."

"It was definitely a good forum to up-

channel information from the field to key leadership," said Senior Master Sgt. Arris Hill, assigned to the 380th

# Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment underway

By Capt. Larry van der Oord

Global Cyberspace Integration Center Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — The Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2008 third quarter event kicked off here Monday and will run through April 25 after two years of planning and preparation by Air Force officials.

Global Cyberspace Integration Center officials here will lead the experiment with participation from sister services, coalition nations, combatant commands and government agencies to assess initiatives to fulfill identified gaps in warfighting capability.

The focus areas for Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2008, or JEFX 08-3, include distributed theater operations, globally linked air and space operation centers, cyberspace and unit-level command and

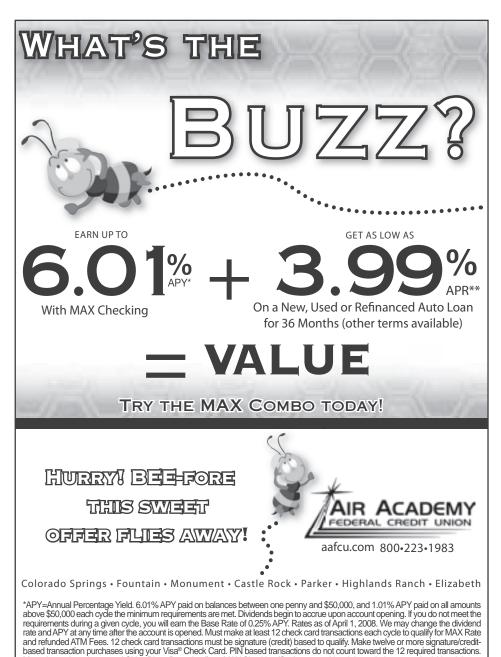
JEFX 08-3 will feature a live-fly scenario and employ 33 aircraft on the Nevada Test and Training Range for a total of 162 sorties over the two-week period.

"The live-fly event will be critical to successfully assessing the operational utility and technical performance of IP-based airborne networking and the experi-

ment initiatives," said Col. Stephen Moulton, the GCIC modernization and innovation director.

One highlight of the JEFX 08-3 live-fly will be a demonstration of downloading data from an F-22 Raptor to leverage its tremendous sensor capabilities as a force multiplier for fourth generation fighters and as a future enabler for enhanced effects-based planning at the combined air and space operations center.

JEFX 08-3 will explore eight different initiatives and involve 720 participants including assessors, controllers and support members operating from 14 locations.



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# Officials work to improve absentee-voting procedures, boost participation

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Defense Department has made great strides over the past four years to ensure servicemembers, particularly those stationed and deployed overseas, have greater opportunity to vote, a senior defense official told Congress Tuesday.

Michael Dominguez, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told House Administration Committee members the department is working closely with U.S. and military postal service officials and other entities to ensure no servicemember wishing to vote misses out on the opportunity.

The Defense Department's Federal Voting Assistance Program works cooperatively with state and local elections to carry out provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. This 1986 law safeguards absent servicemembers' and their families' right to vote for federal offices, and also protects voting rights of other U.S. citizens overseas.

In 2005, department officials simplified two forms used for absentee voting: the Federal Post Card Application, a registration and ballot request form, and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, a backup federal ballot used when a state ballot doesn't arrive on time.

Mr. Dominguez said the revisions not only make the ballots easier to use, but also safeguard the voter's private information.

Meanwhile, Defense Department officials continue to reach out to citizens covered by the UOCAVA law and to federal, state and local officials and to advocate the greatest use of existing or emerging technologies into the voting process, he told the panel.

"We have made progress, but more remains to be done," he said. "The Internet holds promise."

Department officials also encourage state officials to adopt Federal Voting Assistance Program legislative initiatives, he said. Its top priorities are to get state and territory election officials to mail ballots at least 40 to 45 days before their due date and to allow them to send out state write-in absentee ballots three to six months before elections.

The program's other initiatives include expanding the distribution of voting materials through electronic transmissions and to give state chief election

officials emergency authority to alter election procedures in limited circumstances, from extending ballot return deadlines to allowing blank or voted ballots to be transmitted electronically.

"The department takes extraordinary steps to ensure that members of the uniformed services, their family members and overseas citizens have an opportunity to vote," Mr. Dominguez said in prepared testimony submitted to the panel. "Expediting ballots through any and all media accepted by state and local officials is a very important aspect of the absentee

One initiative introduced in 2004 allows eligible absentee voters to request and receive absentee ballots via the Internet. To take advantage of this system, voters must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, be covered under the UOCAVA, and be registered to vote in a state and county participating in the DoD program.

Meanwhile, Defense Department officials continue working to educate servicemembers and other citizens covered under the absentee-voting law about the absentee-voting process, Mr. Dominguez told the committee. Between September 2007 and September 2008,

the Federal Voting Assistance Program staff will conduct 155 workshops for voting assistance officers.

Mr. Dominguez hailed an "extensive outreach program" these voting assistance officers provide as they educate their units about absentee-voting requirements and procedures. Meanwhile, the Federal Voting Assistance Program maintains a Web site of voting information.

While conceding that it's impossible to know exactly how many citizens covered by the UOCAVA actually vote, Mr. Dominguez said survey results showed more voted in 2004 than in 2000. Among uniformed servicemembers both overseas and statewide who responded to the survey, 73 percent voted in 2004, compared to 57 percent in 2000, he said. In addition, 77 percent of federal civilian employees overseas voted in 2004, up from 55 percent in 2000.

Mr. Dominguez expressed confidence that these rates will continue to climb. "Through our collective efforts to improve ballot transit time and promote and implement expanded electronic transmission alternatives, voters will continue to reap the benefits of these improvements and in this and future elections," he said.





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# Military revs up campaign against tobacco

By Senior Airman Brent Skeen Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — Military officials here boosted its efforts to campaign against the use of tobacco by providing a number of strategies recently.

Quitting for other people is the focal part of the campaign, which urges tobacco users to consider dropping the habit for loved ones.

The expense of taxpayers is also a focus point for the campaign. Every year the Department of Defense spends approximately \$1.6 billion in additional

medical care due to the harmful affects of tobacco. The Air Force alone spends about \$115 million annually.

Each year the Air Force loses the equivalent of an estimated 3,000 people's worth of work because of tobacco use, said Col. Kenneth Knight, the Air Combat Command chief of the Aerospace Medicine Division.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley is in newspaper and television ads promoting the Web site *youcanquit2.org*. The DOD site uses visual methods to attract young adults who use tobacco. Unique features of the site include live online counselors

who offer free support to quit, a calculator to prove how much tobacco costs over time, and games as an alternative to smoke breaks. Some examples of games include Texas Hold 'Em and a word game similar to hangman.

