Cadet 4th Class Martin Schaeuble, receives familiarization training in the F-22 Raptor Demonstrator by Lockheed Martin Instructor, Mark Dougherty. The demonstrator and a team of operators recently visited the Academy to introduce cadets and faculty to technology incorporated in the Air Force’s newest fighter.

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

A space and cyber panel was held in Fairchild Hall Monday to acquaint cadets with the direction the Air Force Space Command is going with the command’s responsibility for the space and cyber war-fighting domains and what the future holds for future officers.

Panelists were from what will be the Air Force elements of 24th Air Force, the AFSPC numbered Air Force in charge of cyber operations. It’s a command within the space command, where panelists discussed providing full-spectrum cyber capabilities. Topics included to global command and control, electronic warfare and network defense and offering a fresh assessment of efforts to provide the U.S. and joint force the full spectrum of air, space and cyberspace capabilities.

“Take out cyber and you take out space,” General Warner said. “We’re subject to the cyber threat every day. Cyber is a Joint venture, with a Joint definition. You can use things through space, but do them right now with cyber.

Currently, there more captains than second lieutenants in the cyber field, General Warner said.

A cadet asked if the Air Force should have more information from the “human side”?

“When we get a tip off it can come from any source, a human, an email or cyber,” said Maj. Gen. David Senty, commander, Air Force Network Operations. “Air Force intelligence goes back to the waning days of World War II.”

Col. B.J Shwedo, 67th Network Warfare Wing commander told cadet attendees, “You need to be able to tell the different people in the sand box. The services are coming together as a cyber team. Why use a bomb when cyber can take out a threat?”

“Cyber will cause a big change as the Air Force moves into it,” said Col. Penny Heiniger, AFSPC’s director of AFSPC Intelligence, Surveillance and Recon, told cadets.

“It’s best if people entering cyber are pilots or have another core skill first. One cadet noted some countries are trying to make nuclear devices, others are trying to develop satellites.

“We study how we would react,” Colonel Heininger said. “Defense is a partnership. But if you use cyber to take out a satellite, it becomes a weapon of mass destruction. We need to determine who the bad guy is.”

Among the six panelists was Brig. Gen. Dana Born, Academy dean of the faculty.

“The only reason any of us are here is for our country,” she said. “We have an Air Force with needs in many different areas, and cyber is among the newest. The goal is to get cadets excited about future missions in space and cyberspace.”
By Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz
Commander, Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Our nation was inspired by the actions of a brave pilot Jan. 15 as an everyday American reminded us of who we are and who we can be.

The pilot who crash-landed a crippled airliner in New York’s Hudson River saved 155 lives on board. He steered the aircraft toward the river when both engines failed less than five minutes after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport in New York.

It just so happens that the pilot of US Airways Flight 1549, Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger, is a graduate of mine. We both graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1973. When I saw his picture on the news, I immediately looked him up in our 1973 yearbook, and there he was, looking sharp in his cadet uniform.

Mr. Sullenberger learned how to fly in our Air Force, and he served out his seven-year commitment as an officer and pilot. He then began a 29-year career as an airline pilot and safety expert. When faced with a crisis, Mr. Sullenberger had to execute. He didn’t panic. Instead, he focused on what he had to do to save his plane and his passengers. Ditching a large aircraft is an incredibly difficult thing to do, and Mr. Sullenberger was able to do it safely. He executed his responsibilities with excellence.

Once the aircraft stopped in the cold waters of the Hudson, Mr. Sullenberger continued to care for his passengers and crew. New York Mayor Bloomberg described how Mr. Sullenberger walked the aisle of the airplane twice to make sure everyone was out. In doing so, he put service to others before his own personal safety. In the middle of incredible stress and strain, Sully chose to do the right thing.

In media parlance, the story of Flight 1549 had “legs.” Even as the historic inauguration approached, people remained fascinated with the incident, hanging on every detail as recounted by the passengers, ferrymen and rescue specialists. Perhaps this can be explained by the sheer drama of the crash and the fact that it happened in our largest city.

I think there is something deeper here, however. I believe that, in the face of all the negative news we have endured in recent months, we are looking for a hero — or in this case, a “Sully” — who will do the right thing in the face of adversity. Americans love heroes, especially “ordinary” people who do extraordinary things, because one of our core ideals is that everyday people can make a difference.

On a very cold day in New York, Sully made a difference. He did it by living according to our core values of integrity, service and excellence.

We didn’t invent the core values in the Air Force. They came from the American people whom we serve. Although the headlines may be filled with stories of fraud, greed and waste, it is important to remember that there are millions of Americans who choose to live by these values. Whether it is the teacher who chooses to stay after class to help a troubled student or the policeman who chases the thief into the dark alley, many Americans choose to live according to integrity, service and excellence.

The story of “Sully” Sullenberger reminds us of this. In these challenging times, it’s good to remember that makes our country great.

To Sully, my old classmate: Thanks for landing Flight 1549, watching the plane dive aside twice and setting an example for us all.

Do the right thing even when nobody’s looking.
Stripes Lounge is back in business. The NCO club held its grand re-opening Jan. 23 and hosted long lines of Airmen taking in the new location, meeting with friends, enjoying food and beverages and entering to win gift-card drawings.

Stripes was originally housed in the Milazzo Club. The re-opening was in the works for about a year. "This is part of the volunteer rhythm across the base," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis, who credited Airmen for their generous donations of time.

The club, open Fridays at 4 p.m., features two televisions, a jukebox, pool tables, darts and karaoke, as well as a food buffet and pay-as-you-go bar.

"We want to let Airmen know it's their club," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis, who credited Airmen for their generous donations of time. "It gives us another place to go on base," he said.

