

Academy officers advance

Congratulations to the following Academy officers recently selected for promotion: Selected for colonel



John Abbatiello Keith Boyer Daniel Driscoll Steve Dutkus John Tomjack

Nicola Adams

Randall White Selected for lieutenant colonel



Selected for major



Flexible

leader

serving as

Nicole Cioni Gwendolyn Kaegy Dwayne Rolniak



Cadet Wing commander.



Horse play Stubbs celebrates birthday bash with many excited guests. Page 14



Missile retires after 37 years of Academy service

By Master Sgt. Dean Miller Academy Public Affairs

Dual responsibilities to represent those in the Long Blue Line — past and present — and a mission to inspire future officers, are obligations of cadets and graduates alike; they are also attributes of the various weapon systems on display at the Academy. For one such display, retirement day arrives Wednesday.

Standing in front of the Cadet Field House since its dedication ceremony, Dec. 9, 1971, the Minuteman III ICBM display has inspired thousands of Academy cadets over the years, many of whom perform strategic missile operations in America's missile fields today. The Academy's MMIII, still in the nation's official missile inventory and subject to Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I) monitoring, is being retired from permanent display here. Based on a possibility of collapse related to internal corrosion causing potential structural integrity problems combined with high winds common to the area- the Cold War veteran is being removed as a safety precaution.

"It is fitting that the Minuteman III is prominently displayed at the Academy," said Director of Academy Communications Johnny Whitaker, whose office is also responsible for presentational static display aircraft on the Academy. "It represents a strategic weapon system that helps maintain our nation's security every night — a system that has been a vital deterrent of nuclear war and stalwart sentry of peace for decades.



The Academy's Minuteman III display near the Cadet Field House will be dis-

Glamour shots Firstie selected as one of magazine's top 10 college role models. Page 17

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See MISSILE, Page 15 assembled next week.

AOG announces new CEO

The Association of Graduates of the U.S. Air Force Academy announced the selection of William L. Thompson, Class of 1973, as the organization's president and chief executive officer.

Known as "T" to classmates and friends, he brings years of experience to the AOG as an award-winning entrepreneur, airline pilot, community and government leader, tax attorney, and public speaker.

While working as a Delta Air Lines pilot, he owned several successful small businesses, and served on boards of directors of a number of diverse organizations, ranging from national charities to local

banks. Mr. Thompson served for 17 years as head of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, under three governors from both political parties.

Service to organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Bank of America, Boeing, Boy Scouts of America, and 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. further enhances his résumé.

According to Mr. Thompson, in looking at what other service academy alumni associations have accomplished, he has set his sights high.

"There is no reason why we can't organize our grads and friends of the AOG

and the Academy to surpass those excellent organizations in what they do for their members and their institutions. That's my goal going in," he said.

As a cadet, Mr. Thompson was a receiver on the 1971 Falcon team that went to the Sugar Bowl, and as a firstie he served on the Cadet Wing staff.

Thompson assumed the position Monday. He succeeds Gary Howe, Class of 1969, who served as CEO since the retirement of Jim Shaw, Class of 1967. Mr. Shaw left the position in March after more than 15 years of service to the organization.

New CSAF addresses entire Air Force

BORNENTARY

It is an extraordinary privilege for Suzie and me to join you as your new first family. We are grateful for this rare opportunity. I want to lay out what I think is important as clearly as I can. The U.S. Air Force is a premier organization that provides our nation a vast array of capabilities in air, space and cyberspace. The nation is at war and the capabilities we provide our leadership are critical to success. Whether our contribution is in irregular warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan, the fight to save lives through humanitarian relief operations, or deterrence and dissuasion of potential adversaries, the Air Force is a key contributor to the national defense of America.

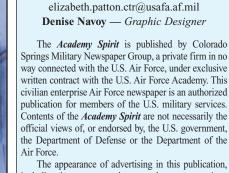
We are part of a joint team that trusts us to perform superbly when called upon. Everyone in this organization contributes to our readiness—no one should measure their worth by their proximity to the target. For many years, the U.S. Air Force has been at the forefront of our nation's business worldwide. As we continue to fulfill the high expectations others have for us, let's approach our business with enthusiasm, quiet professionalism, and an abiding respect for one another and our joint and coalition teammates.

Please visit *https://www.my.af.mil/afp/netstorage/ csaf/AFLoginVideo.html* to view my introductory message. My promise to you is I will lead from the front; I'll work hard every day and strive to maintain the same high standards as each of you; and along the way we'll have fun, too!

NORTON A. SCHWARTZ General, USAF Chief of Staff



Gen. Norton Schwartz accepts the Air Force flag from acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley Tuesday during a welcoming ceremony at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., in honor of General Schwartz. The general is the 19th Air Force chief of staff.



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Submissions

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.

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

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

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

Character Corner What's the score in life's game?

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By Chaplain (Maj.) George Youstra Center for Character Development

Every endeavor or "game" in life has its own rules and its own definition of what it means to win.

Some teams measure success in the points scored (look at the Denver Nuggets or Phoenix Suns) and others in championships won (look at the San Antonio Spurs).Which is really the more successful NBA team? Some teams are more concerned in their profits while others may look to the number of people they serve. But no matter what the game is, there is always a scoreboard. If a team is to accomplish its goals, it has to know the score.

Why is the score so important? Because team members who succeed make adjustments to continually improve themselves and their situations. In preparation, teams come up with detailed game plans. But as the game goes on, the game plan means less and less, while the scoreboard becomes more and

more important. Why? Because the game is constantly changing. You see, the game plan tells you what you want to happen while the scoreboard tells you what really is happening.

Similarly, circumstances in life are like the game—constantly changing. Your character is like the scoreboard—it tells where you really are in the game of life by how you respond to your circumstances. I challenge you to always know the score by being settled and prepared to respond appropriately in your game of life.





To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public

about the Air Force Academy

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August 15

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



When you've been done wrong, is it easier to forgive or forget?

"It's much easier to forgive. If you can forgive, you can also forget."

"It's easier to forgive – if you forget, you're not applying any lesson to whatever the mistake was." "It's easier to forgive, especially if it's an honest mistake and the explanation is acceptable. Forgetting is not as easy, especially if it affects the mission." "It's easier to forget. If you just let it go, that's easier than a face-toface encounter to forgive."

Lyle Hagelberg Volunteer, Academy Retiree Activities Office



Senior Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia Superintendent, MPF



Tech. Sgt. Julie Waltz NCO-in-Charge, Command Assignments



counter to forgive."

Airman Daniel Johnson I Oth Medical Group







Gymnast to lead as Cadet Wing commander

Cadet says he's idolized individual since freshman year

By Valerie Perkin

Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director

Air Force senior gymnast Cadet 1st Class Jacob Schonig was selected as the Academy's Cadet Wing Commander for the 2008 fall semester. The position, which oversees the daily operations of the cadet wing, is the highest leadership role attainable by a cadet. Cadet Schonig is the 20th Air Force athlete to receive the title of wing commander.



Cadet Jacob Schonig mmander.

"Since my (freshman) year at the Academy, the wing commander has always been an individual who I've idolized," Cadet Schonig said. "When I was appointed to be the next wing commander, it was hard for me to believe. I never thought I would be given this amazing opportunity. Having the honor of leading these outstanding cadets is a dream come true for me."

As the Academy's Cadet Wing commander, Cadet Schonig reports directly to the Commandant of Cadets and is responsible for all duty functions performed by the cadets. He and his staff supervise all Cadet Wing activities, while enforcing proper discipline and conduct within the wing. He also has numerous other assigned responsibilities, including supervising the group commanders and executing wing-wide projects. In order to become a Cadet Wing commander, a cadet must pass a rigorous selection process. More than 200 are nominated at the squadron level. This is eventually narrowed down to the top 25 in the wing. There are three wing commanders chosen each year – one for the summer term, one for the fall term and one for the spring term.

Schonig will also serve as a co-captain for the men's

gymnastics team this season. Despite not competing in gymnastics until after entering the Academy, he is a twotime participant at the NCAA Championships, a twotime USA Gymnastics All-American and the 2008 USAG national collegiate champion on the still rings. He is also an all-academic team selection by the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation and the College Gymnastics Association.



New Exhibits

Photo by Richard Dro

Mike Borrello, left, and John Barnett place a new photo panel in its holder at the North Overlook Tuesday. The National Parks Service and Academy Public Affairs office collaborated on the project, creating four new exhibits to replace the old display. Mr. Borrello and Mr. Barnett are employees with CH2MHILL. The Academy's North Overlook is a popular stopping spot for visitors.