"Our site caters to active-duty military in the 18 to 24 range," wrote an online tobacco cessation coach in a chat session, "but we will not turn anyone away who wants support in kicking the habit."

Education is a third focal point of the campaign. The harmful affects from tobacco has been well documented over the years, and officials at health and wellness centers at Air Force bases are available to discuss them.

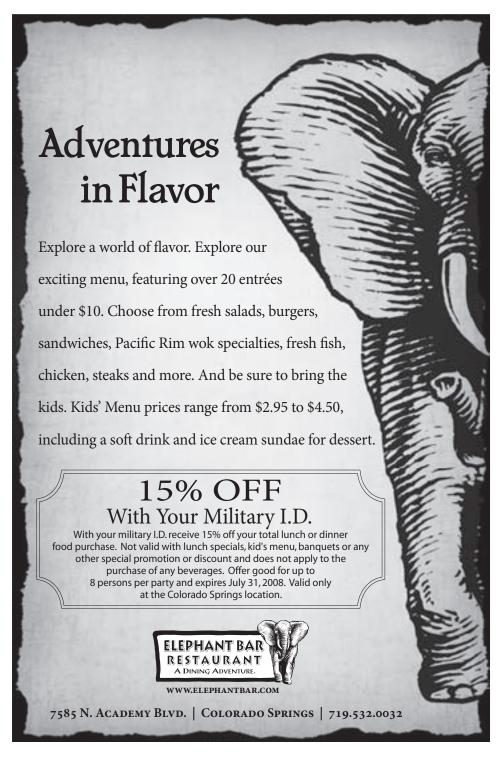
"Heart disease, cancer, and stroke are the three leading causes of death, and they are all associated with tobacco use," said Judith Blitz a teacher for tobacco cessation classes at the Langley Air Force Base HAWC. "Tobacco users have a higher absentee rate. They're at a higher risk of getting colds and the flu because of the mucus — when you get mucus in your lungs, you're at a higher risk for bacteria and viruses." She also pointed out that tobacco damages almost every organ in the human body.



### Afghanistan airdrop

Loadmasters preflight a C-17 Globemaster III for a Joint Precision Airdrop Delivery System of 40 bundles of humanitarian supplies to a drop zone April 13 in Afghanistan. The loadmasters are from the 17th Airlift Squadron from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and are deployed to the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron in Southwest Asia.





# Deadline set for officers to apply for programs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Air Force officers considering advanced academic degree and experience broadening programs in 2009 have until June 6 to apply, Air Force Personnel Center officials here said.

Officers in space/missiles operations, intelligence, weather, logistics, civil engineering, program management, developmental engineering, communications and information, services, public affairs, manpower,

other mission support and rated career fields may be able to apply for one or more developmental programs.

Additionally, officers may apply for instructor pipeline programs with the U.S. Air Force Academy and Air Force Institute of Technology.

Available programs include the Air Force Institute of Technology or Naval Postgraduate School, Education with Industry, Space Lift Education and Crossover Program, Space and Missile Acquisition Exchange Program, acquisition and intelligence experience exchange tour, acquisition and logistics experience exchange tour, comptroller operation logistics tour, Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School, and the Information Officer Engineering Exchange.

Officers must submit a completed Air Force IMT 3849, "PME/AFIT/RTFB Officer Worksheet," to the Air Force Personnel Center here by June 6.

# Pearl-like coating from oysters could protect aircraft

By Molly Lachance

Air Force Office of Scientific Research Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) — Scientists from the University of Dayton Research Institute have manipulated the process of shell and pearl formation in oysters to demonstrate a method for depositing pearl-like coatings onto various metal surfaces.

This biomimetic research could lead to new lightweight, durable coatings able to protect aircraft from impact and corrosion.

The significance of this Air Force Office of Scientific Research-funded project is that biological ceramic coatings are naturally derived and do not involve the high-temperature, high-pressure environment required by existing methods for ceramic deposition.

The Air Force currently uses protective ceramic coatings on aircraft for various purposes, but officials say a nonhazardous process that creates ceramics at room temperature and pressure would be an interesting alternative.

Doug Hansen, a UDRI senior research scientist, is building on a fellow investigator's recent discovery that oysters use blood cells to deposit crystals that form shell and pearl. Clemson University's Dr. Andrew Mount made the discovery, which negated scientists' long-held belief that oysters create their shells by precipitating calcium carbonate from seawater.

"We have taken those blood cells and manipulated them to deposit crystals in an ordered manner on a variety of metal surfaces, resulting in a multilayered ceramic coating," Mr. Hansen

The goal of the program is to understand the process that the cells use to form and deposit these crystals into layers. Mr. Hansen said he hopes to achieve a high level of control over the thickness and placement of the ceramic coatings on materials that require strong but lightweight protection.

Mr. Hansen and his wife, Karolyn, also a UDRI senior research scientist, maintain live oysters in their lab and use them to demonstrate ceramic deposition inside and outside of the organism. The Hansens insert small pieces of metal into the oysters, which triggers the formation of pearl. They also take blood cells out of the oysters, which when placed on metal behave as if they are growing a shell on the surface.

Mr. Hansen recently reported having successfully deposited multilayer coatings on four different metal surfaces: two aircraft aluminum alloys and two biomedical alloys.

Currently the couple is working to characterize the coatings in terms of corrosion resistance, strength and adhesion. They also are developing methods to direct the application of the ceramic films at specific sites on metal surfaces.

Maj. Jennifer Gresham, AFOSR program manager, said she hopes this research will lead to a better understanding of how biological systems can formulate ceramic coatings and films. Such knowledge could allow for the development of synthetic processes to deposit ceramic films and coatings without the necessity for high-temperature and high-pressure conditions.





# General mentors at Women's Final Four

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee Air Force News Agency

TAMPA, Fla. (AFPN) — The young lieutenant sat in the copilot's chair and tried to decide what she was going to do.

Some of the dials on the control panel were not in the right position, but did she dare correct the pilot? She thought the grizzled lieutenant colonel, who was notorious for showing no mercy to young pilots, was extremely intimidating.

After mustering her courage for a brief moment, she reached across and corrected the dials while at the same time bracing for a verbal lashing.

It never arrived.

"Thank you, lieutenant," the colonel said.

Now many years later, Brig. Gen. Michelle Johnson, the deputy director for the War on Terrorism in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, remembers that moment as vital to her progression as an officer.

"It was such a small moment but it made me feel so good about myself," she said. "It showed that he respected me. It made me feel that I could do anything and that I belonged."

The general would go on to accumulate more than 3,600 flying hours spread across multiple airframes. She would also move on to other fields and excel as an Air Force aide for two presidents, become a wing commander and the director of Air Force Public Affairs and numerous other positions.

