

PROMOTION PENDING

10th ABW commander nominated for O-7 promotion. **Page 4**

FREE FALLING

Cadet skydiver leaps toward success. **Page 6**

BETWEEN THE PIPES

Air Force sweeps Niagara in 4-3 overtime win. **Page 12**

Academy SPIRIT

SNOWFEST, JAN. 23-25
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FAMILIES.**

In the 'Spirit' of the Springs

Colorado Springs Mayor Steve Bach presents Cadet 1st Class Rebecca Esselstein with the Spirit of the Springs Award at the Staff Tower Wednesday. The award recognizes her military, academic and athletic achievements at the Academy. Esselstein was recently selected for a Rhodes scholarship and is one of 38 Academy cadets to receive the Spirit of the Springs award



JASON GUTIERREZ

Cadet receives award for academic, athletic achievements

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

When Rebecca Esselstein first entered the Air Force Academy, she had no idea in four years' time she would be standing in the Staff tower of Mitchell Hall, being honored by the mayor of Colorado Springs for bring-

ing pride to the community.

Despite her lack of psychic ability, Cadet 1st Class Esselstein received the Spirit of the Springs award in front of a sea of peers Wednesday.

The award honored Esselstein, a native of Dayton, Ohio, for being named a Rhodes

See Spirit Award Page 10

Commandant of Cadets reveals 2015 vector

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

Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Stephen Williams held a Commandant's Call detailing his vector, the yearly statement of subjects he wants cadets to focus on for the next semester going forward, at Arnold Hall Jan. 5.

The Commandant's Vector focused on accountability, relevant

training, leadership and taking ownership of the Academy's image through action.

"I want the rest of the world to see you the way I see you," he said to cadets.

Williams said he wanted to make his vector personal.

"Rather than just handing cadets a memo, I wanted to articulate it in person," he said. "I spoke after Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen.

Michelle D. Johnson held her Superintendent's Call for the Classes of '15 and '16 to reinforce the message specifically to each class."

While Williams addressed each class regarding his concerns and expectations, his vector remains the same for all cadets.

"I broke down my vector using the Air Force Core Values: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do, to tie each

core value to our day-to-day lives," he said. "The more you can link it, the more you'll understand why you do it."

The Commandant's Vector typically focuses on specific issues, such as sexual assault or community service, but William's vector was intentionally broad.

Talking about integrity, he specifically tied it to respect. "We can do

See Vector Page 10

SAPR summit tackles tough issues

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Top Air Force leaders kicked off a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response summit Monday at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

The five-day summit focused on combating sexual assault, and taking care of victims. About 150 Airmen attended.

“I think the conference is an important step as we look to permanently shift the Air Force culture to one which embraces and emphasizes persistent focus at all times on dignity, respect and inclusiveness for all of our Airmen,” Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said. “By the end of the week, we will all have a better understanding of sexual assault prevention and with your help, we can look at ways to operationalize prevention policy and tactics.”

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Spencer encouraged Airmen to be candid in their discussions and breakout sessions.

“If we don’t talk about this, we can’t fix it,” Spencer said. “It’s not an easy subject to talk about, but we need to get over that. We can’t fix this without each of you.”

To foster a climate of honest discussion, attendees wore civilian attire and addressed each other by first and last name.

“Overall I think wearing civilian clothes is a great idea, it helps you feel more free to speak up and give your opinion,” said Tech. Sgt. Jason Jones, the U.S. Air Force Academy NCO in charge of basic cadet training.

Jones said he took the challenge from the



SCOTT ASH

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James speaks at the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response summit Jan. 12 at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

secretary and vice chief seriously.

“I’m excited about this conference,” Jones said. “We’ll be able to take the information we learn and disperse it back to all of our units and squadrons across the globe.”

With strong participation by Airmen in attendance, and backing from senior leaders, James’ goal is to accelerate progress and drive the number of sexual assaults to zero.

The linchpin to the conference is open communication, respect and trust for one another, Spencer explained.

“We go to war together,” he said. “We have to trust each other to be a successful organization.”

Assistance fund campaign begins in February

By Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) — The annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off Feb. 2 worldwide, officials announced Monday.

The campaign, in its 42nd year, will be conducted for six-week periods through May 1, said Bill D’Avanzo, the Air Force voting action officer and fundraising chief. Most Air Force bases begin and end their campaigns during three designated periods: Feb. 2 - March 13, March 2 - April 10, March 23 - May 1.

“For more than four decades, the AFAF has been used to help Airmen, whether affected by natural disasters, experiencing personal hardship, recovering from injury or illness, or making difficult life choices due to age and other circumstances,” D’Avanzo said. “We are family, and the fund exists to help our family members get through difficult times.”

Contributions are tax deductible and support four charities:

- The Air Force Aid Society provides Airmen and their families with emergency assistance.
- The Air Force Enlisted Village supports Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and the Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Fla. The fund provides financial assistance to retired enlisted members’ widows and widowers 55 and older.
- The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation supports independent and assisted living needs for retired officers and their spouses in San Antonio.
- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees.