Senior Master Sgt. Bret Bridgewater, Cadet Group 4 superintendent said it aptly filled the gap left when the club left the Milazzo facility. "We haven't had a club for a while," he said and added it's important the club includes all ranks.

"It takes your participation and involvement to make sure it's a success," he told the attending Airmen. "It gives us another place to go on base," he said.

"Giving back to the community," he said. "If you need something, let me know." To arrange for special events, call the Falcon Club at 333-8189.

Strips Lounge in the new Stripes Lounge. The club left the Milazzo facility. "It gives us another place to go on base," he said. "It takes your participation and involvement to make sure it's a success," he told the attending Airmen.

"It gives us another place to go on base," he said. "It gives us another place to go on base," he said. "It takes your participation and involvement to make sure it's a success," he told the attending Airmen.

"It takes your participation and involvement to make sure it's a success," he told the attending Airmen.

Abby Patton
Academy Spirit Staff

Falcon Club hails Stripes Lounge re-opening

AFPC changes impact on those retiring, separating

The Air Force Personnel Center implemented a change effective Jan. 1, 2009, whereby retiring or separating members will no longer hand carry their health treatment records to their Military Personnel Flights.

Patients will be required to provide two copies of military orders to the 10th Medical Group’s admissions and dispositions office or cadre/flight records for those enrolled to the cadre/flight medicine clinic.

Additionally, two copies of military orders will also go to the dental clinic.

Once orders have been received, the transfer of health treatment records will be facilitated by the 10th Medical Group. Health treatment records will be retained for 30 duty days past a member’s final service obligation date, and then sent to the Air Force Personnel Center. AFPC will send records of members filing a Veteran Affairs claim to the regional VA and all others will be sent to the VA records management center in St. Louis, Mo.

Copies of health treatment records can be requested in person through the 10th Medical Group’s admissions and disposition office in the clinic’s main lobby. All active-duty members are authorized one CD or paper-based copy of their health treatment record free of charge.

Members may request a copy no earlier than 179 calendar days and no later than 30 calendar days prior to the date of final separation or retirement. A copy request takes 15 days to process and it’s the member’s responsibility to provide a copy to the Disabled American Veterans/VA for any interim appointments until the original health treatment records are received by the local VA.

Call Staff Sgt. Shannon Copeland at 333-5162 or 333-0520 with questions or e-mail: 10mdss.sgst@usafa.af.mil.
Team ‘Spreads the Word’ across Air Force

By Capt. Mathew Ramstack
Chief, Command Assignments

A team from the Air Force Personnel Center visited the Academy recently to present its “Spread the Word” briefing as part of AFPC’s ongoing effort to keep Air Force units up to date with the latest personnel policies, issues and innovations in service delivery.

Led by its commander, Maj. Gen. K. C. McClain, the five-member briefing team addressed topics ranging from 365-day deployments, to improvements to the Aerospace Expeditionary Force banding system and officer and enlisted assignments. The team also touched on subjects regarding civilian personnel hiring, rated staff manning and the ongoing transformation of personnel services delivery.

Furthermore, Lt. Col. Michael Hayes, from the AFPC assignments directorate, cited emerging rated requirements, such as increased 365-day deployments, joint rated manning, Unmanned Aerial Systems and a renewed emphasis on the Air Force’s nuclear enterprise as the reason fewer rated personnel will be assigned outside their major weapons systems in the near term.

The colonel also explained the new three-day option a member can exercise when offered a non-voluntary 365-day deployment. Similar to the seven-day option one may exercise when offered a normal permanent change of station assignment, the member has three days from notification of selection for a 365-day deployment to accept or decline the deployment. If declined, the member will separate within 12 months of declining.

This year may also see the introduction of the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System, a Congressionally-mandated program with efforts spearheaded through Department of Defense that will provide the services with an integrated, multi-component, personnel and pay system. This will be a fundamental shift in how the DoD will deliver its human relations support for all services.

"DIMHRS will be the vehicle in which you manage your career," said Mr. Lee Shick, AFPC personnel services. DIMHRS will be available worldwide, via the Internet at any time. It will offer self-service access to fully integrated personnel and pay records, with updates in real time, for active duty, Guard, Reserve, retirees and family members of all military components. The Army is currently in the initial test phase of DIMHRS implementation. The Air Force is projected to begin using DIMHRS in the fall of 2009. For more information, visit the DIMHRS website at http://www.dimhrs.mil/.

The briefing team also provided information on Air Force retention rates, uniform improvements and the future of computer-based and base-level personnel services. Uniform items on the horizon are a lighter ABU top, cold-weather green boots and stain-resistant green boots.

In terms of how Air Force members access personnel services, the stated goal for 2011 is to maximize self-service, web-based applications such as the Virtual MPF, optimize the use of the centralized AFPC Call Center and provide limited base-level services for functions that require in-person service, such as ID cards, casualty assistance and CED orders. The team also highlighted current self-service functions including automated personnel records and the enlisted promotion releases.

Mr. Jim Hale, of the civilian force integration directorate, outlined an initiative to speed up the civilian hiring process. The program includes supervisors aggressively managing vacancies, better using available resources, and informational resources for applicants to best position themselves for posted vacancies.

"Career planning is ultimately the responsibility of the Air Force member and anything we can do to facilitate informed career decisions through initiatives such as the Spread-the-Word program is beneficial for us all," said Col. David Southerland, director USAFA manpower and personnel.

To access the AF Contact Center, call 1-800-616-3775 or DSN 665-5000, or send an e-mail to stw.workflow@randolph.af.mil or visit the Ask AFPC webpage at: http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil

Use the extra buck to do some laundry.

Dollar McMenu
i’m lovin’ it

©1984 McDonald’s
Seventeen residential fires in Colorado Springs within the last few weeks have not only grabbed the attention of city officials, but Academy leadership as well.

