



Furry protectors
 K-9s challenge decoys in military, civilian competition.

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USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO ACADEMY SPIRIT

Vol. 48 No. 37

September 19, 2008



Strategic Plan

Part three of eight: We are who they think we are.

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Blood drive

Inspired donors determined to give 'til it feels good.

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Taking the LEAD

First-ever conference exposes Academy potential to those who'll share with Airmen.

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Falcons hold on

Storm displaces game; Falcons surge nonetheless.

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Photo by Mike Kaplan

Just recognition

Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins awards Tech. Sgt. Theodore Fest with a Purple Heart Tuesday in Mitchell Hall for an injury he sustained in Afghanistan. See more in Next week's *Academy Spirit* as well as information about Maj. Keith Nelson also receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Northern Command commander surveys damage from Ike

By Tech. Sgt. Matthew McGovern
 Air Force News Agency

ELLINGTON FIELD, Texas (AFPN) — The commander of U.S. Northern Command and other senior military leaders surveyed the Gulf Coast areas affected by Hurricane Ike Monday from HH-60G Pave Hawks.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matthew McGovern

Gen. Victor Renuart Jr. describes areas affected by Hurricane Ike after a survey of damaged areas along the Gulf Coast Monday at Ellington Field, Texas.

"We've seen an integrated team that has worked together pre-landfall and post-landfall to provide whatever Texas might need in terms of response to its citizens," Gen. Victor Renuart Jr. said.

"The first and most important point is that military is a broad team effort — active duty, National Guard, Reserve [from] all across the country — to assist in this event. I feel very good about it," he said.

Speaking in reference to his helicopter view, General Renuart said there was clearly a substantial amount of damage from Hurricane Ike, Galveston, Texas, in particular. From Galveston, the pilots flew helicopters north toward Beaumont.

"We saw expensive homes destroyed. We saw mobile homes and trailers destroyed," General Renuart said. "Mother Nature doesn't discriminate, so we have to be in a position to try to help those citizens recover, respond and reconstruct their lives the best we can."

"There were varying degrees of devastation," General Renuart said. "The good news is the local communities are back out. The state is building the distribution points for water, food and ice to help the

neighborhoods recover. The federal partners, (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and others are trying to build the kind of capacity that will allow the response to continue over time."

General Renuart said Northern Command's role is to be a team member to provide capabilities like aeromedical evacuation before the storm.

"I feel it was a great team effort," he said. "They got hundreds of critical care patients out of harm's way. The search and rescue after the storm [helped] as an equal partner with the Coast Guard, FEMA, state of Texas National Guard, and their civilian agencies. Our job is to be a good teammate and I'm very pleased to see the way we've been able to do that."

Army Lt. Gen. Charles Rodriguez, another helicopter passenger and adjutant general for the National Guard, said he is pleased with improvements of efforts after natural disasters.

The military response continues to improve as a combined effort with the civilian authorities, General Rodriguez said. "We learn lessons every time we have one of these unfortunate kinds of disasters."

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THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



Happy Birthday, Air Force!

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force and their families:

Happy Birthday! On September 18, 1947, our Nation established the United States Air Force, signifying the commitment of the American people to leverage the most precise and reliable technology available for our defense in the air. Our core functions have evolved since that historic day, but our responsibility to project America's strength and compassion remains steady. Today, America's Airmen deliver Global Vigilance, Reach and Power for the joint team through unrivaled air, space and cyber capabilities.

The actions of Airmen and their families build upon a tremendous heritage of integrity, service and excellence. Your dedication to mission and devotion to duty are obvious to all. We are proud of your efforts to win today's joint fight, and we know that your commitment to mission during joint, coalition and interagency operations - now and in the future - is steadfast.

In the past year, America's Airmen have delivered humanitarian aid to those in need and passed the milestone of one million sorties generated in support of the Global War on Terror. You have operated the Nation's space enterprise and stood watch over America's nuclear arsenal. You stood alongside ground and special operations forces as Battlefield Airmen, defended against rogue actors in cyberspace and cared for the sick and wounded. You have made a global impact that spans the spectrum of conflict, all the while defending the homeland.

Our Air Force has faced unprecedented challenges during the past year, and several events have highlighted the fact that attention to detail must form the foundation of our every action. We are addressing several strategic issues, such as strengthening the Air Force nuclear and acquisition enterprises. We know that every Airman is fully committed to the high standards of excellence that are our hallmark, and that through this commitment, we will fully restore our external credibility and our own inner confidence.

As we celebrate the United States Air Force's 61st birthday, we call upon America's Airmen to reflect upon and commit to honoring the inspiring legacy with which we have been entrusted.

Happy Birthday, United States Air Force - *fly, fight, win!*

Michael B. Donley
Michael B. Donley
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

N.A. Schwartz
Norton A. Schwartz
General, USAF
Chief of Staff



To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

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The Academy Spirit is published by Colorado Springs Military Newspaper Group, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Air Force Academy. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Academy Spirit are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Air Force Academy Directorate of Public Affairs. The editor reserves the right to edit articles to conform to Air Force policy and Associated Press style. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

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

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

By Chaplain, (Maj.) George Youstra

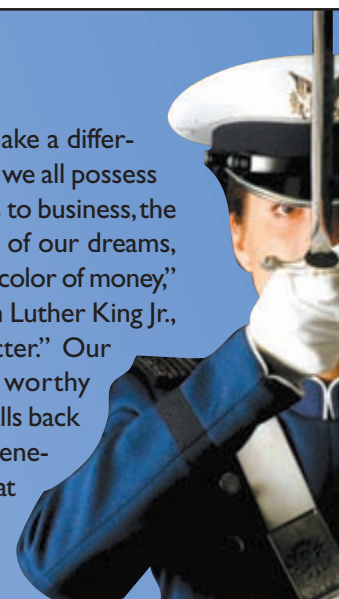
Thad Gaebeli wrote in, *A Question of Character*, some thoughts I think should be read and repeated.

Not everyone reading these thoughts is going to try and conquer continents or transform economies. The quest of man or woman does not have to be grand to be significant or of value. It can be the unheralded reconciliation of a separated couple in healing a broken marriage or mending a family. It can be the thankless and tire-

less community social work of a volunteer in a sea or urban blight, for this is as vital as are the record profits and appearing on the Fortune 500 list.

In farming, when wheat and chaff are separated, both are tossed into the air. The wheat, having more useful substance, falls back into the pan to be preserved. The chaff, having much less substance, far more subject to the whims of even the mildest of air currents, is easily borne on the wind and aimlessly carried away. Like the wheat and the chaff, we will all be tossed into the rough and tumble of life.

In a sense, we all desire to make a difference. To some degree or another, we all possess vision and heart. From battlefields to business, the sword will be wielded. In pursuit of our dreams, let us not so much depend of the "color of money," but rather, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr., on the "content of your character." Our good character creates in us worthy substance, which like the wheat, falls back into the pan to be retained for beneficial use. Struggle always to be wheat rather than chaff.



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

Why do you feel it's important to give blood?

"I want to help out the troops; any little thing I can do to help."



Cadet 3rd Class
Tyler West
Cadet Squadron 33

"That's a tough question. This is one thing I can do to help. I have the highest respect for the young folks serving ... and for the old; the Guard is deploying folks who are grandparents."



Jack Casey
Army National Guard
(six-year veteran)

"Because it goes straight to helping the military; I'm told 90 percent is going to Iraq and Afghanistan right away."

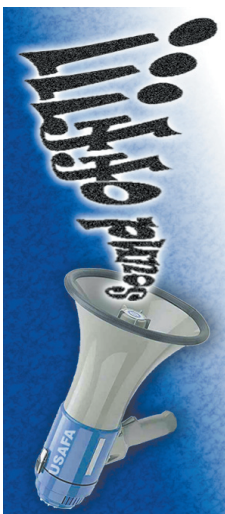


Mari Arnett
Military Mom
(U.S. Navy)

"It's important to donate every day in some way ... this is especially important if it's helping fellow soldiers."



Staff Sgt.
Mary Church-O'Brien
USAF Aero
Department



We are what they think we are – Strategic Goal #2

By Capt. Uriah Orland
Academy Public Affairs

Headlines such as “Academy named best in West for 2nd straight year;” “Air Force mascot, *The Bird*, makes All-America mascot team;” and, “Academy ranks top in professor availability,” highlight the tip of the iceberg for the great things people here do daily.