The general told her story to a group of Tampa civic leaders April 7. It was her last day at the 2008 Women's Final Four. She came to the event as a public outreach mission.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III

Brig. Gen. Michelle Johnson speaks during "Conversations of Influence," an NCAA Women's Final Four basketball tournament event with civic leaders and executives of Tampa, Fla., April 7.

NCAA officials said her schedule was the busiest of anyone attending the event. At most events she spoke to young women about life after basketball.

"It was an opportunity for me to come down and talk to the players about what happens after intercollegiate sports," General Johnson said. "Most college athletes don't go pro in sports, they go pro in other professions."

The general's storied athletic career caught the attention of the young women at the Final Four. She is a 1981 Air Force Academy graduate and four-year letter winner on the women's basketball team. She holds the school record for her career scoring average of 17.6 points per game and 689 career field goals made. She was the team co-captain from 1979 to 1981 and was an Academic All-American in 1980 and 1981. She was one of six people inducted into the inaugural class of the Academy's Athletic Hall of Fame.

She identifies sports as being a major factor in her success in the military.

"You learn lessons in sports that carry over to life," she said. "It taught me to keep going after getting knocked down. That everybody on a team needs to be appreciated. You have to respect the person who scores two points and hustles after every ball as much as the person who scores 35 points."

The general also remarked to the civic leaders that one of her mentors was among them in the crowd. Fern Kinion had helped her in her application process to become a Rhodes Scholar, the general said.

Mrs. Kinion worked at the Air Force Academy, and in addition to helping her with an essay and preparing for an interview, she gave the general many confidence-boosting pep talks, General Johnson said.

It filled her with pride to see General Johnson accomplish so much, Mrs. Kinion said.

"It's been fun to follow her career," she said. "She is a great leader, lady and officer.

She shows other women that they can accomplish anything that they set out to do."

General Johnson said her mentoring strategy is to take advantage of the small moments when they happen. She said that letting someone know when they have done something right is critical.

"There is nothing wrong with making someone feel good when they have done well," she said. "Sometimes your young people may not be sure that they are doing something right. Give them that high five and show them they are appreciated. They will perform so much better for you."

Or, as in General Johnson's case, a simple thank you could be a pivotal moment in a successful military career.





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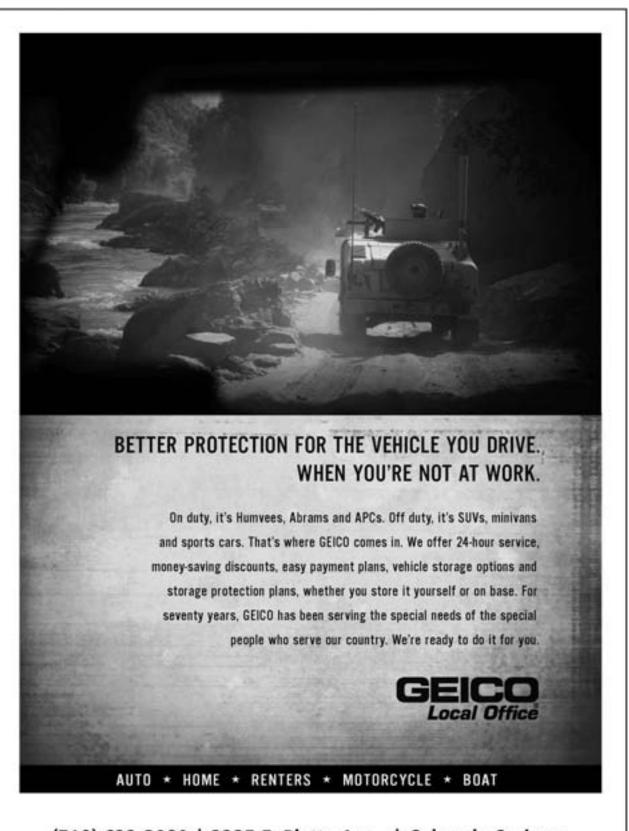
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# Retired Vietnam pilot supports war in Iraq

By Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel 506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — As coalition forces help rebuilding the Iraqi Air Force, a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot working at the Iraqi flight school here watches the process with a sense of familiarity.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Lott Lawson has helped foreign pilots earn their wings throughout his military and civilian career through training programs in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan.

The retired helicopter instructor pilot now works as a U.S. contractor with the Coalition Air Force Training Team and oversees the maintenance of the Iraqi Air Force's Beech 350, Cessna 208 Caravan and Cessna 172 aircraft.

At the age of 65, Mr. Lawson is no stranger to the combat zone. He said he still feels obligated to lend his experience and a helping hand to this fledging new

"My main goal for coming over here is to help these Iraqi pilots start flying their own missions," said Colonel Lawson, a resident of Panama City, Fla. "Once that happens, we can send our troops home safe and sound, and I hope I'm around to see that happen.

"I've seen enough of my friends get killed during the Vietnam War and get a tight feeling in my stomach every time we lose a servicemember," he said. "What we are doing here to build Iraq into a stable country is a very important task, and I want to help these efforts so we can eventually get our troops back home."

Mr. Lawson's first experience training foreign pilots came during his second tour of duty in Vietnam in 1969. During the yearlong deployment, he was assigned to an army base in Baghi, Vietnam, and taught Vietnamese pilots to fly UH-1 and OH-23 helicopters.

"There were moments of stark terror followed by great enjoyment," Mr. Lawson said about training foreign pilots. "The language differences were very hard to overcome, and oftentimes they wouldn't understand the instructions I gave them in the aircraft. I was watchful of every move, because sometimes they'd start doing things in those helicopters that they weren't supposed to. The enjoyment came when they started to mature as pilots and could fly



Photo by Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel
Retired Army Lt. Col. Lott Lawson inspects a Cessna 172 aircraft at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. He is a site manager for the maintainence of Iraqi Air Force aircraft. As coalition forces continue reaching benchmarks to rebuild the Iraqi air force, this former U.S. Army helicopter pilot has helped foreign pilots earn their wings throughout his military and civilian career during training programs in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan.

up and back without any problems. It was enjoyable to know they progressed to a point where they could be turned loose by themselves."

After retiring from the military in 1983, Mr. Lawson didn't give up his passion for helping pilots earn their wings, as he traveled to Saudi Arabia in 1985 to assist with a flight training operation for their military. Out of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Mr. Lawson helped train up to 85 students with the Kawasaki 117 helicopter.

"We were pretty much taking the Saudi Arabian pilots right off the street and putting them in a helicopter," he said. "It was a challenging job because most of them had never driven a car, much less flown an aircraft."