Two fatalities in recent months also drive a closer look at the risk to the Academy community. The cause of one fire-related death in Colorado Springs was due to smoking and another death in Manitou Springs was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Base fire officials are keeping a close eye on the situation which has caused several injuries and major property damage. According to fire officials, the most recent causes of these local fires are related to barbecue grills on decks, candles, smoking, and one reported fire due to children playing with matches.

“While all communities are susceptible to residential fires, our most common cause of fire here has been unattended cooking,” said Dennis Chaltry, Academy assistant fire chief. “However, we’ve seen great behavior from our on-base residents; it has been a few years since we [the Academy] have experienced a significant residential fire.”

Many factors have contributed to a relatively small number of significant Academy residential fires over the past few years.

“Our base residents are better prepared than most communities,” he said. “We have a very healthy population that receives more face-to-face public fire safety education than most cities and towns and that contributes to a lower fire rate than most other cities throughout the country. Academy people can easily spot our Fire Prevention Week Campaign in October, but we also have a continuous awareness promotional effort throughout the year here.”

“Our most recent addition to this program is the Youth Fire Safety Camp in the summer, which provides our youth a full day of great events that teach them fire safety skills,” Mr. Chaltry said. “Additionally, we have our annual open house in August which conveys many aspects of fire safety to the base community with our fire safety trailer, fire equipment displays, puppet shows and demonstrations.”

The fire department also conducts a comprehensive public fire education program. It encompasses more than 300 events each year that teach people fire safety and can be seen all over the installation, including the highly successful newcomer’s briefings to recent arrivals.

Besides protecting the 18,500 acres of Academy proper, the fire department’s span of operations also includes Bolluyke Airfield, Farish Recreation Area and, when necessary, Saylor Park for cadet survival operations. It manages several programs that not only contribute to a low number of fires, but also help limit losses when fires do occur.

“We are also actively involved in the fire safety engineering program that ensures all new facilities and those under renovation have the most appropriate level of installed fire protection features,” Mr. Chaltry said.

These include fire sprinklers, fire-rated construction and an easy way out of every building for everyone who may work or play in Academy facilities.

“We manage a robust fire code enforcement program to validate a safe environment in every building and notify commanders regarding violations in their facilities,” he said.

The Academy also benefits from a heavy Air Force investment in fire-safety assessments from each facility manager.

“Most of our facilities have fire-suppression systems installed and fire-resistant interior finishes,” Mr. Chaltry said.

However, he stated, people still need to remain focused on avoiding several common situations that contribute to many fires, like properly disposing of smoking materials, using space heaters with tip-over switches, and conducting annual fireplace inspections and regular cleaning.

He added burning candles must never be left unattended, nor should stovetops when cooking. Mr. Chaltry also cautions to not overlook the tools that can help save lives. Tools like smoke detectors which require batteries be replaced regularly and carbon monoxide detectors which should be replaced at least every three years as sensors in Colorado detectors wear out more quickly.

One Great Nation
Two Terrific Offers

Southern Colorado Military Grant
Colorado Technical University is proud to offer all eligible active duty service personnel, including Reservists, Guard members and their immediate family members* our Southern Colorado Military Grant.

The Southern Colorado Military Grant covers:
• Reduced tuition
• All textbooks
• All fees
  • Application fees
  • Student fees
  • Lab fees

*Immediate family member: Spouse (life partner) or dependent children only. Siblings, cousins, etc. are not considered immediate family members.

Call today for details about exciting new military scholarship opportunities!
NYAKINAMA, Rwanda — The U.S. military delivered books to the Rwandan Military Academy library, Jan. 8, 2009, to help meet its need for English-printed books and military manuals.

Coordinated by U.S. Africa Command, the U.S. Air Force Academy’s Department of History, African Studies Group and McDermott Library combined to donate more than 500 books to the Rwandan Military Academy in Nyakanimana, Rwanda.

The effort was coordinated by Lt. Col. Mark Grotelueschem of the Academy’s Department of History and Chair of the African Studies Group, and Dr. Alan Ous of the Department of History. The combined effort amassed six boxes of personal books for the Rwanda Military Academy, by way of the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda.

The McDermott Library also sent books. The books and military manuals will increase the Rwandan academy library’s selection of English resource material and will supplement its English language lab, which was built by the United States.

The donation will benefit the Rwandan academy by helping students improve their English reading abilities and improving their technical knowledge in subjects such as leadership, military history and more.

“The mission of this academy is to provide military education, training and development for members of the Rwanda Defense Forces,” said Col. Aloys Muganga, commandant of the Rwandan Military Academy and recent graduate of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

The Academy conducts two 16-week Peace Support Operations courses each year with classes consisting of 50 students. Since the school opened in 2001, it has conducted 32 military courses and graduated approximately 800 officers and non-commissioned officers. The RMA conducts joint mid-career staff courses within the Rwanda Defense Forces. Since 2003, the academy has expanded its programs to include adult basic education and training, peace support operations training and research on conflict resolution to include seminars in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Other courses offered include logistics, training, clerical, international affairs, general command general, basic computer skills, humanitarian law, and basic peace operations, said Muganga.

The academy’s faculty consists of 24 prior graduates, who are capable of instructing all aspects of each training course.

Additionally, U.S. Africa Command will assist in providing mentorship and resources for a new Command Staff College, which will be adopted by 2012.

Critical Thinking: An essential skill for every Air Force officer — A skills outcome

By Col. Paul Fisher
Critical Thinking Outcome Team Lead

Critical thinking not only lies at the heart of intellectual activity, it is also an essential skill of every Air Force officer and educated citizen.

Critical thinking takes years to develop because it requires a certain level of mental maturity and development of higher level thought processes for individuals to truly understand the way they think and evaluate information.

