

GET READY

IG inspection scheduled for April.
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A HELPING HAND

Cadets support the community.
Pages 8-9

NCLS IS FEB. 26-27

Annual symposium includes cadets,
USAF staff, guest speakers.
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Academy SPIRIT



Making a pledge

Cadet Candidate Monica Mammah conducts a portion of the Air Force Academy Preparatory School's "It's On Us" campaign in the Community Center Theater here Tuesday. Mammah is one of 13 cadet candidates who took a pledge alongside the Prep School's senior leaders to recognize sexual assault and create an environment where it is not tolerated.

Cadet candidates take part in 'It's On Us' campaign

By Don Branum
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

A group of 13 Academy Preparatory School students and senior leaders took the "It's On Us" pledge during a presentation in the Community Center Theater here Tuesday.

The pledge commits the Prep School's student

and faculty leaders to create an environment that does not tolerate sexual assault and that supports survivors.

Cadet Candidate Kylee Miller said she volunteered out of a spirit of wingmanship.

"I want everyone to know and to realize that we are a family, we support each other, and we are

there for each other no matter what," Miller said. "This means listening and talking about difficult things, being a good wingman if we are needed and getting someone help if they need it."

Cadet Candidate Gerald Coleman said he knows survivors of sexual assault and has heard

See Pledge Page 14



JASON GUTIERREZ

Future missileers get immersion experience



SENIOR AIRMAN VERONICA WARD

Academy cadets watch a demonstration by tactical response forces at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., Jan. 16.

By Senior Airman Veronica Ward
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — A group of approximately 20 cadets slated to enter the missile operations career field upon graduation this summer, visited F.E. Warren Air Force Base Jan. 15-17 to learn about the mission and see it firsthand.

The immersion trip was organized to introduce and welcome future missileers to the team and allowed cadets to learn about the importance of the nuclear mission, said Maj. Gen. Richard Clark, a 1986 Academy graduate and vice commander of Air Force Global Strike Command.

"You don't start building leaders when

they're majors, you start building leaders when they're cadets," Clark said during a briefing at the Academy prior to accompanying the group on the trip. "It takes years to get the right leaders in command and right now we need an infusion of excellence."

Approximately 60 members of the Class of 2015 are slated to train as missileers after graduation, with the intent that the group will bring new perspective into the career field.

"If they come together and become the nucleus, they can infuse a unique level of teamwork to the field, lean on each other, and as the team grows they can pull others in," Clark said. "My hope is that they can evolve with the modernization of the

See Missileers Page 14

Presidential Proclamation: National African-American History Month

By Barack Obama
U.S. President

For generations, the story of American progress has been shaped by the inextinguishable beliefs change is always possible and a brighter future lies ahead.

With tremendous strength and abiding resolve, our ancestors — some of whom were brought to this land in chains — have woven their resilient dignity into the fabric of our nation and taught us we are not trapped by the mistakes of history. It was these truths that found expression as foot soldiers and Freedom Riders sat in and stood up, marched and agitated for justice and equality. This audacious movement gave birth to a new era of civil and voting rights, and slowly, we renewed our commitment to an ideal at the heart of our founding: no matter who you are, what you look like, how modest your beginnings or the circumstances of your birth, you deserve every opportunity to achieve your God-given potential.

As we mark National African-American History Month, we celebrate giants of the civil rights movement and countless other men and women whose names are etched in the hearts of their loved ones and the cornerstones of the country they helped to change. We pause to reflect on our progress and our history — not only to remember, but also to acknowledge our unfinished work. We reject the false notion our challenges lie only in the past, and we recommit to advancing what has been left undone.

Brave Americans did not struggle and sacrifice to secure fundamental rights for themselves and others only to see those rights denied to their children and grandchildren. Our nation is still racked with division and poverty. Too many children live in crumbling neighborhoods, cycling through substandard schools and being affected by daily violence in their communities. Americans of all races have seen their wages and incomes stagnate while inequality continues to hold back hardworking



families and entire communities.

But the trajectory of our history gives us hope. Today, we stand on the shoulders of courageous individuals who endured the thumps of billy clubs, the blasts of fire hoses and the pain of watching dreams be deferred and denied. We honor them by investing in those around us and doing all we can to ensure every American can reach their full potential. Our country is at its best when everyone is treated fairly and has the chance to build the future they seek for themselves and their family. This means providing the opportunity for every person in America to access a world-class education safe and affordable housing, and the job training that will prepare them for the careers of tomorrow.

Like the countless quiet heroes who worked and bled far from the public eye we know that with enough effort, empathy and perseverance, people who love their country can change it. Together, we can help our nation live up to its immense promise. This month, let us continue that unending journey toward a more just, more equal and more perfect union.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2015 as National African-American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Academy to send out IG survey, gets ready for April inspection

By Col. David Kuenzli
U.S. Air Force Academy inspector general

You've probably heard the Air Force Academy will be inspected by the Air Force Inspection Agency April 7-17. You may ask yourself, "Why is this important?" It's important because you can make a difference.

As your IG, I know no one really likes inspections. Airmen have good reason to dislike them, as the Air Force previously had 116 different inspections. This equated to IG inspectors appearing here five months of every year. Worse yet, Airmen spent months preparing for these inspections. This preparation often had nothing to do with accomplishing the mission; rather it was accomplished to impress inspectors.

Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III realized the Air Force no longer



Col. David Kuenzli

had time or resources for such inspection preparations and the service released its Inspection System in August 2013. This system discourages preparing for inspections to give you back your valuable time. To do that, you have to

participate. Simply put, you're in the best position to know what works to accomplish the mission.

This month, Academy Airmen will receive an email with a link to an anonymous inspection survey to better inform inspectors of our successes and areas needing improvement. I encourage you to participate. You'll make a difference by helping the Academy improve.