Receiving coverage like this is rooted in the second goal in the Academy’s Strategic Plan – “Strengthen our communications and reputation.”

The first part of the goal is to “strengthen the Academy’s strategic communication.”

“Strategic communication involves developing and synchronizing key themes and messages among everyone and every organization helping to tell the Academy story,” said Johnny Whitaker, director of Academy communications. “It’s a ‘one message, many voices’ approach to reaching specific, targeted audiences.”

In order to deliver the right message, everyone assigned to the Academy must understand how they contribute to accomplishing the Academy’s mission.

“When asked what you do at the Academy, the answer isn’t ‘I coach volleyball’ or ‘I teach math’ or ‘I work in finance,’” said Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni. “The answer is, ‘I develop officers of character.’”

It is understandable that each mission element has a specific mission; however, all organizations collectively accomplish the Academy’s mission. To tell that story, everyone must have a consistent, accurate and timely message. The strategic plan provides the guidance toward achieving this unity of voice.

Through a unified message, the Academy can accomplish part two of the goal – “Enhance our reputation.



Photo by Dave Ahlschwede

Communicate USAFA’s reputation as a proud symbol of the Air Force to the American people.”

This goal is not unique to the Academy. In his first CSAF Vector, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz wrote, “We will work relentlessly to earn and keep the trust of our civilian leaders, our Joint and Coalition partners, and the American people ... We will adhere to the highest standards of personal ethics, compliance and individual performance.”

This focus illustrates the importance of renewing a favorable reputation of the Air Force, and, in turn, the U.S. Air Force Academy.

“Our reputation is what others think about who we are and what we do. Targeting the right stories with the right audience to educate them about that is one of the hardest challenges we have in strategic communication,” said Mr. Whitaker. “Different audiences are looking for different pieces of news about the Academy. For example, a local reporter is looking for a different story than a high

school student interested in coming here or a congressman inquiring with a political agenda.”

In the media, local and national, Academy stories are weighed against other stories to determine the relevance to the local and national readership or viewership. Academy news competes for space in the papers or on the airwaves.

rep·u·ta·tion – noun:

The estimation in which a person or thing is held, especially by the community or the public generally.

“We look for the human-interest stories, the things that make you perk up your ears and say wow, what happened

there or how did that happen,” said Jon Karroll, evening news anchor for KRDO, Channel 13. “At the Academy we are looking for the visuals — ceremonies and activities that involve a large number of cadets and their families, and events that have an impact on the community as a whole.”

Another avenue of promoting the Academy to the general public is through the 27 Division-I intercollegiate teams.

“I don’t know that there is any other aspect of Academy life that gets national scrutiny and national coverage like athletic

teams do,” said Dr. Hans Mueh, director of athletics. “For right or for wrong, I keep telling the dean, there is no academic page, but there certainly is a sports page. And because of that, my coaches have a very high responsibility to present, through their teams, that image of what we are about.”

“We have to walk the talk,” he continued. “If we claim to be an institution of high values, high integrity and character development, our teams have to win with class and lose with class. They have to be respectful on the road. They have to live the values we have. Fight with courage, discipline and self control and all those things that are part of sportsmanship at its best.”

Perhaps the real litmus test for reputation is public opinion. In 2003 and 2004, several events occurred that may have lowered the public’s opinion of the Academy. However, since that time, Academy leadership has taken extraordinary steps to focus on character development and respect for human dignity.

“Several events happened that created a flurry of negative press about the Academy in 2003 and 2004,” said Mr. Whitaker. “Despite the news that may be generated, it is imperative that we always provide timely, honest and open information to the public, whether it is good news or bad news.”

This upfront, truth always, approach has had an impact. In media analysis conducted over the last year, about 76 percent of Academy coverage is classified as “good news.”

One example of this good news is what well-known comedian Carlos Mencia said after visiting the Academy.

“Being a student at the Air Force Academy is what every little kid aspires to achieve,” he said. “We all dream of flying and the Academy is the place that makes that dream a reality.”

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Academy blood donors support troops in need

Community unites
to donate gift of life

By Ken Carter
Editor

When it comes to joint efforts, there may be no greater cause than giving the gift of blood to those serving in support of ongoing missions overseas.

Today concludes a three-day blood drive effort in the Arnold Hall ballroom with the goal of drawing 2,009 units. Those wishing to donate can do so until 6 p.m.

According to Maj. Linda Hampton, Air Officer Commanding for Cadet Squadron 31 and this year's blood drive officer-in-charge, some 100 people travelled from 11 Air Force bases and Army posts to support the 5th Annual Armed Services Blood Program here.

"They will perform duties from screening potential donors, drawing the blood, and transporting the blood for airlift," Major Hampton said.

Training to accommodate all donors began Tuesday and was conducted by Fort Bliss Blood ASBP Donor Coordinator, Ms. Carmen Dietrich-Williams and her staff.

This is the first year Major Hampton has overseen the Academy program. However, she had previous experience with a squadron blood drive in the late 1990's working with the Oklahoma Blood Institute while stationed at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

"When Master Sgt. Dave Hensley asked me to help here in May, I gladly accepted," she said.

According to Major Hampton, the most rewarding aspect was to see the joint teamwork of all the Army and Air Force personnel involved in supporting our troops overseas.

"It's a great lesson for our cadets to see how military



Photo by Ken Carter

Cadet 3rd Class Tyler West was among the masses who donated blood Wednesday in the Arnold Hall ballroom. Loretta Hosch, a medical technician from Fort Bliss, Texas, checks her blood flow part way through the process.

members stand behind each other no matter what branch of service we chose to serve."

According to Ms. Dietrich-Williams, these blood-drive efforts have a very direct impact on saving lives.

"It can take as many as 40 to 150 units to save a single victim following the injuries sustained from Improvised Explosive Devices or a suicide bomber attack," she said. "By comparison, a typical car or motorcycle accident victim on American soil would require 10 to 20 units of blood following an accident."

Ms. Dietrich-Williams travels the El Paso, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado territory and is on

a mission of her own weekly. She went on to say, you can have the best surgeons, the best equipment ... the best everything ... but, without the blood, lives are lost.

Understanding the need for blood donations, Cadet-in-Charge, Cadet 1st Class Sid Maru from Cadet Squadron 40, set the goal at 2009 units collected by close of business today. After the first two hours Wednesday nearly 100 donors had exercised their right to bear arms, "more than the whole first day last year," Cadet Maru said.

Concerning the Class of 2009 cadet's goal, "It's an ambitious one, but the cadets were up for it," Major Hampton said.

NCUA

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Airman & Family Readiness Centers: one stop, career shops for spouses

By Richard Salomon
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – When Trish Kuettel and her husband, Tech. Sgt. Michael Kuettel, arrived at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., last summer, her “to do” list was long and daunting. One thing the mother of two didn’t have to worry about was where to look for career and employment assistance.

“Since I was unfamiliar with the local area, the base’s Airman and Family Readiness Center proved to be a great jumping off point for me,” said Ms. Kuettel. “It was comforting to have one centralized area I could go to find the resources I needed.”

All 82 Airman and Family Readiness Centers at the Air Force’s 82 bases are poised to help spouses, like Ms. Kuettel, meet the challenges they face in career planning and searching for employment. Those services include career planning classes (resume writing, interviewing, etc), computer lab access, career counseling, job placement assistance, job bank referrals, educational grants, career fairs and resource referrals to programs such as Spouses to Teachers.

“Air Force leaders at all levels know how vital it is for spouses to have opportunities to develop careers,” said Lorraine Neuser, deputy chief of Airman and Family Readiness Policy at the Pentagon. “Not only are our employment services important for personal fulfillment but, in many cases, spouses are major contributors to the financial stability of the family.”

These factors translate into increased retention and readiness, added Ms. Neuser.

“It’s important for deployed members not to have to worry about whether their spouse can make ends meet back home,” she said. “Financial assurance is essential for

the long-term success of the family.”

Although the centers are equipped to assist spouses of all educational backgrounds – whether they’re armed with high school diplomas or masters’ degrees – their community readiness consultants also want to help Air Force spouses develop careers they can take with them from place to place.