The renowned writer, educator and historian Jacques Barzun said, “The simple but difficult arts of … following an argument, detecting an ambiguity or a false inference … cannot be taught in one course in one year, but must be acquired gradually in dozens of connections.”

For Air Force officers operating in the complex environment of today’s battlespace, the ability to apply the art of critical thinking, not only within different disciplines but also within different cultural and political environments, is a tremendous challenge that will make the difference between success and failure.

Col. Dave LaRieve, deputy head of the Department of Economics and Geosciences, saw how important it was for the Multinational Force staff in Iraq to think critically about such diverse issues as the release of insurgents, measurement of progress toward campaign objectives, and the significance of emerging trends in violence encountered by both U.S. and Iraqi forces during his deployment as chief of strategic assessments.

“It was striking how much more coherent discussion, intelligence collection, and policy became after our critical thinking team led the staff through some critical analysis on the multidimensional character of complex problems. For open-ended issues, making strong connections and appreciating subtle complexities is often the most challenging part of the process.

Next, critical thinkers must examine and analyze available information. One must judge data for its relevance and quality while carefully identifying assumptions and potential biases. Critical thinkers also examine an argument’s logical progression, and apply models to test possible solutions. They must also consider alternative perspectives and incorporate them into the analysis.

Finally, the time comes when one has to draw conclusions and communicate them effectively. One should be able to support his or her conclusions with a sound, consistent arguments that have been analyzed for their strengths and weaknesses. This is also the time when one should reassess the assumptions and limitations applied to frame the problem and consider the circumstances under which the conclusions are valid. At the Air Force Academy, critical thinking is employed in all of the academic, military and athletic disciplines during a cadet’s career. Cadets practice and hone their critical thinking as they progress through their core and major’s academic curriculum.

DoD, VA smooth path to benefits for severely wounded

By John Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Severely wounded troops returning home now have fewer bureaucratic barriers between them and their veterans’ benefits.

The Defense and Veterans Affairs departments recently announced a new, faster means for handling troops with catastrophic injuries — severe, permanent impairments resulting from combat — and the veterans’ benefits.

“This new policy should allow servicemembers and their families to focus on the essentials of recovery, reintegration, employment and independent living, with the combined assistance from the Defense Department and VA,” Michael Dominguez, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said.

In the past, injured troops were subject to lengthy reviews under the standard Disability Evaluation System, or DES, before being transferred from Defense Department to VA status. Today’s announcement waives this requirement for those with catastrophic injuries — severe, permanent impairments resulting from combat — and reduces their processing time.

Troops who participate in this optional, expedited process will be given a defense department disability rating of 100 percent, and the VA then will identify the applicable range of benefits, compensation and specialty care.

“Servicemembers and their families will be empowered to decide, after counseling on the options and potential concerns and benefits, the most appropriate choice for their situation,” Dominguez said.

The policy allows members who retire under the expedited DES process to enter the service with a waiver if they are capable following their rehabilitation.
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFNS) — A research associate at the Air Force Academy’s Laser and Optics Research Center is developing a new capability that will allow satellites to be seen and see clearer.

Dr. Geoff Andersen developed the process, called holographic adaptic optics, that uses sensors and lenses to correct for disturbances in the atmosphere.

Atmospheric disturbances can interfere with ground-based optical telescopes’ abilities to clearly see satellites orbiting the Earth.

“Stars don’t twinkle,” Dr. Andersen said. “This is just the effect of atmospheric interference on our ability to see into space.”

Dr. Andersen’s process uses adaptive technology to compensate for this interference.

“Think of it like wearing a pair of glasses,” he said. “When someone has poor eyesight, the prescription compensates for this and makes his or her eyesight better. This process is similar. It uses adaptive optics so telescopes can see into space better.”

This is important to the Air Force because it will allow the service to better see its satellites. For instance, if a satellite stops communicating with personnel on the ground, they can view it on a telescope to determine what caused it to go off the grid.

“Naturally, the clearer you can see the satellite, the easier it will be to diagnose the problem,” Dr. Andersen said.

Air Force officials have been using various forms of technology to view its satellites for several decades, but the equipment used to perform this is expensive, computer intensive and large.

“The computer itself is as large as a room,” Dr. Andersen said.

This new system, which Dr. Andersen has the patent for, uses holograms and is condensed into a device the size of a standard DVD player. This makes it cheaper and opens the door to new possibilities.

“We could place one of these devices on a satellite and then the satellite would be able to see down to Earth with a crystal image,” Dr. Andersen said.

Devices could also be placed on unmanned aircraft systems, allowing them to produce a clearer image for combatant commanders. UAS are perfect candidates for this technology due to their type and height of flight, Dr. Andersen said.

“UAS produce their own turbulence when flying and they tend to fly in the general area where atmospheric interference is high,” he said. “This new technology would eliminate these problems and allow the UAS to produce a high-quality, sharp image.”

The adaptive optics technology goes beyond having only military applications. It also has uses within the medical arena — especially that of laser eye surgery.

“This technology will make eye surgery more precise and specialized,” Dr. Andersen said.

Capabilities aside, Dr. Andersen said he is proud to be instrumental in the creation of this holographic technology. He’s also proud of the cadets he teaches and who help him on a daily basis.

“They get hands on to help find solutions using research,” he said.

The students are happy to help, knowing that the work they are doing today could possibly shape the future of imagery technology.

“It makes it really worth it knowing there’s a real-world application for what we’re doing here in the laboratory,” said Cadet 1st Class Will Holmes. “And it’s great getting to work with Dr. Andersen.”
WASHINGTON – As part of the Obama administration’s assessment of the strategy being employed in Afghanistan, the U.S. military will focus its efforts on achieving shorter-term goals there, the defense department’s top official said recently.