This inspection system works. For

example, an Academy Airman noticed some computers used by U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School staff were nearly a decade old. The Prep School staff was under the impression they were not covered by the Lifecycle Replacement Program, and purchased computers with their annual funding. This Airman connected the Prep School with life cycle points of contact and the Prep School received 93 new computers the following week. Instead of spending money on computers, the Prep School now spends it on quality of life initiatives. It didn't take a higher headquarters inspection to fix this problem; it was discovered by an Academy Airman.

Please take the survey. Good ideas come from all Airmen regardless of rank or time on station. Don't underestimate your impact in improving our IG processes and help us all accomplish our crucial mission of developing leaders of character.

ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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Lt. Col. Brus E. Vidal — Director of Public Affairs
Ray Bowden — Editor
Don Branum — Staff Writer
Amber Baillie — Staff Writer
Airman 1st Class Rachel Hammes — Staff writer
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The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by e-mail: pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil.

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Sequestration: Air Force could be too small to succeed

By Tech. Sgt. Natalie Stanley
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — During testimony on Capitol Hill Jan. 28, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III stressed the negative impact sequestration will have on Air Force capabilities, emphasizing further budget cuts will lead to low morale and declined readiness. “Pilots sitting in a squadron looking out at their airplanes parked on a ramp certainly feels like a hollow force, whether we define it that way or not,” Welsh said. “People are not joining this business to sit around.”

The common tone of the testimony by all the service chiefs was maintaining the faith and trust each military member has in their respective service by ensuring they have the training and equipment to win any fight.

“We can’t continue to cut force structure to pay the cost of readiness and modernization or we risk being too small to succeed,” Welsh said.

Welsh stated 24 years of combat operations has taken a toll on the Air Force and the need for modernization is no longer debatable.

“We currently have 12 fleets of aircraft that qualify for antique license plates in the state of Virginia,”

he said. “Air forces that fall behind technology fail and joint forces, without the full breadth of the air, space and cyber capabilities that comprise modern airpower, will lose.”

Welsh credited improved combat squadron readiness over the past year to the Balanced Budget Act, which targeted individual and unit readiness, but said sequestration would immediately reverse this trend.

“Squadrons would be grounded, readiness rates would plummet, Red and Green Flag exercises would have to be cancelled, Weapons School classes would be limited, and our aircrew members’ frustration will rise

again,” Welsh said.

He explained sequestration led to intentional underfunding of infrastructures that produce combat capability over time including training ranges, test ranges, space launch facilities, simulation infrastructure and nuclear infrastructure.

Welsh appealed to the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee to join with the military to ensure current and future combat capability.

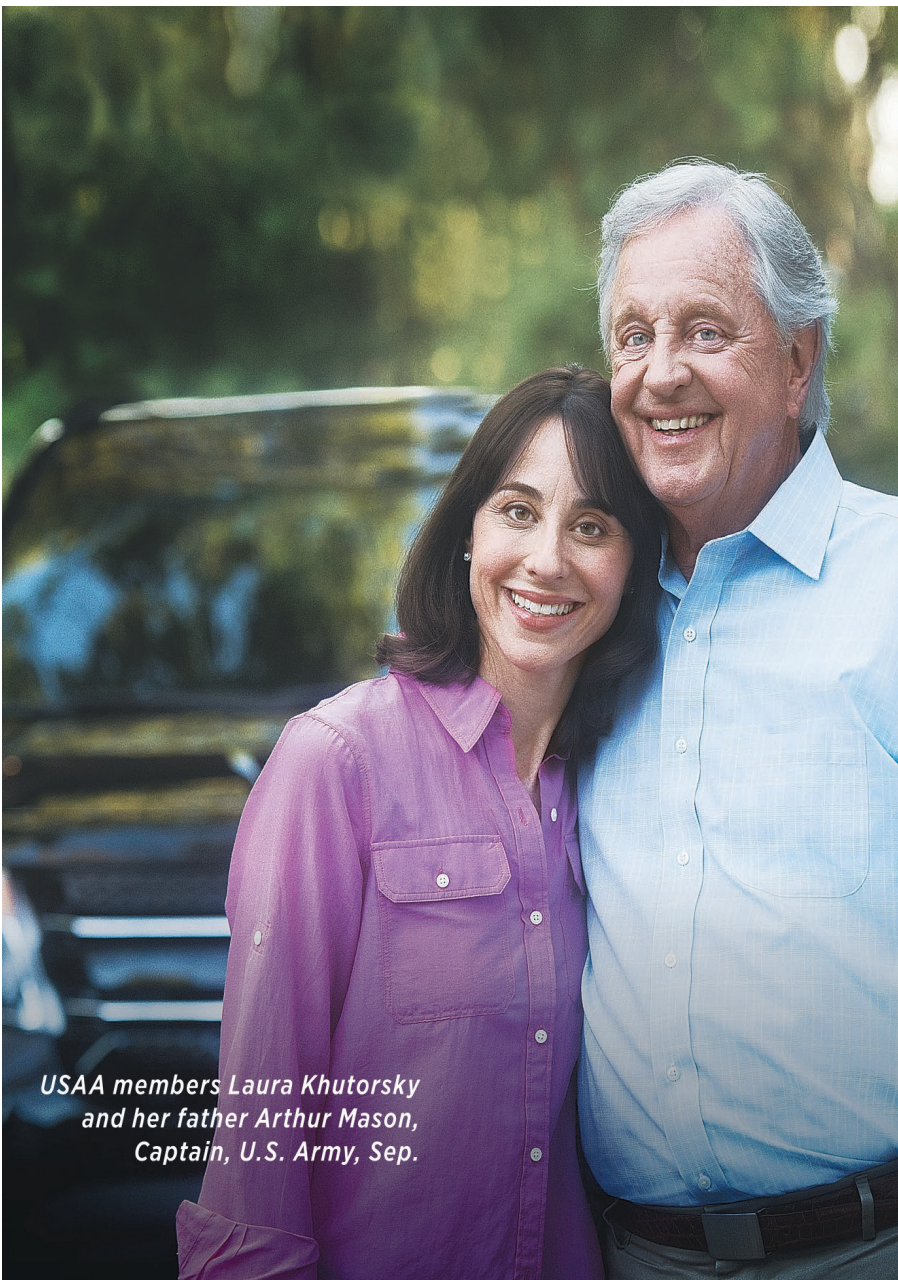
“We do need your help to be ready for today’s fight and still able to win in 2025 and beyond,” he said. “Our Airmen deserve it, our joint team needs it, and I believe our nation still expects it.”