For more information visit www.afassistancefund.org.

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10th ABW commander nominated for brig. gen. promotion



MIKE KAPLAN

Col. Stacey Hawkins, the 10th Air Base Wing commander, has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general by the president.

By Ray Bowden
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Col. Stacey Hawkins, the 10th Air Base Wing commander, was one of 30 Air Force officers nominated by the president Jan. 9 for promotion to brigadier general.

Congressional approval for Hawkins and the other nominees is slated to occur later this year.

Hawkins leads approximately 3,000 military and civilian personnel who provide security, civil engineering, communications, logistics, finance and other capabilities, to support Academy cadets. He also manages the 10th ABW's \$150 million budget.

"It's very humbling to be nominated for promotion and I look forward to continued service as

an Airman in the U.S. Air Force," Hawkins said. "I am grateful to my family, incredible mentors, and the amazing Airmen I have the privilege to serve with every day."

Hawkins graduated from the Academy in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

"Congratulations to Colonel Hawkins, his wife, Natalie, and their boys, Trey and Ian," said Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson. "As the 10th ABW commander, we all know how his great leadership has impacted our Air Force's Academy. This is another step toward greater things to come and I wish him the very best."

Visit www.usafa.af.mil/information/biographies for more information.

Air Force names boat after Academy grad KIA

By Capt. Nicholas Mercurio
1st Combat Camera Squadron

SOUTHPORT, N.C. (AFNS) — A single-lane road snakes its way through the knot of North Carolina pines, guarding the shoreline at the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point. It runs parallel to a bundle of railroad tracks whose tributaries occasionally splice across the road and curve out of view. The road arcs gently to the right as the closeness of the trees recedes and gives way to the wide-open expanse of the Cape Fear River surrounding the central pier. A large container ship looms suddenly ahead, riding high and still on the water for lack of cargo and displaying a freshly-painted name on her bow.

"David was very determined as a boy," Jeannie Lyon said. It is the morning of Aug. 11, 2014, the day she would see the ship that bears her son's name for the first time. "If he got it in his mind to do something, there was no way he wasn't going to do it."

Her son, Capt. David I. Lyon, was killed on Dec. 27, 2013, when a vehicle borne improvised explosive device struck his convoy in Afghanistan.

A boy who stayed late after football and basketball games to mop the locker room floor, David grew into a man who fulfilled his dream of graduating from the Air Force Academy.

Mrs. Lyon felt exhilarated on May 28, 2008, as she watched her son collect his diploma and walk across the stage to "high-five" former President George W. Bush. She confided what the president told David while shaking his hand. "He said to him, 'I want you to go home. I want you

to be a leader, and I want you to make a difference in this world,'" she said.

David took those words to heart and strove to meet that challenge every day. "He was a true patriot," said Robert Lyon, David's father. "He loved his country."

While he made a difference to many, David had the most lasting and profound impact on his wife of five years and fellow Academy graduate, Capt. Dana Lyon. "He was the best thing to ever happen to my world," she said.

Although they were recruited by the Academy to play different sports, both eventually found their way to the track and field team, and to each other. "He was a strong leader and a godly man," Dana said. "He took care of my heart."

Seven months after her husband's death, Dana is still struggling to pick up the pieces. "It's difficult to take on something by yourself when you've been doing it together for a while," she said.

In October 2012, David volunteered for a deployment to Afghanistan as an air advisor. "He wanted to get in the fight," Dana said. "Not that he was looking for a fight, but that he wanted to serve, to do the mission."

At the time, Dana had jokingly threatened to volunteer as well until orders came down for her own deployment. They were both serving in Afghanistan at the time of his death; their last day together was Christmas Day at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

As Dana reflected on David's latest achievement of having a ship



Capt. Dana Lyon, widow of Capt. David Lyon, prepares to break a champagne bottle on the hull of the Motor Vessel Capt. David Lyon during a christening and ship visit, Aug. 11 at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, Southport, N.C.

TECH. SGT. JASON ROBERTSON

renamed for him, she described it as an honor she never wanted but is grateful to have.

"I think it's awesome that it's a logistics ship, and Dave was a logistics officer," she said. However, she pointed to a deeper connection as her source of solace during this difficult time. "He cast ripples," she said. "His spirit and leadership inspired so many, just as the ship that bears his name will continue to make ripples."

On Aug. 11, 2014, Dana and her family, alongside Jeannie and Robert Lyon, were at MOTSU to christen and tour the vessel before it departed to perform its wartime mission. Seeing it for the first time, the pride they feel is tempered by the lingering immediacy of their bereavement.

Dana, a world-class javelin thrower and 2008 Olympic-hopeful, launched a bottle of champagne and it smashed against the hull, a thunderous cheer erupted from family members and onlookers alike,

and the somber mood was instantly transformed to one of celebration.

The newly christened Motor Vessel Capt. David I. Lyon is an Air Force prepositioning vessel, which will transport 12.5 million pounds of munitions, or as much as 78 fully loaded C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, overseas to support the warfighter.

