

- TWIN CADETS**  
Meet the Schmidt sisters, Kiersten and Kerri  
Page 4
- CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS**  
Former Cadets train for Mount Everest  
Pages 8, 9 and 10
- TRACK AND FIELD**  
Falcons break records at All Comers  
Page 11



MIKE KAPLAN

Master Sgt. Jesse Chervinka and Jessie Rhom help a cadet process an Electronic Questionnaire for Investigations Processing, or e-QIP, form in the Foreign Language Lab here Jan. 12. Information Protection Directorate officials process between 650 and 700 cadet applications for top-secret clearance annually. Chervinka is the Academy military training NCO for Cadet Squadron 31. Rhom is the IP Directorate's personnel security chief.

# Caring for Cadets

## Info protection offers training, streamlined clearance process

By Don Branum  
Academy Spirit staff writer

*Editor's note: This is the first article in a series focusing on how various units at the Academy "Care for Cadets." Subsequent articles will appear in upcoming editions of the Academy Spirit.*

The Information Protection Directorate here held briefings Saturday to help two-thirds of the Academy's seniors complete forms required for Office of Personnel Management top-secret clearance investigations, which the cadets will need for their careers after they graduate.

The briefings aim to familiarize cadets with the importance of protecting classified information and to answer any questions cadets may have about filling out electronic questionnaires for processing.

See Clearance Page 7

# Academy moves powered-flight airspace to avoid conflict

By Don Branum  
Academy Spirit staff writer

Go East, young man. That's not quite the same advice offered to 19th-century settlers moving to Colorado, but none of them had to fly in airspace shared by two major airports.

New training areas for the Academy's powered flight airmanship pro-

gram took effect in December, moving operations several miles east of the previous areas.

The Federal Aviation Administration claimed the previous training areas, near the Interstate 25 corridor between Monument and Castle Rock, to create GPS-guided navigation routes for corporate aircraft, said Ted Goodlin, a next-generation imple-

mentation specialist with the FAA.

The airspace over Interstate 25 between Denver International Airport and Colorado Springs Airport is a busy corridor, Goodlin said.

"Finding the sweet spot on where to locate the satellite-based navigation routes is a difficult task," Goodlin added. "That's what generated the change."

Cadets spend five to 10 minutes longer flying to and from the new training areas because they're further east, said Lt. Col. Andrew Julson, director of operations for the 557th Flying Training Squadron, which oversees the powered flight airmanship program.

"We've lost some training time due

See Airspace Page 7

# US Senator Udall visits Academy

Sen. Mark Udall, (D-Colo.) chats with Cadet 3rd Class Stephen Beaton (left) and Cadet 2nd Class Zach Bruhn during a tour of the Life Science Research Center here Tuesday. Udall met with various officials to discuss alternative fuel use and its development at the Academy. Udall also met with Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould during the visit.



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

## State of the AF is 'strong'

By Master Sgt. Jess Harvey  
Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The Air Force's top leaders said Jan. 11 that the service has accomplished much while dealing with many challenges in the last year.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III briefed members of the media here on the state of the service and its focus on the areas of force structure, readiness and modernization.

"America's Airmen are focused on their missions, and they demonstrate every day what it means to be members of the world's finest air force," Donley said. "These Total Force Airmen — active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian — are the reason I can say without reservation that the state of our Air Force remains strong."

The secretary dedicated a significant amount of time explaining how the nation's fiscal challenges have affected and will continue to affect the force.

"Our nation's ongoing budget gymnastics exert costly consequences upon the Air Force and our sister services and create an atmosphere of unease among many of our uniformed and civilian Airmen," Donley said. "Given that we are now into the second quarter of (fiscal 2013), we can no longer live under the uncertainty of sequestration and continuing resolution without taking action."

Prudent planning is required to mitigate budget risks and minimize impacts to readiness, the secretary said, adding that guidance will be provided to the force in a few days to begin planning for the uncertain budget environment ahead.

As part of the planning, Air Force leaders are dedicated to avoiding a hollow force — one that looks good on paper but has more units and equipment than it can support, lacks the resources to adequately train and maintain them, and keep up with advancing technologies.

"We believe the best path forward is to become smaller

in order to protect a high quality and ready force that will improve in capability," Donley said.

In doing this, Welsh emphasized the importance of sustaining the enduring contributions the Air Force provides that will continue to guide the service as it moves forward, no matter what happens with the fiscal realities of the future.

"As we move toward that smaller, more capable and ready force; we have to be careful to protect our whole mission," Welsh said. "If we don't, the entire joint force is affected, and it's impacted in a significant way."

According to the secretary, the service has already suffered great impacts to its readiness levels.

"More than two decades of war and other operations have had an impact on our readiness, straining our Airmen and their families, reducing opportunities for training and taking a toll on equipment," Donley said.

In order for the Air Force to improve on current readiness levels, Welsh said modernization remains a top priority, recalling a childhood memory of his grandfather's then new, 'sweet' car to help characterize the issue.

"If we were at Minot (Air Force Base) today, I could take you out on the flight line and show you a whole bunch of 'sweet' B-52s," Welch said. "And in 2028, when we deliver the last KC-46 tanker, we'll still have about 200 'sweet' KC-135s on the ramp. And they'll be about the same age then — 60 — as my grandfather's car would be today."

The difference is, he said, his grandfather's car has an antique license plate on it today, while America's Airmen will be flying these aircraft in 2028, in contingencies and combat zones around the world.

Which is why modernization isn't an option, Welsh said. "It doesn't matter if we get smaller. We have got to figure out how to make modernization happen."

During the briefing, the general also took time to highlight the recent release of the Air Force Vision Statement, which embraces innovation as almost a genetic trait of every Airman.

"I believe that's true. In order for us to be successful, I think it has to be true," Welsh said. "We intend to remain the world's greatest air force, powered by Airmen and fueled by innovation."

## Opinions from you:

# Spirited Views

Academy members, civilians, cadets, retirees and family members may submit letters or emails of 250 words or less to the Academy Spirit at: [pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil](mailto:pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil) or:

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Letters and emails must include the writer's full name, work address if applicable, and a valid phone number where they can be reached during normal daylight hours. Letters without this information will not be published.

The Academy Spirit reserves the right to edit submissions. Due to

space limitations, Public Affairs won't be able to print every letter received but will include as many current and topical letters as possible.

Guest commentaries or editorials are invited from local subject-matter-experts as they relate to a current issue's focus.

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ELIZABETH ANDREWS

## Air Force leaders issue Martin Luther King Day message

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy sent the following Martin Luther King Day message to the Airmen across Air Force:

“As America commemorates the federal holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we call upon all Airmen to reflect on Dr. King’s enduring legacy and on the importance of service in the cause of justice, equality, and freedom.

“At the height of the U.S. civil rights movement, Dr. King rallied our Nation to live up to the promise of full equality under the law, without regard to race, color, or creed. Striving to build on Dr. King’s legacy today, we have a responsibility to ensure that all Americans enjoy their right to equal opportunity and constitutional protections.

“Air Force leaders are committed to these values, and through your service, Airmen play a vital role in supporting and defending the freedoms that generations of Americans fought to secure. On Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, we encourage you to pause and consider the lasting impact of Dr. King’s ideals and their continuing relevance today.”

## MLK speaker inspires

Army Brig. Gen. Barrye Price speaks at a lunch honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Wednesday at the Falcon Club. Price, the director of the Army’s Human Resources Policy Directorate Leadership was the keynote speaker at the lunch and spoke on how service members of all races can be inspired by King’s message. In February, the Academy celebrates African-American History Month.

Volunteers are needed to assist with upcoming African-American Month events; all prospective volunteers are invited to attend the Black History Month planning meeting, noon today in the 10th Air Base Wing Equal Opportunity Conference Room. Anyone wishing to volunteer but unable to attend may call Master Sgt. Ian Bernard at 333-1736.

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# Twin Legacy

## Second-generation twins gain independence while attending the Academy

By Amber Baillie  
Academy Spirit staff writer

Cadet 3rd Class Kerri Schmidt will never forget the moment she reunited with her twin sister after the two were separated for two weeks during Basic Cadet Training.

During intense training and drills here, for the first time in their lives, the girls couldn't see or communicate with each other. As soon as Kerri spotted her sister, Kiersten, at the Cadet Chapel one day, her spirit brightened and tears filled her eyes as she walked toward her best friend since birth.

"That was the longest time we had been apart emotionally," Kerri said. "We have that kind of bond where you live together, you know each

"We have that kind of bond where you live together, you know each other's habits, you know exactly how to make each other angry and exactly how to make each other happy."