“One of the points where I suspect both administrations come to the same conclusion, is that the goals we did have for Afghanistan are too broad and too far into the future,” Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters at a Pentagon press conference.

President Barack Obama met with Gates and other National Security Council members at the White House Jan. 21.

The United States needs to set “more concrete goals” for Afghanistan that “can be achieved realistically within three to five years,” Gates said. For example, he said, efforts should be made to re-establish Afghan government control in the country’s southern and eastern regions, as well boost security and improve the delivery of services to the population.

And, U.S. and coalition Afghan military operations targeting al-Qaida and Taliban insurgents must be maintained in Afghanistan to prevent the re-establishment of terrorism in the region, Gates said.

President Obama said recently during a state visit to Afghanistan that increased violence in the country is too high and is a threat to the United States. The Afghan government, he said, has been hard-pressed to deliver basic services to its people.

“The violence is up dramatically in Afghanistan,” President Obama said. “A deadly insurgency has taken deep root.” And, along Afghanistan’s eastern border with Pakistan, he said, al-Qaida and Taliban fighters “strike from bases embedded in rugged tribal terrain along the Pakistani border.”

About 34,000 U.S. troops are posted in Afghanistan. Commanders there have requested about 30,000 additional U.S. forces to be used to suppress insurgent Taliban fighters and al-Qaida terrorists.

Meanwhile, President Obama is studying several Pentagon-provided options for a drawdown of U.S. combat troops from Iraq. Improved security and reduced violence in Iraq today “clearly permit” a responsible drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq, said Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who accompanied Gates at the news conference.

The availability of more troops for Afghanistan, Mullen said, is generally “tied to that [Iraq] drawdown.”

The threat to the United States now “is focused in the Afghan theater,” Gates said, including “both sides” of the Afghan-Pakistan border.

“President Obama, accordingly, ‘wants to put more emphasis on Afghanistan,’” the secretary said.

Therefore, Gates said, the U.S. military is transitioning from the “highest priority that we have given to Iraq over the last several years, and moving that priority to Afghanistan.”

### DoD focuses on short-term goals in Afghanistan

**By Gerry Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials here announced Jan. 21 possible locations for the headquarters of 24th Air Force, a new numbered Air Force focused on the cyber mission.

The proposed bases, in alphabetical order, are Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; Lackland AFB, Texas; Langley AFB, Va.; Offutt AFB, Neb.; Peterson AFB, Colo.; and Scott AFB, Ill.

Kevin W. Billings, the acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment, and logistics, said every basing decision is made through a measured and deliberate process to ensure the final decision is the best possible outcome for national defense and is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In selecting a base from among the six candidate bases, Air Force officials will consider cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy, including proximity to other cyber operational missions and access to scientific and technical expertise, and communication/bandwidth capabilities. Other evaluation criteria include facilities and infrastructure, support capacity, security and transportation access. Air Force officials applied the two most important evaluation criteria — cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy and communication/bandwidth capabilities — to provide the final candidate basing list.

“With the 24th Air Force, we recognize the tremendous preparatory work several states have already done, and we intend to use much of that information, but the mission will ultimately define the final location,” said Brig. Gen. Mark O. Schissler, the Air Force Cyber Operations director.

Air Force officials intend to make a final base selection no later than the end of June 2009.

---

**AF announces proposed bases for new command**

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials here announced Jan. 21 possible locations for the headquarters of 24th Air Force, a new numbered Air Force focused on the cyber mission.

The proposed bases, in alphabetical order, are Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; Lackland AFB, Texas; Langley AFB, Va.; Offutt AFB, Neb.; Peterson AFB, Colo.; and Scott AFB, Ill.

Kevin W. Billings, the acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment, and logistics, said every basing decision is made through a measured and deliberate process to ensure the final decision is the best possible outcome for national defense and is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In selecting a base from among the six candidate bases, Air Force officials will consider cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy, including proximity to other cyber operational missions and access to scientific and technical expertise, and communication/bandwidth capabilities. Other evaluation criteria include facilities and infrastructure, support capacity, security and transportation access. Air Force officials applied the two most important evaluation criteria — cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy and communication/bandwidth capabilities — to provide the final candidate basing list.

“With the 24th Air Force, we recognize the tremendous preparatory work several states have already done, and we intend to use much of that information, but the mission will ultimately define the final location,” said Brig. Gen. Mark O. Schissler, the Air Force Cyber Operations director.

Air Force officials intend to make a final base selection no later than the end of June 2009.
WASHINGTON – As an ongoing investigation continues on a bird strike that caused a passenger jet’s engines to fail recently after takeoff from New York’s LaGuardia Airport, Air Force safety officials said they’re well-versed on the dangers of bird strikes and are aggressively working to prevent them.

National Transportation Safety Board officials confirmed initial indications that U.S. Airways Flight 1549 struck a flock of birds, which were sucked into the engines and caused them to fail. The pilot, Air Force Academy Class of 1973 graduate Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger III, successfully landed the plane in New York’s Hudson River and is credited with saving all 155 people on board.

The incident brought public focus to a problem the Air Force, along with the airline industry, has long struggled to overcome.

Last year alone, the Air Force experienced more than 4,000 bird strikes, Eugene LeBoeuf, chief of the Air Force’s Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard, or BASH, program at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., told American Forces Press Service.

Unfortunately, none of those bird strikes was classified as a “Class A” accident, one that results in a death or more than $1 million in damages, Mr. LeBoeuf said. But collectively, they cost the Air Force an estimated $35 million.

Bird strikes are on the rise, he said, and present a serious safety issue. The crash of an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System plane in 1995 after takeoff from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, painfully drove that point home. All 24 crew members died when the plane struck a flock of Canada geese just after takeoff.

“When you have a bird strike, it’s like throwing a rock into the engine,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Paul White, airfield operations supervisor at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. “It stops the turbine from spinning, and that can be catastrophic.”