He then worked as an airfield manager at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Range in the Marshall Islands from 1987 to 1992 before retiring in 1993. He went back to work in 1996 and has held aviationrelated positions ever since.

"As long as I'm in good health and the good Lord gives me time on this Earth, I feel like I need to be working," said Mr. Lawson, who has more than 15,000 hours of flight experience in 14 different types of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. "I feel without work, I wouldn't have a focus in life.'

His return to pilot training occurred in 2006 when he accepted a position as the aviation advisor for the Afghan Army Air Corp.

"We were working with the MI-17 helicopters and it was a much different experience than working in Iraq," he said. "In Afghanistan, we didn't have any American instructor pilots, so it was just old retired guys like me who were working with the Afghans."

Mr. Lawson helped oversee the training of more than 275 Afghan pilots, and helped teach classes on basic flight navigation, weather, maintenance — and more importantly — English.

"The Taliban had closed many of the traditional schools, so the student pilots we received from Kabul had very little education," he said. "We had to start their training by instruction on English four days each week, which made for a challenging experience."

Soon after returning from his assignment in Afghanistan, Mr. Lawson took his current job as a site manager for the maintenance of Iraqi Air Force aircraft. Although it takes him away from his typical instructor pilot roles, he said he still feels very much involved in the process of training foreign student pilots.

"Our maintenance efforts, which includes work from U.S. Airmen and civilian contractors, is currently recording a 96.7 percent availability rate for the aircraft we maintain," he said. "When a problem arises with one of the planes, we fix it promptly so the Iraqi students get back up in the air. The

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longest they've had to wait on us is an hour, so we feel our efforts have been very successful."

The opening of the helicopter school here later this year is also prompting Mr. Lawson to consider extending his 365-day assignment to Kirkuk AB. Since he is still qualified to fly, he said he hopes to frequent the helicopter school to help train the Iraqi pilots on OH-58 and MI-17 aircraft.

Mr. Lawson said the program here is the best international flight school he's seen during his more than 40-year career as an instructor pilot.

"Our instructor pilots are doing a great job and have a great sense of responsibility to train these pilots, so the Iraqis can start providing air support for their own country," he said. "On the other side of the coin, the Iraqi pilots impress me with both their motivation and performance in the air."

He also said he feels training efforts are drastically benefited from the English-speaking skills of the Iraqi student pilots.

"All the Iraqi pilots have graduated college and speak pretty good English by the time they get here," Mr. Lawson said. "In comparison to my previous experiences, this seems to really help with the training."

During the past year alone, the Iraqi Air Force has greatly increased the amount of weekly sorties flown and has doubled its number of aircraft. The Iraqi Air Force currently carries out transportation, supply and surveillance missions. Coalition leaders aim for Iraq to be able to defend their air sovereignty by 2009, said Maj. Gen. Robert Allardice, the CAFTT commander.

The Iraqi Flying Training Wing here is expected to reach full operational capacity by July with an end goal of 130 Iraqis earning their wings each year. Upon graduation, Iraqi pilots are assigned to a unit that conducts either an airlift mission with C-130 aircraft or a surveillance mission with King Air 350, Cessna 208 and CH-2000 aircraft.

According to CAFTT reports, Iraqi pilots have even earned some initial operational successes, as an all-Iraqi crew flying on a recent reconnaissance mission spotted several terrorists manufacturing improvised explosive devices. The crewmembers alerted Iraqi police who arrived on-scene soon after to impede the terrorist's efforts.





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Multiple law enforcement agencies work together learning new tatics.

# Academy, Peterson dog handlers learn SWAT tactics

That was the scene April 11 as county and city law enforcement agencies worked and trained with military working dog teams from the Academy's 10th Security Forces Squadron and Peterson Air Force Base's 21st SFS in base housing here. The training gave military and civilian law enforcement agents a better idea of how to use canines in a SWAT environment, giving them a tactical advantage over the bad guys.

From Page I

"It's important for us to share our tactical knowledge," said Sgt. Sean Hartley, El Paso County Sheriff's Office canine unit trainer. "That's good for Peterson and the Academy. If you have the knowledge, why not share it?"

And that knowledge covers several areas of concern. The use of working dogs in special tactics has risen over the last decade, according to Sergeant Hartley, and knowing how to best use a canine in a dangerous and close-quarters situation can mean the difference between safely apprehending the bad guy and inflicting injuries on friendly forces.

Other agencies involved with the training included Manitou Springs, Pueblo, Fountain and Evans Police Departments and Weld and Logan County Sheriff's Offices.

"These kinds of training opportunities are great because they allow us to build camaraderie with other local law enforcement agencies," said Staff Sgt. Dustin Webster, 10th SFS military working dog handler. "It also allows us to learn new tools we can use on deployments and while working at our home station."

Each of the three teams participating in the training covered indoor house movements, getting teams of four or five officers comfortable with a working dog entering a house, as well as SWAT-entry tactics with special consideration to canines. Sergeant Hartley said he wanted officers, both military and civilian, to take away from the training an "increased tactical mindset."

"If you have a tactical mindset, you'll be safe," Sergeant Hartley said. "With this, you'll be able to employ a canine into a dangerous position. For the military, it doesn't change. It doesn't matter whether you don camouflage and go to a base for work or put on 'blacks' and walk the streets ... tactics are

The training provided has a direct impact on operations at the Academy and Peterson, home to the second-largest military dog kennel in the continental United States, according to 21st

Military working dogs are in high demand throughout Southwest Asia. While deployed, MWDs are responsible for several areas of operations, including search and destroy missions for weapons caches, detainee operations, vehicle searches and hunting for suspected members of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization.

"This training would help any military working dog handler with dog familiarity and how they react," said Staff Sgt. Brooks Jones, 21st SFS MWD trainer.

Sergeant Jones recently returned from a more than seven month deployment to Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Military Police Battalion, based out of Camp Lejuene, N.C. There, Sergeant Jones and his MWD, performing an "in-lieuof" tasking, were responsible for weapons cache searches and raids on suspected al-Qaeda strongholds.

"Knowing how to differentiate between good and bad guys is important for these dogs," Sergeant Jones said. "Getting the dogs used to the yelling and running around, as well as the chaos that ensues from entering a building is vitally important. We'd like to take the training back to Peterson and instruct our other MWD handlers. You train as much as you can for the mission you hope you'll never face. You just can't beat the knowledge you get from our civilian law enforcement."





El Paso County Sheriffs Office K-9 handler Sara Norkoli controls "Checko" before entering a house in Pine valley in search of a training decoy.