- Cadet 3rd Class Kerri Schmidt

other's habits, you know exactly how to make each other angry and exactly how to make each other happy."

Born only two minutes apart, the blonde haired, blue-eyed 20-year olds from Verona, Ky., received appointments to the Academy last year and were assigned to the same Cadet Squadrons as their father, Kevin Schmidt, and his twin brother, Kerry Schmidt, who attended the Academy more than 30 years ago.

"I was put in Cadet Squadron 28, the squadron my dad was a part of and Kerri was put in Cadet Squadron 3, the squadron his twin brother, who she was named after, was a part of," Kiersten said.

Together as often as they're allowed, the Schmidt sisters are both involved in the Academy's show choir and a bible study. Although it gives them confidence knowing they have each other to talk to, they said the forced time apart has enabled them to grow as individuals.

"A big misconception with twins is that we're the same person," Kiersten said. "We come from the same place but we can be separated. We have differences such as different interests, majors and friends."

One can easily make a distinction just from their height--Kiersten surpasses Kerri by five inches.

"People still get confused," Kiersten said. "Last year my Spanish partner saw Kerri at the gym and thinking it was me, started to talk to her."

Kerri, a Legal Studies major, and Kiersten, a Materials Chemistry major, said they've also learned to give each other space when it comes to boyfriends.

"At first with the whole dating thing, I was like, 'Don't steal my sister' because I would get jealous," Kerri said. "Her boyfriend is actually in my squadron and is really nice. I approve of him, for now."

Being at the Academy has also sparked healthy competition among the girls.

"Knowing that we're both here, even with different majors, I'll think, 'She's going to get this grade on this test and so I've got to do better than that,'" Kerri said. "We're proud of each other but can definitely get competitive."

By growing up as a twin, Kiersten said it has made her a better roommate.

"It's easier for me to be a roommate because I know how to share my life, whereas for some people, they may have siblings but don't know how to live together," Kiersten said.

The girls are both interested in flying planes in the future. They said no matter where their careers or the Air Force takes them, they will always remain close and understand each other like no one else ever will.

"All I have to do is shoot her a look and she knows exactly what I'm thinking," Kiersten said. "It's a unique relationship because you're the same age and going through the same life stage. It's pretty special."



Twin sisters Kerri Schmidt, left, and Kiersten Schmidt, right, are sophomores at the Academy. They said by being in different Cadet Squadrons and having different classes, they've been able to develop their own interests and identities.

"We come from the same place but we can be separated. We have differences such as different interests, majors and friends."

- Cadet 3rd Class Kiersten Schmidt

# 94th FTS wraps up historic 2012 season

By Academy Public Affairs

The 94th Flying Training Squadron's sailplane aerobatic and racing teams finished a record-breaking 2012 with numerous triumphs at regional and national competitions.

The aerobatic team ended 2012 as the best in Academy history, taking home the second place International Aerobatic Club's Eagle Collegiate National Championship Award with the highest score in the team's 27 years, including 80 medals and 28 trophies in its first season competing in the new TG-16A glider.

"We can't tell enough people about the awesome airmanship and leadership skills we see daily on our flight line," said 94th Flying Training Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Brad Roller. "It is very rewarding to see these young officer candidates develop into the future leaders who will serve our Air Force and our nation."

The aerobatic team also swept first, second and third places, winning nine trophies in three categories at the U.S. Aerobatic Nationals and has done so for the last 10 years.

Cadet 2nd Class James Gregory



TECH. SGT. SAMUEL BENDET

Academy cadets fly in a TG-15A glider over Colorado Springs in February, 2010.

was recognized as the first Academy pilot in the squadron's history to take a second-place individual IAC collegiate trophy. Gregory's competition included pilots of motorized aircraft.

The Aerobatic team, comprised of cadets, set up aerial demonstrations and aircraft displays at air shows in

Colorado and Florida with combined attendance of more than 1.6 million people.

In addition, for the first time in the team's 43-year history, all six sailplane racing team seniors earned Federation Aeronautique Internationale International Gold badges, capping a season in which the team

earned its 14th Collegiate Soaring Association title in 18 years, placing it in the top 12 percent among the world's 1,400 sailplane clubs.

"We pride ourselves on the fact that it's the cadets making the life-or-death decisions on when or if to send a student solo," Roller said. "The instructor pilots are organized just like the operational Air Force, and they really get the meaning of leadership firsthand by running the program."

"The cadet glider aerobatic team has travelled the country practicing and competing to demonstrate the abilities of some of our most skilled cadet soaring instructor pilots," Roller said.

"These tremendous young officer candidates have a keen sense for detailed precision flying. In fact, our cadets fly some maneuvers that even most sophisticated aircraft in the inventory don't perform."

The 94th FTS, part of the 12th Flying Training Wing at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, supports and oversees the Air Force Academy's soaring airmanship program.

## Officials announce Tricare Prime service area changes

By Amaani Lyle  
American Forces Press Service



WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Active-duty service members and their families will be unaffected when long-delayed reductions to areas where the Tricare Prime option is offered take place Oct. 1, Tricare officials said earlier this month.

But as Tricare seeks to synchronize service area shifts once staggered by contract delays, some military retirees and their dependents will be moved to Tricare Standard coverage, said S. Dian Lawhon, beneficiary education and support division director, during a conference call with reporters.

Those affected reside more than 40 miles from a military treatment facility or base closure site, she said.

The new contracts limit Prime net-

works to regions within a 40-mile radius of military treatment facilities and in areas affected by the 2005 base closure and realignment process, she explained. But provisions will allow Prime beneficiaries who see providers outside the 40-mile service area to remain in Prime if they reside within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and sign an access waiver, she added.

"If Tricare retirees and young adults live less than 100 miles away from a remaining Prime service area, they

can re-enroll in Prime by waiving their drive standards and there will be room made for them," Lawhon said, adding that the networks are required to connect providers to those who elect to waive their drive standards.

Contractors such as United HealthCare Military & Veterans, Health Net Federal Services and Humana Military will continue to assist beneficiaries in obtaining providers in their regions, she added.

"Health care is best if it's local," Lawhon said. "We've established the drive standards (to enable) people to access their primary and specialty care within a reasonable period of time."

Austin Camacho, Tricare's benefit information and outreach branch chief, said the out-of-pocket, fee-for-service cost of Tricare Standard would cost a bit more, depending on the frequen-

cy of health care use and visits. No cost applies for preventive care such as mammograms, vaccines, cancer screening, prostate examinations and routine check-ups, he added.

Officials estimate the changes will lower overall Tricare costs by \$45 million to \$56 million a year, depending on the number of beneficiaries who choose to remain in Prime, Camacho said.

Lawhon and Camacho said beneficiaries should speak to their health care providers and families to assess the best course of action.

"We're hoping people will take a careful look at their health care needs," Lawhon said. "We have seen that people using the Standard benefit are very pleased with it, and their customer satisfaction is the highest of all."

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# Air Force leaders deliver budget guidance

WASHINGTON, — Air Force leaders delivered guidance to the force this week telling them to begin planning for the uncertain budget environment ahead, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said Friday in a press briefing.

“Even though we’re not presuming this worst case will occur, prudent planning for the third and fourth quarters is required,” Donley said.

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta issued guidance to the services to begin planning to help mitigate budget risks, to ensure planning measures are reversible and recoverable, and to the extent feasible, minimize any harmful effects on readiness.

“I’ve asked the military services and the other components to immediately begin implementing prudent measures that will help mitigate our budget risk,” said Panetta Jan. 10. “For now, I’ve made clear that these actions must be reversible to the extent



DOD PHOTO BY GLENN FAWCETT

Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III hold a press conference at the Pentagon, Jan. 11.

feasible and must minimize harmful effects on readiness. But we really have no choice but to prepare for the worst.”

Impacts to the Air Force include curtailing non-readiness or mission essential flying and travel; curtailing or stopping minor purchases such as furniture and IT refresh; deferring non-emergency facility sustainment, restoration and modernization; and implementing a civilian hiring freeze

as well as release of non-mission critical temporary employees.

“To be clear, these near-term actions cannot fully mitigate the impacts of sequestration should that occur,” Donley said. “If we do not have resolution by March, sequestration will have immediate and negative impacts on Air Force readiness, specifically flying hours and maintenance.”

Once implementation plans for these near term actions have been finalized,

the details will be shared.

Regardless of the outcome, Air Force leaders said the priority is to avoid the hollow military of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

A hollow military looks good on paper, Secretary Donley said, “but has more units and equipment than it can support [and] lacks the resources to adequately man, train and maintain them, or to keep up with advancing technologies.”