"It's kind of like he's come full circle," Dana said. "Dave never got a chance to work supply, and now, a supply ship is named after him. Even though he is gone, his life, his purpose, his mission will continue."

Editor's note: Capt. David Lyon, a logistics officer from Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, was killed in Afghanistan, Dec. 27, 2013.

Air Force officials honored Lyon by naming the service's newest pre-positioning vessel after him. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus conducted the official naming ceremony of Motor Vessel Capt. David I. Lyon Wednesday, at the Pentagon.

Academy Airmen, cadets can 'hangout' with CSAF today

Air Force News Service

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and his wife, Betty, will host a Google Hangout, open forum, on the Air Force's Google+ page noon today.



Gen. Mark A. Welsh III

The Google Hangout will give Airmen and their family members from six bases a chance to join the Welshes for a discussion about today's Air Force. However, the discussion will be open for anyone to watch.

The open forum will give Airmen and their families an opportunity to address concerns they have about Air Force policies or recent changes. Welsh will also discuss the future of the Air Force, and Air Force training programs, his priorities and more.

The installations participating in the Hangout include Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas; U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado; F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Ramstein Air Base, Germany and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Change of command



MIKE KAPLAN

Col. Robert Rottschafer, the 10th Medical Group deputy commander (right) and Lt. Col. Thomas Stamp, hold the 10th MDG Guidon during the 10th Surgical Operations Squadron change of command ceremony here Wednesday. At the ceremony, Rottschafer gave Stamp the Guidon, officially symbolizing Stamp has taken over command of the 10th MSGS from Col. Jon Shreck.

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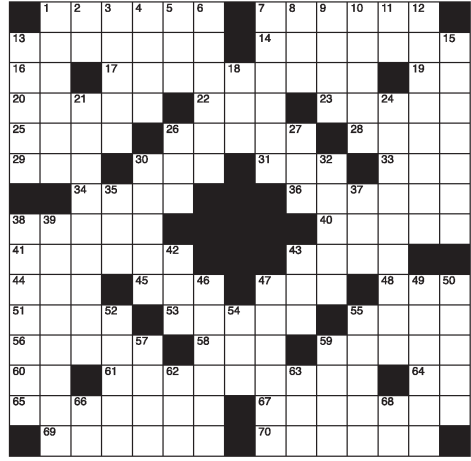
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Contradicted
- 7. The Donald's Marla
- 13. Mediterranean sandstorm
- 14. Shoulder adornment
- 16. Earth crust's 5th element
- 17. Rainbow prize
- 19. NCIS star's initials
- 20. Mischa __, violinist
- 22. Constitution Hall org.
- 23. More dried-up
- 25. First on moon
- 26. Braid
- 28. 11% of Guinea population
- 29. Sea eagle
- 30. Scottish variant of "to"

- 31. A border for a picture
- 33. Belonging to a thing
- 34. On top
- 36. Automobile hood (Brit.)
- 38. Skewered Thai dish

- 40. Clamors
- 41. Eggs cooked until just set
- 43. Flat
- 44. 13th Hebrew letter
- 45. Short poking stroke

- 47. Japanese classical theater
- 48. 007's creator
- 51. Romanian Mures river city
- 53. Music term for silence
- 55. A crane
- 56. Ringworm
- 58. Romanian money
- 59. True frog
- 60. Integrated circuit
- 61. "Highway Patrol's" Crawford
- 64. Point midway between S and E
- 65. On a whim
- 67. Protagonist
- 69. Quantity with only magnitude
- 70. Oversights



CLUES DOWN

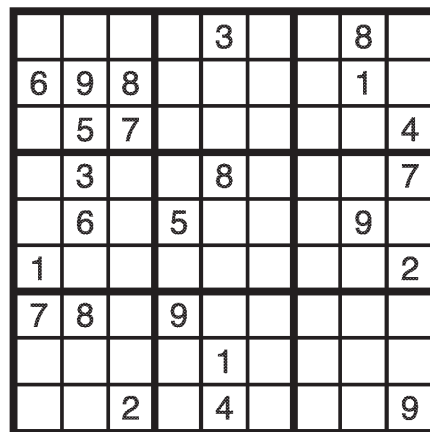
- 1. One who operates a dial
- 2. Trauma center
- 3. Prickly pear pads
- 4. Fashion superstar
- 5. Shock treatment
- 6. Mindless drawing
- 7. AKA migraine
- 8. Military mailbox
- 9. Buddies
- 10. Heavy tranquilizers (slang)
- 11. Raised railroad track
- 12. School session

- 13. Picture
- 15. Stabs
- 18. Supervises flying
- 21. Early American militiaman
- 24. Downfall
- 26. Cooking vessel
- 27. Check
- 30. In a way, manipulated
- 32. Sacred book of

- Judaism
- 35. Chum
- 37. Negating word
- 38. Relating to the body
- 39. W. hemisphere continents
- 42. Make lacework
- 43. Witty remark
- 46. More hairless
- 47. Relating to a nerve

- 49. Originates
- 50. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 52. Actress Winger
- 54. Center for Excellence in Education (abbr.)
- 55. Japanese brews
- 57. Fleishy seed covering
- 59. Canadian law enforcers
- 62. So. Am. wood sorrel
- 63. Actress Lupino
- 66. Personal computer
- 68. Do over prefix

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

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Solution on page 11



Delivering the Springs The Gazette

Fly like an eagle

Cadet's dedication to skydiving earns him gold medals

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

Ever since Cadet 2nd Class Joseph Gerner first parachuted in 2010, he travels to Eloy, Ariz., every holiday break and family vacation to tighten his skills in the sky.