Flying over USAFA

Cadets on the terrazzo watch four A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. fly over the Academy Monday. The fly over occurred during the cadets’ noon meal formation.

MIKE KAPLAN



USAA members Laura Khutorsky and her father Arthur Mason, Captain, U.S. Army, Sep.

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Spring graduation date announced



Graduating cadets march across the Academy Terrazzo May 28, 2014.

By Airman 1st Class Rachel Hammes
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The Academy released the schedule of events for the 2015 spring graduation, with ceremonies and events beginning May 21 and culminating in graduation May 28.

This is a change from previous years, when graduation took place on a Wednesday rather than a Thursday, said Sue Christensen, Institutional Plans and Events specialist with the Plans, Programs and Institutional Events Division here.

“That allowed us to free up Memorial Day itself,” she said. “Very few events are now taking place on Monday, whereas before it was a

full day for everyone.”

By scheduling fewer events for Memorial Day, the Academy will cut down on overtime pay for civilian employees, she said.

A major part of moving graduation forward a day was cancelling the Organization Awards Parade, traditionally held Monday of graduation week, and to instead present the awards at the graduation awards ceremony at Clune Arena May 27.

The week will hold multiple events for friends and families of graduating cadets, Christensen said.

Visit www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation for more information.

Cadet Cyber Team wins 7 medals at competition

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The Air Force Academy’s Cadet Cyber Team captured seven medals during the 2015 inter-service Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Competition Jan. 30-Sunday in Pittsburgh.

The DARPA-sponsored contest featured teams from the Air Force Academy, the Military Academy, the Naval Academy and the Coast Guard Academy. Air Force, Army and Navy fielded three cadet or midshipmen teams while Coast Guard fielded one team.

The teams competed in attack-defense, finding binary vulnerabilities, memory forensics, disc forensics and reverse engineering, at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall.

In the individual Speed-Reverse Engineering competition, Cadet 1st Class Bill Parks won the gold medal. Cadet 1st Class Kevin Cooper won the silver medal and Parks won the bronze medal in the online event before the live competition.

Cadets and midshipmen also competed in a second joint attack-defense, working in teams with representatives from each service academy.

“I’m really thrilled with the cadets’ performance,” said Dr. Martin Carlisle, head of the Air Force Academy’s Computer Sciences Department. “They’ve been working hard for months, preparing for these events designed to simulate challenges they’ll face after graduation while conducting the cyber mission.”

The Air Force team consisted of Cooper, Parks; Cadets 2nd Class Greg Fox, Josh Hayden and Eric Wardner; and Cadets 3rd Class Alex Fulton, Austin McWhirter, Everett Montano and Garrett Turley.

Next up for the Cadet Cyber Team is the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, Feb. 27-28 at the Denver Tech Center.



JOHN VAN WINKLE

Cadet 1st Class Kevin Cooper (left) and Cadet 3rd Class Alex Fulton team up for a memory forensics exercise in the Academy’s Cyber Warfare Laboratory Tuesday. They are preparing for the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, Feb. 27-28.

Academy ranks among nation’s best-value colleges

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The Academy was ranked as one of the nation’s 200 best value colleges by The Princeton Review Tuesday.

The announcement came in the release of The Princeton Review’s “Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Best-Value Colleges and What It Takes to Get In — 2015 Edition” book.

The book and associated online resources address two major concerns of college applicants and their parents: paying for college and graduating with a good job and paycheck.

The Academy was ranked as one of the nation’s 77 best public schools, and among the nation’s top nine tuition-free schools. The tuition-free schools were separately profiled, and were not included in the book’s other ranking lists.

The tuition-free schools list includes each of

The Academy was ranked as one of the nation’s 77 best public schools, and among the nation’s top nine tuition-free schools.

the five service academies, as well as Berea College, College of the Ozarks, Deep Springs College and the Webb Institute.

The Academy regularly ranked among the top colleges in the nation by The Princeton Review over the past decade. In August, the review ranked the Academy among the best regional colleges in the West, and as one of its Best 379 Colleges.

“We strongly recommend these schools,” said Robert Franek, The Princeton Review’s senior vice president and lead author of the book.

“They deliver outstanding academics while working to be affordable to students with need — offering generous financial aid or charging a relatively low cost of attendance (or both). Their students graduate with great career prospects.”

The Princeton Review developed a unique “Return-on-Education” rating to winnow its list of colleges for this book. ROE measured 40 weighted data points, ranging from academics, cost, financial aid and student debt to statistics on graduation rates, alumni salaries, and job satisfaction.

The ROE rating is based on data collected in 2013-2014 from surveys of administrators and students at 650 colleges, plus surveys conducted by PayScale.com through April 2014 of alumni of the same schools.