# Air Force implements civilian hiring freeze

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force senior leaders directed a force-wide hiring freeze among other workforce actions in a memorandum sent to senior commanders Friday.

The actions are part of the Air Force’s efforts to pursue reversible or recoverable steps to avoid impacts to core readiness caused by the looming possibility of sequestration and budgetary shortfalls.

Civilian pay makes up a large share of the Air Force’s operating budget. With budgetary uncertainty and a projected fiscal year 2013 \$1.8 billion shortfall in the Air Force funding for overseas contingency operations, Air Force leadership is taking these immediate actions to reduce the force’s expenditure rate.

The temporary hiring freeze applies to all posi-

tions that are open to applicants outside the Air Force for permanent, temporary and term vacancies in all appropriations, according to the memo. Reassignments and promotions within the current work force will continue because they do not affect the current force size.

The memo, issued by Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., states hiring actions already in progress where a selection was made and an entry on duty date already established will continue, and set EODs may remain. External hiring actions where a job offer has not been made will be withdrawn. Exemptions from previous hiring controls do not carry over.

Additionally, commanders are directed to im-

mediately release temporary employees, and not renew term employees. All temporary and term employees, to include reemployed annuitants that are not considered mission critical, should be separated in accordance with already established procedures.

More specific guidance on actions related to the civilian workforce hiring freeze and management of temporary and term employees is being developed and will be distributed through command channels as soon as details are available.

“These are uncharted waters concerning the federal budget and the effect it will have on the Air Force,” Jones said in the memo. “It is imperative we work closely together to balance mission needs and minimize impacts to our dedicated civilian employees and their families.”

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## Clearance

From Page 1

The IP Directorate began a streamlined process in 2012 to help cadets complete security clearance applications. In previous years, the directorate sent air officers commanding and Academy military training NCOs lists of cadets who needed to fill out E-QIP forms for top-secret clearance, said Gayle Blue-Keyes, the Academy's director of information



MIKE KAPLAN

Cadet 1st Class Derek Travis of Cadet Squadron 33 processes his Top secret security clearance in the Academy's Language Lab Jan. 12. Travis will begin pilot training in February and needs a top secret clearance for his career. The Academy submits between 650 and 700 top secret clearance investigation requests annually.

protection.

"We were working the list with (Cadet Wing Personnel), sending it to AMTs and telling them, 'You have this many in your squadron, make sure they get it done,'" Blue-Keyes said. Errors and omissions in cadets' applications sometimes created time-consuming hassles for both the IP office and AMTs.

Now, cadets assemble in groups to fill out their forms in the Academy's Foreign Language Lab. Information protection officials talk cadets through scenarios involving prior residency and foreign-born parents, Blue-Keyes said.

"When they're in these language labs, they all get the same information," Blue-Keyes said. "So it's pretty seamless for the AMTs who assist us, and it's seamless for the cadets who may have questions."

It also reduces the amount of time needed to process forms to begin investigations, Blue-Keyes said.

Time is essential, as cadets can't be processed for top-secret clearances until they've received their Air Force specialty assignments, and the investigation process can take from two to four months, said Jessie Rhom, the IP directorate's chief of personnel security.

"We have a very small window to get all these done once we find out how many graduating seniors we have in these specified (Air Force specialties)," Blue-Keyes said.

Adding to the complexity, the Academy submits between 650 and 700 investigation requests per year, Rhom said. That number stays fairly constant because of the percentage of Academy graduates who later become pilots.

"Can you imagine if we had to do, one by one, close to 700 applications? The errors that would occur?" Blue-Keyes added.

IP officials also educate cadets on the importance of protecting top-secret information.

"The greatest part about this (new process) is being able to talk to the cadets as they're about

to fill out their (background investigation paperwork) and tell them what this means -- to them, to protecting information, to their careers," Blue-Keyes said. "We talk about what top-secret information means.

"We're trying ... to really get them to say, 'OK, this is my responsibility. Some of this information I'll have access to could cause grave damage to national security if it's released ... so I need to pay attention here,'" she added. "It really prepares them for the environment they're going to go into."

The responsibilities of safeguarding classified information intersect with the responsibilities of being an officer, said Lt. Col. Joel Witzel, assistant director of the Center for Character and Leadership Development's Honor Division.

"Our core values can be further broken down into 11 different virtues," Witzel explained. "Any one of those 11 could relate to safeguarding classified information. Even under caring for others, you have to realize that what you do could harm sources of information and could harm our country. You have to have the self-control to do that."

Witzel highlighted the importance of self-control not only in guarding classified information but also in one's personal conduct.

"If you do something in your career that would be blackmail-worthy, you would be compromised as somebody who holds a top-secret clearance," Witzel said. "You have to limit whom you speak to and how you speak to them because you could mistakenly let go of top-secret information."

While the savings in money and manpower are good, the education piece matters the most, Blue-Keyes said.

"That's our goal for information protection: respect for information and the measures designed to protect it," she added. "That in and of itself prepares our cadets to adapt to the rapid pace at which the information environment is evolving. What we're doing, if we're doing it right, has a positive strategic effect for the Air Force, the Defense Department and the nation."

## Airspace

From page 1

to the change," he said. "What we're looking at is changing our syllabus and refocusing the program so that instead of a breadth of exposure, we narrow the focus to preparing cadets for a solo flight."

Julson said that in the year he's been director of operations, he's fielded three requests to move the Academy's airspace. He recognized that the airspace near Interstate 25 would only become more congested as Colorado Springs Airport grows.

"Instead of having to fight (for airspace) and having to continually reprint training publications at a huge cost, we decided we're going to do this in a fashion that will preserve Academy training airspace for 20 years," Julson explained. "We designed a pattern from scratch.

"Given the constraints we had, we looked at how we could design an airspace that would allow us to be the best neighbors we can, along with building something that could withstand the changes that will go on with the Colorado Springs community in the next 20 years," Julson said. "We've developed safer procedures that can handle more volume without upsetting our neighbors."

The training areas overlay rural parts of Colorado in a semicircular pattern, stretching southeast past the Bullseye Auxiliary Airstrip, east near Calhan and north near Elbert.

The new training areas may also reduce the number of noise complaints that the Academy receives. The Academy previ-

ously received some complaints from residents in Larkspur, said Rich Droll, who oversees the Academy's noise complaint program for the Public Affairs office.

While investigations often determined that the aircraft generating complaints didn't belong to the Academy, moving the Academy's training out of Larkspur airspace should reduce the volume of complaints received, Julson said.

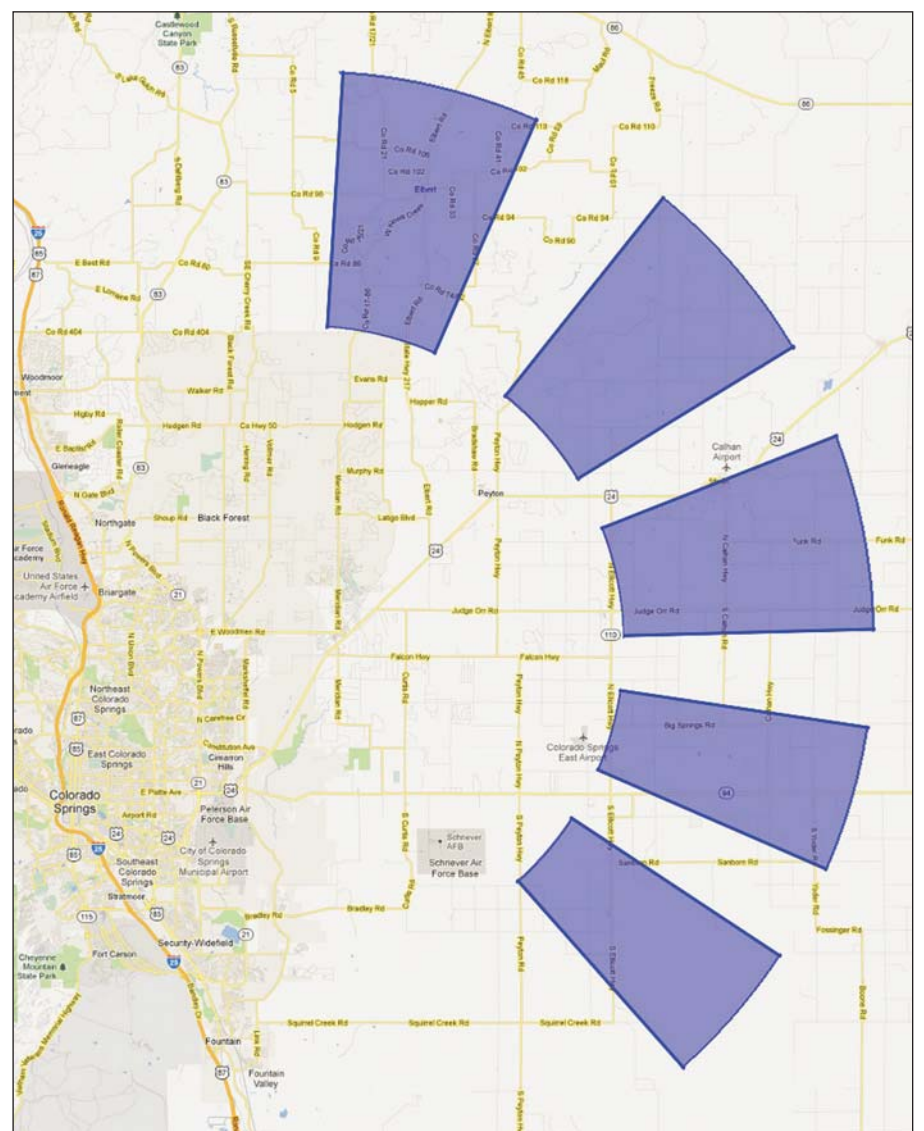
Aircraft will fly between 8,500 feet and 11,500 feet, which should further mitigate noise complaints, Julson said.