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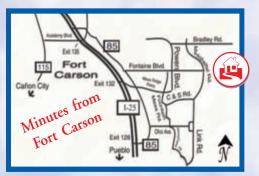
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Virtual Airman's Attic available on-line

Members with excess houshold items can donate to families in need

By Capt. Corinna Jones Academy Public Affairs

If you have too much stuff and don't desire to hold a garage sale, you can give away your belongings at the click of a mouse.

The Academy Airman's Attic now has a virtual option, a web-based program, allowing items to be donated to military members and their families in the rank of staff sergeant and below.

"When times are tough, the attic is here to support families with giving new clothes to ever growing kids, nice household items to make a "military house" feel a little more like "home" and to give furniture to growing families or Newlyweds," Ms. Cassandra Nordin, Airman's Attic coordinator. "The virtual Airman's Attic will allow families who are unable to donate to the physical space of the attic, to still give away their items to families in need. Say you have a couch that you need to get rid of but have no truck to bring it to our location. You can list the couch on the vAA and someone in need of a couch can come and pick it up from your house. It's a great alternative."

Items must be offered free of charge. Anyone with a common access card can donate an item by providing a photo and/or written description of the item with contact information of either an e-mail address or phone number by email to airmenattic @usafa.af.mil

E-mailed donations are consolidated every Friday and uploaded on the vAA the following week. Listings are posted for three weeks, unless the donor notifies vAA the item has been picked up.

Local Airmen and their family members can shop for items they need or want by searching the vAA website. However, the site must be accessed with a

common access card at: https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil /ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-SC-SP-67.

Virtual Airmans' Attic users will coordinate pickup of donations directly with the donor and must not intend to sell the items received. Doing so will terminate your privileges of donating and receiving through the Academy Airman's Attic.

Computers are available at the Academy's Airmen and Family Readiness Center during normal duty hours.

Going online is only one new program Airman's Attic is offering.

"We have a very small food pantry to help families who are in desperate need with about two days worth of food. They can use this program one time every two months. We stress to our families that this is not a money saving program but a last resort program when your pantry is bare and you have no money to buy food to feed your family," Ms. Nordin said.

Another program is designed to assist families of staff sergeants who are expecting a new baby with a nice gift from the attic.

"Families just need to come into the attic about a month before their due date and just let us know that they are about to have a baby," she said. "Then after the baby is born, when they are comfortable to get out again, just come on over and pick it up.

Ms. Nordin said this program is in no way taking away from the Bundle for Babies program the Airman and Family Readiness Center offers and recommends new families to participate in both programs, as the knowledge in the A&FRC Bundles program offers is vital to all new parents!

Airman's Attic is open to all ranks the third Thursday of every month. Staff sergeants and below have access to the full inventory, and technical sergeants and above are asked to not take furniture or baby items, except clothing.

The Air Force Academy is currently in the process of finding the Airman's Attic a new location on the base to better serve families. Airman's Attic also needs volunteers to help run the new location during open hours and for several operations going on during closed hours.

Airman's Attic is currently located at 8010 Sagebrush Drive and open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 472-7923 or 333-3445.

DONATION GUIDELINES

Items donated must be in good working condition, no non-working electronics, no clothes with rips, stains or holes. No undergarments or food.

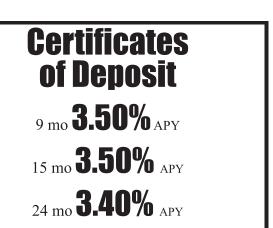
Items donated during open hours to the location will be offered a tax receipt, no receipt will be given to thing dropped off after hours.

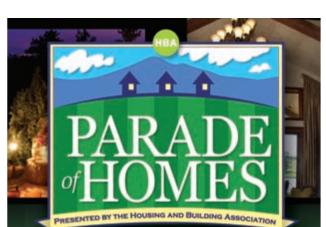
Donation limitations: unlimited clothing, 20 miscellaneous items each visit. (limits may change with inventory and demand).

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Bush outlines humanitarian, diplomatic intervention

By John Kruzel American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. military will head humanitarian relief operations in Georgia, President Bush said Wednesday. A C-17 aircraft already has been deployed to deliver the first round of supplies.

"And in the days ahead, we will use U.S. aircraft as well as naval forces to deliver humanitarian and medical supplies," Bush added during a White House news conference today following meetings with his national security team.

Bush called on Russia to honor its commitment to allow all forms of humanitarian assistance to enter and to ensure that all lines of communication and transport — seaports, airports, roads and airspace — remain open for the delivery of assistance and for civilian transit.

Meanwhile, the president is dispatching Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to France, where she is slated to meet with France's President Nicholas Sarkozy, who, as current president of the European Union, is leading negotiations to broker a peace agreement.

Bush reiterated the United States' support of the democratically elected government of Georgia, saying the U.S. insists that "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected." Bush expressed concerns that Russia is continuing attacks on Georgia despite a ceasefire pledge by Moscow. During today's briefing, he laid out U.S. plans for humanitarian and diplomatic intervention in the former Soviet republic.

Reports detailing ongoing Russian aggression in Georgia contradict Russia's claim that it has ceased military operations there, Bush said at the White House.

"Russia has also stated that it has halted military operations and agreed to a provisional cease-fire," Bush said. "Unfortunately, we're receiving reports of Russian actions that are inconsistent with these statements.

"We expect Russia to meet its commitment to cease all military activities in Georgia, and we expect all Russian forces who have entered Georgia in recent days to withdraw from that country," he added.

According to reports, Bush said, Russian units have taken up positions on the east side of the city of Gori, which allows them to block the east-west highway, divide the country and threaten the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

Information further indicates that Russian forces have entered and taken positions in the port city of Poti, that armored vehicles are blocking access to the port, and that Russia is destroying Georgian vessels.

"We're concerned about reports that



Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers

International press photograph the first of 16 pallets containing \$1 million in humanitarian aid to the Republic of Georgia. The delivery was a joint-service effort between U.S Army Europe Soldiers and Airmen representing U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Mobility Command.

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Georgian citizens of all ethnic origins are not being protected," Bush said. "All forces, including Russian forces, have an obligation to protect innocent civilians from attack."

Echoing his previous remarks, Bush said Russia's actions have damaged the country's standing with the U.S., Europe and other nations, and raise serious questions about its intentions in Georgia and the region. He added that the U.S. and the world expect Russia to honor their commitment to refrain from deposing Georgia's democratic government.

"To begin to repair the damage to its relations with the United States, Europe and other nations, and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must keep its word and act to end this crisis," he said Wednesday.

Now more than a week in conflict, fighting in the breakaway Georgian region of South Ossetia broadened to include Russian attacks on Abkhazia, another heavily separatist region, among other parts of the country.

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IDEA program could fatten one's wallet

By Ann Patton Academy Spirit staff

Ever have a light bulb go off in your head for a way to make the Air Force faster, better or cheaper?

Steve Sandridge thought he had a way, and it earned him \$200 for speaking up.

The programs analyst with the Academy office of Plans and Programs believed the local policy on civilian employee physical fitness could be improved.

Previously the policy allowed excused absences for civilians to participate in various physical fitness and recreational activities one hour a day for up to three days a week.

However, those hours required participants to take the excused absence in conjunction with their regularly scheduled lunch period.

Mr. Sandridge proposed the policy be changed to allow participants to use the one-hour allowance when they wanted, not just around lunch hours.

"It's a lot more convenient," Mr. Sandridge said.

He also argued his proposal would save transit time, thus increase workout time, allow civilians to participate in unit PT and allow them take advantage of off-peak times at physical fitness facilities.

His idea became a reality in June when the new policy went into effect.

The IDEA program might be considered a sub-set of Air Force Smart Operations-21. While AFSO-21 manages large, enterprise-level improvement, the IDEA program typically targets a specific part of the process, usually because a single individual has a good idea.

Monetary awards are calculated on first-year savings only and can be as high as \$10,000 for each approved idea resulting in validated tangible savings, and \$200 for approved ideas resulting in intangible benefits.

Tangible savings awards are 15 percent of validated savings. A total award will be no less than \$200 and no more than \$10,000. The intangible benefits award is fixed at \$200.

Anyone can submit an idea but only Air Force members, federal civilian employees and Academy cadets may earn cash for their ideas.

"We highly recommend people submit ideas, and they can earn some cash," said Janet Gomes, Academy IDEA manager.