After countless jumps and hours of training with coaches from Axis Flight School, the cadet received his first gold medal at the 2012 National Collegiate Parachuting Championships in the Intermediate Sport Accuracy category. In 2013, he and his brother, Andre Gerner, "team EagleBear," struck gold in the Two-Way Sit-Fly competition in Lake Wales, Fla., and scored first place in the 2014 NCPC Two-way Vertical Formation Skydiving team in Eloy.

Cadet Gerner said the real joy of parachuting comes from those rare jumps where everything clicks, all jumpers are of the same mind and the result is something artistic.

"I love the sense of freedom skydiving provides because it's airmanship in the purest sense," he said. "The air is a powerful force. Fight it, and it always beats you. Surrender to it, and you accomplish little. But submit to it and work with it, you can create art."

The Gerner brothers first competed under the team name EagleBear at the U.S. Parachute Association NCPC in 2011. At the time, Cadet Gerner attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University while Andre Gerber attended UCLA. Their team name was derived from a hybrid of their respective schools' mascots.

"Although I now represent the Academy when I compete at the NCPC, we have since retained the original name for continuity," Ca-

det Gerner said.

The cadet's devotion to skydiving runs in the family; his dad, Andre (Class of '81), is team manager of EagleBear and began parachuting at the Academy.

"It's been an interesting ride," said the cadet's father. "EagleBear had the sole distinction of being the only competitors of the 2014 NCPC to set new U.S. National and Arizona state collegiate records."

Cadet Gerner was hooked after his first jump in November 2010, completing his first six jumps of a 25-jump USPA-license at the Adventures in Skydiving School.

"My brother and I finished our 25th jump and were awarded our licenses in December (2010)," he said.

Cadet Gerner said he had interest in being a part of the Academy's parachute team, the Wings of Blue, but was unable to take Airmanship 490 in time, a pre-requisite to apply for the team.

"Bar none, the Wings of Blue are the best resourced and capitalized collegiate parachute team in the world, and are passionate about



COURTESY PHOTOS

making the most of it," he said. "In many respects though, I feel as though this opened more opportunities than it closed, as I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing jumpers in the civilian world, and preserve the family dynamic this all began with."

According to the cadet, EagleBear trains regularly in Fremont, Colo., and the iFly-Denver tunnel. At competitions, EagleBear set new state and national skydiving records. Now, the team has their sights on competing in the USPA Nationals.

The cadet said they trained intensely for nationals last year but were forced to withdraw from the competition due to bad weather.

"The USPA Nationals differ from the USPA NCPC, in that while the NCPC is restricted to full-time college students and conducted over Christmas break, nationals are held earlier in the year and are open to all skydivers who are U.S. citizens and attract the best skydivers and professional teams in the country," Cadet Gerner said. "I am once again hopeful for an opportunity to represent the Academy and compete in Advanced Two-Way VFS as a senior at the 2015 USPA Nationals at Eloy, Ariz., in October."

TOP AND LEFT: Team EagleBear is seen here in the 20th point of their national record-setting skydive. The Two-Way Vertical Formation Skydiving team consists of brothers, Andre Gerner, a masters animation student at UCLA, and Cadet 2nd Class Joseph Gerner (in red), an aeronautical engineering major at the Academy.



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RIGHT: The Keystone Adaptive Center works with the Adaptive Adventure Program to give wounded warriors an opportunity to participate in SnoFest.

BELOW LEFT: SnoFest racers from the Academy slide down the cardboard derby race course at SnoFest.

BELOW RIGHT: Racers compete in the individual ski races.

SNOFEST 2014

Annual winter fun weekend is Jan. 23-25



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS

QUICK LOOK

- For lodging rates, visit www.mysnofest.com
- For reservations call 1-800-258-0437, and give the group code "GC8PTC" and base affiliation for your rate.
- Purchase lift tickets at the Community Center Outdoor Rec Center. Adults are \$64, Academy cadets, Prep School cadet candidates and airmen through senior airmen are \$54. Children five through 12 are \$40.

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Skiers, boarders and snow enthusiasts from military bases along the Front Range will hit the slopes Jan. 23- 25 for SnoFest at Keystone Resort, Colo.

Now in its 26th year, SnoFest is an annual ski weekend that offers events and activities geared for military families, retirees, Defense Department civilians and contractors.

Racers in the cardboard derby can put their engineering skills to the test in a cardboard sled race and ski and snowboard races for all skill levels can earn the commander's cup.