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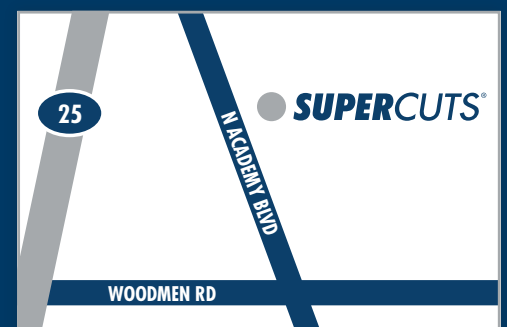
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Leader of character

Broam Hart: Academy cadet leads on and off the field



Cadet 1st Class Broam Hart works in the Waldo Canyon burn area with fellow cadets this summer. The cadet volunteers were working on reclamation of the forest.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS

By Airman 1st Class Rachel Hammes
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Throughout the four years cadets spend at the Academy, the Center for Character and Leadership Development works to coordinate events, speakers and leadership opportunities to mold cadets into principled leaders. Despite that, it's ultimately the cadet's decision whether or not they commit to being a leader of character, and for Cadet 1st Class Broam Hart, the choice was obvious.

"Helping people is something that has become a priority in my life," said Hart, who plays Division-I football with the Falcons and is active in the Cadet-Athletes against Sexual Violence program.

While balancing his time as a cadet, an athlete and a volunteer can be difficult, Hart said devoting time to help others is important to him.

"Everyone can find the time to do something — everyone can find the time to do their hobbies, so I can sacrifice a couple hours to do something for someone else," he said. "Time management is a huge thing I've learned through all of this — always do the job first and then worry about yourself whenever you have time. I can better enjoy myself when I've already accomplished my tasks for the day."

In addition to teaching Sunday school at Pikes Peak Church in Colorado Springs, Hart was active in helping with flood-prevention efforts following the Waldo Canyon fire in 2013. He also volunteered at Marian House, a soup kitchen in downtown Colorado Springs.

Hart received the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl Humanitarian Award at the Boise Centre Dec. 18, in Boise, Idaho. He was also a nominee for the 2014 Allstate American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team, which recognizes leadership in football players and volunteer work in their communities.

While Hart played 38 career games for the Falcons — the most career games played by any current offensive player — he was also instrumental in helping film the Cadet-Athletes against Sexual Violence video, and used his role as a member of the Air Force football leadership council to accelerate a training program

against sexual violence for his teammates.

"I think sexual assault is a problem in our country and it's something we need to recognize," he said. "With my background and my faith I know it is wrong to sexually assault somebody. Nobody deserves to be treated that way."

Lt. Col. Eddie Wagner, Hart's air officer commanding for the 2013-2014 academic year, said Hart was a pleasure to have in his squadron.

"He did an exceptional job balancing all of his requirements in the squadron, in the classroom, on the football field and in the local community," Wagner said. "Cadet Hart was extremely supportive of his classmates and took a vested interest in developing others. He never carried himself like he was above other cadets because he played Division-I football, and that really resonated with others in the squadron. This explains why he is so well liked by everyone, and why my two boys run around the backyard pretending to be him. I have no doubt that he is going to be an outstanding officer because he honestly cares more about others than his own interests."

Hart cites Falcons head coach Troy Calhoun for inspiring him on and off the field.

"He's really good about showing us how to become men instead of little boys," Hart said. "He wants us to be men of character. He definitely encourages us to develop as leaders through volunteer work."

Hart is slated to enter the Acquisition career field upon graduation, but prior to heading to training he will spend a year as a military training officer at the Preparatory School here. He will spend the year mentoring and training cadet candidates who hope to receive an appointment at the Academy.

"I'll be excited to get involved with the Prep School," he said. "And when I'm done for the day at the Prep School, I hope to get out in the community and work with a small pee-wee football team. I learned to become a leader through athletics: I became a leader on the field, and that helped me become a leader off the field."



Cadet 1st Class Broam Hart



Air Force works to maintain technological edge

By Ed Gulick
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs



Gen. Larry O. Spencer

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer urged members of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board to help the service maintain its technological edge at their winter board meeting Jan. 27.

“We need your help,” Spencer said. “We need the expertise you provide because it is really critical. Our budgets are shrinking, our capacity is shrinking and there’s no way to accomplish (our mission) with the budgets we have without technology and innovation.”

Spencer cited current modernization efforts, including the F-35A Lightning II, KC-46A Pegasus, long range strike bomber and the intercontinental ballistic missile fleet upgrade, as current costly programs the service must pay for. He urged the group to look at how their studies can help the service save money while keeping its technological edge.

“We need your help to focus on what we can do versus what we can’t,” Spencer said. He highlighted some technologies, such as measuring time in femtoseconds, hypersonics and quantum

entanglement, as areas of advancements that need to be studied to determine how they can be used to advance the service’s mission.

“(The Air Force) cannot survive without you,” Spencer said. “The technology has leaped so fast, it’s hard for us to keep up with it. We want our

adversaries to say, ‘Where did they get that and what are we going to do about it.’”

The SAB was tasked by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, to conduct studies on the cyber vulnerabilities of embedded systems in air and space systems, enhanced utility of unmanned air vehicles in contested and denied environments and utility of quantum systems for the Air Force.

The SAB is made up of 50 experts among the nation’s top civilian scientists and engineers on matters of science and technology relating to the Air Force mission.

The SAB will be complete by the end of June and briefed to the secretary of the Air Force, chief of staff of the Air Force and other senior leadership. The findings and recommendations of the SAB will shape and guide Air Force policy.

Air Force IDs Boeing 747-8 platform for next Air Force 1

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, in coordination with the under-secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Frank Kendall, has determined the Boeing 747-8 will serve as the next presidential aircraft, commonly known as Air Force One.