IDEAs must be clearly titled, present the current method or directive and provide a detailed solution with present and proposed methods and expected benefits and be within a submitter's job responsibility.

IDEAs may not be merely thoughts or opinions or be a forum for complaints or criticisms.

The process is online at *https://ipds.mont.disa.mil*. Anyone may log on and create an account.

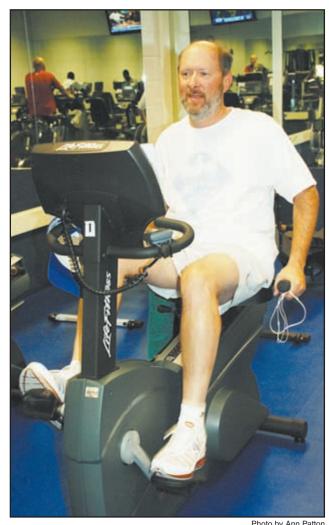
Ms. Gomes said those thinking about submitting an idea should check the Web site's IDEA pool first. The pool provides information on all previous proposals and their status, thus saving proponents time and energy if their idea has already been submitted.

Submissions are handled quickly.

Base-level evaluators must complete an idea evaluation within five working days of receipt of notification. Major command level and Air Force-level evaluators must complete the evaluation within 10 working days of receipt of notification.

"We really try to push it and stay on top of it," Ms. Gomes said of submitted proposals.

For more information, visit the Web site noted above or call 333-IDEA (4332).



Steve Sandridge uses the new policy allowing civilians to work out at their convenience rather than in conjunction with lunch hours. The programs analyst with the Academy office of Plans and Programs suggested the new policy and earned \$200 through the IDEA program.



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Academy holds Youth Diversity Outreach Program

By Butch Wehry Academy Spirit staff

The 2nd Annual Academy Youth Diversity Outreach Program matched 11 Colorado Springs youth with 11 cadets Aug. 6.

"It was designed to give a handful of children, ages 10to 13, a rare glimpse into a day-in-the-life of a cadet, thus introducing our young citizens to local opportunities," said Col. Gail Colvin, vice commandant of cadets and a 1980 Academy graduate.

Her class forged the way as the first in which women graduated from the Academy, opening the door for change and diversity.

For the visiting youngsters, it was a memorable day witnessing the Academy Acceptance Day Parade, an educational visit to the cadet falconry program and lunch at Mitchell Hall.

Cadet 2nd Class Daniel Walker, a Cadet Squadron 40 political science major from Grand Prairie, Texas, thinks a lack of significant minority representation could impede the school from reaching a higher standard.

"If minorities even know this institution exists, they often lack factual information about the Academy, how to apply, and how to qualify academically for admission," said Cadet Walker. "To conquer these issues, we, as cadets and the



Cadet 3rd Class Gavin Foley and Jerrod Buice chat at the 2nd Annual Academy Youth Diversity Outreach Program. It is designed to give 10- to 13year-olds a rare glimpse into a day in the life of a cadet, introducing young citizens to local opportunities.

Academy, have to put forth a chance for youth to come see what we are all about and put a voice and face to their perceptions."

It was up to Cadet Walker to recruit the cadets he felt could make the biggest impact on the incoming youngsters, helping escort the youth to the Acceptance Day Parade and throughout the rest of the day.

He had help from Cadets 1st Class James Hall, Harvey White and Rudy Bowen, Cadets 2nd Class Chelsea Tomkins, Kevin Chavez, Chris Allen, Kayla Beach and Cadets 3rd Class Gavin Foley and Eddie Solange.

"At an institution that demands so much from its students, it can be hard to find people with the time to help out. But these cadets found a way and I would like to thank them for that," Cadet Walker said.

As for the children who participated, some came in hesitant, but all

gave it their best.

"Most, if not all, of our guests came in shy; some even refused to do the ropes course when we told them we were headed that way," Cadet Walker said. "However, at the end of the day, everyone completed the course."

The cadet -in-charge saw future presidents, generals and CEOs in the group of youngsters.

"These kids found something within themselves that allowed them to push past their fears and inhibitions. I did not want a single kid leaving the Academy not believing that they were capable of everything including the perceived impossible. I wanted them to realize they were born with gifts that make them special and that they need to utilize those gifts," he said.

Cadet Walker said he hoped the children would see the cadets who were escorting them are not super heroes.

"I wanted them to know we were all kids like them and that they could easily be just as successful if not more successful than us if they just make the right decisions."

"As long we keep up the connections we made with these kids and a few of them, if not all, get going down the right track, then I will be satisfied," he said. "I didn't want this to be another tour, so the day I know it made a difference will be the day I am completely satisfied with my involvement."

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one else told them to sell. As markets spiraled downward, these wealthy individuals invested significant sums of money to acquire assets at discounted prices.

When the market eventually rebounded, as they always do, their wealth escalated significantly.

Consider J. Paul Getty's purchase of the Hotel Pierre in the midst of the depression for \$2.35 million. When the economy rebounded, this hotel went on to be worth between \$25 and \$35 million.

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The story behind the story of base defense

By Butch Wehry Academy Spirit staff

Maj. Matthew Rodman was officer in charge of this year's base defense training and he relied upon the wealth of knowledge provided by the Academy's NCO cadre to make changes.

"They live and breathe air base defense and did a great job training cadet cadre. It is always a joy to watch the NCOs, all Academy Military Trainers, work," said the Academy history instructor from Lubbock, Texas.

Not surprisingly, they make it a point to include recent and relevant material from the Global War on Terror.

"We incorporate these 'war stories' at every turn," Major Rodman said. "It's critical new cadets understand the Air Force mission goes well beyond fighting from a cockpit."

Except for NCOs from the Cadet Wing, all other permanent party members helping him were from the Academy Department of History.

"We are very keen to continually incorporate documented historical examples into the training," the major said. "We're not just making this stuff up to 'play army."

He drew upon his own deployments to tweak training.

"Although air base defense is the most visible lesson learned at Ops Warrior, it is not the only one," Major Rodman said. "There are thousands of Airmen deployed in the Global War on Terror and many of them are on the ground."

From his experience on several deployments, Major Rodman is very familiar with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers. In the operational Air Force, he is a B-1B weapon systems officer instructor.

'These Airmen and their Air Liaison Officers, pulled

from the cockpits of combat aircraft, are critical to putting bombs on target when working in coordination with ground units. They are integrated directly with Army units on the ground in both Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "When an Army unit needs help, the call goes through the JTAC. For me, that means that an Airman is talking to an aircrew. We speak the same Air Force language. We train together, and given the need, we work as a team to eliminate the enemy. It is a great working relationship, but it requires Airmen and officers on the ground. The skills we teach at Ops Warrior are the very first step to learning the skills needed down there."

When Air Force personnel are integrated with the Army, the major feels they have to be able to hold their own and that's exactly what they do, he said.

"I want new cadets to understand there is a better than even chance they will be deployed on the ground, even if they are flyers, before their career is finished," the major said. "Not only are ALOs flyers, there are aviators performing counter-IED duties on the ground, acting as members of provisional reconstruction teams, sometimes travelling with convoys and executing a host of other missions that could benefit from our training. And, of course, there are also the dedicated jobs like security forces, combat control and para-rescue that rely upon the kind of skills we introduce."

A tactical air control element from Fort Carson's 13th Air Support Operations Squadron was at Jacks Valley every day during lunch to speak to the basics.

"They have been there and done that and I believe their daily speeches opened plenty of eyes about one of the key Air Force 'on the ground' missions," the officerin-charge said.

But it's not just about air base defense. "Given the war we're fighting, officers can very well be expected to man defensive positions," Major Rodman said. "It's not common, but it is certainly not without precedent ... especially on a bare-bones base that is being hastily established. And, even if you, the officer, never spend an hour in a defensive fighting position, your troops will. It pays for you to understand what those in your charge are doing. You are the one responsible for making sure they have what they need and that they can get the job done."

His goal is simple.

"I tell this to every basic cadet squadron at the end of the day," he said. "In four years, if they dedicate themselves to earning their commissions through the Academy, I want them to walk across the stage thinking back on how much fun Ops Warrior was in their first summer. I want them to think about just how much the cadet and permanent party cadre taught them that hot summer day out at Jacks. Of all their Academy memories, I want them to remember Ops Warrior as one of the best. As we scale back from overseas bases and often deploy into spartan conditions, I promise that the Airmen will be heavily involved in ground tasks, to include security, for the foreseeable future.