Themed parties with kids' activities, dog sled rides and tubing runs, are part of the SnoFest activities.

Wounded warriors can participate thanks to the Keystone Adaptive Center. More than 20 sponsors provide donations to make SnoFest possible.



Spirit Award

From Page 1

scholar for the upcoming academic year.

"I didn't expect the award at all," said Esselstein, also offered a Marshall scholarship. "I'm honored. Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, the Academy Superintendent, already presented me at the staff tower for getting the scholarship, so I wasn't expecting anything else. To get the Spirit of the Springs award is like being accepted by Colorado."

Mayor Steve Bach said Esselstein was more than justified in being given this award, created when he took office in 2011.

"As one of only 32 students receiving Rhodes scholarships in the upcoming year, I thought Cadet Esselstein was very deserving," he said. "She's one of only 38 Academy cadets to ever receive the award. On top of that, she's leading her class academically, militarily and she's an athlete. It doesn't get much better than that. We're very proud of her, as well as her teachers and mentors."

Esselstein never dreamed of receiving the Spirit of the Springs award, and didn't begin to dream of the Rhodes scholarship until February 2014.

"They started having meetings for Marshall and Rhodes scholarships, and people asked me why I wasn't going to them," said Esselstein, who has secured a pilot slot at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, once her time at Oxford University ends. "I thought I wasn't the kind of person they were looking for because I'm an astrophysics major. When you think of Rhodes scholars, you think of people who are going to save the world. I didn't know if I should even bother, but I decided to start going to meetings. I knew it was a long shot, but I thought, why not try?"

Early in the process of preparing to apply, interested cadets were told to seek mentors to guide them through the process. Esselstein sought out the director of the Academy Scholars Program, Dr. Derek Varble.

"Dr. Varble helped people through this process many times, so he's obviously experienced," she said. "He's supported me in everything, and showed me opportunities I didn't know were there."

Esselstein said Varble helped her become involved in projects that made her stand out during the application process.

"I took Physics 490 this past semester, which was an exoplanet research class," she said. "It ended up being key to my application. I would have never gotten into that class if Dr. Varble hadn't suggested I take it. I owe a lot to him."

While Esselstein said the application process was somewhat painstaking, she said the personal statement was her biggest challenge.



JASON GUTIERREZ

Colorado Springs Mayor Steve Bach presents Cadet 1st Class Rebecca Esselstein with the Spirit of the Springs Award at the Staff Tower Wednesday. The award recognizes her achievements at the Academy and her selection for a Rhodes scholarship.

"I started that over four times," she said. "I would have something written, then we'd hear from a member of the Marshall or Rhodes board and they'd give us tips. I'd start from scratch all over again."

Despite the frustration of beginning again and again, Esselstein said she thinks the application process is a positive one for cadets, even if they don't end up with the scholarship.

"If you don't get it, it's disappointing - especially because of how much work is involved," she said. "But when you have to cram your life into a thousand words for a personal statement, you really learn what makes you, you."

While Esselstein said she was initially hesitant to begin the application process, she never

thought of stopping.

"I thought it was a long shot, but I don't like closing doors on opportunities. And I couldn't be more thrilled. Studying in the UK is such a great opportunity to learn about our greatest ally, and even though it's still a western country, you still get to explore a new culture. Oxford is a very diverse university that challenges you to think all the time. That opportunity is invaluable to an officer."

Esselstein hopes her example will encourage other cadets to apply when they might otherwise have not.

"Just keep it up and don't stop trying," she advised. "You never know what you're going to get out of it. Even a long shot is still a shot."

Vector

From Page 1

so many things when we understand the value of respect," he said to cadets. "When we fall short of our core values, we let ourselves, our team mates, this institution and the Air Force, down. We don't operate in a vacuum - our actions affect everyone."

While discussing service before self, Williams challenged cadets to always step into leadership positions when the time comes.

"Sometimes, we have folks willing to put in time and effort to fill leadership roles, but they lack the support of other cadets," he said. "This doesn't help. It's really easy to throw spears at people in leadership roles and criticize their work, but if we're unwilling to step up and take some of those positions, we're not helping the team. We value feedback and constructive criticism, but at the same time, there's

a point where we have to support and follow."

Williams also discussed the importance of cadet community service. Cadets volunteered more than 40,000 hours of their time last year to support their community, he said.

"We're working hard to connect the dots between community service, the beneficiaries of that service time, and communicating to our community the great things we're doing," he said. "When people hear about the Academy, they'll know we're doing great things."

With regards to excellence in all we do, Williams said the biggest point to emphasize is performing excellently even when it doesn't directly benefit oneself.

"We need to realize we're not just doing things for ourselves, but for those next to us, too," he said.

"When we go into combat, we need to know we're fighting for our whole organization, not just ourselves. A lot of people think, 'How does this affect me?', and that's not the concern of the commander. The concern of the commander is, 'How does this affect the organization?' We have to understand that sometimes, things that aren't good individually are better for the organization. The sooner we recognize this, the better."