“Career development and employment assistance is a key issue at Air Force Services and at the secretary of defense level,” added Ms. Neuser.

In fact, the Department of Defense, in partnership with the Department of Labor, recently introduced a pilot program called Career Advancement Accounts at 20 military installations, including eight Air Force bases. The program is designed to help spouses with grants for training, education and certifications in easily transportable career fields, such as education, information technology, health care, human resources, business management, hospitality management and homeland security. Spouses can find more information at their Airman and Family Readiness Center or base education center.

Regardless of their experience level, Sandra Nichols, at AFPC’s Airman, Family and Community Operations Branch, says most employers are becoming increasingly aware that military spouses possess many of the same positive attributes that military members do.

“They are effective team members, possess good values, have a strong work ethic and are comfortable with diversity,” she said. “They definitely have a lot to offer.”

To help them reach their employment goals, military spouses are eligible to receive employment preferences overseas and in the United States, which gives them priority in the employment selection process if their military spouse changes duty stations. This preference applies

worldwide to most DoD appropriated fund positions as well as to some non-appropriated fund positions. And, if needed, the centers’ consultants can assist them with the federal application process.

Susan Gideon, of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., knows of this fact firsthand. With help from her base’s Airman and Family Readiness Center, she was able to successfully land a GS-5 position at Eglin’s child development center after she learned her non-appropriated fund position there was going away.

“They went out of their way to assist me with my resume and to help me successfully navigate USAJOBS,” said Ms. Gideon, whose husband serves as a senior master sergeant at Eglin’s 33rd Maintenance Squadron. “They took the time to help me do those necessary little things, so I could put my best foot forward. I never felt rushed.”

In addition to helping spouses like Ms. Gideon with employment assistance, the Air Force’s centers offer career counseling and employment assistance to members of the Total Force. The centers’ services also include personal and family readiness, relocation and transition assistance programs, personal financial management, Air Force Aid, personal and family life education and more. Bottom line: They exist to support the mission and take care of people.

“Their helpful attitude and one-on-one resume counseling made the difference,” said Ms. Kuettel, who now works as a purchasing agent on Grand Forks AFB. “They knew it was important for us to have a second income, but the opportunities were limited for me in the local economy. With their help, I was able to land a NAF position. My husband and I can’t thank them enough for their support.”

For more information, call 333-3444 or stop by the Academy Airman and Family Readiness Center.



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Rocket engineering team holds successful first test

By Capt. Luke Sauter
FalconLAUNCH Program Manager

The 2008-2009 "FalconLAUNCH" engineering design capstone course held the first of what should be many successful tests this year. Friday, Sept. 5, at 9:35 a.m., the team successfully static fired a 5,000-pound thrust rocket engine in Jacks Valley.

The team tested the motor's propellant burn rate as well as the effects of heating and stress on the motor case. The rocket motor tested was developed by the Class of 2008 and was originally designed to test an alternative propellant mixture for this year's rocket.

The static fire was a huge success. Significant amounts of data are being analyzed for implementation on this year's FalconLAUNCH 7 rocket.

The program, now in its seventh year, is a multi-disciplinary team of cadets and faculty whose mission is to learn the engineering and design process through application. Although the course is run by the Astronautical Engineering Department and the majority of the cadets are Astro majors, cadets from mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and management also participate.

The goal of the course is to, within the period of one year, design, build, test, and launch a rocket to reach the edge of space. FalconLAUNCH 7 hopes to design and build a "boosted-dart." A new concept for the program, a boosted-dart builds on the experience of previous years. This will be the first staged rocket for the FalconLAUNCH program.

The team plans to use a motor case similar to the one tested Sept. 5 in the initial "boost" phase of this year's flight. The second stage, the glide stage, occurs once the motor case burns out, leaving a small "dart" to coast up to peak altitude. The team's requirement this year is to reach an altitude of over 300,000 feet.



Cadet 1st Class Wyatt Harris, cadet chief engineer for FalconLAUNCH 7, and exchange cadet George Abihanna, ignition system engineer, install the ignition system in the motor. Courtesy Photo

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Underclassmen ponder options during Majors' Night

By Ken Carter
Editor

Majors' Night Sept. 10 provided a one-stop opportunity for undeclared cadets to learn about all of the academic majors and minors available at the Academy.

There are currently 32 academic majors and two academic minors available to choose from.

According to Maj. Jackie Wilks, academic affairs officer and coordinator for Majors' Night, each department had a point of contact for each major/minor standing by to answer questions. Tables and signs were displayed in the halls on the second floor of Fairchild Hall where

there were many informative stopping points.

"More than 1,500 USAFA cadets and prep school cadet candidates, as well as faculty and staff from both institutions, packed the halls for an informative event," Major Wilks said. "Each of USAFA's departments had faculty on hand to assist cadets in learning about their respective majors and also articulating real-world applications."

Statistics on how many cadets chose a major that evening were unavailable as of press time, however, the general paradigm is for an undeclared cadet to talk with faculty members regarding the majors he or she is interested in ... and then making a final decision sometime later.

"A cadet could potentially attend three Majors' Nights (first three semesters here at the Academy) before declaring a major. Frequently, cadets will put their name on a roster of 'interested cadets' for a specific major; the department will then follow-up with e-mails and information. The cadet will declare a major when he or she feels ready and prepared to do so," the major said.

Officials say there have been no significant changes to the event over the years – it's a straight forward approach to providing cadets with the opportunities to speak with as many faculty members from as many departments as they're interested in during a short period of time.

Major Wilks identified the evening's highlight as, "The hands-on opportunities cadets had to see how specific academic majors apply to the Air Force and life after the Academy." He cited



Cadets 4th Class Tyler Todd and Matthew Rogers conduct a physics experiment.

Photos by Rachel Boettcher



Cadets 4th Class Joanna Pattugalan and John Cowen handle a brain at Majors' Night.

simulators, robotics, lab rats, UAVs and cultural artifacts from across the globe as specific examples.

Typically there is a Majors' Night each semester—early in the semester. The fall semester is the busiest since cadets must select a major no later than October of their third-class year.

"Currently, 70 percent of the Class of 2011 cadets have declared," Major Wilks said. "The remaining 30 percent will declare a major by Oct. 10."



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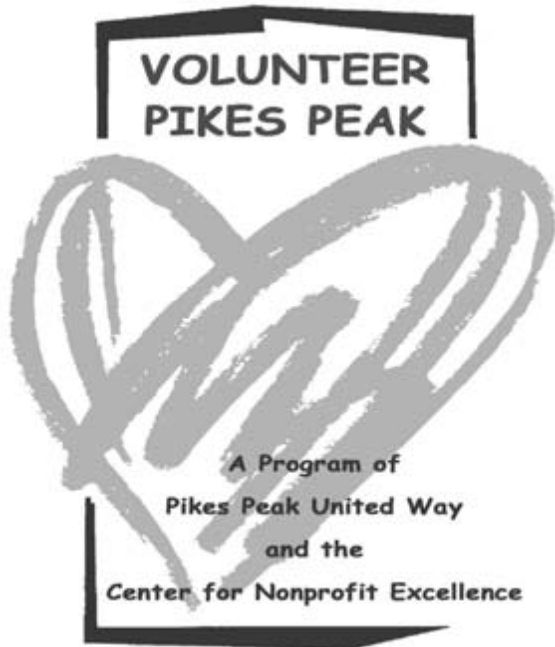
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Air Force develops plan for filling unmanned aircraft system positions

By Master Sgt. Russell P. Petcoff
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Air Force leaders are taking a two-pronged approach to address the increasing need for pilots of unmanned aircraft systems in Afghanistan and Iraq, an Air Force official said recently.

The first approach will use a small percentage of undergraduate pilot training graduates for the short term. The second will examine the potential for a distinct career path for Airmen to fly unmanned aircraft.

“The UPT approach will happen quickly,” said Col. Pete Lee, chief of the operational training division in Air Staff Operations.

In the next couple of weeks, Air Force officials will select approximately 10 percent of UPT graduates to begin UAS training when they graduate in October. Their UAS training will be at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada.

After completing a standard UAS tour, UPT Airmen will receive a follow-on assignment to a manned aircraft, he added.