John Post (front), Pueblo County Sheriffs Office, Staff Sgt Billy Burgan (Right), 21st Security Forces Squadron, Peterson Air Force Base, and Brandon Talton (left), Pueblo County Sheriffs Office, cover all the angles as they approach a house in Pine Valley during a joint training session.



noto by Capt. Uriah Orland Brandon Talton, a K-9 handler with the Pueblo County Sheriffs Office, prepares to enter an apartment during a joint training session in Pine Valley.

# Tiny stones cause big pain for those deployed

By Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes 332nd Expeditionary Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Battlefield warriors, in peak physical condition, the toughest of the tough, are being brought to their knees, writhing on the floor in tears and pain.

The culprit — kidney stones.

Surgeries to remove the small calcium deposits are the most common non-trauma related surgery performed at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq, where approximately 20-30 patients each month are treated for nephrolithiasis, commonly known as kidney stone disease, said Col. John Mansfield, Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron urologist.

Kidney stones don't only hurt individual servicemembers, they also hurt military operations.

"During that time frame [when passing a stone] the troop is out of the mission; they're incapable of working. In fact, stones are so severe that if there's a pilot we know who has a kidney stone, they're grounded until they're stone free. It could dangerously interrupt what they do for a living," Doctor Mansfield said.

Kidney stones are formed in the kidneys and cause pain for the sufferer when the stones fall into one of the sufferer's ureters, the tube that carries urine from the kidneys to the bladder. The ureters are about the diameter of a pencil and the urine opening is about the diameter of a sharpened pencil lead. The average stone seen at the hospital is about the size of a pea.

Symptoms of kidney stone disease often occur without any notice and include sudden and severe pain on the side of the lower back, vomiting, nausea and blood in the urine, said Doctor Mansfield, who is deployed from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Maj. (Dr.) Paul DeFlorio, 332 EMDOS emergency room staff physician, is one of the first doctors to attend to patients with kidney stones when they come into the emergency room, as they normally do.

"People are literally writhing in bed with pain," said Doctor DeFlorio who is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "They feel nausea and the sensation to urinate, but they can't. Some people have blood in the urine, which really frightens them, so they have a lot of anxiety. Predominately, there's a lot of pain. People liken it to natural child-

Kidney stones affect both men and women, but are more prevalent in men ages 20-40 years old, Doctor Mansfield

Eighty percent of the patients [seen at the hospital] are male and patients come from all branches of the armed forces, Doctor Mansfield said. "Most commonly, patients have a [family or personal] history of stones. Patients who have a history of stones have a higher risk of making stones here in Iraq."

Deployed servicemembers have an increased risk of kidney stones because of several factors.

"Stones are more common in places where it's hot and dry," Doctor Mansfield said. "It's generally the lack of water intake. The combination of the hot climate, not enough liquid intake and anyone who has had a history of prior stone disease is at high risk for making more stones."

Other risk factors include excessive calcium, salt or protein intake from foods or supplements.

"Those protein shakes that are popular with body builders lower the pH of the urine and put people at risk for kidney stones. They need to watch those things very carefully especially if they have a history of kidney stones," Doctor Mansfield said. "Also avoid a lot of salt and calcium."

A Soldier deployed to Camp Cropper, Iraq, Army Sgt. Robert Mosher, 345th Support Battalion based out of Oklahoma, recently experienced a case of kidney stone disease and was away from his unit and his mission for seven days while he was treated and recov-

ered in the AFTH.

"It was uncomfortable," Sergeant Mosher said. "I didn't go in [to the clinic] at first, but by [April 1] it was the worst pain I'd ever had, ever. It felt like I'd been in a 12-round fight and they worked me over pretty good in my kidneys."

Sergeant Mosher's stones were small enough, 6-7 milimeters, to be treated with laser surgery, and the stones were broken into smaller pieces and then removed from the ureter.

He said he had never had a kidney stone, nor does he have a family history of stones. He believes the stones were caused by his diet, which he is planning to change.

Though the risks may be high for servicemembers, especially in the desert climate, kidney stone disease is prevent-

"By far the most important thing our [servicemembers] can do to prevent stones is to increase their fluid intake and produce more urine everyday," Doctor Mansfield said. "Our servicemembers, on average, need to produce 2.5 liters of urine per day. As it gets hotter and we lose more fluids through our skin when we sweat, we need to drink more to produce those 2.5 liters a day."

"If we can save one troop from having kidney stone disease, we're doing a world of good," he said.

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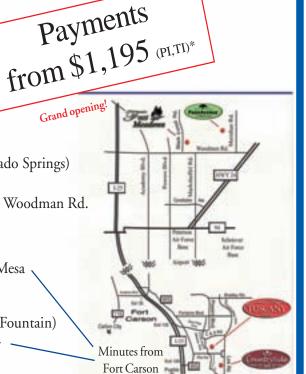
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April 18, 2008

# Airmen respond to coalition fire in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan 407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Airmen from the Ali Base fire department and provost marshal's office responded to a structure fire in the Romanian coalition force camp here April 11.

The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Provost Marshal's office immediately responded to the scene after a wooden building in the camp caught fire only minutes beforehand.

There were no casualties.

To combat the fire, the fire department deployed every available truck to "safeguard our Romanian brothers," said Master Sgt. Jay Watts, the 407th ECES

firefighters and military police Airmen from the 407th assistant fire chief deployed from Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ill. "The building was fully engulfed when we arrived and there were flames shooting out of the eves and windows about 15 to 20 feet and there was massive amounts of smoke."

> The team immediately dispatched a majority of the firefighters to the rear of the building because that was where most of the fire was. Sergeant Watts said they then sent the remaining firefighters to the front of the building to begin pushing the flames toward the rest of their team.

> "We caught the blaze in a crossfire and attacked it with everything we had," he said. "Within 40 minutes of the initial call, we had the fire completely extin-

> After the fire was extinguished, the emergency response forces "went through the building to clear any hot spots and remove any salvageable items," said Tech. Sgt. Tim Walsh, a 407th ECES firefighter deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

> According to fire department officials, the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

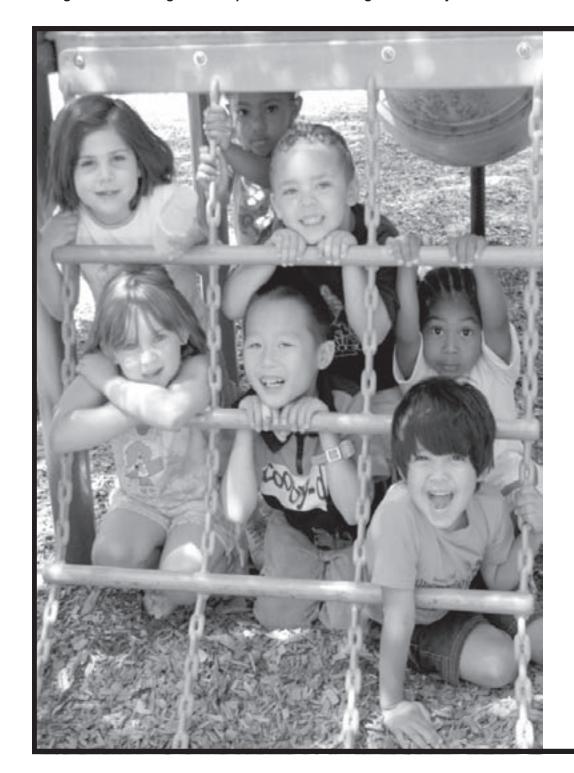
"It was a total loss," Sergeant Walsh said.