"Aircraft noise is less than 60 decibels from that height," he said. "The noise generated from Interstate 25 makes more noise than our aircraft at 8,500 feet, and that's with the engine at full power, so when we cruise, you can't even hear us."

Julson noted more aircraft are flying over State Highway 83, which runs parallel of Interstate 25 from Black Forest into Denver.

"The additional volume might raise concerns, but we've been doing this now for a little more than a month, and we haven't received any complaints," he said. "We intentionally designed (our routes) to fly over low-population areas and to have our noise masked by highway traffic."

Cadets in the powered flight program conduct nine sorties of 90 minutes each, for 13.5 total flying hours, in T-53 Kadet II single-engine aircraft. Those who demonstrate proficiency are allowed to take a solo flight at the end of the program, Julson said.



COURTESY IMAGE/GOOGLE MAPS

The 557th Flying Training Squadron will use airspace east of Colorado Springs near the highlighted areas to conduct powered flight training. The change means that people living in areas near Monument, Calhan and Peyton may see and hear Air Force Academy aircraft.

A group of adventure seekers, including four Air Force Academy graduates, have reached the six highest peaks in six continents.

They are now preparing for the big one: Mount Everest. If they reach their goal, they will make history.

By Amber Baillie • Academy Spirit staff writer

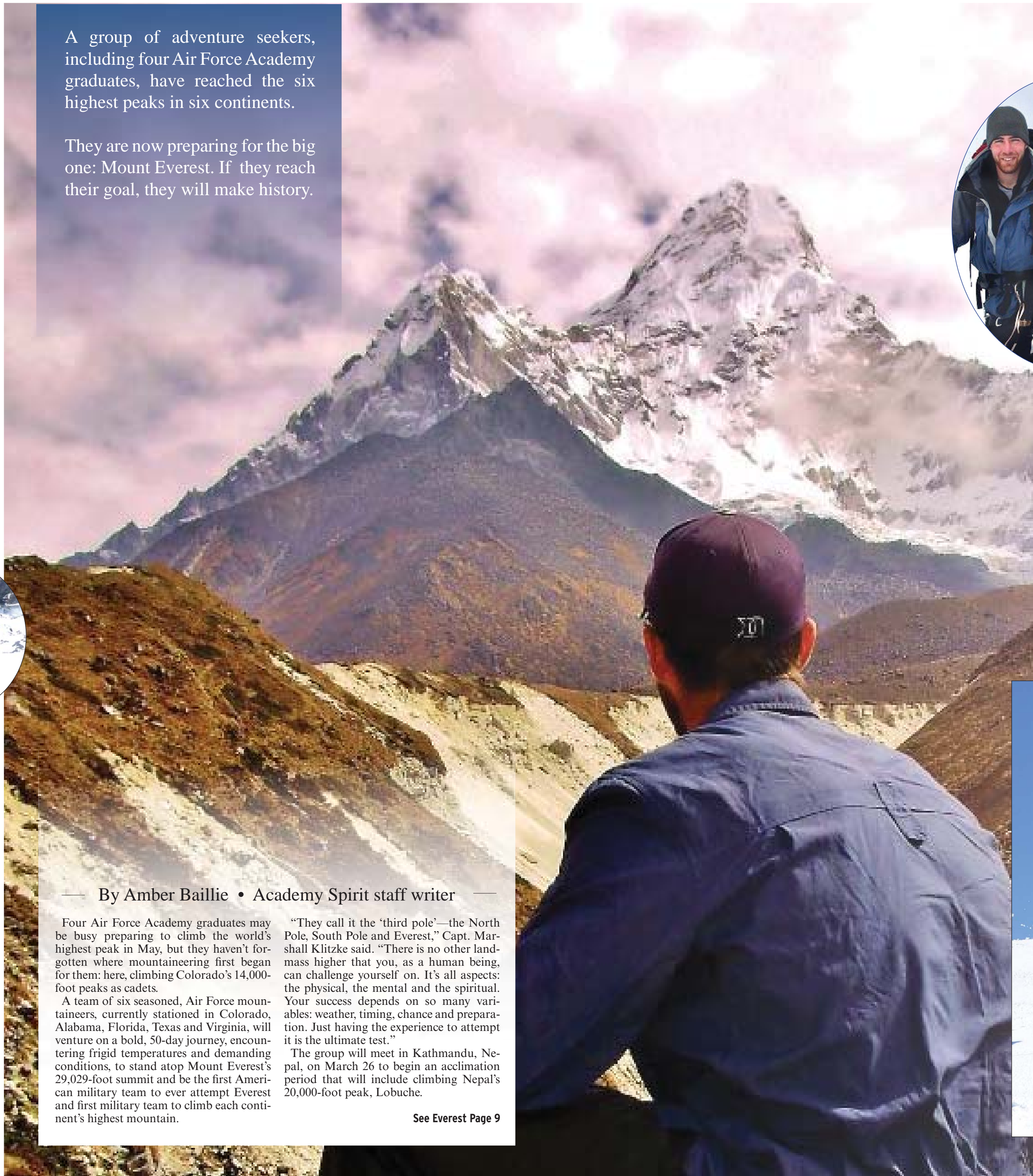
Four Air Force Academy graduates may be busy preparing to climb the world's highest peak in May, but they haven't forgotten where mountaineering first began for them: here, climbing Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks as cadets.

A team of six seasoned, Air Force mountaineers, currently stationed in Colorado, Alabama, Florida, Texas and Virginia, will venture on a bold, 50-day journey, encountering frigid temperatures and demanding conditions, to stand atop Mount Everest's 29,029-foot summit and be the first American military team to ever attempt Everest and first military team to climb each continent's highest mountain.

"They call it the 'third pole'—the North Pole, South Pole and Everest," Capt. Marshall Klitzke said. "There is no other landmass higher than you, as a human being, can challenge yourself on. It's all aspects: the physical, the mental and the spiritual. Your success depends on so many variables: weather, timing, chance and preparation. Just having the experience to attempt it is the ultimate test."

The group will meet in Kathmandu, Nepal, on March 26 to begin an acclimation period that will include climbing Nepal's 20,000-foot peak, Lobuche.

See Everest Page 9



“There is no other landmass higher than you, as a human being, can challenge yourself on. It's all aspects: the physical, the mental and the spiritual.”

- Marshall Klitzke, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot and flight instructor at the Academy.



### Everest

From Page 8

Klitzke, 30, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot and flight instructor here, visited Nepal last fall to climb the 22,349-foot peak, Ama Dablam, with Capt. Kyle Martin, an Academy graduate stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Va., who will also scale Everest.

"So far it's been the pinnacle of my mountaineering," Klitzke said. "I feel like it's given me the credentials to go after Everest."

Klitzke's passion for climbing developed in 2001, while he was a cadet at the Academy, and began regularly climbing the state's "fourteens," skiing, camping and rock-climbing with friends.

"We were always in the mountains," Klitzke said. "Since then it's stuck with me. In mountaineering, everything just kind of slows down, you're very much in the moment and everything else in life just kind of fades away."