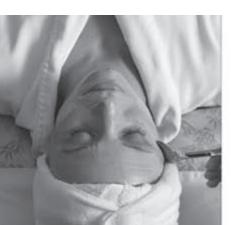
"Even in the Air Force, you may be called upon to perform ground-related tasks," Major Rodman said. "We are a joint war-fighting team in today's military. I have directly supported Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine troops on the ground with both kinetic and non-kinetic airpower. Understanding what the 'guy on the ground' is doing allows me to support him more effectively and vice versa."

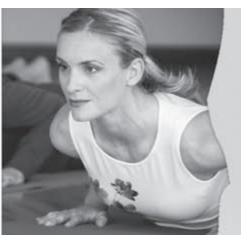
Major Rodman was recognized by Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins as the courses permanent party "Operation Warrior" officer-in-charge for 2008 Basic Cadet Training.

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Citibank officials will mail out new government travel charge cards Wednesday through Sept. 19. Initial distribution will begin with cardholders at overseas locations and migrate from the west to the east coast.

The new cards will be sent to addresses on file with Bank of America, so all cardholders must ensure their address will be returned to Citibank.

Those who do not receive a new card by Oct. 1 should contact their local agency program coordinator. The new cards will not be active until Nov. 30, so cardholders will continue to use the Bank of America cards until then.

Upon receiving the new card, all cardholders will need to verify receipt by following the instructions affixed to the card.

Travel Card Mailing Schedule:

Wednesday through Aug. 25: Overseas bases, U.S. territories, Alabama, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico

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Aug. 22 through Sept. 2: Montana, Wyoming, North information is current. Any mail sent to an incorrect Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin and Michigan

> Aug. 29 through Sept. 9: Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana

> Sept. 8 through 16: District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois

Sept. 15 through 23: Virginia and Florida.

Operation: New DoD Travel Card Issued by Citi"



Retraining offers NCOs new career opportunities

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force is seeking volunteers to accept jobs in more than 1,077 shortage career field and special duty positions during the 2009 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program which began Aug. 1.

The Air Force especially needs NCOs to choose opportunities to conduct investigative work in the Office of Special Investigation career field or to lead Airmen as a 'shirt' in the first sergeant career field. NCOs were notified Aug. 6 that they have been identified to retrain.

They must choose from the listing of shortage career fields when submitting their retraining packages which are due no later than Sept. 30.

"NCOs have the opportunity now to volunteer and

establish a career path of their own choosing," said Chief Master Sgt. Christine Williams, chief of the Air Force Personnel Center enlisted skills management branch here. "Last year, volunteers filled 62 percent of career field shortages, and we hope to eclipse that percentage this year."

Eligible NCOs can now apply for retraining through the Air Force Personnel Center online applications process. When needed, personnel assistance is available for retraining questions through the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center.

Retraining eligibility listings by grade and Air Force Specialty Code were posted on AFPC's virtual Military Personnel Flight Web site Aug. 6. By selecting a particular grade or projected grade, NCOs may view their ranking on the list and apply for retraining.

"AFPC is making personnel services as easy as online banking," said Chief Williams. "If you need to submit a package, you do it all on line."

Master Sgt. Deitra Mathis said now is the best time for those NCOs identified for retraining to get started.

"The Air Force will take additional steps if necessary to fill these shortage career fields, but would prefer to fill them with volunteers," said Sergeant Mathis, the AFPC enlisted retraining superintendent.

For more information, Airmen should contact their base career assistance advisor or the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775 or DSN 665-5000.



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Spectators find COS Annual Balloon Classic uplifting

Academy cadet pilot launches for fourth straight year

By Ken Carter Editor

While many infants, with still blurry vision, are captivated by toy hot-air balloons attached to the railing of their cribs, one Academy cadet, starting at less than two weeks of age, has never settled for anything less than the real thing.

Each Labor Day weekend, weather permitting, the Colorado Springs



early morning sky-line becomes even more breathtaking as, just after sunrise, dozens and dozens of hot-air balloons lift off from Memorial Park. There are also Glows[®] both Saturday and Sunday evening, again, weather permitting with the weekend's activities likely to draw some 250,000 spectators.

For the fourth consecutive year, Cadet 1st Class Ryan Lowenstein from Cadet Squadron 39 will be the youngest pilot to float overhead during the annual Colorado Springs Balloon Classic Aug. 30 through Sept. 1.

Born and raised in Albuquerque, N.M., Cadet Lowenstein has been around the sport "Crewing forever and piloting since June 2003," he said. He has approximately 90 hours of flight time to date with the average ride lasting about an hour.

"Albuquerque is the balloon capital of the world with the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta held there every year the first week (9 days) of October," the soon-to-be 22-year-old balloonist said. "My obstetrician was a hot-air balloon pilot, and I was born on the 26th (of September), and out at the fiesta on the first week of October. I have literally been around balloons since I was less than two weeks old. I started working on my piloting license when I was 14, and actually got my certification at 16, and flew both my junior and senior year of high school as the youngest pilot in the AIBF."

The Albuquerque native's ballooning experience has been instrumental in preparing him to serve as an Air Force officer and future pilot.

"Ballooning requires making decisions on the fly when the stakes are quite high," Cadet Lowenstein said. "As a future Air Force pilot, the piloting skills I've learned flying balloons will prove invaluable. With a fixed wing aircraft, there is a motor and directional control. Balloon pilots have neither of these and therefore, when we're in the air we have to find winds where we want to go based on altitude and then find a suitable place to land. Every time we fly, we take off without knowing where we're going to land and have to evaluate the wind situation to find a spot."

The sport also helps lay the groundwork for effectively working together with a flight crew.

"Ballooning requires several people to make a flight happen, not a one man show and, as such, the skills of organizing my crew and assigning and explaining tasks is also useful to a future Air Force officer," he said.

Ballooning is clearly a team sport. There is no way a pilot can set everything up, fly, and pack it up alone. Every step of the process requires crew participation, and the chase crew that follows the balloon after takeoff and tries to be there upon landing.

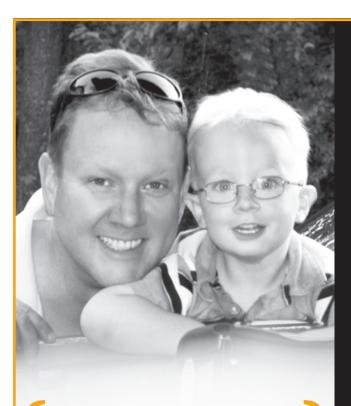
"This is almost a 'sub-sport' within the ballooning community as crew chiefs take great pride in predicting where the pilot will come down and being there waiting," Cadet Lowenstein said.

Interest in the crewing "chase" aspect (and piloting) one might say runs in the family.

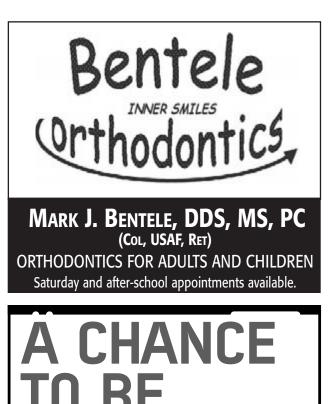
"My dad, Al, actually picked up the sport as crew for the Motorola balloon team," the cadet said. "Every year they would come to Albuquerque for the balloon fiesta but would not bring any crew. The people who worked at the local Motorola plant would volunteer to help crew for the balloons. This became a sort of tradition for several years, with my dad and me helping crew for these balloons. In 1998, Al decided he had crewed enough and might as well actually learn to fly, and earned his certification not long after.

At times Cadet Lowenstein has felt the "generation gap" between himself and other pilots who've been around the sport for decades.