Williams emphasized General Johnson's point to the Class of 2015 and 2016 earlier that day.

"The superintendent emphasized that we don't just wake up one morning a leader - we have to continually practice to become a leader," he said. "We have to take advantage of the incredible opportunities presented here to be good leaders and take care of our

people. We don't sleep with a book under our pillow and wake up with all of it internalized. We internalize leadership skills by doing, practicing and experiencing."

Lastly, Williams challenged cadets to seize opportunities presented to them at the Academy and in the Air Force at large.

"The Air Force provides us all opportunities, but what we do with those opportunities is our responsibility," he said to cadets. "How you use these opportunities defines how you do after you graduate. As second lieutenants, you will be presented with more opportunities. If you do well, the Air Force will give you more opportunities. We don't owe you success, but do we owe you the opportunity to succeed."

To see the report on General Johnson's Superintendent's Call, visit www.usafa.af.mil.



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HOCKEY

Air Force sweeps Niagara



Falcon defenseman Johnny Hrabovsky faces Niagra forward Chris Lochner (left) during Saturday's game at Clune Arena.

PHOTOS BY MIKE KAPLAN

Athletic Communications

Cole Gunner scored two goals late in the game to help lift Air Force to a 4-3 overtime win in an Atlantic Hockey Conference game Saturday at the Cadet Ice Arena.

Gunner tied the game with 3:18 left in the third and netted the game-winner at 2:16 of overtime.

Air Force earned its first series sweep since taking two from Mercyhurst, Feb. 7-8, 2014.

The Falcons jumped into a tie for sixth place in the conference, 7-13-3 overall and 6-6-2 in the league. Niagara fell to 3-15-2 overall and 3-11-2 in the AHC.

With the win, Air Force head coach Frank Serratore earned his 300th victory at the Academy. He becomes just the 12th active coach in the NCAA to win 300 or more hockey games at his current institution.

Niagara opened the scoring at 3:25 of the first period when Luke Edwards cashed in after an Air Force turnover in its own end. Late in the period, the Purple Eagles took a 2-0 lead on the power play. After a center ice faceoff, three Falcons tied in a scrum at center ice and Niagara had a 2-on-1. Albin Karlsson fed Stanislav Dzakhov at 16:35 for a two-goal lead.

Air Force bounced back with two goals in the second period to tie the game. Both goals came in a span of three minutes as the Colorado kids combined for the first goal.

Ben Carey put the Falcons on the board at the 1:42 mark with a slap shot from the right side. Max Hart-

ner took a saved shot and Dylan Abood fed Carey in the right circle for his second of the season. The Falcons tied the game at the 4:41 mark on defenseman Johnny Hrabovsky's first of the season. Jonathan Kopacka started the rush and Scott Holm made a perfect cross-ice pass right on Hrabovsky's tape in the left circle.

In the third period, Niagara regained the lead when Lawrence Smith fired a slap shot from the center point at the 11:33 mark. After the Falcons killed a penalty, Air Force's top line tied the game. Dan Weissenhofer took a shot that was deflected in front. Holm tipped it to Gunner who tied the game with 3:18 remaining.

Thirteen seconds into overtime, Holm took the puck to the front of the net and in the flurry, the puck went into the net. However, the goal was disallowed as the net

rocked from its moorings and the puck went under the post. Later in the period, on the rush, Demers took a shot that was saved and Holm sent it down low to Gunner. Below the goal line, Gunner's centering pass hit the skate of a Niagara player and went in at 2:16 of overtime.

Air Force outshot Niagara, 37-15, in the game. The Falcons were 0-for-5 on the power play while Niagara was 1-for-4. Chris Truehl made 12 saves for the Falcons while Jackson Teichroeb made 33 for the Purple Eagles.

In 122 minutes of hockey in the series, Air Force led for just 3:30 and came away with four points. The only lead of the game came in overtime when Gunner netted the game-winner.

"We had to overcome some adversity in the first period, getting in a 2-0 hole," Serratore said. "They were all over us in the first period. But a credit to our guys, they didn't quit. They kept battling the entire game. We are going to have to get a lot better. We can't keep falling behind in games. Thanks to the Academy for allowing me to be here long enough to win that many games. You don't win without great players and great assistant coaches and I have been very fortunate."

Air Force's four-game home stand continues with a two-game series against conference and service academy rival Army, today and Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Cadet Ice Arena.



Goalie Chris Truehl (right) made 12 saves for the Falcons Saturday.

FENCING

Hofilena is Academy's top-finishing fencer

Athletic Communications

Air Force fencers competed in the North American Cup Division 1 and Junior Championships in Salt Lake City Friday and Saturday, the first competition of the New Year for the cadets.

The top Falcon in the NAC was Alyssa Hofilena, who finished 11th among 97 women's saber fencers, Saturday. She advanced to the direct elimination rounds on a 4-1 pool record and later to the top 16 on a BYE, 15-11 and 15-10 victories. Hofilena lost to Gillian Litynski in round 16, 7-15.