Capt. Colin Merrin, 28, a GPS satellite operations mission commander stationed at Schriever AFB, Colo., is another Academy graduate who will join the team. Merrin's resume of peaks include Mount Rainier, Mount Whitney, Mount Blanc and Mount Aconcagua.

"I want to climb Everest to be a part of something truly amazing," Merrin said. "Being an

avid mountaineer, this was an opportunity that I could not turn down. I had heard about the team for years and knew that it would be a tremendous honor to be a part of such an elite group of climbers tackling the highest mountain in the world, and most importantly, supporting the ideals that the 7 Summits Team represents."

The risky, ambitious quest is part of the U.S. Air Force Seven Summits Challenge, a tax-exempt organization created in 2005 by special operations pilot Maj. Rob Marshall. The organization strives to shed positive light on the Air Force by leading teams of Airmen to the summit of each continent's highest peak and honoring service members who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

"What we want people to learn is that anything they're good at, whether it's climbing a mountain, running marathons, playing music or designing Web pages, they can find a way to use their skills to make the world better, whether it be promoting the Air Force or promoting the charity," Marshall said.

The organization has raised more than \$60,000 for charities such as the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and the That Others May Live Foundation. The team has conquered six of the summits; Everest is the final mountain.

If the team reaches the summit, they will mark history as the first military team to climb each continent's highest mountain and the first U.S. military team to conquer Everest, Marshall said.

"You're not going to find anybody on our climb that isn't in excellent shape and passionate about this," Marshall said. "The trip requires lot of money and time. They're all experienced climbers and two thirds of the team are Academy grads."

Marshall, a 2001 Academy graduate, said it was through his participation in the Academy's mountaineering and explorer's club that heightened his love for climbing. He conquered 27 peaks as a cadet.

"The Academy's sports and clubs try to teach positive, life-long habits and outlets for exercise and health," Marshall said.

See Everest Page 10



Far left: Air Force pilot and Academy flight instructor, Marshall Klitzke, reflecting on his experience after climbing the 22,349 foot-peak, Ama Dablam.

Left: Special operations pilot and leader of the Everest team, Maj. Rob Marshall, skiing with an Air Force flag from the summit of Australia's highest peak, Mt. Kosciuszko.

Inset above: Capt. Marshall Klitzke, left, and Capt. Kyle Martin, right, on the summit of Pisang Peak in Nepal. Both Academy grads will climb Everest in May.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: MARSHALL KLITZKE AND ROB MARSHALL



# Outstanding Squadron of 2012 to march in Inaugural Parade

By 1st Lt. Brandon Baccam  
Academy Public Affairs

The “Raptors” of Cadet Squadron 22 will represent the Air Force Academy when they march in the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade Monday in Washington.

Led by Cadets 1st Class Josh Williams and Erin Doran, CS 22 will march through the National Mall before an anticipated audience of more

than 500,000.

Williams, the Academy’s Cadet Wing commander, and the other cadets will march alongside various commanders from the active-duty Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

“Representing the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Wing (and) all of my friends and family back home in the Inaugural Parade is a tremendous honor and privilege,” Williams said.

Doran, who commanded CS 22 in fall 2012, will lead the nine-by-nine marching contingent of Academy cadets in the parade.

The cadets will march in parade dress, complete with high-collar, blue double-breasted waist length coats and parade caps.

“The parade is the largest, most complicated event that takes place in the nation’s capital, which requires a multitude of mission partners to work

together,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Linnington, Joint Task Force — National Capitol Region commander.

Nearly 5,000 service members are expected to participate in inaugural events, and more than 2,000 are scheduled to march in the parade.

Other Air Force participants include the Air Force Band, Air Force Honor Guard and Air Force Color Guard.

The parade is scheduled to start at 2:30 p.m. (EST), Monday.

The following cadets, all members of the Cadet Wing Outstanding Squadron of 2012, will march in honor of President Barack Obama’s inauguration:

Cadet 1st Class Bryan Anderson  
Cadet 1st Class Evan Boone  
Cadet 1st Class Douglas Brown  
Cadet 1st Class Logan Burch  
Cadet 1st Class Kyle Casci  
Cadet 1st Class Erin Conley  
Cadet 1st Class Erin Doran  
Cadet 1st Class Benjamin Fischl  
Cadet 1st Class Anthony Gray  
Cadet 1st Class Kimberly Jackson  
Cadet 1st Class Cory Johnson  
Cadet 1st Class Justin Juedeman  
Cadet 1st Class Paul Kim  
Cadet 1st Class Theodore Kruczek  
Cadet 1st Class Alyssa Manwaring  
Cadet 1st Class Connor Mckinney  
Cadet 1st Class Jacob Mijares  
Cadet 1st Class Meaghan Moore  
Cadet 1st Class Mark O’hair  
Cadet 1st Class Cole Patten  
Cadet 1st Class William Suis  
Cadet 1st Class Alexandra Prusko  
Cadet 1st Class Yasmin Sarmiento  
Cadet 1st Class Michael Seis  
Cadet 1st Class Kevin Sober  
Cadet 1st Class Andrew Svecz  
Cadet 1st Class Tyler Vincent  
Cadet 2nd Class Ford Carty

Cadet 2nd Class Chavez Chavez  
Cadet 2nd Class Beau Davidson  
Cadet 2nd Class Stephanie Deangelo  
Cadet 2nd Class Adrianna Dong  
Cadet 2nd Class Zachary Eagle  
Cadet 2nd Class Christian Erneston  
Cadet 2nd Class Glen Hanson  
Cadet 2nd Class Timothy Holm  
Cadet 2nd Class Christopher Hu  
Cadet 2nd Class Nathan Lunn  
Cadet 2nd Class James Millar  
Cadet 2nd Class John Neilan  
Cadet 2nd Class Shaun Peterson  
Cadet 2nd Class Angelica Phillips  
Cadet 2nd Class Rami Outaishat  
Cadet 2nd Class Spencer Rutter  
Cadet 2nd Class Stephaney Saari  
Cadet 2nd Class Joseph Suwabe  
Cadet 3rd Class Courtney Beck  
Cadet 3rd Class Kiara Davis  
Cadet 3rd Class Ryan Haas  
Cadet 3rd Class Christine Haight  
Cadet 3rd Class Aaron Hartmann  
Cadet 3rd Class David Horney  
Cadet 3rd Class Blake Kidd  
Cadet 3rd Class Andrew Miller-Bissell  
Cadet 3rd Class Jahan Rafie  
Cadet 3rd Class Akil Romany  
Cadet 3rd Class Derek Sargent  
Cadet 3rd Class Jacob Snow  
Cadet 3rd Class Richard States  
Cadet 3rd Class Alma Stuhldreher  
Cadet 3rd Class Weston Umano



Cadet Squadron 22 at last year’s graduation ceremonies at the Academy.

Cadet 4th Class Javier Arana  
Cadet 4th Class Rebecca Bates  
Cadet 4th Class Vaughn Campbell  
Cadet 4th Class Sage Cunningham  
Cadet 4th Class Anthony Franze  
Cadet 4th Class Jaclyn French  
Cadet 4th Class James Gan  
Cadet 4th Class Connor Hagan  
Cadet 4th Class Grant Hamilton  
Cadet 4th Class Stephen Keisler  
Cadet 4th Class Christian Lehman  
Cadet 4th Class Marshall Leipprandt  
Cadet 4th Class Sherry Meadows  
Cadet 4th Class Sara Menke  
Cadet 4th Class Andrew Phillips

Cadet 4th Class Robert Richardson  
Cadet 4th Class Fernando Valencia Cadena  
Cadet 4th Class Anne Von Seggern  
**\*Backups (marching if needed):**  
Cadet 1st Class Kevin Ueunten  
Cadet 1st Class Joshua Williams  
Cadet 2nd Class Thomas Redfield  
Cadet 3rd Class Samuel Posey  
Cadet 3rd Class Patrick Boyle  
Cadet 3rd Class Evan Richter  
Cadet 3rd Class Marcelli Katherine Magday  
Cadet 3rd Class Ryan Kissinger  
Cadet 3rd Class Nolan Hinton  
Cadet 3rd Class Alexander Humphrey  
Cadet 3rd Class Austin Sellers

## Everest

From Page 10

“It’s been 12 years since I graduated, and I’m taking exactly what I learned from the Academy and getting ready to climb Mount Everest. If the Academy’s main goal is teaching and generating leaders, then I think mountaineering is one of the best opportunities to exercise leadership skills and learn to be a good follower.”

Marshall also plans to honor his tradition of doing push-ups on the summit.