"Interacting with other pilots has always been both interesting and challenging," he said. "First, as a whole, ballooning is an older sport and there is a definite lack of younger pilots so there always See CLASSIC, Page 13



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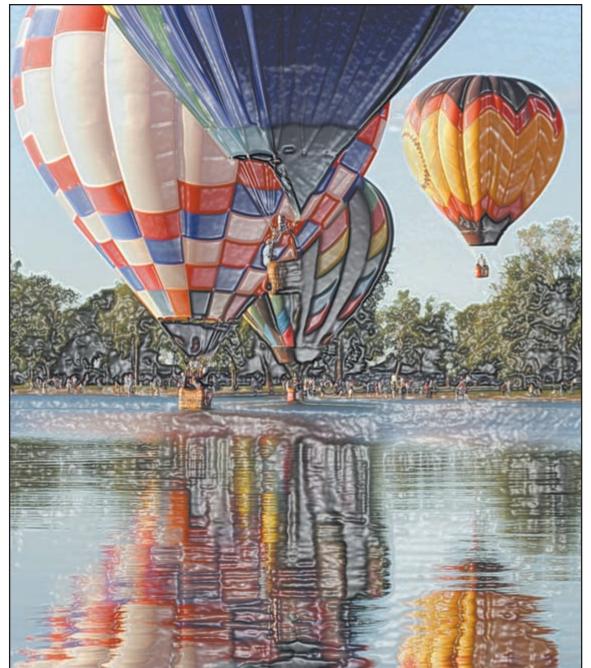
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Classic_

From Page 12

seems to be a bit of a generational gap. Although each comes with a vast wealth of experience that I always try to absorb whenever I interact with other balloonists."

Generally, ballooning is considered to be very safe—with the exception of one major potential hazard.

"As with anything worthwhile, there are risks involved," Cadet Lowenstein said. "Ballooning is no different. For balloonists, power lines are our 'worst enemy' of sorts and are really the only way to seriously become injured or killed. Overall though, ballooning is a very accident free sport."

Even with a Falcon Football home game on tap, visitors in town for Parents Weekend might want take advantage of checking out this event. Cadet Lowenstein's participation offers all the more reason to get out and see a member of the Class of 2009 soar along the Front Range with pride.

"Flying in the Springs is always fun, with the mountains on the west there is usually quite a view," he said.

The Colorado Balloon Classic was organized in 1977 and has grown to be the largest and the longest continuously running hot air balloon festival in the Rocky Mountain Region, as well as all of Colorado. It is an annual family event and admission is free.

Launches are held in Memorial Park off Pikes Peak Avenue between Hancock Ave. and Union Blvd., near the shores of Prospect Lake. Mass ascensions with more than 100 balloons are scheduled for Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings with a Balloon Glow[®] scheduled for Saturday and Sunday evenings. Each year a variety of concessions are available and entertainment is provided.

It takes some 800 volunteers to make the event a success. Anyone who wants to become involved in the Balloon Classic, even if only for a few hours, should call 471-4833.

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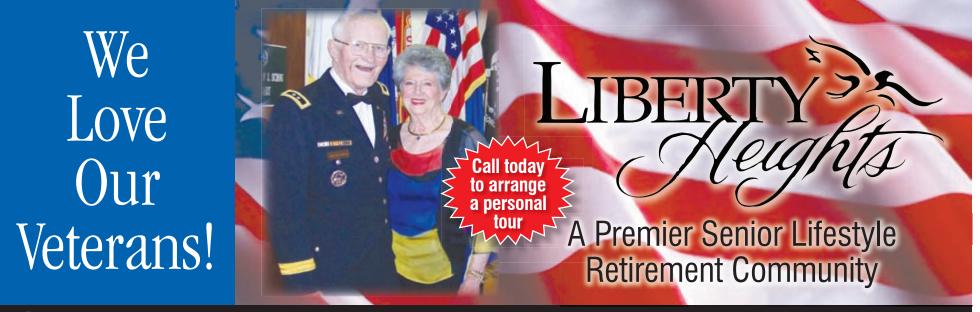


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Photo Illustration by Ken Carter





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Stubbs — still champing at the bit at 46

Story and photos by Ann Patton Academy Spirit staff

14

The old-timer has served his country for 40 years. He has never held a rank, received a promotion or honored with a medal, or had a day off.

His pay and allowances — oats and hay. His uniform is a blanket and saddle.

To celebrate his birthday and service to his country, Stubbs was feted with a party in his honor at the Falcon Trails Youth Center Aug. 6.

Partygoers enjoyed sack races, games, face painting, a bounce house in the shape of a birthday cake and, of course, cake.

The blue roan appaloosa munched away at his own birthday cake of alfalfa, carrots, apples and homebaked horsey biscuits, made especially for him by participants at the Youth Center. Youngsters from the Part-Day Enrichment Center presented Stubbs with a custom-crafted birthday card.

Academy Equestrian Center manager Billy Jack Barrett and the senior equine have a long, enduring friendship.

Mr. Barrett was serving in the color guard at Fort Carson in 1968 when the 6-year-old gelding caught his eye at a horse auction. Mr. Barrett bought him for the Army and promptly dubbed him "Stubbs."

The Air Force later purchased Stubbs for the Academy, and the horseman/horse pair settled in on the Academy in 1980.

Since then, Stubbs has squired multiple genera-



tions of riders on Academy trails, generated about \$50,000 income for the Equestrian Center and served as an ambassador of good will for new riders.

"Riders telegraph their feelings and emotions, like fear and anxiety, to the horse," said Mr. Barrett.

Stubbs, with his gentleness and inherent understanding, allays those fears.

"I think he enjoys making children happy. Some children, and adults, are really intimidated by the size of a horse," Mr. Barrett said. "Stubbs has a quiet demeanor that puts humans at ease."

Stubbs has also, over the years, caught the fancy of children requesting horseback riding through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Dylan Powers was one of those children. At 7, he was diagnosed with cancer. It was a dream for him to have a horse. Stubbs filled the bill.

Now 16 and cancer-free for eight years, the sophomore at Woodland Park High School, his sister, Sarah, and dad, Jim, revisited Stubbs for the birthday bash and to say thanks.

"It is nice to have a friend like that," Dylan said before mounting up for a celebratory ride during the party.

At 46, Stubbs' coat has faded mostly to white and his gait has slowed.

But for sure, he has beaten the odds. An average, well-cared-for horse lives well into its 20s, less often into its 30s. A horse of Stubbs' longevity is practically unheard of.

That is doubly remarkable since the old soldier has never been to sick call, except for check-ups.

After word got out about Stubbs' age, he was

Left: Cancer survivor Dylan Powers renews old friendships with Stubbs and Academy Equestrian Center manager Billy Jack Barrett. Nine years ago Dylan met Stubbs through the Make-A-Wish Foundation and returned to celebrate Stubbs' birthday.

Below: Children from the Part-Day Enrichment Center present Stubbs with their hand-made birthday card.



Stubbs chows down on his horsey birthday "cake," made special for him by participants in the Falcon Trails Youth Center.

retired from all-day trail rides to Farish Recreation Area and the five-day Pikes Peak Range Ride. These days, he hooves the light around the Equestrian Center arena or picnic grounds. He also made a recent cameo appearance at the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo's Special Rodeo sponsored by the Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center held at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

As another concession to his age these days, Stubbs is now hoofing it shoeless.

The stately steed is doing his horse thing in the Equestrian Center Equine Therapy program for Wounded Warriors from the Warrior Transition Battalion, Fort Carson, and is enjoying being brushed, bathed and curried while bonding with soldiers.

Stubbs can trace his lineage to horses ridden by the Nez Pierce Indians. The sturdy appaloosas, though barefooted and starving, outran the well-fed and shod U.S. Army Remount thoroughbreds for months. A mistaken stop forced Chief Joseph to surrender the horses to the government and put the Indians afoot. Breeders and ranchers went to the government auction of the appaloosas and bought as many as they could. Later they founded the Appaloosa Horse Club for registering the breed.

The old horse has garnered attention for his age from multiple sources, on and off the Academy.

"Stubbs handles his celebrity status with humility and appreciation for life," Mr. Barrett said. "He greets staff with a nicker each morning, enjoys the shade of his stall on hot days and the southern exposure to his stall on winter days where he basks in the sun."

The Academy seems to serve Stubbs as an ideal retirement destination, especially when he gets to do brunch on the golf course.

"I'm sure he thinks he is in horse heaven," Mr. Barrett said.

Stubbs has earned the respect of the other horses. "They treat him as if he were the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Mr. Barrett said.

Stubbs has gained a reputation as a ladies' man, in a manner of speaking.

"Stubbs attributes his longevity to avoiding rowdy



fillies and mares. This was not hard to do as a gelding, however," Mr. Barrett said. "He truly is a ladies' man when it comes to little girls, their mothers and grandmothers."

Birthday party guests enjoyed the festivities as much as the guest of honor.

Alison Palm, 9, thinks Stubbs is an especially good horse.

"He's been around people before, he's healthy, and he's really gentle with other people," she said.

Aaron Ghrist, 9, especially liked the bounce house and riding Stubbs during the birthday party. He has never been on a horse before.

"It was fun," he said.