In January 2009, the Air Force will begin the second approach, a small-group testing of a program to train approximately 10 active-duty officers to specifically fly unmanned aircraft. Colonel Lee said the lessons learned from the first group will be used to train a second group of 10. Initial training will begin in Pueblo, Colo., where the Air Force conducts introductory flight

screening. UAS-specific training will follow with full major weapons system qualification completed at Creech.

“The plan is to develop and validate training programs that prepare non-UPT pilots for wartime UAS duty,” Colonel Lee said. “We will continue to uphold the highest levels of Air Force flight safety standards.”

The colonel said this is a historic time for the Air Force. “Pilots flying unmanned aircraft today and Airmen selected for the new UAS training program are charting ground-breaking paths for the Air Force,” Colonel Lee said.

The Air Force general in charge of oversight of air, nuclear, space, cyber and weather operations for the Air Staff said the

demand for UAS in theater is critical.

“The combat contributions of unmanned aircraft systems in today’s fight have surpassed all expectations and have taken a crucial role in our ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Lt. Gen. Daniel Darnell, Air Force deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements. “The surveillance-only role of UAS has rapidly expanded to include strike, force protection, and additional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions,” the general added.

Colonel Lee said unmanned aircraft are the tip of the spear for combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq because of “their ability to identify, track and engage our enemies.”

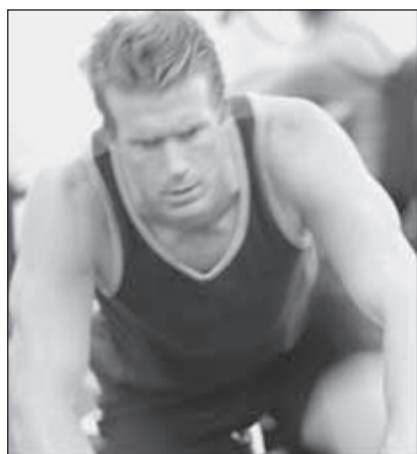


Courtesy Photo

Fine art

Kaziah Hancock, founding artist of Project Compassion and keynote speaker at the Academy’s 15th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium, recently completed and presented a 30” x 60” gallery quality oil painting to the Academy entitled, To Honor The Living, featuring those permanent-party officers and cadets who escorted her at NCLS. Here, Capt. Thomas Mulka and the artist stand before the portrait featuring Capt. Spencer Thomas, 2nd Lt. Montana Ewers, Capt. Thomas Mulka and 2nd

Lt. Timothy Gaydosh. Project Compassion Soldier Fund, Inc. is a privately funded nonprofit humanitarian organization which provides one gallery-quality, 18”x 24” original oil portrait of every American military service member who has passed away on active duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 to their loved ones, at no cost. Cadet 1st Class Michael Morris served as the Academy’s diplomat and cadet escort throughout the artist’s visit.



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Tax center offers useful tips for cadets, parents

By Jan Pardalis,
Academy Tax Center

The IRS-sponsored VITA program offers free tax help for those who qualify and is open Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Aimed at accommodating our members deploying, assistance is also available for those who have not yet filed a 2007 tax return or need to amend a previously filed tax return, and those who have yet to file returns for 2005 or 2006.

The following information is for cadets and their parents, and addresses a few of the most frequently asked tax questions at the tax center.

Exemptions for Dependents

Once at the Academy, a cadet is a member of the active military and no longer dependent upon parents for

support. Cadet basic pay is taxable and the cadet receives a Form W-2 and must file a tax return (see IRS Publication 17).

Cadets Fourth-Class who meet all five tests for a qualifying child may be claimed as a dependent by their parents and may not claim their own exemption. See IRS Pub 17, Chapter 3, Personal Exemptions: "You can take one exemption for yourself unless you can be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. If another taxpayer is entitled to claim you as a dependent, you cannot take an exemption for yourself even if the other taxpayer does not actually claim you as a dependent."

Education Tax Benefits

Since the Academy is not eligible to participate in a student-aid program administered by the Department of Education, it is not an eligible educational

institution as defined in IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education, and does not file any Form 1098-T. Furthermore, because the Academy is not an eligible educational institution, any education expenses a cadet may incur are not qualified education expenses for the hope or lifetime learning credits, the tuition and fees Deduction, or distributions from education savings plans.

As a result, a portion of the distribution from Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and/or Qualified Tuition Programs (also called "529 plans") is generally taxable to the cadet. A Form 1099-Q is issued for each plan with a distribution and the information contained on the form is necessary to complete the cadet's tax return correctly (see IRS Pub 970, Chapters 7 and 8). The 10 percent addi-

tional tax penalty on the amount included in income does not apply to distributions made because of the beneficiary's attendance at a U.S. military academy.

Uniforms

The cost and upkeep of uniform items is not deductible as an unreimbursed employee business expense. IRS Pub 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, clearly states: "You usually cannot deduct the expenses for uniform cost and upkeep. Generally, you must wear uniforms when on duty and you are allowed to wear them when off duty. If military regulations prohibit you from wearing certain uniforms when off duty, you can deduct the cost and upkeep of the uniforms, but you must reduce your expenses by any allowance or reimbursement you receive."

For more information, call 333-3642.

When calamities arise, AFPC stands ready to reply

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – When natural disasters, emergencies or crisis situations overwhelm an Air Force base's communications capabilities, the Air Force Personnel Center here provides Airmen and their families instant toll-free accountability.

Once activated, AFPC Operation Center – Personnel Readiness Cell specialists maintain round-the-clock accessibility at (800) 435-9941. The PRC also monitors changes to personnel programs, policies and procedures as they relate to the situation

and to the affected Airmen.

Hurricanes provide a recognizable condition where the PRC may come into play. In the event of a base evacuation, personnel should first call their unit point of contact or the PRC once settled at their safe haven. They should be ready to provide their current address, an emergency phone number and other pertinent data.

Base command post personnel should also contact the PRC at DSN 665-2020 or commercial (210) 565-2020 to ensure the PRC staff has the necessary information to act on their behalf. Required information

includes the time of the evacuation order, evacuation locations and any other information evacuated base personnel should need if they call the PRC.

"The Air Force Personnel Center's PRC plays a vital role in times of uncertainty enabling Air Force leaders to maintain contact with their most precious resource – their Airmen," said Vince Fonner, AFPC Operations Center director.


For more information on the PRC, log on to the AFPC "Ask" Web site and type PRC into the search function.

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Cadet's research beefs up flood preparedness

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff
and Cadet 1st Class Alex Smith
Cadet Squadron 9

When Cadet 1st Class Alex Smith arrived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in May to begin his Academy summer research with Rockwell Collins, little did he know the Cedar River would flood shortly thereafter.

When all was said and done, the downtown area was inundated with six to 10 feet of water and thousands evacuated from their homes.

Tapped for an internship in the company's research and development department, Cadet Smith had prepared to participate in a flight-test program for a persistent surveillance system to take high resolution imagery of a city-sized area and transmit the photos to users on the ground.

As flood waters spread through the city, a Cessna

206 aircraft flew over head with six, 11-megapixel, cameras mounted on its doors.

Drawing on his knowledge as an Academy behavioral science human factors and system design major, he developed a user interface to display the images.

For his work, Cadet Smith received the Thomas D. Moore Award for summer research in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. The award is in honor of Maj. Thomas D. Moore, a former faculty member who died in a plane crash in Vietnam.

His process involved integrating the flood images with flat maps interfaced with NASA's three-dimensional imagery of the area.

In a process called orthorectification, the program changed the shape of the images to adjust for topographic relief, lens distortion and camera tilt.

The method was refined with the help of NASA's jet propulsion laboratory to improve accuracy, and the resulting imagery was used by the city of Cedar Rapids to improve flood preparedness.

"It was a very good experience," Cadet Smith said of his research, although seeing the images of the destruction while understanding the human toll was difficult.

"It was a hard thing to watch," he said. "I hope this work will prevent devastation like this again."

The city water department was one of the hardest hit, with all but one of its wells shut down by the flood and its waste water treatment plant shut down for months, causing the city to pump raw sewage into the Cedar River.

The department used information from Cadet Smith's work to fortify its wells and treatment facilities to prevent a similar emergency.