“My goal is to see how many I can do in a minute,” Marshall said. “I started doing push-ups on Colorado fourteeners as a cadet. It’s fun to think that I’ve done them on every mountain peak since being a freshman.”

The team’s physical preparation for Everest has included regular gym training and heavy backpacking each week. Marshall said he’s also encouraged the team to swim, to get a full body work out and practice controlled breathing to prepare them for the use of bottled oxygen on Everest.

“The incline in Manitou is my personal beast,” Klitzke said. “I try to do that about twice a week and climb fourteeners. I’m pretty lucky with the elevation in Colorado Springs already being pretty high.”

Marshall, 34, will lead the pack up Everest. He said the group will move at a slower pace to improve their chances of getting as many people as possible to the summit.

“You can climb Everest at a faster pace, but from our research, we are giving ourselves the best chance to acclimatize and the optimal amount of time to reach the top,” Marshall said.

Marshall is aware of the risks that come with mountaineering. In 2008, when Marshall’s team climbed North America’s highest peak, Mount McKinley, the group was tent bound for seven days after being caught in a heavy blizzard.

Being patient, reading the weather correctly and making the right risk management decisions will be important, Marshall said.

“I think the biggest risk we’re going to face on Everest is, ‘How do we manage our team’s schedule to

avoid crowds but still give ourselves the best chance to get to the summit?’” Marshall said.

Klitzke said he hopes his mission to the top of the world will empower cadets.

“Hopefully they will see beyond their four years here, see what’s available and what they can accomplish in the Air Force and outside of it. It’s amazing when you set big goals and tackle them — what you can bring yourself to do.”

It’s important for people to know that the Air Force is comprised of people who pursue their passions with an interest of improving themselves, Merrin said.

“Climbing Everest doesn’t necessarily change the world, but it creates an awareness that we are capable of outstanding feats,” Merrin said.

### On the team are:

- **Capt. Andrew Ackles**, 29, a TH-1H instructor pilot, from Ashland, Ore., stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala.
- **Maj. Rob Marshall**, 34, a V-22 Osprey pilot, from Mercer Island, Wash., stationed in Amarillo, Texas
- **Capt. Kyle Martin**, 29, a T-38 Talon pilot, from Manhattan, Kan., stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Va.
- **Capt. Marshall Klitzke**, 30, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot from Lemmon, S.D., currently an instructor pilot at

the Air Force Academy.

- **Capt. Colin Merrin**, 28, a GPS satellite operations mission commander from Santee, Calif., stationed at Schriever AFB, Colo.
- **Staff Sgt. Nick Gibson**, 36, a reserve pararescuer and physician-assistant student from Gulf Breeze, Fla., stationed at Patrick AFB, Fla.

For more information on the team and U.S. Air Force Seven Summits Challenge, visit: [www.usaf7summits.com](http://www.usaf7summits.com).



ROB MARSHALL

Members from the Royal Australian Army and Air Force stand on the summit of Australia’s highest peak, Mt. Kosciuszko in Oct. 2011. USAF 7 Summits Challenge carry American and U.S. Air Force flags to the top of every mountain they climb to honor military heroes.

# All-Comers meet yields title

Highlighted by an event title in the men's pole vault and three additional top collegiate finishes, the Air Force track and field team returned to action Saturday with the annual Air Force All-Comers Meet.

Sophomore Joey Uhle cleared a career-best 17' 2-3/4" to win the outright title in the pole vault, while debuting seventh on the Academy's all-time list in that event. Uhle, who improved his personal clearance by three inches, became the thirteenth Falcon in program history to clear 17 feet.

The sophomore also placed the Falcons to a sweep of the top four spots in the 15-competitor event. Junior Cort Rogers cleared 16-foot-6 inch and three-quarters of an inch place second, while freshman Dylan Bell and junior Elliott Beski finished third and fourth, respectively, with matching marks of 16' 2-3/4".

With a time of 4:27.68, junior Lance Wolfsmith was the top collegiate finisher in the mile, placing second overall in his first race of the season. He was one of three Air Force runners to place within the top five, as senior Andrew Quallio clocked 4:31.56 to finish third overall (second collegiately) and freshman Andrew Hood improved his time by 15 seconds to finish fifth overall (4:38.20, fourth collegiately).

Junior Matt Caldwell also earned a first-place finish among the collegiate field, as he clocked an 800-meter time of 1:57.98. Caldwell, who finished fourth overall, guided Air Force to four of the top five collegiate finishes,

as a trio of Air Force freshmen – Patrick Corona (1:59.50), Grant Caswell (2:00.73) and Evan Fortney (2:02.54) – finished second, third and fifth, respectively, amongst collegiate runners.

Brian Ford claimed a pair of top-three finishes from the throwing cage. After finishing second in the weight throw with a distance of 59'4", the senior recorded a season-best toss of 52'4" to finish third in the shot put. Classmate James Chambers, who just rejoined the team after spending the fall as a starting member of the Falcons' football team, placed fourth in the shot put with a career-best throw of 51'7".

The men also claimed a runner-up finish in the 4x440-yard relay (3:25.82). Senior Zach Wood cleared a season-best 6'7 3/4" to place third in the high jump, while sophomore Kyle Gartrell took fourth in the long jump with a distance of 21'2 1/2". In addition, juniors David Ptacek and Michael Craig finished fourth (50.53) and fifth (50.67), respectively, among collegiate finishers in the 400-meter dash, while sophomore Jake Spuller picked up a fourth-place finish among college-aged athletes in the 200-meter dash (22.50).

On the women's side, junior Paige Shirley was the top collegiate finisher (second overall) in the pole vault, as she matched her career-best clearance



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

Junior Regan Rogers clears the high-jump pole at the annual Air Force All-Comers Meet here Saturday. Rogers, a native of Wellsboro, Pa., tied for sixth at 5'3".

of 12'1 1/2". Senior Bizzy Mellado finished third overall and second in the collegiate field, with a clearance of 11'7 3/4", while junior Libby Westfall and freshman Riley Vann tied for fourth (third collegiately) with matching clearances of 11'1 1/4". Westfall's clearance was a personal-best by two inches.

Freshman Lea Ross finished second overall in the triple jump (37'6"), while junior Rachel Herald tied for third in the high jump with a season-

best clearance of 5'5".

The Falcons added a pair of top-five finishes in both the mile and the 800-meter events. Sophomore Rebecca Esselstein clocked a time of 5:26.93 in her mile debut to place third (second collegiately), while freshman Emily Wagemaker finished fifth overall (fourth) in a time of 6:05.70. Freshman Hannah Everson placed fourth in her 800-meter debut (2:28.36), while sophomore Taylor Drolshagen clocked 2:33.18 to finish fifth.

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Tooth caregiver
- Greek counterpart of Rhea
- A numbered mail compartment (abbr.)
- New Zealand parrots
- Political action committees
- Fringe-toed lizard
- Reposes
- Winglike structures
- MacMurray of "My Three Sons"
- Oprah's Broadway

**CLUES DOWN**

- Danish krone (abbr.)
- Insect repellents
- Move sideways
- October's birthstones
- \_\_\_ Alto, California city
- Mark of healed tissue
- Somewhat purple
- Egg mixture cooked until just set
- Past tense of bid
- Ancient stone slab bearing markings
- 9th month (abbr.)
- show
- Ceaser, egg and tossed
- Oarlock
- Agile, lively (nautical)
- Skim or dart
- And, Latin
- Embodies
- Gallivants
- Hyperbolic cosecant
- Rural delivery
- Atomic #89
- Opposite of wealthy
- Imus and Knotts
- Yellow ageratum
- species
- Large tropical Am. lizard
- Late Show star
- Armor breastplate
- "Death in the Family" author
- Liquors from rice
- Bread for a burger
- Yeast
- 100 = 1 tala in W. Samoa
- Two-year-old sheep
- Hyrax or cony
- Engine additive
- Bubonic calamity
- Radioactivity unit
- Bow (Sanskrit)
- Legless reptiles
- Thick piece of something
- A distinct part of a list
- Regarding (Scottish prep.)
- Something that is owed
- Mild exclamation
- River in Spain
- Variation of 17 down
- spirals
- Youth loved by Aphrodite
- Get by begging
- Cleans by scrubbing vigorously

## SUDOKU

3			5	6				2
	5	4						
		7						8
			7				4	9
			9	6				3
8	7							
								6
	3	5				1		7
			1	4				

Level: Advanced

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# Coming to blows

Roy Taylor of Cadet Squadron 14 delivers a blow to Peter Coote of CS 15, during their Jan. 11 boxing match in the 132-pound category. In one of the most heavily contested matches of the night, Taylor emerged the victor.