The BASH program works to avert accidents like the one at Elmendorf and last week’s incident in New York. Based on a system of “integrated pest management,” it aims to keep air bases, airfields and the air space and ground in and around them free of birds and wildlife that can hamper aircraft operations, Mr. LeBoeuf explained.

That’s a challenge, he said, with more Canada geese taking up permanent residence in the United States, a burgeoning snow goose population and a comeback for the pelican population after DDT and other insecticides were banned.

But birds aren’t the only problem, Mr. LeBoeuf said. “He’s seen it all: deer, coyotes, wild pigs and even alligators finding their way onto Air Force flightlines. ‘They’re mobile speed bumps, and aircraft don’t take kindly to them,’ he said.

Step one in the BASH program is “habitat alteration,” which Mr. LeBoeuf defined as making airfields as uninviting as possible. Anything that might serve as a perch is removed, denying birds an elevated place to roost. Potential perches that can’t be removed get spikes driven into them.

Meanwhile, low spots in the land where birds can hide or seek water that collects are filled in.

Dan Vredenburgh, a contractor who oversees Andrews AFB’s BASH program, follows the Air Force protocol of ensuring grass around the airfield is maintained between 7 and 14 inches. That’s too short for ground birds to nest in, but too long for them to feel safe feeding in, he explained.
By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFNS) — For most dining facilities, the thought of feeding an entire wing at one time is not a pleasant one. For the staff at Mitchell Hall, the cadet dining facility here, this is simply business as usual.

The dining facility, named after military aviation pioneer Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell, is the largest in the Air Force and one of the largest in the world. The facility is a $15 million, three and one-half story structure in which more than 4,700 people can be served at one time.

"We put a lot of food through here on any given day," said Frank Barfield, the dining facility's director. "For instance, to serve every cadet, we would need to cook more than 3,200 pounds of chicken fingers."

The yearly numbers are just as impressive. Mitchell Hall personnel serve more than three million meals and prepare more than 100,000 box meals for cadet programs and club activities each year. Cadets also consume more than 374,000 gallons of milk, 376,000 gallons of juices and punch, 103,000 pounds of chicken, 23,340 pounds of peanut butter, 251,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables and 14,500 pounds of oatmeal annually.

"Breakfast and lunch are mandatory meals," Mr. Barfield said. "So every cadet is present for these two meals."

Fitting the entire student body into the facility is a remarkable feat. But, at nearly two acres and holding 474 tables, the dining area is easily able to hold all cadets simultaneously.

"There are 10 chairs at each table," said Veronica Vela, a member of the dining facility's staff. "If you do the math, that works out to a lot of places for people to sit."

Cadets march into Mitchell Hall nine abreast through doors on the east and west ends. After they take their seats, they are served family style and finish the meal in 20 minutes. To serve the meals quickly, all cold food items — bread, salad, beverages, etc. — are placed on tables, and hot carts are positioned by the tables before the cadets arrive. One waster is assigned to 10 tables, and the cadets receive their hot food within two and one-half to three minutes after sitting down.

A first class cadet at each table is designated as the "table commandant." A fourth class cadet sits at the foot of the table and pours beverages and passes food. Even though they have these duties, the fourth-classmen cadets have plenty of time for a good meal.

"We put a lot of food through here on any given day," said Frank Barfield, the dining facility's director. "For instance, to serve every cadet, we would need to cook more than 3,200 pounds of chicken fingers."

The yearly numbers are just as impressive. Mitchell Hall personnel serve more than three million meals and prepare more than 100,000 box meals for cadet programs and club activities each year. Cadets also consume more than 374,000 gallons of milk, 376,000 gallons of juices and punch, 103,000 pounds of chicken, 23,340 pounds of peanut butter, 251,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables and 14,500 pounds of oatmeal annually.

"Breakfast and lunch are mandatory meals," Mr. Barfield said. "So every cadet is present for these two meals."

Fitting the entire student body into the facility is a remarkable feat. But, at nearly two acres and holding 474 tables, the dining area is easily able to hold all cadets simultaneously.

"There are 10 chairs at each table," said Veronica Vela, a member of the dining facility's staff. "If you do the math, that works out to a lot of places for people to sit."

Cadets march into Mitchell Hall nine abreast through doors on the east and west ends. After they take their seats, they are served family style and finish the meal in 20 minutes. To serve the meals quickly, all cold food items — bread, salad, beverages, etc. — are placed on tables, and hot carts are positioned by the tables before the cadets arrive. One waster is assigned to 10 tables, and the cadets receive their hot food within two and one-half to three minutes after sitting down.

A first class cadet at each table is designated as the "table commandant." A fourth class cadet sits at the foot of the table and pours beverages and passes food. Even though they have these duties, the fourth-classmen cadets have plenty of time for a good meal.

"Feeding this horde isn't the only challenge, though," Mr. Barfield said. "Some of the cadets have special diets due to religious considerations or personal preferences," Mr. Barfield said.

These cadets, such as vegetarians or those of the Muslim faith, are identified when they enroll at the Academy and are then placed at a designated table in the dining facility.

Ensuring the student body gets proper nutrition is another challenge.

"A healthy mind is a strong mind," Ms. Vera said.

So, to make sure the cadets are sound of both mind and body, the dining facility has two nutritionists on staff who plan the meals and confirm they provide a balanced diet each day.

"These cadets are college kids, after all," Mr. Barfield said. "If we let them, they'd probably eat cheese puffs and cheeseburgers every meal!"

Mitchell Hall operates on an $8.8 million annual food budget that is based on a daily ration allowance provided to each cadet.