“The presidential aircraft is one of the most visible symbols of the United States of America and the office of the president of the U.S.,” James said. “The Boeing 747-8 is the only aircraft manufactured in the U.S. when fully missionized meets the necessary capabilities established to execute the presidential support mission, while reflecting the office of the president of the United States of America consistent with the national public interest.”

Analyses of the capability requirements conclude a four-engine, wide body aircraft is required to meet the needs of the Air Force One mission. Market research determined there are two four-engine platforms that could meet the requirements; the 747-8 manufactured by Boeing in the state of Washington, and the A380 manufactured by

Airbus in Toulouse, France.

The decision, made official through a Determinations and Findings document, authorizes the commercial aircraft purchase by other than full and open competition. This decision, in conjunction with the notification of the Air Force’s intent to award a sole source contract to Boeing for the modification of the 747-8, allows discussions with Boeing that will likely lead to a contract for the aircraft platform as well as the modifications necessary to missionize the aircraft.

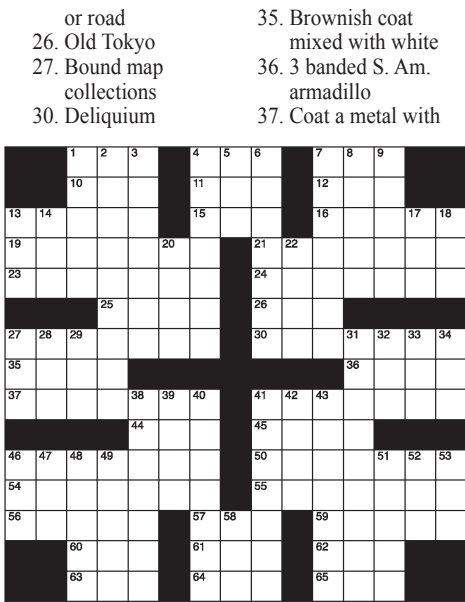
“We are also committed to incorporating competition for subsystems of the missionized aircraft,” James said.

“This decision is not a contract award to procure 747-8 aircraft,” said Col. Amy McCain, the Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization program manager. “We still need to finalize the overall acquisition strategy and conduct risk reduction activities with Boeing to inform the engineering and manufacturing development contract negotiations that will define the capabilities and cost.”

The contract will be awarded only if negotiations result in a fair and reasonable price, McCain said.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Licenses TV stations
4. Worn-out horse
7. Expire
10. Winglike structure
11. Supplement with difficulty
12. Confederate soldier
13. Attempter
15. All persons of the earth
16. Vertical position
19. Live longer than
21. Showing keen interest
23. Old Spanish currency units
24. Ingested by sniffing
25. A narrow path



26. Old Tokyo
27. Bound map collections
30. Deliquium
35. Brownish coat mixed with white
36. 3 banded S. Am. armadillo
37. Coat a metal with
41. Slave-like
44. 1950’s TV Wally
45. City founded by Xenophanes
46. Hermaphroditic
50. Kale plant with smooth leaves
54. Forelimb
55. Unassisted
56. Jeweled headdress
57. Auricle
59. Competing groups
60. Cardinal number
61. Light bulb inventor’s initials
62. Heat unit
63. Doctor of Education
64. Make a mistake
65. Point midway between S and SE

CLUES DOWN

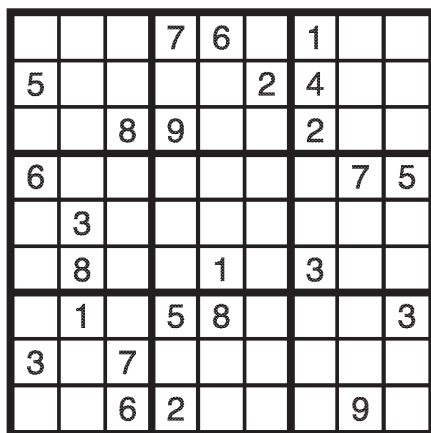
1. Bazaars
2. Cuyahoga River city
3. Latin word for charity
4. Scourges
5. Alias
6. Origins
7. Subjugate using troops
8. Dutch name of Ypres
9. Siskel and __, critics
13. Teaspoon (abbr.)
14. Herb of grace

17. Brew
18. Kilo yard (abbr.)
20. Barn’s wind indicator
22. Griffith or Rooney
27. Macaws
28. 2000 pounds
29. Official language of Laos
31. Cleveland’s roundball team
32. Office of Public

- Information
33. Chum
34. Before
38. Nation in the north Atlantic
39. Apportion into sections
40. Skilled in analysis
41. More assured
42. __ Musk, businessman

43. In a way, tells
46. Immature newt
47. Hawaiian taro root dish
48. Extremely angry
49. Wrapped up in a cerecloth
51. Expression
52. Paradoxical sleep
53. Tooth caregiver
58. Swiss river

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Solution on page 11

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PHOTOS BY JOHN VAN WINKLE

ABOVE AND BELOW LEFT: Academy cadets load canned goods into cars for transport during a cadet-run canned food drive for the Care and Share Food Bank Saturday. The cadets collected enough food to fill several pallets.



Cadets calm a dog at the Dream Power Animal Rescue adoption fair at a local PetSmart Saturday. The rescue helps place dogs into good homes.



Cadets sort donated canned goods before delivering them to the Care and Share Food Bank.

Community service

600 cadet volunteers lend a helping hand



By Airman 1st Class Rachel Hammes
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Nearly 600 Academy cadets participated in a half-day of community service projects in Colorado Springs Saturday.

After a morning of uniform and room inspections, cadets were released at noon and given the opportunity to perform volunteer work in the local area.

The largest project was a cadet-run canned food drive for the Care and Share Food Bank. Cadets took donations at two major businesses and canvassed 10 different neighborhoods, collecting several pallets with canned and dried food.