How old a horse has to be to be considered old depends on who you ask.

For Landyn Curlin, age 5, it's 6.

"He's so old because he's older than 6," he said.

For Alexis Paulson, 5, it's "5 or 10 or 62."

The best part of the party for her was sitting on Stubbs but cautioned, "I haven't kissed him yet either."

Academy missile launches officer's career

By Master Sgt. Dean Miller Academy Public Affairs

In the course of any Airman's career, opportunities to step-up to a leadership challenge present themselves. Experts on leadership believe these early events, and how they are handled, are key to developing character that often defines an individual. Class of 1973 graduate, Maj. (retired) Donald Rightmyer, is a classic example.

As a cadet, Rightmyer stepped up to many challenges. Often these would merge his two greatest passions: history, and air and space power. As a cadet, he was honored to bring the silver goblets of the Doolittle Raiders to their annual reunion in 1972 where he met Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and other surviving Raiders; it was an event that left a profound impression on the 21-year-old.

Cadet Rightmyer also chaired the Cadet Heritage Committee, a place where air power and history often merged. It was in this capacity he found himself on Dec. 9, 1971, center stage outside Clune Arena, side-by-side with then Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Albert P. Clark, and Brig. Gen. Salvatore E. Felices, then Strategic Air Command's deputy chief of staff for materiel. Rightmyer was named to represent the Cadet Wing at the dedication of the Academy's new Minuteman III ICBM display, a gift from SAC.

"I remember that day so clearly," said Mr. Rightmyer, retired since 1993. "That dedication just brought one more really important element of Air Force mission and heritage to the aircraft, the weapons, and statues already displayed at the Academy.

"These displays both preserved and demonstrated our heritage," said Mr. Rightmyer. "I thought it was so important when SAC gave us that missile, and I was privileged and honored to represent the Cadet Wing at the ceremony. It was one of many really remarkable things I got to do as a cadet."

Mr. Rightmyer, today a retired cold-warrior in his own right, is reflective as he contemplates the retirement of the Cold-War icon he helped dedicate. "There's a note of sadness as we see the aircraft and weapon systems we trained and served in being



Then Cadet Donald Rightmyer represented the Cadet Wing at the dedication of the Academy's new Minuteman III ICBM display, Dec. 9, 1971.

retired. But, there's also a huge feeling of accomplishment for the service these aircraft and missiles allowed us to provide to our nation's defense through our years of service in the U.S. Air Force," Mr. Rightmyer said.

"As we walked by the Minuteman III missile and various aircraft displays at the Academy on a daily basis, they reminded us of the rich heritage of air and space power which the Air Force has forged," Mr. Rightmyer said. "I'm very encouraged by the young men and women who have passed through the Academy since I graduated and continue in that same tradition of service to our country today."

From the Academy in 1973, 22nd Lt. Rightmyer, with a degree in military history, went on to serve as an F-4 navigator, flying in Korea, England and Germany. He served as a historian in the Headquarters Air Force History Office and later served as an intelligence officer on the Soviet Awareness Briefing Team in Washington D.C. In 1983, he returned to flying, this time in F-111s at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Later, Rightmyer served as editor, TAC Attack Magazine, Tactical Air Command's Safety Publication, as a war plans officer at 16th Air Force in Madrid, Spain, and as editor, Air Scoop, U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Safety publication, before his retirement in 1993.

Today, Mr. Rightmyer is a state government employee in the city of Frankfort, Ky., serving as editor, Kentucky Ancestors, a quarterly publication of the Kentucky Historical Society. He resides in Danville, Ky.

Missile

From Page I

"It is also a weapon system entrusted to 115 Academy graduates deployed on strategic alert in our nation's missile fields right now," Mr. Whitaker said.

"However, with cadets, faculty and visitors working, walking and parking near our missile display every day, we can't risk anyone's safety if there is even the slightest risk of collapse. Under advisement of experts from the National Museum of the Air Force and our Academy Memorial Board, our leadership has decided to retire our Minuteman."

Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base revealed numerous examples of internal corrosion. This was especially true on the Minuteman family of missiles where internal corrosion was concealed by the original special coatings and over-layers of paint.

"In the instance of the Academy display, it is very likely that significant concealed internal corrosion exists inside the missile shell. Despite the best of conservation efforts, missiles were never intended to remain exposed to the elements for decades and, therefore, it is a prudent decision at the Academy to retire the missile from display," said Terry Aitken, senior curator, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, at Wright-Patterson AFB. Once final preparations are made next week, Academy experts and contractors will disassemble the Minuteman III. The bulk of the missile frame and shell will be disposed of as scrap metal through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. As disassembly proceeds, two hazardous materials suspected to be on the display will be removed. "Contractors will properly dispose of a fungicide — impregnated cork coating on the missile — and a specialist from the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force will remove a 7.5 foot magnesium-thorium alloy component," said Academy Museum Specialist, Paul Martin. "Both materials require professional handling different from the routine disposal of scrap metal."

Detailed inspections of static display missiles at various locations by the National Museum of the U.S.

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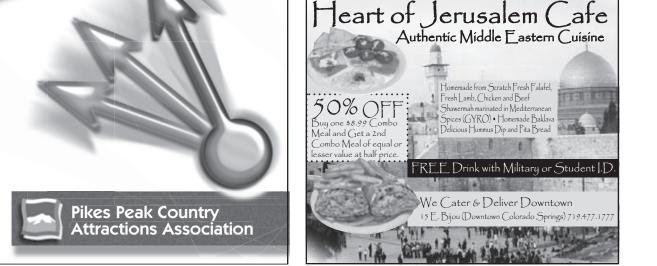
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September's Glamour magazine features cadet

Academy Spirit staff

Cadet 1st Class Lindsey Robinson knew neither of the military lifestyle in general nor the specific Academy challenges she'd face following her arrival here in 2005. She's since come a long way as evidenced by being featured in the September issue of *Glamour* magazine, as one of "America's Next Top Role Models".

"I have learned that every second of free fall is a lifetime of discovery," the cadet from Beavercreek, Ohio, with 320 jumps and a Wings of Blue member, told the magazine. "Life is such a beautiful opportunity. I do not think a second of it should be wasted or taken for granted. I cannot take credit for any abilities and experiences I have been given; but I do thank God

for them and I think the only thing of worth I can do is to invest myself in others. If I can say that I truly loved and served others, then how long I live or how much money I make does not matter."

This Cadet Squadron 12 electrical engineering major with a Spanish minor played a key role in starting the Academy's Engineers Without Borders Chapter.

"EWB began as the vision of a few friends and I. The goal is for cadets to combine engineering with cultural and other aspects to provide

sustainable solutions to communities in developing regions. We spent the past year setting up the chapter and getting approval. This year we hope to have two projects, one with Navajo Nation and a second with Horn of Africa," she said. The formerly home-schooled cadet tutors African refugees with Cadet 1st Class Brian Williams. In cooperation with Lutheran Family Services, the refugee program is an excellent way to both impact and learn from the developing world without leaving Colorado Springs. As a volunteer, they visit the homes of families from Cuba, Nepal, Iraq, Burundi, Tanzania and elsewhere to help in anyway needed whether it is practicing English, playing with children, learning how to use a microwave, or filling out job applications.

Cadet Robinson also started her squadron's Homeless Outreach program. Cadet Squadron 12 wanted to be more active in serving the Colorado Springs community. Since cadets often volunteer at the local missions and food kitchens, she knew there was a need and decided to help. "We spent a day in Acacia Park grilling food, providing live music and games, and talking with many of the homeless in the local area," she said. "We served about 400 people and received a great response from many in the community. I am very proud of my squadron for taking the initiative with this project and the commitment we have made to making this an annual event."

It is unlikely that exposure in the national *Glamour* magazine will spoil Cadet Robinson.

"I do not think many of my friends read *Glamour*, those who do are surprised to see me in it and maybe more curious about being a woman at the Academy," she said. "I do not prefer the personal attention, but I am proud of my Academy and my jump team and I



Cadet 3rd Class David Barron is briefed by jumpmaster Cadet 1st Class Lindsey Robinson during Airmanship 490, Basic Parachuting, an airmanship program where cadets earn their basic jump wings after successfully completing five free-fall jumps.

> know both truly deserve the recognition, not me. I especially hope that *Glamour's* target audience young women — will be inspired to pursue challenges such as skydiving, engineering, or military service.