Air Force emergency response forces respond to all emergencies here including those involving coalition partners, such as the Romanians, or other services, like the Army and Navy.

"They're our coalition partners. They are our brother-in-arms," said Capt. Kevin Lombardo, the 407th PMO provost marshal deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. "They help us outside the wire so we are doing everything we can to help them inside the wire."



The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters extinguish spot fires on a building in the Romanian camp at Ali Base, Iraq, April 11. The Air Force emergency response forces respond to all emergencies including coalition partners. The building was destroyed but there were no casualties.



# Making Childhood Secure

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# Ehn named Top Performer at skills competition

### Senior's penalty shot goal led West Team to victory

By Dave Toller Athletic communications

Air Force senior Eric Ehn was named the West Team's Top Performer at the NCAA Frozen Four Skills Challenge at the Pepsi Center in Denver April 11.

Ehn led the West Team to a 13-6 win over the East Team in the third annual competition as part of the "Friday Night at the Frozen Four". The Dexter, Mich., native was joined on the West Team by Daniel Vukovic (Michigan State), Andrew Thomas (Denver), Nino Musitelli (Miami), Jimmy Kilpatrick (Colorado College), Mike Forgie (Wayne State), Peter Mannino (Denver), Kyle Jones (St. Norbert), Bobbi Ross (Minnesota), Courtney DeHoey (Lake Forest), Laura Fast (St. Cloud State), Shannon Moulson (Niagara), Tessa Bonhomme (Ohio State), Laura Hosier (Mercyhurst) and Britni Kehler (Minnesota State).

Ehn competed in the Puck Control Relay, the Fastest Skater and the Penalty Shot. Prior to Ehn's penalty shot attempt, the goaltenders had stopped 13 of the 15

shots, including seven straight. Ehn skated down the center of the ice and then drifted to the right with the puck on his forehand. He skated across the slot to his left and pushed the puck in front of him. He then put the stick in his left hand reached down on the ice with his right hand and pushed the puck through his legs. The 2007 All-American then spun backwards and slapped the puck over the pad of goaltender Justin Mrazek from Union. The play brought the crowd to its feet and earned Ehn the Top Performer award.

The most decorated hockey player in school history, Ehn was a Hobey Baker Hat Trick finalist last season and concluded his career with 146 points in 133 career games. Ehn missed 14 games from Jan. 19 to March 17 with a leg injury this season. He returned to the lineup in the NCAA Northeast Regional and played vs. second-ranked Miami. Despite missing the second half of the conference schedule, he still collected third-team all-conference honors. He was leading the league in scoring prior to the injury and finished the year with six goals and 19 assists for 25 points in 25 games.

Ehn is the second Air Force player selected to the Skills Competition in the brief three-year history of the event. Last season, Andrew Ramsey competed in the event at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis.



Falcon senior Eric Ehn skates toward the goal in the Fastest Skates portion of the Frozen Four Skills Competition at the Pepsi Center in Denver April 11. Ehn's performance earned him the Top Performer Award.

# Air Force Falls to Quinnipiac in overtime, 11-10

### Massa scores career-best three goals

By Melissa McKeown

Athletic communications

A fourth-period rally fell short as the Air Force lacrosse team dropped an 11-10 overtime decision to conference rival Quinnipiac Sunday at Cadet Lacrosse Stadium. The Falcons fall to 3-6 on the season, 1-2 in the GWLL, while the Bobcats improve to 7-3, 1-2 in the

Down by two goals going into the final period, Air Force scored the first two goals of the fourth quarter to tie the game at 9-9. With 1:19 left on the clock, senior David Rose notched a score as a man-up opportunity was ending to give Air Force a one-goal lead. However, Quinnipiac won the ensuing face-off and controlled the offensive action, getting the equalizer with just nine seconds remaining in regulation.

The overtime period belonged to the Bobcats, who retained possession in their offensive end throughout. A score from Todd Kaiser with 1:40 left on the clock gave Quinnipiac the win and ended the Falcons' perfect record at home.

Quinnipiac started the game on top, getting out to

a 2-0 lead before back-to-back goals from Jack Parchman and Colin Lockhart tied the score. While the Bobcats closed out the opening period with a 3-2 lead, Air Force tied the game with a score from junior Brian Massa and took its first lead of the game with an unassisted goal by sophomore Ridge Flick. The Falcons went on to grab a 5-4 advantage at the half.

The Bobcats again tied the game midway through the third period before junior Griffin Nevitt tallied a man-down goal to put the Falcons back on top. However, Quinnipiac went on a 4-1 run to end the quarter, including a score with just six seconds on the clock to regain their two-goal lead.

Massa led Air Force with a career-high three goals and one assist, while Rose and Lockhart added two scores each. Flick, Parchman and Tristan Newkirk also added assists for the Falcons. Air Force outshot Quinnipiac, 44-32, while winning 14 of 25 face-offs. The Falcons also went 2-for-3 on the power play, while holding the Bobcats to 0-for-3 on man-up opportuni-

For the Bobcats, Ted Dimond led the offense with three goals, all in the third period, while goalkeeper Kevin Benzing tallied 16 saves on the afternoon.

Air Force is back in actionSunday, when it travels to New Haven, Conn., to take on Yale in a non-conference match-up. The game is slated for 12:00 p.m. (ET).



Air Force Falcon junior Brian Massa led Air Force with a career-high three goals and one assist in the 11-10 OT loss to Quinnipiac.

#### **Dean Chuva Wins** NCBA Championship Title

RENO, Nev. - Junior Dean Chuva claimed his first-ever national title, as the Air Force boxing team wrapped up competition at the National Collegiate Boxing Association National Championships in Reno, Nev., Saturday. With Chuva's split 3-

2 decision over Navy's MIkoto Yoshida, Air Force has won three of the last four 112-pound national titles.

Two other Falcons competed during the final round of NCBA action. Junior Jesse Horton was denied a chance to repeat as the 119pound champion, when Army's Matt Longo earned a 5-0 decision in a rematch of last year's finals. Senior

Daryn Nelson dropped a 5-0 decision to Nevada's Ryan Kotey in the 156-pound final.