The dining facility is operated by nearly 200 civil service employees under the oversight of the 10th Services Division.
Many professionals spend as much time with coworkers as they do with family members ... but few are asked to potentially put their lives on the line every time they leave home. Such is the case for the profession of fire fighting. Never was that clearer than during the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York City, Sept. 11, 2001. Since that day America has demonstrated an even deeper appreciation for what fire fighters do to save and protect lives. During a ribbon cutting ceremony at Fire Station 3 Monday, 10th Air Base Wing Commander Col. Jimmy McMillion added yet another dimension when he said, "They save, protect, and shape lives." Academy fire fighters are now saving, protecting and shaping lives from a recently renovated facility and the wing commander says, "The best fire fighter staff he’s seen in his entire career deserves the best," and "I’m proud of what you do."

Military members gathered early Monday before the ribbon cutting in an updated training room. Air Force Basic, Texas, Airmen 1st Class Ryan Gilhooly, who entered Air Force active duty Sept. 11, 2007, concurs. "Even though I've only been here eight months, [following basic training then technical training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas], I recognize and appreciate how clean, nice and well equipped this place is. Does a more modern and comfortable facility for fire fighters offer any tangible benefit to the community at large?" "You bet," said Chief Piercy. "The two upgrades that impact the community the most are the addition of two truck bays, and the upgrades to the 911 center. The additional truck bays allow us to posture the rescue truck in this station, providing faster response times to our target hazards. The 911 center upgrades include a much improved work space and the installation of a state-of-the-art computer aided dispatch system."

The excitement about the new facility is shared by Station Captain Joel Beerer who’s been in federal service for 32 years. Since his Academy arrival in 1994, Captain Beerer has witnessed three renovations, responded to multiple Academy plane crashes, Interstate accidents, and to many other types of emergencies aboard Academy fire trucks. His appreciation for the renovated facility is also very high. "There was a time where I could hear guys snoring from three beds away," he said with a smile. "That’s changed with the addition of 11 individual rooms." Only surpassing Captain Beerer’s appreciation for the improved facility is his appreciation for his coworkers. "I see these guys more than I do my family," he said. "The caliber of everyone here is very impressive."

The ribbon cutting may have been a little more industrial than most with the wing commander armed with a Power Hawk rescue tool to cut the plastic ribbon. The tool, similar to the "Jaws of Life," is used to extricate entangled victims from motor vehicle accidents. The transition from almost adequate to "ribbon-cutting" outstanding was no accident nor did it happen overnight. Responsible for facility improvements, Col. Richard Stonestreet, the previous base civil engineer, brought Colonel McMillian through the fire station right after the wing commander had arrived to show him the facility’s condition. The renovation project, about two years in the making from funding to ribbon cutting, was approved shortly thereafter. It has evolved to becoming the new and vastly improved home away from home for Academy fire fighters who each serve six 24-hour shifts every two weeks. Lt. Col. Justin Davey, the current civil engineer concurred, "Fire fighters will spend seven years in a fire station during a typical 20-year career. We need to ensure we provide them with the best possible living environment."

Crediting Team USAFA was paramount to Chief Piercy. "The teamwork associated with this project was incredible," he said. "Civil engineers worked with communications squadron folks, were in close coordination with the El Paso County 911 Authority, and fire fighters working hand-in-hand with the contractor during the process were all key to our success."

The changes mark the third and final renovation of Academy fire stations.
Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bischoff is anxious to tell the world about the 10th Communications Squadron’s Staff Sgt. Robert Brewster and Senior Airman Joshua Albarran, being outstanding Airmen and their selections as the Florida based unit’s “Making a Difference” award winners.

Last year’s Make A Difference Day, Oct. 25, 2008, was the nation’s largest single day of volunteer efforts.

Sergeant Bischoff, from the 601st Air and Space Operations Center’s Air Expeditionary Force flight chief and assistant Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Garmin, currently deployed to Tyndall AFB, Fla., on an Air Expeditionary Force rotation, presented the newly created award. Sergeant Bischoff created this award to recognize the efforts of AEF members deployed to Tyndall AFB who have gone above and beyond in their efforts.

“I wanted to pass on my deep appreciation to you for sending Sergeant Brewster on this AEF rotation,” wrote the senior NCO to Academy officials. “This Airman is truly one of the hard charging, rare breed. I look forward to seeing him accomplish great things as he ascends in rank.”

The Academy NCO is credited for applying numerous critical software remedies to more than 20 workstations across the Air Force North Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System network. He ensured all connected network devices were receiving appropriate security patches by monitoring the area of operation’s connected network devices were receiving appropriate security patches. He then tested when approached by the senior NCO in charge of the nation’s largest single day of volunteer efforts.

The praise and recognition escalated.

“Our members of the 10th Communications Squadron are providing award-winning service while deployed,” said Lt. Col. Edward Werner, 10th Wingman.”

Airman Albarran quickly verified his access status and access badge on the ops floor, “ said the senior NCO.

“His leading from the front attitude reflects greatly upon himself and his home unit,” said Sergeant Bischoff. “Airman Albarran quickly verified his access status and worked with others to ensure the area remained secure.”

In his free time the airman has enrolled in two college courses in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree and was also cited as giving something back to the local community by volunteering almost weekly to support several local events. “He is motivated and highly alert and in one recent incident challenged an individual who did not display his access badge on the ops floor,” said the senior NCO.

“He is motivated and highly alert and in one recent incident challenged an individual who did not display his access badge on the ops floor.”

Airman Albarran continues his efforts as an unrivaled Wingman.”

The praise and recognition escalated.

“Our members of the 10th Communications Squadron family are providing award-winning service while deployed,” said Lt. Col. Edward Werner, 10th Wingman.”

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bischoff, right, and Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Garmin, currently deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., on an Air Expeditionary Force rotation, present the newly created AEF Making a Difference Award to the Academy’s 10th Communications Squadron.”

Welcome!