Courtesy Photo

When interfaced with NASA geographic data, aerial photos of the Cedar Bluffs flood this year will help local officials better prepare for future flooding.

It has also been offered to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the rest of the city's government agencies to improve flood preparedness.

Cadet Smith said the capabilities of the system he worked on, once operational, could likely have a large impact in anti-insurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Department of Homeland Security has expressed interest, and Rockwell Collins is currently working with the Los Alamos National Laboratory to deploy the system as soon as possible.

Such an imagery interface could reveal, for example, the creation of earthen bunkers or vehicle movement over a period of hours.

Cadet Smith is a licensed and instrument-rated private pilot and would eventually like to fly for the Air Force and further explore technology outside flight time.



Photo by Ann Patton

Cadet 1st Class Alex Smith re-visits his work during his summer research project.

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Courtesy Academy Legal Office

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The Victim and Witness Assistance Program is designed to ensure all victims and witnesses of crimes who suffer physical, financial or emotional trauma receive the assistance and protection they're entitled to.

"It's understandable for victims or witnesses to feel alone, as if no one cares about them. They've gone through traumatic experiences," said Sandie Miles, the Academy's VWAP coordinator. "The Judge Advocate would like people to know the 'system' does care about victims and witnesses and their rights. The VWAP is there to show them someone does care and they do have certain rights."

The Academy Staff Judge Advocate Office remains the focal point of VWAP support.

Assistance may include information about restitu-

tion or other relief to which a victim or witness may be entitled and how to obtain that relief. In addition, upon request the following information is available: investigation status, pre-trial status of the accused, preferral of charges, acceptance of a guilty plea or announcement of findings, the sentence imposed and the date the accused becomes eligible for release from confinement or parole.

"The legal office can also inform victims' or witnesses' employers of reasons for absence from work, and if there's financial strain, explain the reasons to creditors," Mrs. Miles said.

Medical, security forces, family support and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations support VWAP as well.

"Our office is primarily responsible for implementing the program but we rely on assistance from other agencies when it comes to providing services such as personal protection, social services, and information about private treatment or support programs," Mrs. Miles said. "Each agency involved has a VWAP repre-

sentative who ensures proper service and attention is given to participants."

Call Mrs. Miles for more information at 333-9601.

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- Conferences with trial counsel.
- Appropriate restitution when available.
- Information about an accused' conviction, sentence, confinement and release.

Storm can't stop Air Force Marathon

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) — Wright-Patterson Air Force Base officials are ready for the 12th Annual Air Force Marathon and related activities through Saturday despite widespread power outages and massive amounts of debris from the remnants of Hurricane Ike.

Base officials are asking participants, event volunteers and spectators to plan ahead as they make their

way to Marathon events.

"Especially if coming from outside the Dayton area, it's a good idea to call ahead and check on your lodging, car rental, or any other arrangements just to make sure you're all set," said Molly Loudon, the marathon director.

Much of the Dayton area was impacted by the storm. Some neighborhoods remain without electricity. Additionally, Some gas stations either are without gas

or are limiting purchases. City and county workers continue to resolve problems and conditions are improving daily.

All hotels in the local area are expected to be open.

A portion of the marathon will traverse the city of Fairborn. City officials report all downtown businesses have power and the community is ready to welcome the runners.



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China Workshop: 'better than a plain old textbook'

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Cadets traveled to British Columbia to discuss commercial and military use of space and political issues with China, Canada, and the U.S. Sept 4.

Cadets 1st Class Daniel Cannard, Daylan Phillips, Matt Pineda, Cadet 2nd Class David Corpman and Officer-in-Charge Maj. Derson Jackson participated alongside representatives from the Department of State, Department of Defense, the Chinese military and Chinese think tanks, along with academic experts and representatives of industry.

"It was a chance to witness the issues and concepts I have studied in my classes, be discussed by the experts themselves," said Cadet Pineda, a Cadet Squadron 34 political science major. "It was also the opportunity to watch how delegates from Canada and the U.S. interacted with Chinese delegates on space and political issues that interested me in attending the workshop. It was a great opportunity to learn a thing or two about the art of debating."

The workshop, hosted by the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies with cooperation by the University of British Columbia, is a one day even and drew 50 representatives.

Cadet Pineda said witnessing such discussion first hand always proves better than a text book.

"With what the future may hold, the fact that the two countries could 'agree to disagree' at some points of the workshop and then look for ways

to improve relations between the countries at the end of the workshop was an encouraging sight to see," Cadet Pineda said.

"At the end of the day, I realized that although the delegates from the U.S., Canada, and China may have differing ideas or theories during certain times of the workshop, everyone could still get together at the end of it and still be friends as long as the delegates did not take any comments or discussions as a personal attack."

According to Cadet Cannard, the cadets were introduced to more new concepts of and viewpoints on space policy in a matter of hours, than he realized existed.

"It was no less than amazing hearing the varying perspectives of nations, organizations, and the elite individuals who stood representing themselves at this conference," Cadet Cannard said. "The things I was hearing in that room would go on to in some way to truly shape the world of space politics."

Cadet Cannard credits his teachers for his interest in space policy.

"Dr. [Eligar] Sadeh and Ambassador Roger Harrison granted me a distinct opportunity through their classes to see a new, more all-encompassing view of space. I personally find this broad-minded approach to space more interesting than the firmly focused engineering aspect I have experienced in the past, and by far more stimulating," he said.

Cadet Cannard went on to say the workshop showed him that even in the highest levels of international

relations, communication is a boundary.

"Though we may send our experts, or our best, or our brightest into any given situation, they still have the limits of being single human beings," he said. "Though I have

always known this, I have now had the chance to see its mechanism in an unleashed forum, with no cameras, no tape recorders, no public eye, and thus no true boundaries, and this has given me faith in and respect for our nation's and allies decision makers."

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Program 'LEADs' the way in providing opportunity

First-ever conference spreads wealth of knowledge sure to enrich lives of future officers

By Ken Carter
Editor

Base career advisors, command chiefs, education services counselors and chiefs, and chiefs of force management flights gathered here Sept. 8-11 for the first-ever Leaders Encouraging Airman Development conference.

Air Force key enlisted and educational leaders came together to learn first-hand about the Academy to share with eligible Airmen how to make coming to the Academy and achieving commissions their realities.

According to Academy Admissions Director Col. Chevy Cleaves, the guests left with a comprehensive understanding of Academy programs, processes and outcomes. Additionally, they took away clearer understandings of how to help many of their top performers succeed in garnering an exceptional opportunity from their Air Force's Academy.

"When we are able to add a fuller complement of our sharp Airmen to the Cadet Wing, USAFA benefits immediately from their experiences, understanding of the Air Force, and relative maturity," Colonel Cleaves said. "Over the long term, we benefit from their leadership and diversity of knowledge as well as their skills and operational backgrounds. This translates into richer development and expanded growth opportunities for cadets as they progress through their four-class system and earn their commissions."

Academy leaders agree the end result is more completely trained, educated and inspired officers of character motivated to lead the Air Force in service to our nation.

Participant access to and interaction with permanent party and cadets alike played an integral role in the conference' success. "They had direct interaction with our entire team, from prior-enlisted preppies through the superintendent and command chief," Colonel Cleaves said. "We hope the combination of first-hand exposure to our people and programs ultimately results in more Airmen applying to, and being accepted for direct entry and/or the Prep School."



Photo by Mike Kaplan
Director of Admissions Col. Chevy Cleaves discusses the importance of the LEAD program with conference attendees.

Academy leaders say the conference was critical because Airmen are very busy and many are often not in a position to adequately explore or research opportunities like the Academy. "They, or their supervisors and commanders, may be on shift work or deployed and navigating the admissions requirements may take time that they don't feel they have. That is why we have worked to get the message out early, through multiple venues. These young men and women have already begun serving their country and we want to work with leaders Air Force-wide to identify those talented individuals and who are looking for a challenge like USAFA. There is a place here for them," Colonel Cleaves concluded.



Photo by Mike Kaplan
2nd Lt. Paul Reyes, a prior-enlisted Academy graduate, addresses LEAD conference participants.



Photo by Mike Kaplan
LEAD conference attendees joined cadets during a noon meal and gained inside knowledge.



Photo by Dave Armer
Learning the basics of parachuting was among the tour stops for conference attendees.