Army won its first team title at the NCBA Championships, while Navy took second with 38 points and host Nevada finished third (32). Air Force finished fourth (21) and Lock Haven, the 2007 national champion, finished fifth (20).

#### INTERCOLLEGIATE

#### Baseball

April 11-13 at Farmington, N.M. New Mexico 7 Falcons I New Mexico 26 Falcons 9 New Mexico 3 Falcons 13

#### Boxing

April 12 at Reno, Nev. NCBA National Championships Dean Chuva wins NCBA championship title 112-lbs.: Dean Chuva

# DFF downs MDG for volleyball crown



Miguel Duran, Dean of Faculty Foreign Languages team member, serves the ball at the intramural volleyball base championship game April 9. DFF

defeated the 10th Medical Group team in the final

"if necessary" match 26-27, 25-21 and 15-9.

By Dave Castilla Intramural sports director

"The game is simple," said the Dean of Faculty Foreign Languages team coach Vic Nell. "Pass, set and

And that's what the DFF team did to take the intramural volleyball base championship April 9.

DFF had to come thru the loser's brackets to defeat the 10th Medical Group, who were last year's base runners-up. After defeating the hospital in the championship game, DFF took the final "if necessary" match, 26-27, 25, 21 and 15-9.

MDG and DFF were the top two teams during the regular season, so for both teams to be in the finals of this double elimination tournament was no fluke.

MDG defeated DFF in the first night of action 25-12 25 -20 putting DFF in the losers bracket. In the second and final day of the tournament DFF defeated CES/CS 25-20 and 25-17, forcing the championship game with MDG.

DFF's chance of winning the tournament were increased when two keys to the MDG program, coach Tevita Mafi and assistant coach Brent Kincaid, couldn't make the championship night. In the championship match, DFF jumped all over MDG 25-12 as Gary Yale served 9 straight points to put DFF up 23-12, and Victor Colon served the game out.

MDG got it back together, winning the second game, 25-18. In the third match, DFF, who was missing three key players in Randy Liefer, Dan Uribe and the

Argentine exchange officer, Otto Schaub, due to a season-ending injury, got back on track as Yale served out the last 5 points to defeat the medics 15-10.

After a quick break, the "if" game started and with the game tied at 25-25, MDG's Shane Palm made the save of the tournament as he hit the third ball from 40 feet out, rifling it over the net. Lizeth Cameron served the final point for a 27-26 hospital lead.

In the second game, Yale had some help with the service points as he and Miguel Duran, an exchange officer from Spain, had 12 service points and Yvonne Allen's sets and Kirk Reimer kill shots put MDG back on their heels. Colon served out the game 25-21 and DFF had tied the match.

In the final match MDG could not score on any of their serves and DFF held a slight lead at 9 -5 with Duran serving. Yale and his service points got the game to 14-7, and then MDG's Jenifer Bricker's serving got the score to 14-9. Colon served the final point as DFF captured the crown.

Biava said he was proud of his team

"Some of the players had to really step up tonight and they really did," he said. "We can't take anything away from DFF. They play a tough, solid volleyball game."

Nell was just as proud of his players.

"They played hard and they wanted to win," he said. "They played three matches tonight and won them all. I'm so very proud of my team."

Next up is the Rocky Mountain Military Volleyball Championship at Schriever Air Force Base May 10.

### Falcons finish spring practice



Photos by Capt. Uriah Orland

Ben Cochran rifles a pass during the final spring football practice at Falcon Stadium Saturday. Head Coach, Troy Calhoun, looks on and evaluates the freshman as a possible starter for next season.



Ryan Harrison lets it fly during warm-up drills at Falcon Stadium Saturday. During warm-ups, the soon-to-be senior made a 63yarder with the wind.

(Air Force) dec. Mikoto Yoshida (Navy) 119-lbs.: Matt Longo (Army) dec. Jesse Horton (Air Force)

165-lbs.: Ryan Kotey (Nevada) dec. Daryn Nelson (Air Force)

Lacrosse April II at AFA Falcons 13

Bellarmine 8

April 13 at AFA Falcons 10 (OT)

Quinnipiac II

Men's Tennis

April 4 at Albuquerque, N.M. San Diego State 7 Falcons 0

New Mexico 7 Falcons 0 April 6 at Albuquerque, N.M. Utah 7

April 5 at Albuquerque, N.M.

Women's Tennis April II at San Diego San Diego State 7

Falcons 0

<u>April 13 at San Diego</u> UNLY 7 Falcons 0

Track and Field

April 12 at Boulder, Colo. Colorado Invitational Melissa Beerse, pole vault, 13'1 1/2", 1st Sara Neubauer, shot put, 50'4 ½", 1st Dan Paladino, hammer throw, 194'3", 1st Devin Hart, long jump, 22'1", 1st Travis Picou, 100-meter dash, 10.61, 1st Noah Palicia, pole vault, 14'9", 1st

April 12 at Tempe, Ariz. Sun Angel Classic Ally Romanko, 800-meter run, 2:09.77, 7th Daniel Castle, 1500-meter run, 3:45.40 Kevin Hawkins, 800-meter run, 1:49.74

**Women's Gymnastics** 

April 12 at Minneapolis NCAA North Central Regional Brittany Dutton, 38.225, 17th Michelle Denise, 37.475, 20<sup>th</sup> Abigail Rogers, 36.800, 22<sup>nd</sup> Kayla Kincade, balance beam, 9.650



#### Athletic facility closures

The Hall of Excellence, located in the Falcon Athletic Complex, is closed for minor construction through May 17.

#### AFRF offers options

-Newcomer's Base Red Carpet Tour; today, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: An informative, fun-filled base tour that gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals all there is to see and do here.

-Sponsorship training; April 29, 8 to 9 a.m.: This is a mandatory class for those who have been assigned to sponsor a newcomer to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

-Smooth Move; April 30, 9 to 10 a.m.: Lessen the stress of an upcoming move by learning innovative ways to make it a smooth one. This is a mandatory class for all Academy people going through a permanent change of station.



#### **CADET CHAPEL**

#### Catholic Masses:

Sunday

Reconciliation 9:15-9:45 a.m. (or by appointment)

Mass - 10 a.m.

#### Weekday

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

Wednesday

Catholic Adoration - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Mass - 6 p.m.

### **Protestant Services:**

Sunday

Traditional - 9:00 a.m. Hill Fellowship - 11:00 a.m.

Jewish Services

Fridays - 7 p.m.

**Buddhist Worship** Wed. - 6:30 p.m. - All Faiths Room

#### Muslim Prayer

Fridays - Noon - Muslim Prayer Room, **Chapel Basement** 

#### **COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL**

Catholic Masses: Saturday

Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.