"There are so many amazing people at the Academy, I do not believe I am unique or more deserving," Cadet Robinson said." I fail at things and make mistakes a lot. I only pray that I can grow from every experience and I am very thankful for everyone who has helped me along the way. I really appreciate all the opportunities that are available and the great friendships I have made. I have never regretted my decision to come to and to stay at the Academy."

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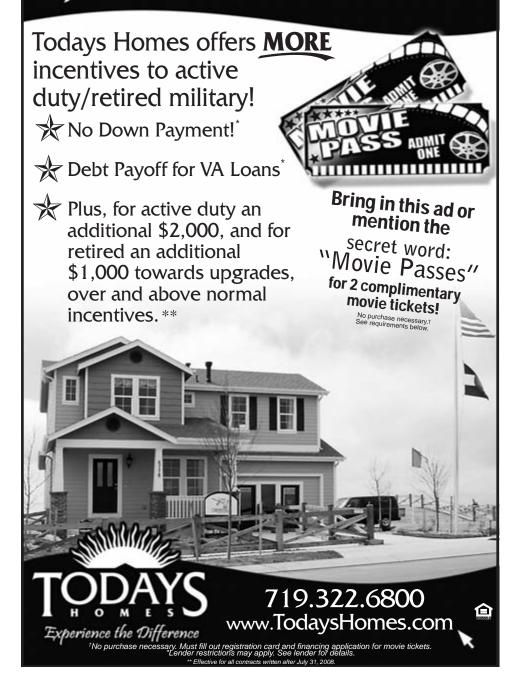


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Falcons host Saturday exhibition action

Regular season-opener set for Aug. 24

By Nick Arseniak Athletic Communications

The 2008 Air Force women's soccer team will learn on the fly, Saturday in exhibition action here versus Colorado as a prelude to its regular-season opener versus Northern Colorado Aug. 24.

With just seven returning upperclassmen, the Falcons will rely heavily on a young team featuring eight sophomores and 20 freshmen. Yet despite the lack of veterans, Head coach Marty Buckley believes the team is significantly improved from a 2-14-2 season a year ago.

"Our veteran numbers may be on the smaller side, but they are valuable players who we will heavily rely on," Buckley said. "In addition to our upperclassmen, we brought in what our staff feels as a very strong and talented newcomer group that will make an immediate impact."

The Falcons return six starters and 15 letter winners off the 2007 squad, including two-time All-Mountain West Conference defender Rachael Emory. In addition, senior team co-captains Kristen Wolverton and Roni Yadlin will be called upon to provide leadership and guidance in developing the young team.

With so many newcomers and untested underclassmen, the Falcons will look to capitalize on any advantages they can attain. Buckley hopes nine of the first 10 games being at home (including three exhibition matches) will help acclimate the freshmen to Div. I play. In all, the Falcons will play at home 13 times and go on the road just seven times.

"By getting to play so many home games, we feel this is an advantage to our team and will help speed up the learning curve for our underclassmen," Buckley said. "We hope that the early slate of home games and the two tournaments midseason will prepare us to be playing our best late into the season when we enter Mountain West Conference play."

A major key towards improved success in 2008 will be a stronger emphasis on goal-scoring, a problem that has plagued Air Force for the past couple years. In addition to the scoring struggles, the team is looking to improve upon its chances at timely goals, something that has also helped the Falcons elude the win column. Air Force dropped six games by a goal and managed just one multi-goal game a season ago.

"We were so close to capitalizing on our scoring chances last year, but didn't," Buckley said. "We feel we have improved up top with the newcomers bringing in strong skill sets. This will enable us to attack and get more scoring chances. If we are going to be successful, we have to take advantage of our opportunities and we feel we have the players who can do Sarah Horton showed significant improvement during spring ball and have the inside track to earn starting spots. A slew of newcomers enter fall practices with opportunities to earn playing time. Incoming freshmen who can play at the striker spot include Sharon Aradine, Kelly Bieber, Bridgette Murphy, Brittany Szewc, Kristin Connell, Stephanie Puzak and Shaina Thompson.

"We'll be young and untested up top, but we have some youngsters who have some talent," Buckley said. "We're looking for some players to step up and earn starting roles as we progress through the preseason practices."

The Midfield:

As with the forward positions, the Falcon midfield will be mix of several returners and a group of newcomers. With the losses of 2007, starter Kelsey Yip and three-year letter-winner Kimberly Hale due to knee injuries, several new players look to earn starting roles.

Yadlin will anchor the midfield as a returning starter and sophomore Ali Neptune looks to step into a bigger role after playing a reserve role in 2007. Sophomores Erin Flanigan and Sarah Horton will also earn playing time in the middle Four freshmen also have the chance to earn some playing time. Kelly Laurent, Heather Watts and Kelly Wert will see time as scoring midfielders and Kalyn Tung and Meghan Martinez will also see time as defensive midfielders.

"We are pretty versatile in the midfield, where we have several players who can play as mid-forwards or mid-defenders," Buckley said. "We just have to find out who can make the plays and go from there. But I am encouraged at the depth we have and feel confident we have the players to get the job done."

The Backfield:

Buckley sees the Air Force back line as being the team's strength. Despite the loss of team captains Rhett Chase and Christin Brodie to graduation, the Falcons return starters Emory and Wolverton. In addition, sophomores Jess Brown, Lyndsey Horn and Shannon Nail saw considerable action as freshmen and will be in the mix for starting slots this fall. Sophomore Krystal Sweitzer and a big group of freshmen— Meagan Eissele, Laurent,

Wilson and Erin Winner—make the Air Force backfield deep and talented for the next few years.

"With the return of Rachael and Kristen, we have two solid returning starters," Buckley said. "In addition, several sophomores saw a lot of playing time and should contribute significantly this year. We have a deep pool of freshmen to work with also so I like our depth and talent in the backfield as well."

The Goalkeepers:

Air Force returns all three goalkeepers from a year ago and are adding two freshmen to the mix. Junior Ashlee Curtis has worked her way into the starting lineup as she finished her sophomore season the starter in front the Falcon net. Depending on how her experiment with playing forward goes, senior Erin Wallace may back up Curtis or possibly work her way back into a starting role. If not, sophomore Elizabeth Smith will backup Curtis and may push for more playing time with a solid fall. In addition, freshmen Ariana Green and Susan Vanden Dries come to the Academy with strong high school and club credentials.

"We have several options at goalkeeper," Buckley said. "Ashlee has the early nod, but both Erin and Elizabeth will compete for time during fall practices. We also have a pair of solid freshmen who could surprise us."

so.'

Here is a quick breakdown of the 2008 Squad.

The Front Line:

With the departure of leading scorer Katherine Slogic and Corbin Sanford, the Falcons are looking to several returners and some new faces to plug into starting roles. Junior Susan Finch and sophomore



Roni Yadlin midfielder.



Assistant coach sets pace for Olympians

Lopez Lomong carried the American flag at the Olympic Opening Cere-mony, but that's not all he carried.

Lomong, a volunteer assistant for the Academy

cross country team this season, said "I presented my country and raised that flag proudly," Lomong said.

Lomong, who will compete in the 1,500 meters, has been an American citizen for a little more than a year.

Preparatory School 2008 Football Schedule

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Saturday	3:30 p.m.	New Mexico Prep	Home
Aug. 29	2 p.m.	Snow College	Home
Sept. 6	noon	Coffeyville	Home
		Community College	
Sept. 13	7 p.m.	Garden City	Garden City, KS
		Community College	
Sept. 19	l p.m.	Butler	Home
		Community College	
Sept. 27	7 p.m.	Dodge City	Dodge City, KS
		Community College	

Oct. 3	2 p.m.	Highland	Home
		Community College	
Oct. 11	7 p.m.	Independence Ir	ndependence, KS
		Community College	
		OPEN	
Oct. 18	noon	Hutchinson	Home
Community College			
Oct. 25	I p.m.	Fort Scott	Fort Scott, KS
		Community College	
Nov. 7	noon	USAFA Freshmen	Falcon Stadium
		(Tentative)	
*All home games - Mountain Standard Time and all away games -			
Control Standard Time, Game dates and times are subject to change			

All home games - Mountain Standard Time and all away games -Central Standard Time. Game dates and times are subject to change without notice.

- Parents Weekend Game





Safety First

Motorists on Aspen and Cedar Drives, near the Preparatory School and the Fitness Center, should use extra caution due to the high number of pedestrians crossing the streets in the area. The speed limit is 20 m.p.h.