They also helped staff the Dreampower Animal Rescue adoption fair, made sandwiches to give to the homeless in downtown Colorado Springs, and cleaned stables and groomed horses at the Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center, among other events.

Cadets performed approximately 38,000 hours of community service during the 2013-2014 academic year as part of the Academy's Cadet Service Leadership program, connecting community organizations with cadet volunteers, said Michael Lee, head of Integration and Outreach at the Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development.



Cadet volunteers play with a dog at the Dream Power Animal Rescue adoption fair at a local PetSmart.

The art of self defense



Boxing equips cadets with courage, resiliency to finish the fight



PHOTOS BY JOHN VAN WINKLE

Clockwise from top:
Tim Smith (left) and John Fredericks; Josh Berggen (left)
and Phil Hendrix spar here Jan. 15.
Gabriel Houston (above) works the heavy bag.

By Amber Baillie
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

When cadets step into the boxing ring here, they don't senselessly knock each other around; they hone their defense drills, their guard position and footwork, so when they think they can't go the distance, they find a way to survive and win.

Lt. Col. Matthew Glover, interim head boxing coach here, said the skills cadets learn from boxing and combatives courses at the Academy are relevant for the modern warfighter.

"Courage under fire and grace under pressure translates directly from the boxing ring to combat," he said. "It's better to start here, where there are no real bullets. Some cadets have never been in a fight or had to take a punch. This course familiarizes them with physical stress in a controlled environment, with the best safety equipment available."

At the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Air Force Academy, all male cadets are required to take boxing during their freshman year, Glover said.

"A (West Point) study concluded, 'without real or perceived danger,

courage cannot be measured,'" he said. "Boxing is a great way to provide some amount of 'danger' in a controlled environment, to give future officers an experience of being under duress before they experience combat."

Female cadets here take Introduction to Combatives, PE 114, and male cadets take Boxing, PE 110. In boxing, cadets must complete 10 hours, eight lessons and two graded reviews to pass the course.

"Cadets need to know how to defend themselves and others, and boxing class is an excellent baseline for this," said Academy boxer Cadet 2nd Class Peter Coote. "While some of us may never get into another fight the rest of our lives, as (future officers), we need to have the basic knowledge to defend ourselves in case it comes down to a physical altercation."

Glover said boxing injuries are generally minor and not common at the Academy, despite the sport's hard-hitting nature.

The most common boxing injuries across the sport are bloody noses, strained wrists, elbows and shoulders, sore jaws and the chance of sustaining a mild concussion, Glover said.



"Courage under fire and grace under pressure translates directly from the boxing ring to combat."

Lt. Col. Matthew Glover

MEN'S GYMNASTICS

Air Force downs Army in service academy showdown

Gaudlip earns
2 first-place finishes,
Ramos first in parallel barsBy Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

Backed by a sweep of event titles and the seventh-highest overall score in team history, the 11th-ranked Air Force men's gymnastics team defeated service academy rival and 13th-ranked Army Sunday at the Academy's Cadet West Gym.

The Falcons scored 426.700 to beat the Black Knights (412.800) to improve to 1-1 in dual meets this season.

Senior Nick Gaudlip picked up a pair of event titles, as Air Force earned the top score on all six events. Gaudlip captured first-place finishes on the floor exercise (14.900) and high bar (14.800), while classmate Josh Ramos scored the second-highest parallel bars score in Academy history (15.100) to take first on that event.

Sophomores Tim Wang and Aaron Nubine finished first on the pommel horse (14.900) and vault (14.450), respectively, while freshman Fletcher Braunton rounded out the Falcons' event sweep with a first-place finish on the still rings

(14.400).

Air Force claimed the top-four finishes on the floor exercise, still rings and parallel bars, and four of the top-five marks on the pommel horse.

Wang (second, 14.600), senior Corbin Palmer (third, 14.350) and Ramos (fourth, 14.300) joined Gaudlip among the top four of the floor exercise, while freshman Arinn Wade (second, 14.250), junior Denis Aurelius (third, 14.200) and freshman Dimitri Floryance (fourth, 14.000) finished second through fourth behind Braunton on the still rings. Ramos, classmate Greg Chaput (second, 14.800), freshman Jonathon Fornoff (third, 14.700) and Gaudlip (fourth, 14.400) completed the Air Force sweep of the top four on the parallel bars.

Along with his win on the rings, Braunton added a runner-up finish on the pommel horse (14.700), while sophomore Chase Cannon (fourth, 14.400) and Ramos (fifth, 14.350) helped the Falcons to four of the top-five finishes on that event. Palmer (second, 14.300), junior Josh Pyne (fourth tie, 14.250) and Wang (fourth tie, 14.250) joined Nubine in the top-half of the field on the vault. Ramos and Nubine also finished within the top-six on the high bar, placing third (13.900) and sixth (13.200), respectively.

The two programs meet Saturday when they join Navy at the All-Academy Championships in Houston.



LIZ COPAN

Senior Nick Gaudlip performs a floor exercise against Army here Sunday. Gaudlip won the event.



PHOTOS BY MIKE KAPLAN

ABOVE: University of New Mexico forward Joe Furstinger attempts to block Academy forward Justin Hammonds Wednesday at Clune Arena.

RIGHT: Falcon forward Hayden Graham dribbles past Lobo guard Arthur Edwards during Air Force's win over the Lobos.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Olesinski leads Falcons
past New Mexico, 53-49

Air Force beats Lobos for second straight time in Clune Arena



WATER POLO

Stiefel named Honorable Mention All-American

Sophomore sets school record with 56 assists in 2014

Robby Stiefel led the Falcons with 56 assists and 68 steals. He was second on the team with 44 goals.