Mass - 4 p.m.

Sunday

Mass - 9:30 a.m.

Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m.

(Sept. - May) **Tuesday-Friday** 

Mass - 11:30 a.m.

#### **Protestant Services:**

Saturday

Contemporary - 6 p.m. Sunday

Traditional - 8 a.m.

Gospel - 11:15 a.m. Religious formation - 9:30 a.m.

(Sept. - May)

#### Military Academy Pagan Society

Third Thursday - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (For more info, call TSgt. Longcrier at 333-6187.)

For more information, call 333-3300.

-Mock Interviewing Session; April 30, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Participate in a mock interview with a real HR represen-

-Transition Assistance Program **Seminar**: People separating in a year or retiring in two years can call the Airman & Family Readiness Flight to reserve a spot in the next available TAP class. The class guides people through building a resume, interviewing skills, networking, dressing for success and more.

For more information or to register for a class, call 333-3444.

#### Bike race

The Air Force Cadet Cycling Team hosts the Rocky Mountain West Cycling Conference Race at the Academy Saturday and Sunday. On these days, Academy drivers should be aware of cyclists on the roads and also be aware of the possibility of slight delays due to the race. Drivers are asked to be patient and not pass unsafely. Races will begin Saturday from 7 to 10:30 a.m. and again Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For spectators who would like to view the races, the best views available both days are on Pine Drive or by the cadet athletic fields on the uphill near the overlooks. Anyone interested in participating, helping or getting more information should contact Maj. Jim Weinstein at 333-5305.

#### **OSC** function

The Academy Officers' Spouses' Club hosts a Kitchen Bingo Luncheon Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Falcon Club. For more information or to RSVP, contact Deb Coppock at 574-1485 or kedekeka @aol.com by 9 p.m. Sunday.

#### Charity screening

In preparation for the upcoming Combined Federal Campaign, volunteers are needed to assist in screening the applications of charities applying to be included in this year's CFC. The event is Thursday and Academy military and civilians may volunteer two hours or more. Training and lunch will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, contact Steve Sandridge at 333-8812 or steven. sandridge@usafa.af.mil.

#### Tax assistance

The Academy Tax Center will remain open past the traditional filing season in an effort to further assist redeploying Airmen. While this service is aimed at accommodating deployers, Airmen who have delayed in filing their taxes for other reasons may be seen on a limited basis. If you will receive a refund, there is no penalty for filing your taxes after the April 15 deadline. If you have taxes due, penalties and interest may be assessed. Airman can avoid these fines by submitting an extension request, along with a check for the amount of taxes owed. Even if a refund is anticipated, submitting an extension request is recommended to preserve any actions tied to a "timely filed" return. The Tax Center operates under the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is designed to assist in the preparation of simple taxes. The tax preparers are prohibited from preparing business taxes ,as well as a few other types of taxes

requiring specialized expertise. Hours will be limited. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call

#### **Ceremony recognizes** volunteers

Academy volunteers who share their time and talents to make a difference in our military and local communities will be honored with a special Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony at the Falcon Club Friday. Deli sandwiches and light hors d'oeuvres will be served from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and the official ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. The Academy community is invited to attend and support its outstanding volunteers.

#### Deployment open house

The Airman & Family Readiness Center host an informal Deployment Open House April 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for Academy deployers and their families. The goal is to have an inviting, warm and relaxing atmosphere while offering access to the base support agencies, in addition to acquainting families with the Airman & Family Readiness Center location and available programs. The dress for attendees is civilian casual. Food and refreshments will be provided. For more information or to RSVP, call 333-3444 by Friday.

#### Spaghetti dinner

The Airman & Family Readiness Center hosts a free spaghetti dinner for the Academy's deployed members' families May 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. For more information or to RSVP, call Tech. Sgt. Lisa Taylor at 333-6393.

#### Law Day golf

The Academy legal office will host their annual Academy Law Day Golf Scramble May 2 at the Eisenhower Golf Course. The event will be a morning scramble with registration, breakfast and driving range use beginning at 6:30 a.m. Fees for the event, being held on the Silver Course, are \$52 for active duty and DoD civilian personnel and \$85 for non-affiliated guests. The fee includes greens and cart fee, driving range use, food and beverage and hole prizes. For more information or to register, call Capt. Aaron Haase at 333-0739. Deadline for entry is Thursday.

#### Spouse appreciation

A Military Spouse Appreciation Day event will be held May 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Armed Services YMCA at 2190 Jet Wing Dr. in Colorado Springs. The free event will feature hair cuts, cooking on a budget demonstrations, massages, fashion shows, lunch, crafts and more. Limited childcare is available with prior reservations. For more information, call (719) 622-9622.

#### Toastmasters sought

The Academy is starting a Toastmaster International chapter and is seeking those interested in attending. Those interested must submit their names, and once all the names are collected, a demonstration meeting will be scheduled with the regional director.

To submit your name or for more information, contact Master Sgt. Angela Evans at angela.evans@usafa.edu or Master Sgt. Donald Comp at donald.comp@ usafa.edu.



#### Scholarships offered

As part of the Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade, Aleut Management Services, in coordination with the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Division, sponsors scholarships awarded to deserving family members of U.S. military servicemembers killed or wounded in action while in a designated combat zone. The scholarships are awarded to family members who have been accepted into an accredited college or university, or who are current college students seeking support for either a traditional degree-seeking program up to and including master's degrees, or for vocational/career and technical education. Applicants must be committed to attend during the 2007/2008 academic year.

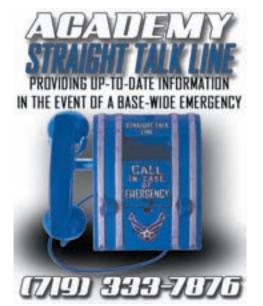
For more information or for a scholarship application, contact Brian Binn at (719) 575-4325 or brian@cscc.org, or Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade Event Manager, Brenda Carender at (719) 262-7160 or brenda.carender@aleutmgt.com.

#### Chorale concert set

The Colorado Springs Chorale offers "Music's Fire," a classical concert, Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets range from \$16-\$48 and a \$2 military discount is offered. For tickets, call (719) 520-7469 or visit the Pikes Peak Center box office or any TicketsWest outlet.

#### Cadets present concert

The Academy Catholic Cadet Choir and Cadet Community Orchestra are scheduled to present a public concert at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Colorado Springs Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The concert will feature sacred choral and patriotic music as well as instrumental chamber music and will include works by Palestrina, Hassler, Faure', Mozart and Vivaldi Gloria. The concert is free and open to the public, and tickets are not required. For more information, call Gary De Kler at 333-7868.



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