The next round of Friday Night Fights starts 4:30 p.m., today, in the boxing arena. After tonight's matches, the next home matches will be the Wing Open first round, quarterfinals and semifinals, all leading up to the Wing Open Championships Feb. 28.



JOHN VAN WINKLE

## Air Force defeats UNLV, 81-69, in conference home opener

Three Falcons recorded double-doubles as the Air Force women's basketball team earned an 81-69 victory over UNLV Saturday in Clune Arena.

Senior Katie Hilbig registered 14 points and a career-high 16 rebounds, Dymond James added 14 points and a career-high-tying 15 rebounds and junior Cherae Medina registered 13 points and a career-best 10 assists. Meanwhile, Alicia Leipprandt also scored in double figures for the Falcons, notching 13 points.

Hilbig's 16 rebounds were the most for an Air Force player since the 2008-09 season when Kim Kreke notched 19 rebounds on two occasions, while Medina's 10 assists were the most for a Falcon since the 2009-10 season.

Air Force (2-13, 1-1) led for all but the first two and a half minutes of the

game. The Lady Rebels scored their first field goal just 11 seconds into the contest, but missed their next eight shots from the field, as the Falcons went on a 10-0 run to take the lead.

While Air Force pushed its advantage to 12 points with just under 11 minutes remaining in the opening half, UNLV battled back to cut the deficit to 21-20 at the 5:50 mark. Still, the Lady Rebels could get no closer, as Air Force took a 36-29 lead into the intermission.

The Falcons continued to pull away after the break, leading by as many as 18 points with 7:36 remaining. The Lady Rebels were never able to get the margin back to single digits, as Air Force held on for its first conference win of the season.

Air Force attempted 40 free throws in the contest, as the two teams combined for 56 total fouls, including three technical fouls and a flagrant foul. The Falcons shot 28-of-40 (.700) from the stripe, including 18-of-23 in the second half alone.

Rebounding was a huge advantage for Air Force as well, as the Falcons out rebounded the Lady Rebels 60-37, getting 27 of their boards on the offensive glass.

UNLV (5-11, 1-1) was led by Danielle Miller with a game-high 21 points, Alana Cesarz added 13 points and senior Kelli Thompson notched 12 points and a team-best nine rebounds.

Senior Katie Hilbig made 14 points and 16 rebounds in the game with UNLV at Clune Arena Saturday.

SARAH CHAMBERS



## Intramural basketball roundup

By Dave Castilla  
10th Force Support Squadron sports director

Six teams met up for the Intramural Basketball Challenge Tuesday night at the Fitness and Sports center with Prep School scrambling to first place after beating 10th Medical Group 76-65.

### Prep School – 10th Med Group

The Med Group held a two-point lead by half, 36-34, but wore down due to a lack of substitutes, allowing Prep School to take the lead.

The Prep School never looked back, leading Med Group by 14 in the second half to take the first-place position in the league.

Prep School's Jon Atkins lead the game with 20 points, closely followed by teammate Scott Stucky with 15. Med Group's Malik Perry scored 25 points followed by teammate Carlos Gonzalez's 14 points.

### 10th SFS – Fire Department

The 10th Security Forces Squadron hammered the Fire Department 64-35 in what could only be called an off night for the firefighters.

Security Forces made several fast

breaks throughout while Fire Department had trouble making easy baskets. By halftime, SF led 31-18.

SF's Markeith Wimbush scored 22 points with teammates Anthony Mason scoring 15 and Aaron Stubbs bringing in 13. Fire Department's Stephan Wimbush and Mark Mariano scored 17 and 11 points, respectively.

### DRU/FSS – 306th FTG

Finally, DRU/FSS destroyed the 306th Flying Training Group/10th Communications Squadron 80-47 to move into second place in the intramural league.

The contest was tied 15-15 in the first half, but DRU/FSS pushed their lead to 30-18 after recovering several rebounds.

Aaron Dawkins lead DRU/FSS with 28 points and Ryan Hampton scored 22 points which included five three pointers. By second half, Hampton hit several three-pointers, with teammates Ian Johnson and Aaron Dawkins owning the boards.

Jose Vuittonet led FTG with 14 points, with 12 coming from three-pointers. Teammate Dan Heller followed with 10.

## UPCOMING FALCONS SPORTS EVENTS

### GYMNASTICS

• 7 p.m. (PST) Today: Falcon gymnasts take on Mountain Pacific Sports Federation foe Seattle Pacific, Seattle.

### HOCKEY

• 4 p.m. (EST) Saturday and noon Sunday: two-game series at Webster Bank Arena, Sacred Heart, Bridgeport, Conn.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

• 2 p.m. (CST) Sunday: Clune Arena. Falcons take on the Boise State Broncos.

### TRACK & FIELD

• Noon (CST) Saturday: annual Adidas Classic, Bob Devaney Sports Center, Lincoln, Neb. Competition starts with the men's weight throw.

# Dual victories for Falcon wrestlers in first homestand

The Air Force wrestling team closed out its first home stand of the season with a pair of dual victories, defeating Northern Iowa, 19-18, and New Mexico Highlands, 42-0, Jan. 13. With the wins, the Falcons, rated 25th in the latest InterMat rankings, improve to 5-1 overall on the season.

Competing without its two nationally ranked wrestlers this weekend, Air Force faced a tough challenge against perennial West Region powerhouse Northern Iowa to start the afternoon. The Panthers scored a decision and a major decision in the first two duals to take a 7-0 lead before Josh Mohr (Sr., Pewaukee, Wis.) earned an 8-2 decision over Blaize Cabell at 197 pounds to put the Falcons on the board. Sophomore heavyweight Bentley Alsup (Missoula, Mont.) then gave Air Force its second-straight win with a 5-3 decision against 2012 NCAA qualifier Blayne Beale.

At 125 pounds, freshman Mitch Brown (Payson, Utah), wrestling in place of 11th-ranked Josh Martinez, rebounded from a 7-0 first-period deficit against Ryan Jauch with a strong third period. Scoring three takedowns in the final stanza, Brown secured a fall with just 24 seconds on the clock to put the Falcons on top in the team scoring, 12-7.

Northern Iowa regained the advan-

tage with wins by nationally ranked wrestlers in the next two weight classes, including a narrow 7-5 decision by No. 12 Levi Wolfensperger over Dylan Hyder (Yelm, Wash.). After the Panthers scored a technical fall at 149 pounds to take a 19-12 lead in the team scoring, the Falcons needed wins in each of the last two bouts to have a chance at capturing the victory.

The 157-pound match featured a pair of familiar foes, with Josh Kreimier (Jr., Fort Collins, Colo.) facing off against the Panthers' David Bonin. The two NCAA qualifiers, who have been listed in various rankings throughout the season, wrestled in a pair of overtime contests last season, with Bonin earning both wins. Sunday's match looked to be another close battle, as the only point in the first two periods was an escape from Bonin. However, Kreimier took control in the third period, scoring an early reversal to take the lead.

Kreimier worked his way into a pinning situation in the final 30 seconds of regulation, but the action was stopped for an injury timeout, giving Kreimier a four-point near fall with 20 seconds on the clock. After Bonin chose the down position on the restart, Kreimier ended the match with a reversal and added 1:29 of riding time for the 9-1 major de-



RAYMOND MCCOY

Sophomore Bentley Alsup pins University of Northern Iowa wrestler and 2012 NCAA qualifier, Blayne Beale, to give Air Force its second-straight win with a 5-2 decision, Jan. 13. The Falcons, rated 25th in the latest InterMat rankings, improve to 5-1 overall in the season.

cision. Additionally, Northern Iowa was deducted a team point for an unsportsmanlike penalty on the bench, cutting the Panthers' lead to 18-16.

Needing a win at 165 pounds to secure the Falcons' team victory, sophomore Jesse Stafford (Loomis, Calif.) got out to a strong start against Jarrett Jensen, scoring a takedown and a reversal in the first two periods to gain a 4-0 advantage. Stafford extended his lead to 6-0 with a third-period takedown before holding on to the 7-3 decision. The win gave Air Force a 19-18 team victory, the Falcons' first over the Panthers since 2002.

It was a good day for the program,"

stated Air Force head coach Joel Sharratt. "We had the same 10 guys as Friday night, who bounced back from a tough dual loss against Oregon State; they showed some character. We got a big spark at 125, with Mitch Brown staying in the fight for seven minutes—getting down early and wrestling back. Josh Kreimier—against a guy who's ranked top 20 in the country, who he's had some battles with back and forth—came out, wrestled well and kept his head in the match for the whole seven minutes. There was a great result there."