Photo by Dave Armer
A cadet instructor pilot explains the soaring program to the group.

What conference participants are saying ...

"The conference was a true eye-opener into what cadets experience at the Academy. I was both astounded and extremely proud to learn what great emphasis is placed on recruiting enlisted members to attend the Academy.

I believe it speaks volumes to the professionalism and value of our enlisted men and women. I found the highlight of the conference was interacting with the prior-service Airmen. It was amazing to see their level of maturity and dedication to the Air Force and their careers."

Chief Master Sgt. Maria Vaughn
Command Chief
501st Combat Support Wing
RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom

"The passion for the LEAD Program displayed by the USAFA admissions personnel, Prep School personnel, and even the cadets was truly contagious! I am so unbelievably stoked to share my knowledge with commanders, supervisors, as well as potential cadets!"

Melanie Mendez
Guidance Counselor
Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

"Attending the LEAD conference gave me an opportunity to gain a practical knowledge of one of the programs I counsel on. Having the chance to speak to cadets who were prior enlisted provided the insight to the program that a brochure could never provide. Having this perspective to pass on allows me to provide the best guidance possible to our Airmen. What a wonderful experience!"

Bonnie Rivera
Education Guidance Counselor
Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

"Attending the LEAD conference has helped me to better help the Airmen at McGuire and the Air Force as a whole. I am much better educated on the process and what the whole program encompasses. Attending the LEAD conference will help me help the leaders of my base develop Airmen which is our most important job!"

Senior Master Sgt. Dwana Moore
Base Career Assistance Advisor
McGuire AFB, N.J.

"I personally received a renewed energy level in dispersing LEAD information. Experiencing first-hand what takes place in the Academy equips me with invaluable information to communicate to my Airmen. I can now speak with added confidence when explaining LEAD; to see is to know - thank you."

Gaylor Simons
Education Counselor
305th Mission Support Squadron
McGuire AFB, N.J.

Working dogs train to take bite out of crime

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

It was all teeth bared during decoy training on the Academy Sept. 9 - 12.

Working dog handlers from the Academy; Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas; Peterson AFB; Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Whiteman AFB, Mo.; Fort Carson; and, the Fountain, Colo., fire and police departments suited up and braced for bites.

During the training, patrol dog handlers acted as decoys for the "bad guys" and donned tough, heavy-duty suits to train canines to bite.

"We train to communicate with the dogs, elicit drive and do safe decoying," said Academy Kennel Master Chris Jakubin.

Decoy training, when not performed well, can result in injuries to both handlers and dogs.

The goal, Mr. Jakubin said, is to "build a road dog," or one which can deter criminal activities with its presence or force compliance with law enforcement officials.

The component portion of the decoy training began with handlers serving as both handlers and dogs to gain a better grasp of handler body positioning while encountering a bite. One handler served as decoy while

another, using clapping hands to simulate a biting dog, attacks the handler.

Handlers practiced component training and training with dogs on bite targets such as the back, chest, shoulder, arm and leg.

The equipment includes the padded nylon heavy-duty bite suit, scratch pants and a tactical suit.

Mr. Jakubin said the tactical suit, while lighter and offering less protection to the handler, takes away the bulkiness of the bite suit and presents a better real-life appearance to the dogs.

During one portion of the training, dogs were restrained by a leash attached to a fence. Suited handlers then taunted the dogs, acting as prey, and allowed the dogs to attack a body area.

"Do the right thing, know the apex, and everything will be OK," Mr. Jakubin told handlers.

The apex is an invisible line representing safe and unsafe space between dog and handler.

Handlers and dogs also trained in short-run, unleashed situations.

"Quiet hands" was one rule of the day. Handlers were reminded to keep their hands behind their backs while encountering bites.

Handlers worked the dogs at the



Photo by Ann Patton

Staff Sgt. Melinda Miller, from Peterson Air Force Base, takes a direct hit.

Academy kennels, on Black Field at the Preparatory School and in Clune Arena.

"Bite suits and muzzles are important components to building a road dog," he said. "The point of the course is to develop dogs for a fight. I

wanted to leave the students with enough information and practical training on these items to develop the dogs on their bases."

The biggest bruise award went to Staff Sgt. Gary Stacey, Whiteman

See DOGS, Page 17

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The 2008 AF Climate Survey launches Oct. 1

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE, TEXAS – Have you ever wished you could tell your leaders what you think? That power will soon be at your fingertips with the launching of the 2008 Air Force Climate Survey Oct. 1-8. During that time, individual e-mail invitations will be sent out Air Force-wide that will include a survey link and easy-to-follow instructions.

“This is an opportunity for Airmen across the Air Force to have a voice,” said Col. Daniel Badger Jr., commander of the Air Force Manpower Agency, whose organ-

ization is responsible for administering the survey. “By voluntarily completing this survey, you can help our leaders identify what is going well and what needs improving.”

The 2008 Air Force Climate Survey, which will run from Oct. 1 to Nov. 26, is designed to assess the opinions and perceptions of the Air Force’s active-duty members, Reserve, Guard and civilian personnel (appropriated and nonappropriated) on a wide range of topics. These topics include job characteristics, trust (both in senior leadership and in immediate supervisor), support for deployment, resources, recognition, general satisfaction, and unit performance and unit characteristics.

The 2008 survey is the sixth Air Force-wide survey conducted since 1997; however, this year’s version has been streamlined and will include 50 percent fewer questions. The survey will also be customized to accommodate major command-specific questions, and will include comment questions so people can express their opinions on issues they feel strongly about.

“This survey should only take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete instead of the 45 to 55 minutes it took to finish the previous surveys,” said Dorothy Felberg, of AFMA’s Air Force Survey Office. “We’ve had great support in the past and again we’re looking for maximum participation.”

Once the data is gathered, the results will be briefed to the secretary of the Air Force and Air Force chief of staff, and then released to the Air Force’s unit leaders sometime in early 2009. Technical upgrades to the Air Force Survey System for 2008 will allow commanders to access their reports earlier than in previous years, enabling them to start making improvements immediately.

“Through the survey, people can voice their concerns on issues that directly affect them and their units’ mission, with a view on improving the Air Force mission worldwide,” Colonel Badger said. “Look for your personal invitation coming to your inbox Oct. 1-8.”

Dogs

From Page 16

AFB, who experienced pancake-sized purple bruising from pressure bites on the arm.

Dogs received verbal and physical praise for jobs well done.

Training for working dogs is an on-going process, and handlers appreciated the opportunity to expand their own skills and those of the dogs in their kennels.

“This training definitely can help build other dogs and build other handlers,” said Army Spc. Mike

Mumby from Fort Carson. “We know what to do to not get in trouble.”

The Fountain fire and police departments worked hand-in-hand. Firefighter William Williams also appreciated the no-cost training.

“We’re better learning how to read a dog’s psyche so the dogs and officers can stay safe,” he said.

Senior Airman Joseph Doll, from Tyndall AFB, said the training is hard work.

“But we get a real sense of accomplishment. These dogs are capable of amazing things,” he said.



Photo by Ann Patton

Fountain fire fighter William Williams gets help removing his bite suit. The heavy-duty nylon suits protect handlers during training.

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Falcons hold off Cougars in wake of Hurricane Ike

By Maj. Brett Ashworth
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

DALLAS (AFPN) — The Falcons culminated a week of unpredictability with a hard fought football victory, 31-28, against Conference USA foe Houston in Dallas Saturday.

Senior quarterback Shea Smith scored a career-high three rushing touchdowns to pace the Falcons and the Air Force defense continued its impressive early-season play by holding the Houston's potent No. 8-ranked offense to their lowest scoring output of the season.

Houston jumped out to an early 7-0 lead with 7:41 left in the first quarter. But the Falcons then scored 31 unanswered points. The Falcons responded to the Houston score by putting points on the board on three of their next four possessions in the first half with Ryan Harrison getting the scoring started with a 30-yard field goal, followed by a 2-yard touchdown run by Smith and a 7-yard touchdown run by Savier Stephens. Stephens' touchdown was set up by a 53-yard punt return by Reggie Rembert.

The Falcons took a 17-7 lead into the halftime locker room.

"I think we came out a little flat," said defensive end Jake Paulson. "That happens every once in a while. We got a chance to really take the momentum, and we took it and ran with it."