U.S. AIR FORCE

By Athletic Communications

Sophomore Robby Stiefel was named to the 2014 Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches Men's All-America Team as an honorable mention selection, as announced by the association this week.

Stiefel was a first-team Western Water Polo Association selection as he led the team with 56 assists and 68 steals and was second on

the team with 44 goals. He led the conference in assists and steals and was 12th in goals scored in 2014.

Stiefel's 56 assists set a new school record, breaking the old mark of 53 set by David Chaney (1991) and Scott Butler (2003).

Stiefel, from San Clemente, Calif., is the third straight honorable mention All-American, joining Cruz Smithson (2012) and Josh Stedman (2013).

MEN'S TRACK

Corona repeats as MW Track Athlete of the Week

By Athletic Communications

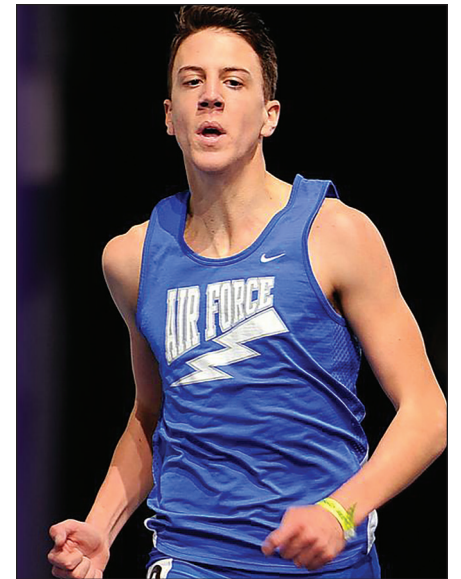
Air Force junior Patrick Corona was named the Mountain West Men's Indoor Track Athlete of the Week for the second straight week, the conference office announced Tuesday.

Competing at the UW Indoor Invitational in Seattle Saturday, Corona clocked a career-best 3000-meter time of 7:55.01 to finish second amongst collegiate runners and fourth overall in the full 47-runner field. The fastest in the conference this season is currently ranked fifth in the NCAA.

Cutting 13 seconds off of his previous best time, Corona is the third Air Force runner to break the eight-minute, as he moved into third on the Academy's all-time list.

He also broke the program's Junior Class Record at the 3000-meter distance, deleting nine seconds from the previous mark that had stood since 1995.

Corona, who also earned the honor Jan. 27 after clocking the na-



U.S. AIR FORCE

Patrick Corona

tion's 10th-fastest time in the mile, shared the award with Colorado State's Jake Schneeberger (men's field athlete of the week), New Mexico's Calli Thackery (women's track athlete of the week) and Utah State's Sam Nielson (women's field athlete of the week).

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Pledge

From Page 1

about it happening at several college campuses.

"Therefore, when I first heard about the 'It's On Us' campaign, I immediately wanted to volunteer so that I could help make a difference and make sure I was doing everything in my power to stop it," Coleman said.

"Sexual assault is a bigger deal than what people make it out to be, and there is so much each of us can do to help prevent it," Cadet Candidate Tania Rivera said. "It is very important that we create an environment where sexual assault is seen as 100-percent unacceptable."

Creating that environment means educating people on what constitutes sexual assault and what they can do to intervene in a situation that might lead to sexual assault, Rivera said.

"It isn't something that's talked about often," she said. However, "If everyone does their part in recognizing sexual assault, the situations in which it may occur and how to intervene, I believe we can lower the statistics."

"This topic seems to be a taboo to some people, but that is the way these things happen: by not knowing, not talking and not being there when someone needs help," Miller said.



JASON GUTIERREZ

Col. Gerald Szybist thanks the Air Force Academy Preparatory School's student body for leading the Prep School's "It's On Us" initiative during a presentation at the Community Center Theater here Tuesday. Szybist is the Prep School commander.

Prep School Commander Col. Gerald Szybist thanked the cadet candidates for putting the school's "It's On Us" campaign together.

"I'm touched. I'm proud of you," Szybist said. "I'm moved by what you've done today. It's so cool to see how you've come together to take this on."

Other cadet candidates who

took the pledge were Tabitha Clement, Nicholas George, Dominique Gordon, Cindy Kim, Monica Mammah, Brianna Martinez, Abigail Miksch, Brianna Murray, Quin'Shay Perkins and Jaime Tijerina.

Cadet candidates in the audience did not have to take the pledge but were informed they could visit the

"It's On Us" website at www.itsonus.org to do so.

President Barack Obama launched the "It's On Us" initiative in September along with student leaders from nearly 200 colleges as an awareness campaign to help end sexual assault on college campuses. The Air Force Academy joined the initiative in November.

Missileers

From Page 1

force and become the new thinkers. They are at the front end of the change that is starting now."

Current missileers led cadets through a three-day immersion, answering questions about the daily actions of lieutenants going into the career field.

"I'm excited to show them everything about the nuclear career field," said 1st Lt. Jason Ponce, 90th Operations Group. Ponce, a 2012 Academy graduate who guided the group through the experience, along with 1st Lt. Heather Randall, also assigned to the 90th OG.

Officers from the squadron to major command levels took part in briefings and demonstrations, offering advice and encouragement to the future missileers.

"We're to help expand their knowledge and awareness of what this mission entails," said Maj. Joshua Henderson, a career missileer and Academy air officer commanding of Cadet Squadron 7. "By doing so — exploring the operations, maintenance and security forces elements of the mission at F.E. Warren — they'll be better able to understand what they are going to see and set the bedrock of their future success as missile combat crew commanders."

Throughout the trip, cadets held discussions with lieutenants who went through the training missileers enter upon graduation and received responses to rumors they'd heard about the career field.