Competing in the Division 1 Men's Foil Friday were Alexander Chiang and Nicholas Pollack. Chiang, who was undefeated in the pools (6-0), placed 36th among the 160 competitors. Chiang advanced to the top 64 on 15-10 bout win, but did not advance further after losing to his next opponent, 11-15. Pollack lost his bout 4-15 in the top 128 and tied for 111th. Ryan Andrieux was the Falcons' only Junior Men's Saber competitor, he finished the tournament tied for 123rd place.

Elias Johnson, Nathan Lee and James Salem competed in Division 1 Men's Epee Saturday. Lee placed 34th among 253 competitors. Salem tied for 100th place and Johnson placed 171st.

In the Women's Foil tournament Saturday, Nichole Quatrociocchi failed to advance to the DE rounds and tied for 97th place.



Alyssa Hofilena

RIFLE

Carpentier ranks 5th, Ricois 10th in rifle-selection match

Athletic Communications

More than 40 rifle athletes kicked off the New Year at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to vie for World Cup slots at the Rifle Selection Match Jan. 5-10.

Air Force senior Meredith Carpentier ranked fifth overall in the 50 mm Three-Position Rifle after two days of matches in the January Rifle Selection Match at the center.

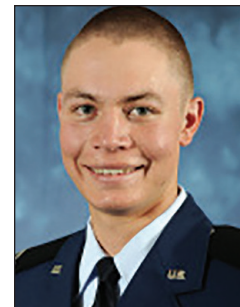
In the first day of shooting in the women's 50 mm Three-Position Rifle match, Carpentier finished with a 591 total. Her scores were 99, 97, 99, 100, 92, and 96 (583). She earned eight points toward her final score, qualifying for the finals where she shot a 453.7, the highest finals' score of the match.

On day two, Carpentier scored a 581 and again qualified for finals, scoring 394.4 in finals and earning a point toward her overall aggregate score. After two days of finals, she placed fifth overall with an aggregate score of 1173.

Earlier in the week, David Higgins from the Air Force squad competed in the 50 mm Prone Rifle matches. He finished with an aggregate total of 1237.3. On Day 1, Higgins scored a 618.3 and added a 619.0 on day 2 for a total score of 1237.3. He finished ranked 15th.



Meredith Carpentier



Tyler Rico

On Friday and Saturday, Tyler Rico and Higgins competed in the 50 mm Three-Position Rifle matches. Rico finished the Selections' match ranked 10th after two days of shooting.

On day one, he finished with 1164 and scored 394 in the finals, earning him one point toward his two-day overall total. The next day, he tallied 1151 points to finish with an aggregate score of 2316.

Higgins finished ranked 21st and tallied a two-day aggregate of 2280 points. His two-day scores were 1147 and 1133, respectively.

This selection match will determine the Three-Position and Prone Rifle competitors for the International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup in Changwon, Korea, April 8-16, as well as serve as part one of the selection process for the smallbore rifle teams at the World Cups in Fort Benning, Ga., and Munich, Germany in May.

The rifle team travels to Fort Worth, Texas, Saturday and Sunday to compete against TCU and the Coast Guard.



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Religious events

Christian: Baptism of Jesus, Sunday – Commemoration of Jesus’ baptism and the beginning of his public ministry. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Sunday through Jan. 25. This observance is marked with prayer for the restoration of unity among the churches of faith. **Conversion of Saint Paul, Jan 25** – The observance of Saint Paul’s vision of Jesus while on his way to persecute Christians.. This event will be observed at worship services.

Bahai: World Religion Day, Sunday – The Baha’i community dedicates this day to the unity and oneness of world religions.

Ethiopian Orthodox Christian: Timkat, Monday– The Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Epiphany celebration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.

Hindu: Makar Sankrant, Wednesday – Makar Sankrant is one of the most important festivals of the Hindu calendar and celebrates the sun’s journey into the northern hemisphere. Hindus often observe this celebration by flying kites, feeding the poor and offering libations to the dead. **Vasant Panchami, Jan. 24** – This Hindu celebration dedicated to Saraswati, the goddess of learning.

Jewish: Tu B’shvat, Thursday, February 4 — Tu B’Shevat is an agricultural holiday centered around trees. It is known as the “birthday of the trees,” since the trees in Israel bloom at this time. It’s traditional to plant a tree during this holiday. A popular celebration consists of a roundtable worship service, called a “Tu B’shvat seder,” providing symbolic food and drink items.

Academy family days

The Academy superintendent has approved the following days as Academy family days: May 26, July 2, Nov. 27, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

Holocaust Remembrance volunteers

Academy personnel interested in volunteering as a Holocaust Days of Remembrance committee member can call 333-5661 or attend a committee meeting 3 p.m., Jan. 28 in the Community Center Chapel Community Room.

North Gate Boulevard construction

Due to an ongoing construction project to repair both bridges on North Gate Boulevard near Stadium Boulevard, traffic will not be allowed to exit the North Gate 6-7:30 p.m. today and Saturday; 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday; and 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan. 24.