Air Force is in California to face Stanford, Menlo College and Cal Poly on Sunday.

# Peak Dining

## BILLIARDS



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## 2013 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2013 Air Force Academy Distinguished Service Award.

The DSA is presented annually to a service member, civilian or group whose contributions have improved the well-being of the Academy.

Any individual or group who has contributed significantly and directly through the donation of time, resources or influence, is eligible.

Nominations may be submitted through April 1 to:

**HQ USAFA/CMA**  
2304 Cadet Drive Suite 3200  
USAF Academy CO 80840-5002

Nomination packages should include: a single page with biographical data including name, rank (if military), organization or company, telephone number, mailing address and a typed narrative justification, not to exceed one page, describing the nominee's accomplishments.

For more information, contact Steve Simon at 333-8827.



## Cadet Chapel

### BUDDHIST

Sundays, 10 a.m.; Thursdays, 6:20 p.m.

### PROTESTANT

**Traditional:** Sundays, 9 a.m.

**Contemporary:** Sundays, 11 a.m.

### CATHOLIC

#### Mass:

Sundays, 10 a.m.

Mondays, 6-6:20 p.m.

Tuesdays, 6:45-7:15 a.m.

Wednesdays, 6:30-7 p.m.

Thursdays, 6:15-6:45 a.m.

### JEWISH

**Shabbat:** Fridays, 7 p.m.

### MUSLIM

**Jum'ah:** Fridays, 12:30-2 p.m.

## Community Center Chapel

### CATHOLIC WORSHIP

**Mass:** Saturdays, 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.; Tuesdays-Fridays, 11:30 a.m.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3:30 p.m.

**Formation Classes:** For students in grades K-8. Sundays, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

### PROTESTANT WORSHIP

**Evangelical:** Sunday, 10:15 a.m.

**Gospel:** Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

### PROTESTANT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays, 9 a.m.

## SnoFest party tickets available

The Community Center's Outdoor Recreation office is selling advance tickets now through Jan. 19 to the Friday and Saturday night SnoFest parties.

Tickets will not be available at the door. For SnoFest information or to learn more about the services Outdoor Recreation provides, call 333-4475.

## Blodgett Drive Closure

Blodgett Drive will be closed through March 8 as part of an ongoing project to replace the road-base, asphalt and curbs near the Base Exchange and Commissary area.

During the winter months, the available window of opportunity to replace asphalt and concrete is weather dependent, so delays may occur.

## AFPC ends voice system

AFPC's Interactive Voice Response System will be decommissioned Jan. 31.

The IVRS allowed employees to conduct benefits-related actions by calling 800-525-0102 and using their telephone keypad.

After Jan. 31, employees will be required to conduct these transactions through the online Employee Benefits and Information System at <http://1.usa.gov/11zZmf2>.

Employees may contact a customer service representative for counseling or guidance at 800-525-0102 but will be directed to login to EBIS for any benefit transactions.

EBIS is available 24 hours a day and may be accessed from any government or home computer using a common access card.

Employees can access EBIS from the myPers website at <https://myPers.af.mil>. EBIS can be used to make health insurance, life insurance, and Thrift Savings Plan elections and provide educational materials, among other services.

Employees experiencing problems accessing EBIS, may select the "Contact Us" link found on any page of the myPers website.

## 10th CS services now reduced

The 10th Communications Squadron has reduced some of its services due to Fiscal Year 2013 budget constraints.

New telephone, cable TV and network port installations must be approved by a group-level commander and be paid for by the requesting organization.

Support for new information technology projects must be based on mission need, support requirements and funding availability.

For more information, contact the 10th CS Comm Focal Point at 333-4357.

## USAF A endowment campaign

The USAFA Endowment has launched its year-end drive to boost graduate support to the Academy.

The Endowment's 2012 contributions to the Academy include the recent Center for Character and Leadership Development groundbreaking, a project funded by the annual military construction budget and \$12.5 million from private donors.

For more information, call the Endowment at 472-0300 or visit [www.usafa.org/push](http://www.usafa.org/push).

## Dining facility adjusts policy

The High Country Inn will no longer offer dining to retirees due to limited funding.

Other 10th Force Support Squadron dining facilities, such as the Falcon Club, Ten Pin Grill and Ike's Grill, will remain open to all DOD ID cardholders.

## Pottery studio available

The Arts and Crafts center's pottery studio is available when a class is not in session.

The studio includes nine pottery wheels, glazes and five kilns. Clay is available for purchase.

For information, call 333-4579.

## A&FRC events

For information on Airman and Family Readiness Center events, contact the A&FRC at 333-3444.

**Transition Assistance ProgBundles for Babies:**

Wednesday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The workshop is open to active-duty personnel and spouses. Attendees will learn budgeting for baby, nutrition, developmental play and basic parenting skills. Attendees will also receive a bundle of goodies from the Air Force Aid Society.

### Troops for Teachers:

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. The workshop will provide information for military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher.

### Resume Writing Workshop:

Wednesday, 9 a.m.- noon. Attendees will learn how to write an effective resume, different resume formats, how to best highlight their qualifications and how to target their resume to specific jobs.

### Federal Resume Writing Class:

Jan. 29, 2-4 p.m. Attendees will learn how to create a federal resume formatted to USAJOBS guidelines.

### Retirement Planning:

Jan. 30, 8 a.m.- noon. Attendees will receive information on Federal Employees Retirement System benefits and financial planning for retirement. Spouses may sign up with a member.

## Falcon Stadium lost & found

Items lost at Falcon Stadium during the 2012 home football season or during the Academy's graduation ceremony may be claimed at the stadium office.

All items not claimed by March 31 will be disposed of in accordance with Air Force Instruction 31-206, "Security Forces Investigations Program," USAFA Supplement I.

For more information, call 333-1151.

## Outdoor Rec offers skiing trips

Outdoor Recreation offers several outdoor winter trips, including a snowmobile trip Saturday and ski trips throughout January and early February.

Upcoming ski trips include Ski Cooper on Sunday, Breckenridge on Jan. 19, Winter Park on Jan. 21 and Monarch on Feb. 2.

Outdoor Recreation also offers a moonlight snowshoeing trip in the Farish Recreation Area Jan. 26.

Discounted ski passes are also available.

Call 333-4475 for more information.

## 'Nonsense Blvd.' at Arnold Hall

The musical Broadway show "Nunset Boulevard," featuring Cindy Williams from "Laverne and Shirley," will play at the Arnold Hall Theater Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Contact the Academy Concerts ticket office at 333-4497 for more information or to buy tickets.

## Free national park passes

The National Park Service will issue free annual national park passes to all active-duty service members and their family members at the base clinic Jan. 25 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Veterans with permanent Veterans Administration disability ratings will receive a lifetime access pass.

## Holiday Update

Class will not be held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan. 21 or on Presidents Day, Feb. 18. Various on-bases will also be closed.

## Got an IDEA?

The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program is designed to reward individuals whose suggestions improve the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of the Air Force, Defense Department and government operation.

Anyone may submit an idea, but only Airmen, cadets, cadet candidates, civilian employees and contract personnel who are paid from appropriated funds are eligible for cash awards.

Monetary awards can be as high as \$10,000 for each idea that results in validated and tangible savings, and \$200 for ideas resulting in intangible benefits.

For information on how to submit an idea, visit <http://1.usa.gov/RPDN-gu> or call 333-4332. Logging in at the IDEA website requires a Common Access Card.

## Buddhist writer to speak

Writer and Chinese translator Red Pine will speak about "The Chinese Quest for Solitude" in the Arnold Hall banquet room Jan. 31 at 6 p.m.

Pine's works include "The Zen Teachings of Bodhidharma" and "The Clouds Should Know Me By Now: Buddhist Poet Monks of China." To attend, RSVP to Sarah Bender at [sembender@gmail.com](mailto:sembender@gmail.com) or contact the Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

## NCLS

The 20th annual National Character and Leadership Symposium will occur Feb 20-22 with the theme "The Silver Lining: Courage Through Adversity."

NCLS is one of the nation's premier symposia in the field of character and leadership development and brings together distinguished scholars, military leaders, executives, athletes, and others to explore a character-related theme. For more information, visit [www.event.com](http://www.event.com).

## Graduation Week

Graduation Week begins May 23 and culminates May 29 with a ceremony at Falcon Stadium featuring a distinguished speaker and the Air Force Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Squadron.

For more information, contact the Directorate of Plans, Programs and Institutional Events at 333-2250.





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