"I didn't know much about the (missileer) career field," said Cadet 1st Class John Fernandez. "I was pretty hesitant, but now I know what I'm getting myself into. It seems like a good community."

Officers agreed this immersion is beneficial to cadets, allowing them perspective prior to becoming lieutenants.

"They deserve to go into the career field with the best posture they can and have every opportunity to be successful," Clark said.



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN VERONICA WARD

ABOVE AND BELOW: Airmen assigned to the 90th Security Forces Group, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., demonstrate tactical response maneuvers to visiting Academy cadets Jan. 16. The cadets visited F.E. Warren to immerse themselves in the missile operations career field.

"By getting their questions answered, they can start with their eyes open. They already have every tool they need from the Academy. Now they need a vision with purpose of who they want to be."

The majority of cadets agreed the immersion, though not available for every career field, has given them a more informed outlook.

"It was really awesome being able to see not only what the missileers do every day, but also being able to see the different components such as security forces and the maintenance side," said Cadet 1st Class Kerri Schmidt.

"I'm actually really glad I'm in this career field now, seeing everything that's happened, and I'm looking forward to the



future."

Fernandez expressed the same sentiment.

"I'm looking forward to getting experience, getting into an operational career field, and serving my country," he said.



USAFA Tax Center open until April 15

The USAFA Tax Center is open until April 15. Tax returns are prepared by appointment 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

This free service is available to enlisted service members and captains and below, their dependents, cadets and retirees, if space is available).

The Tax Center will process returns if your gross income is less than \$100,000, or if you do not have more than one rental property and do not own a business.

Service members and families exceeding the eligibility limits, or otherwise unable to visit the Tax Center, are encouraged to visit their local Base Exchange for free or discounted services, or use the free Military OneSource online tax preparation service at www.militaryonesourcecap.org. Fort Carson's Tax Center (524-1013) may be able to assist.

Clients need to bring their military or dependent ID cards; copy of their 2014 tax return; W-2s, 1099s, and 1098s; Social Security cards for the service member and dependents; birth dates for the service member and all dependents; copies of court orders for divorce, child custody, and child support and Form 8332, if post-2008 divorce; and a blank or cancelled check.

Other documentation may be applicable such as child-care costs; IRA contributions; stock, bond or mutual fund sales, brokerage statements; alimony paid or received; bank account and routing numbers to receive a refund by direct deposit; Power of Attorney if signing a tax return for a deployed service member; and list of charitable donations, copies of all automobile registrations for all owned automobiles.

To allow for more efficient processing of simple returns, the Academy Tax Center asks service members who have complicated taxes, multiple dependents, or other multiple deductions, to wait until the last week of February before making an appointment.

The Academy Tax Center is in the 10th Air Base Wing headquarters building, Suite 237, 8034 Edgerton Drive.

Call 333-3920 to make an appointment.

Claims against estate

Any person, firm or corporation with claims against the estate of deceased Cadet 4th Class John E. Lindsey must submit their claim to the Academy Staff Judge Advocate Office by Feb. 27.

Buddhist Cadet Chapel event

The Venerable Sugatananda will attend Buddhist services Sunday at the cadet Chapel. Sugatananda is a Theravadan monk and will visit the Academy during a stop in Colorado Springs to provide cadets insight on the different perspectives of Buddhist practice.

African-American History Month events

- African-American display at the Cadet library in Fairchild Hall, 7:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. today at the Fairchild Hall Cadet Library
- A celebration of Africa-American History Month will take place at the Main Exchange 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 21. The event features live

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Celebrating African American Military Service Past to Present

Friday, February 13th
11:45 AM
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Cadets: \$5

Dress: UOD or business casual

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music and family-friendly activities.

- Soul Food and African-American heritage exhibits 11 a.m.-noon Feb. 25 at the High Country Inn

- Health Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 27 in the 10th Medical Group lobby

NCLS registration

Registration for the 22nd Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium is open to Academy permanent party, faculty and staff.

This year's theme is: "Serving Our Nation: Our Calling, Core Values and Commitments."

Visit www.usafa.edu/ncls or see page 11 for more information.

National Prayer Luncheon

The 2015 National Prayer luncheon is 11:30-1 p.m., March 3 at the Falcon Club.

Retired Gen. Stephen Lorenz is the guest speaker. The cost is \$5 for senior airmen and below and their civilian equivalent; \$7 for all others.

Call 333-3300 for reservations.

10th FSS events

Ski trips: Ski Cooper/Copper Saturday; Monarch/Breckenridge, Saturday; Loveland on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. \$25 for transportation only.

Call 333-4475 for more information.



Cadet Chapel

BUDDHIST

Service: Sunday, 10 a.m.
Meditation: Thursday, 6:20 p.m.

PROTESTANT

Traditional, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary, Sunday, 11 a.m.

CATHOLIC

Mass: Sunday, 10 a.m.
Daily Mass: Mon. - Thurs., 5:30 p.m.
Confession: Sunday, 9 a.m.
Adoration Confession, Wednesday, 4:30-5:20 p.m.

JEWISH

Shabbat, 7 pm., Kiddush dinner, 7:45 p.m.

MUSLIM

Jumah Prayers, Friday, 12:30 p.m.

Community Center Chapel

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

Mass: Saturday, 4 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m. Tuesday - Friday, 11:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturday, 3 p.m.
Formation Classes: For students in grades K-8. Sunday, 10:15-11:30 a.m., September-May.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Religious Education: Sunday, 9 a.m., pre-school through adults.

Instagram photo of the week



User @Jlowell20 shared this Instagram and posted: "Flying with one of my students today! Blessed and thankful even on the worst days for all the opportunities in my life." We look forward to highlighting your Instagram photos in upcoming editions of the **Academy Spirit**. If you would like to have a photo published, upload it to Instagram using #YourAcademy.

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