The Air Force picked up where they left off by taking the second half kick-off and driving 59 yards to push their lead to 24-7. Smith capped the drive off with a 1-yard keeper for a touchdown.

Following a Cougars punt, the Falcons marched

down the field 80 yards in 13 plays with Smith taking the ball into the end zone from six yards out to increase the Air Force lead to 31-7 with 4:25 left in the third quarter.

But the Cougars kept clawing and scored 21 straight points to close within three points of the Falcons in the fourth quarter. Houston quarterback Case Keenum kept the Cougars in the game with 362 yards passing and four touchdowns. However, he threw a costly interception to freshman cornerback Anthony Wright as the Cougars were driving to cut into the Air Force lead midway through the fourth quarter. Following Houston's final score, Air Force recovered an onside kick with 3:38 left in the game. They made three first downs to run out the clock and end the game.

Smith led the Air Force offense with 93 yards on the ground while Ken Lamendola charted 12 tackles and Paulson added two and half sacks. Air Force rushed for 380 yards in the victory.

The victory improves the Falcons to 3-0 on the year. Next week, they return to Mountain West Conference action when they return home to Falcon Stadium to take on Utah. Kickoff is 2 p.m., MDT.

Editor's Note:

Hurricane Ike forced the game to be moved from Houston to Southern Methodist University's Ford Stadium in Dallas. The originally scheduled 2:30 p.m. kickoff was moved up to 10 a.m. to avoid the heavy rain and winds expected from the hurricane's remnants. The game was played under a cloudy sky and a light drizzle.



Photos by John Van Winkle

Falcon tailback Kyle Lumpkin loses his helmet in the pile but manages to move the sticks Sept. 13 in Dallas. Lumpkin carried 20 times for 74 yards.



Quarterback Shea Smith powers his way through a herd of Houston defenders to score his third touchdown of the day.



Academy linebacker Hunter Altman and safety Luke Yeager combine to bat a pass away from Houston tight end Mark Hafner to help stifle a Houston comeback Sept. 13 in Dallas. Despite allowing 534 yards of offense, the Falcons managed to squeak out a 31-28 win and advance to 3-0 on the season.

Falcons vs. Utah

Saturday
Sept. 20, 2008
2:00 p.m. MDT

Coverage
TV: VERSUS
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Runner of the Week

Air Force junior Brittany Morreale was named the Mountain West Conference Women's Cross Country Athlete of the Week, the league announced Tuesday. It is the first career honor for the team co-captain and the first for the women's program since the 2005 season.

Volleyball action

Mountain West Conference

action began this week for all nine schools with New Mexico at TCU Wednesday, while Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, UNLV, Utah and Wyoming took to the court Thursday. San Diego State will start league play on Saturday, when they visit the Falcons.

Water Polo

The 20th-ranked Air Force water polo team returns to action today

through Sunday. First, the Falcons visit third-ranked Stanford today at 6 p.m. (PT). Then, Air Force heads to the NorCal Tournament, hosted by Pacific, Saturday and Sunday. The Falcons will take on second-ranked USC in the first game of the tournament, slated for 8 a.m. Saturday. Air Force will face either No. 7 UC?Irvine or No. 10 UC?Santa Barbara in its second contest of the tournament,

Fencer earns sportsmanship award

By Madeline McGuire
Athletic Media Relations

Air Force junior Peter French was named the Division I winner of the NCAA Sportsmanship Award recently, according to an announcement from the organization. French is one of six national winners, one male and one female each coming from NCAA Division I, II and III.

"If ever there was an example of a cadet at the Air Force Academy living our top core value, integrity first, it's Peter French's act of sportsmanship at the international fencing championships," said Air Force Director of Athletics Dr. Hans Mueh. "In a perfect world, all athletes would exhibit that level of sportsmanship, but that's not reality. We're all very proud that Peter has ingrained such a high level of character that this act was spontaneous and natural for him. Our congratulations go out to him for an award well earned."

French is also the Mountain West Conference Hal Rothman Sportsmanship Award recipient for 2007-08. The MWC, established in 2005-06 and renamed in honor of the former UNLV faculty athletics representative, is presented to the student-athlete who has distinguished him or herself through



Courtesy Photo

Fencer Peter French, right, has personified integrity.

sportsmanship and ethical behavior. The student-athlete also must demonstrate good citizenship outside of the sports-competition setting and be in good academic standing. French is the first Air Force student-athlete to earn the MWC Hal Rothman Sportsmanship Award.

A native of Austin, Texas, French has

competed as a member of the Falcons' fencing team for two years. He routinely portrays the ideals of sportsmanship and competitive respect, and his character was never more evident than during a match at the 2008 Junior Men's Epee World Cup in Basel, Switzerland. During a bout to determine the top eight individuals and eventual selec-

tion to the world team, French struck the floor in a failed attempt for his opponent's foot. The scoring director did not observe the floor touch, and awarded a point to French. Immediately, French acknowledged the mistake and asked the director to remove a point from French's score - a gesture not usually exhibited in international competition. French's opponent thanked him for his sportsmanship and the bout continued. Several touches passed, and French's opponent accidentally hit the floor. He, too, acknowledged his mistake with a mutual understanding he was returning the earlier favor. French emerged from the bout victorious and later finished third in the competition, leading to his selection to the world team.

In addition to his academic and athletic commitments, French maintains an active role in the fencing community, conducting weekly instruction classes with local youth to help them develop their fencing skills while instilling the ideals of sportsmanship, respect and integrity. He has been involved in house-building projects and sports camps in post-Katrina New Orleans and has also extended his community service role overseas, teaching English in a Latvian orphanage.

Medics battle it out in flag football

By Dave Castilla
Intamural Sports Director

In a game highlighted by defense, Medical squadrons #1 and #2 played down to the wire with Hospital #1 taking a close one over Hospital #2, 19-14, in Tuesday night flag-football action.

Hospital #2 got on the board first when Barry Watkiss had a fourth and 12 from the 32-yard-line and hit receiver Eric Gulick at the 10 yard line. Another 8-yard pass to Ernest Aziz brought it to the two yard line. Gulick caught the 2-yard score and Derrick Thompson caught the extra point.

On Hospital #1's next possession, Russell Pollard

completed four passes in a row the final a 5-yard scoring strike to Drew Pennell, the extra point was missed.

When Hospital #2 had its next possession, Pennell intercepted Watkiss. A few plays later Pollard found T.J. Nelson for a 15-yard touchdown, Pennell caught the extra point putting the #1 team up, 13-7.

To start the second half, Derrick Thompson intercepted Pollard. On the very next play, Darrell Holden got his first of two interceptions. However, #2 held #1 from making a first down and took over on the 38 yard line.

Hospital #2 then switched quarterbacks. Thompson drove the team to the 20 where he found

Aziz in the left corner for a touchdown. Watkiss caught the extra point. Hospital #2 got to the 16 yard line after a pass from Thompson to Keith Brownlee netting 44 yards. Another interception and run by Holden placed the ball on the 38 yard line and put #1 back in position to win.

With about two minutes left in the game, Pollard moved his troops down field and found T.J. Nelson again for another 10-yard score but the extra point was missed.

With less than 10 seconds on the clock, Hospital #2 tried a pair of long passes that fell incomplete ending the game.

Falcons hunt for birdies in Denver

After firing two rounds under par Monday, the Air Force golf team was in second place at the Ron Moore Intercollegiate, hosted by Denver at the 7,239-yard, par-72 Green Valley Ranch Golf Club.

The Falcons, who had three individ-

uals in the top 10 on day one of the tournament, fired a 566 (-10) in the opening two rounds.

Sitting in a tie for third place to pace Air Force on the opening day was sophomore Kyle Bailey, who was just one stroke out of first place with a 137

(-7). Bailey's total after two rounds ties a school record for lowest 36-hole score in school history. Meanwhile, also in the top 10 with below-par scores were junior Tom Whitney, tied for sixth place at 139 and senior Shaun O'Bryant, tied for ninth at 140.

Rounding out the Air Force group were senior Andrew Gibson, tied for 47th place, and freshman Robert Belz, tied for 71st overall.

In addition, Aaron White and Travis Deckert both competing as individuals, were tied for 77th.

while the Falcons' schedule for Sunday will be determined based on Saturday's results.