Extinguisher Training

The Academy Preparatory School will host a fire extinguisher training class from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. today in the Community Center Theater. Unit training NCOs need to provide their own training sign-up sheets. Seating is limited to 200 attendees and reservations will not be taken.

BK Dining

The Academy Burger King dining room is open again. The refurbished Burger King is the first in Colorado to accomplish the new design. The most noticeable improvements are the refinished walls, ceiling, lighting, new counters, chairs and tables and a new energy efficient broiler. Also newly installed is a Kitchen Minder, a computer that ties the cash register to the production equipment to forecast demand and prioritize kitchen operations.

Guided Tours

The Cadet Chapel staff is now



CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses: Sunday Reconciliation 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. Mass - 10 a.m.

Protestant Services: Sunday Traditional - 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL Catholic Masses: Saturday Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m. Mass - 4 p.m.

conducting four daily public guided tours weekdays at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 and 1:30 p.m., excluding holidays. The 30-minute tours are designed to provide visitors with more in-depth knowledge of the Chapel. Reservations are not necessary. Interested visitors should arrive a few minutes early.

Celebration Tea

The Academy's Officers' Spouses Club celebrates 50 years at the Air Force Academy with a 10 a.m. Tea at the Carlton House Sept. 3. Please RSVP to Debbie Kyger by Aug. 29. The event is for anyone who has been involved with the club over the last 50 years, as well as newcomers who want to be a part of the next 50. For more information, call 282-0275 or e-mail d3ekyger@comcast.net

The Airman and Family **Readiness Center offers the** following:

Red Carpet Tour

Aug. 22; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This informative, fun-filled base tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals what there is to see and do here.

TAP Seminar

Aug. 26-29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? Call now to reserve your spot in the next available TAP class. It will guide through building a resume, interviewing skills, networking and Dressing for Success and more.

Call 333-3444 with questions or to register for any of the above.

Military Appreciation Day

Academy Ice Arena military appreciation day is set for 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 7. Skate for free, win prizes and learn about "Learn to Skate" programs. The arena is located in the Field House, near the Cadet Area. The program is based on the U.S. Figure Skating Association Skate with Us, basic skills program. Military personnel, family members and accompanied guests and government civilian employees are welcomed. For more information, call 333-0389.

Next Level

The Protestant parish of the Community Center Chapel begins one night of ministry! The Next Level continues each Wednesday at 6 p.m. through May 2009. The night begins with a hearty meal followed by an inspirational opening assembly in the chapel and dynamic programs for all ages: TNL Youth (6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade classes), TNL Kids: Grades 1-5, rotating between five exciting stations: music, crafts, snacks, games, and surprises, as well as classes for Pre-K through kindergarten and infants, toddlers, and twos. Adult small group studies are also offered as part of TNL.

Volunteers Sought

The Academy's Base Honor Guard needs volunteers. Join an elite group and gain valuable leadership skills while having fun and advancing your career. Training is held periodically. All ranks are eligible. For more information, call 333-5684.



Fairly Focused

The Colorado State Fair in Pueblo runs Aug. 22 through Sept. 1 and offers entertainment for the whole family. The hours of operation will be as follows:

Grounds, daily, 10 a.m. to midnight; creative arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Monday through Thursday noon to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; exhibit halls, daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; fine arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Americraft Hall, daily, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; carnival rides, weekdays, 2 to 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. to midnight weekends.

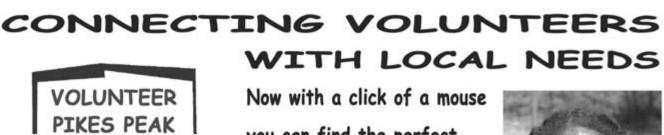
Directions: From the Academy, take I-25 South to Exit 97A (Central Avenue). Go north one block to Northern Avenue. Turn left on Northern Avenue to Prairie Avenue. Turn right on Prairie Avenue and go two blocks to fairgrounds. Driving time is approximately 50 minutes. For more information visit: www.coloradotatefair.com

Golf Tournament

Fort Carson's Cheyenne Shadows Golf Course will host a benefit golf tournament for the Knights of Heroes Foundation from 8 a.m. to noon Aug. 25. The entry fee for this 18-hole scramble is \$75 which includes a golf cart and a free future 18-hole round. All proceeds will be used to support the Knights of Heroes foundation, a nonprofit organization started by a local Air Force Officer. The foundation puts on a one week summer camp for sons of fallen soldiers. For more information on the Knights of Heroes, visit www.knightsofheroes.org. To register for the tournament, contact Maj. Steve Harrold at (719) 964-3387.

YMCA Outing

Join local military mothers and sons for an evening of food, fun, "Flick n Float," bounce house, games, climbing wall and photos from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 20 at the SE Armed Services YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive. Call (719) 622-9622 to register or for more information.



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Sunday

Mass - 9:30 a.m. Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m. (September - May) **Tuesday-Friday** Mass - 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Services: Wednesday

Wednesday Night Life - 6 p.m. Fellowship followed by Religious Education (September - May) Saturday Contemporary - 6 p.m. Sunday Traditional - 8 a.m. Gospel - 11:15 a.m.

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:

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

For more information, call 333-3300.

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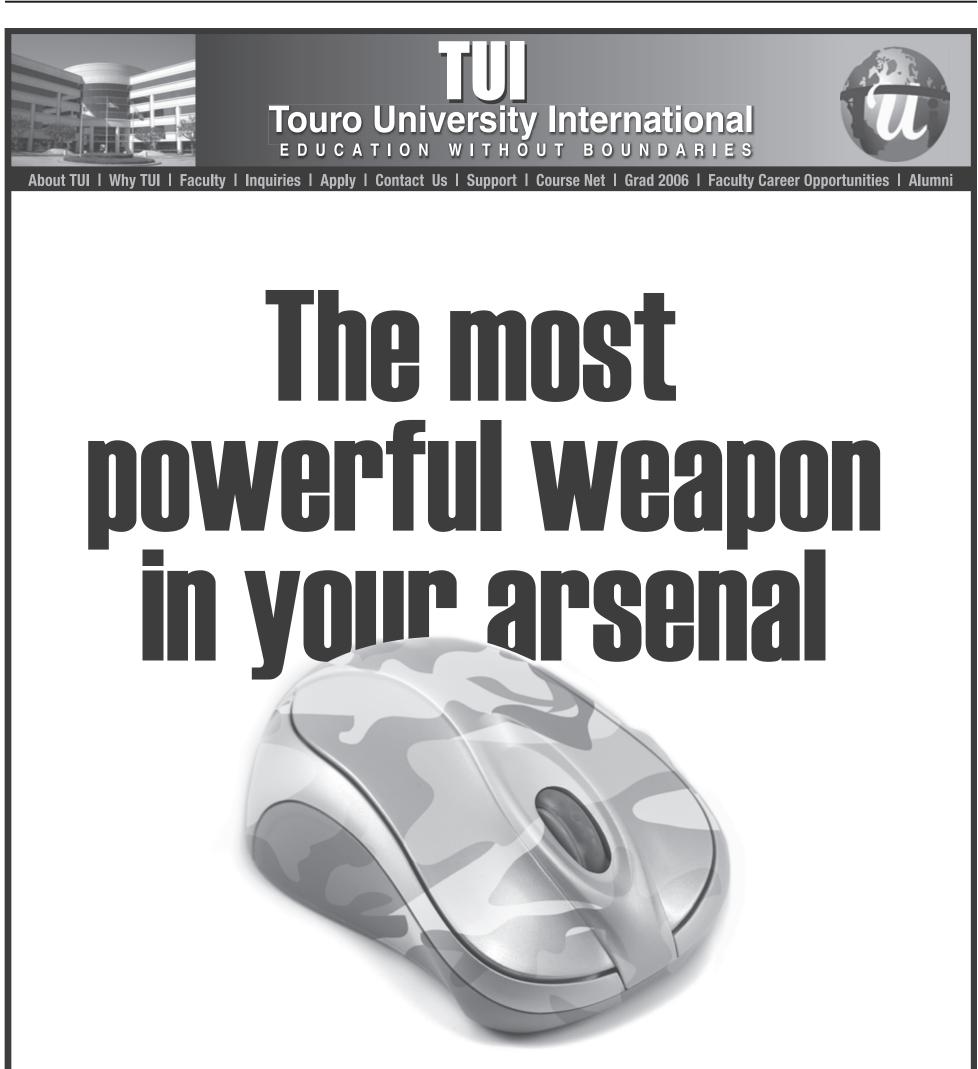
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