Access to medical care in weather events

The clinics and hospitals at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base and Fort Carson are part of the Colorado Springs Medical Health System, referred to as the market.

From a centralized location at the health systems’ offices, the Patient Appointing Services call center books appointments and handles calls for more than 172,000 beneficiaries through the market’s 524-CARE line.

The call center operates under adverse or inclement weather conditions. In the event of a medical facility or base closure, call-center personnel will contact patients to cancel and reschedule appointments. If the call center closes, a message on the appointment line will provide instructions on how to make

an appointment or contact a provider. Patients should call the appointment line during bad weather to confirm if a facility is open to avoid an unnecessary trip.

If a medical facility in the market closes due to weather conditions or otherwise, patients can speak with a nurse from the national Nurse Advice Line by calling 524-CARE, option 2, or with the on-call provider using option 4.

MLK observance volunteers needed

The 10th Air Base Wing Martin Luther King Jr. Special Observance Committee needs volunteers 8 a.m.-noon, Monday, at the Winter Warming Shelter, at 505 S. Weber Street.

Volunteers need to be 13 or older. Call 333-5171 for more information .

10th FSS events

SnoFest: Jan. 23-25. Lodging: Visit www.mysnofest.com for lodging rates. Call 1-800-258-0437 to make a reservation. Give the group code “GC8PTC” and base affiliation for your Snofest rate. Lift tickets: Purchase discounted lift tickets at the Community Center Outdoor Rec Center. Adults are \$64, Academy cadets, Prep School cadet candidates and airmen through senior airmen are \$54. Children five through 12 are \$40.

Air Force Worldwide Bowling: Children can win a bowling ball and bowling bag by bringing family and friends to bowl.

Visit www.usafbowltowin.com for information.

Free youth clubs: Academy children can join various youth clubs to gain leadership and service experience. The Torch Club is for children 9-13 and meets Wednesdays, 4 p.m.; The Keystone Club is for teenagers 14-18 and meets Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Youth Employment Skills: This program teaches high school students who are active duty dependents work skills.

Enrolled high school students can bank volunteer dollar credits toward their post-secondary education or training at \$4 an hour. Volunteer work must be on base. Students may accumulate up to 250 hours or \$1,000 during four years of high school.



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

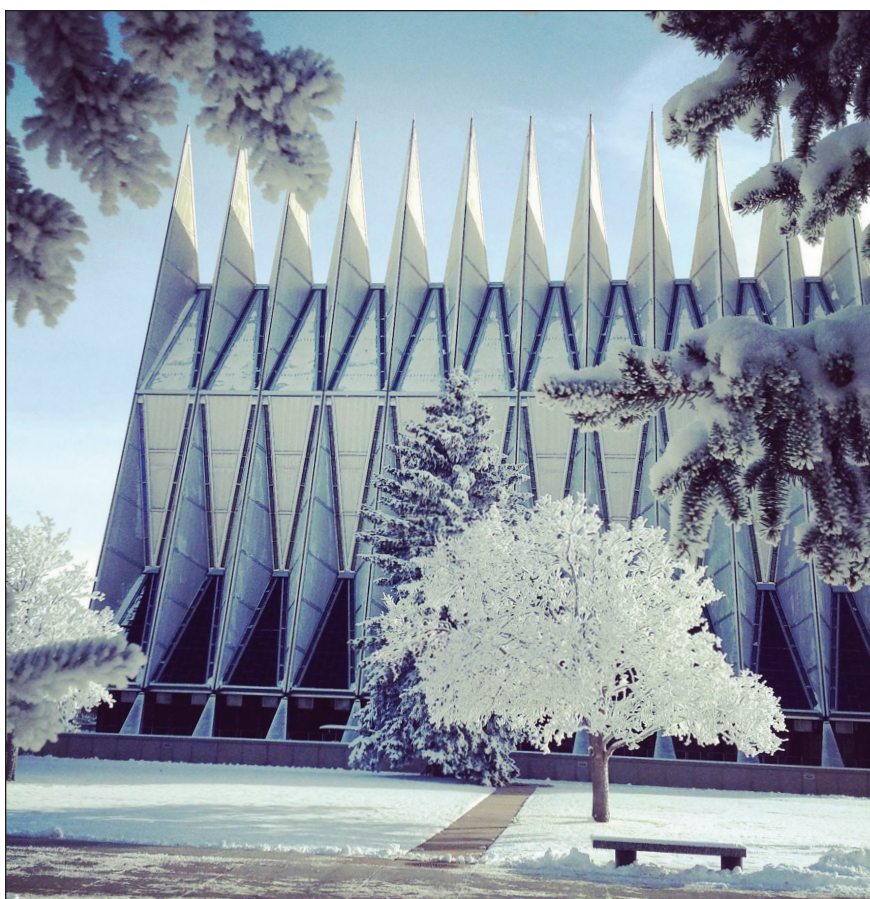
CATHOLIC WORSHIP

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 @Af_academy shared this Instagram of the Cadet Chapel on a frosty morning at the Academy. 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.

@AF_ACADEMY