Men's Soccer

Jamel Wallace and Matt McManus each scored a second-half goal to lead the San Diego State men's soccer team to a 2-0 victory over Air Force Sunday afternoon at the University of Denver. With the victory, SDSU improved to 2-2 on the season, while the Falcons

fell to 0-5.

Women's Soccer

Taryn Hemmings scored a pair of goals to lead Denver (4-1-1) to a 2-1 win over Air Force (2-5) in women's soccer action at the 2008 Falcon Invitational Sunday at the Cadet Soccer Stadium. Colorado College (6-0-1) claimed the tournament title with a 3-0 win.



INTERCOLLEGIATE

Football
Falcons 31 Houston 28

INTRAMURALS

Flag Football

Team	W	L
SFS	6	0
MDG#1	4	1
CEF	4	3
MDG#2	3	3
PREP	1	6
IO CS	1	6



Ready to rumble

Friday Falcon Football luncheons are on with Air Force facing Utah this week. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. today in the Falcon Stadium press box for the 11 a.m. event. Lunch features blackened fish tacos, charbroiled chicken tacos, black beans, rice, chips and sauce and cookies. Pay \$7 at the door: \$7.00 with a season ticket or Utah game ticket or \$10 without a game ticket. Coach Calhoun will recap the Houston game and talk about Saturday's game versus Utah.

Falcon Club closed Sept. 21-Oct. 6

The Falcon Club will be closed Sunday to Oct. 6. The club will reopen 7 Oct for lunch, featuring a new Pub-style Menu. The Club would like to say "thank you" to

its members with an invitation to a free Super Social Hour Oct. 10, 4 -7 p.m. In addition to hors d'oeuvres, DJ/karaoke, drink specials and camaraderie found at the usual Friday social hours, the Super Social Hour will feature a carving station, fresh side salmon with all the trimmings and a pasta station. This event is free for members and one guest, and \$5 for nonmembers.

Elder dribblers

The 2008 Intramural and Over 30 Basketball leagues are now being formed under the guidance of the fitness and sports center. Coach meetings begin at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 1 in the fitness center's back office. The deadline for letter of intent is Sept. 29. Preseason competition will begin on or about Nov. 3 followed by regular season competition on or about Nov. 10. Organizations may enter as many teams as they are able to support; however, each should consider duty commitments first. Negative replies are required. There must be at least four teams to form a league. Coaches or representatives must be at meetings to get in the league. Call Sports Director Dave Castilla at 333-4078 for more information.

Education fair

The 10th Medical Group, in conjunction with the 10th Mission Support Squadron's Education Office, will host a base education fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday in the Academy Hospital main lobby. Representatives from 15 local colleges and universities will be on hand to discuss educational matters. The schools offer a wide variety of certification, undergraduate and graduate programs. All Academy people are invited.

A to a s t

Want to improve your speaking, listening and evaluating skills? Looking for an opportunity to practice some planning, conducting and being an emcee for a meeting? Toastmasters is for you! Join our new club that meets today from noon to 1 p.m. at Arnold Hall. Contact *andreas.wesemann@usafa.edu* for more information.

Buddhism in peace and war

The Cadet Chapel Buddhist Program will sponsor a talk exploring the relationship between Buddhism and human conflict from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 28 in the Arnold Hall conference room. This talk will explore both historical and contemporary Buddhist experiences of waging peace and waging war. From Buddha's life to the headlines out of Tibet and Burma, attendees will look at how different Buddhist traditions responded to one of the most difficult and enduring challenges, human conflict. Guest speaker Joan Sutherland, Roshi, founding teacher of The Open Source, a network of Zen

practice communities in the western U.S., including Springs Mountain Sangha in Colorado Springs, will address the group. For more information, contact Sarah Bender, Sensei at 719-594-0724

Cultural display

A Korean cultural exhibition is now on display at the McDermott Library. Lt. Col. Nancy Rower and Cadets 2nd Class Clark Beesemyer, Brock Logan, Thomas Sukut along with Cadet 1st Class Raymond Zhang have created an exhibition from their Olmsted program to South Korea. The exhibition of photos taken by the cadets, Korean pottery, traditional clothing and other Korean cultural items will be on display through October. For more information, call Colonel Rower at 333-2567.

Triathlon to honor cadet

The Falcon Groundspeed Foundation, established in 2008 by alumni of the Academy Triathlon Team, will host the Lindsay Brown Memorial Triathlon at the Academy Sept. 27. This is a short distance triathlon (750m swim, 14.69 mi bike, 5-K run), that includes individuals, as well as relay teams. All proceeds will go to the Rando charity. Cadet 3rd Class Lindsay Brown was a member of Cadet Squadron 05, an intercollegiate swimmer and a member of the Academy's triathlon team. Cadet Brown was killed in a car accident in Florida Dec. 21, 2007, only four days after she returned home on leave. For more information about the upcoming event, see www.falcongroundspeed.com, or call Maj. James Thompson at 238-9274.

Guided tours

The Cadet Chapel staff conducts 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.

The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers the following classes:

Group pre-separation counseling

Held every Monday (except during TAP week); 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing identifies benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

By law, all transitioning military personnel are required to receive pre-separation counseling at least 180 days prior, and no fewer than 90 days before leaving active duty. Counseling must be accomplished prior to attending a Transition Assistance Program workshop. Members should contact their transition assistance staff, or career consultants once

within two years from retirement and a year from separation. Academy members should call 333-3444 to schedule a pre-separation counseling appointment; spouses are highly encouraged to attend.

TAP seminar

Tuesday through Sept. 26; 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.

DAV medical records review

Sept. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Must pre-register)

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

Newcomer's red carpet tour

Sept. 26; 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 at the Academy.

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



Skylarks

The Skylarks, a military wives' choral group that performs for community organizations, is looking for new members. Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. at St. Michaels Church near I-25 and Woodmen. Please contact Laura Wilks at 330-7314 or Elfriede Johnson at 278-3567.

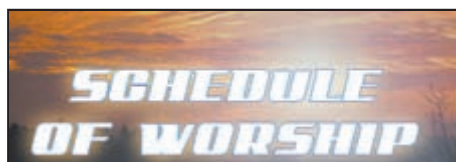
Mother and son night

Join the Southeast Armed Services YMCA along with Peterson, Schriever, Academy A&FRCs and Fort Carson's ACS for an evening of food, fun, "Flick n Float," bounce house, games, climbing wall and photos from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at 2190 Jet Wing Drive. Call 622-9622 to register. Cost: Technical sergeants and above \$15, staffs and below \$10 per mother and son(s).

Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

One hundred-fifty musicians, singers and folk actors from Ukraine will be converging into Colorado Springs to perform their only concert in this area.

Tickets purchased at the door will be \$2 more than if purchased before the day of the concert. Location of concert is 420 North Nevada Avenue, downtown at First United Methodist Church. Concert time is 7 p.m. Oct. 9. MasterCard and Visa credit cards, cash and checks (payable to FUMC) are accepted. Call 719-471-4361 to purchase tickets and visit: www.fumccs.org (select Music Ministries-click Sacred Concert Series) for more information.



CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

Weekday

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

Protestant Services:

Sunday

Traditional/Liturgical - 9 a.m.
Contemporary - 11 a.m.

Jewish Services

Friday

Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.

Buddhist Worship

Wednesday

Traditional Mahyana Service - 6:30 p.m.

Muslim Prayer

Friday

Salaat ul-Jumman - 12:30 p.m.

All Other Faiths

Call 333-2636 for more information

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.
(September - May)

Tuesday-Friday

Mass - 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Services:

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Live - 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:

Call 333-6178 or E-mail Robert.Longcrier@usafa.edu for more information.

FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY INSTANCES OF FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE, REPORT IT TO ONE OF THE HOTLINE NUMBERS

FRAUD: Intentional deception of the DoD such as bribes, gratuities or false claims

WASTE: Extravagant, careless or expenditure of government funds

ABUSE: Intentional wrongful or improper use of government resources

ACADEMY
1(719)333-3490
DSN: 333-3490

AIR FORCE
1(800)538-8429
DSN: 425-1562

DEPT. OF DEFENSE
1(800)424-9098
DSN: 664-8799