Colorado State University-Pueblo has been a strong supporter of our military and their families as well as other non-traditional students for over 20 years. To this end, we offer multiple Bachelor of Science programs in Colorado Springs through evening courses at three locations in Colorado Springs – The Citadel, Ft. Carson, and Peterson AFB – with convenient scheduling designed around a traditional work schedule. Our classes are conducted primarily on an eight-week term with two terms in the spring and fall and a separate summer term. Most of our classes are offered one night a week, but we do offer day courses as well as weekend courses. Weekend courses use a condensed format of one, two, or three weekends depending on content and total credit hours of the class.

To specifically address the needs of our deployed troops, or those about to deploy, we also offer Independent study courses. These courses consist of guided instruction with instructors available by phone, fax, or email. Most are offered as a traditional correspondence course; however, we have a growing number of Internet based online courses.

A complete listing of all our courses and schedules are available at any Colorado Springs office, our Pueblo campus or on-line at www.colostate-pueblo.edu.

We look forward to serving you in preparation for your future.

Sincerely,

Barbara Borland, M.A.
Program Manager
Colorado Springs
CSU-Pueblo
Cadet hangs up volleyball jersey for semester

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Outside hitter Cadet 2nd Class Katie Batchelder has had a remarkable career with the Academy women’s volleyball team.

Last season alone she saw action in 94 games, led the team in kills (241) and service aces (25), led the Mountain West Conference for aces in a match and tallied the team’s best single-match kill output of the season.

In 2006, she was named most valuable player and rookie of the year.

At the end of this year’s season, she is hanging up her #1 jersey and will miss next year’s season, which runs from August to November, to attend L’Ecole de l’Air in France during the fall semester.

The Preparatory School grad heard about the exchange program during her first year on the Hill.

“I thought, ‘Wouldn’t that be cool?’” she said.

Head coach Penny Lucas-White called Cadet Batchelder one of the strongest outside hitters she has ever coached.

“Losing Katie is like losing my right arm,” she said. “We will miss her dearly.”

Failure is not so bad. It is a teacher,” she said. “To overcome failure is a competition itself. Getting knocked down all the time makes you want it more.”

She has learned from coaches that an athlete’s career could be ended abruptly. “When the lights in the gym go down, all you can hear is an echo,” she said wistfully. “All that is left is empty seats and scuffed floors.”

While at L’Ecole de l’Air, which is the French version of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Cadet Batchelder is anticipating delving into survival and jump training as well as possible opportunities to visit military installations and delve into survival and jump training as well as classes, all of which, naturally, are in French.

Academy classes were her first introduction to the French language.

“I loved it from day one,” she said.

A cultural immersion program to Morocco helped fire her interest in the language and other cultures, as she was serving as a host for a French Canadian student last year.

Africa is her concentration as a foreign studies area major.

During her time away, Cadet Batchelder is eagerly looking forward to travel, her style. She has visited Paris and its major landmarks but she would like to see more of the French countryside, as well as Rome, Florence and Venice in Italy, Austria and the British Isles.

“It’s fun when it’s hard to get around, and everyone speaks different languages,” she said.

Cadet Batchelder plans to keep volleyball in her life. “I love it,” she said. “I feel so energetic when I play.”

For her, volleyball is not about the winning but the playing, even enduring hard losses in Division 1.

“Failure is not so bad. It is a teacher,” she said. “To overcome failure is a competition itself. Getting knocked down all the time makes you want it more.”

She has learned from coaches that an athlete’s career could be ended abruptly. “When the lights in the gym go down, all you can hear is an echo,” she said wistfully. “All that is left is empty seats and scuffed floors.”

Cadet Batchelder recalled one special day in her volleyball career when the team assisted in a youth work-shop. With basic sign language learned from her mother, she was able to communicate with and thus include a deaf youngster in the day’s activities.

“That was the coolest moment,” she said. “I hope I made a difference in his life.”

Although coach and team will miss their star outside hitter, they wish their teammate well.

“She is going to gain so much and going to be a great asset to the Air Force,” Coach White said. “We wish her nothing but great success in her future that lies ahead.”

Academy Spirit January 30, 2009
Air Force fencers make a good showing

By Cadet 2nd Class Peter French

The Academy’s fencers competed in the Division I and Junior North American Cup Jan. 16-18, in Louisville, Ky. The team performed well in the tough competition. Air Force fencer, sophomore Dan Trapani, earned a big result with third place in the junior men’s epee competition.

After a strong start of 4-2 in the pools, Nick Stockdale lost a close bout to make the round of 32 in Division I men’s foil. Simone Barrette also competed in the Junior Women’s Epee event. She had a strong start, but lost her bout in the round of the top 64.

Day two, Trapani and Peter French competed in the Division I Men’s Epee event. Both finished the pools undefeated, with Trapani earning the No. 1 seed for the elimination round. Unfortunately, Trapani still had a difficult draw against a former world champion from Bulgaria and lost to make the top 64. French won his first bout, but lost to make the round of 32.

“This was one of my more disappointing finishes as a Falcon,” French said.

Michael O’Connor competed in Division I Men’s Sabre and had a personal best in the first round, finishing 4-2. In another unfortunate draw, O’Connor lost his first elimination bout. Stockdale and Barrette competed in Junior Men’s Foil and Division I Women’s Epee, respectively. Stockdale started 5-1, but lost to make the 64. Barrette also lost in the 64.

The Falcons got an excellent result with Trapani earning the bronze in the Junior Men’s Epee event. He dominated his opponents in the first round with a perfect 6-0 and fenced exceedingly well throughout the elimination rounds. He eventually lost in overtime to the tournament champion - Stanford’s Keven Mo. This marks the second straight medal finish for Trapani in Junior competition. Trapani continues the Falcons’ strong history in Junior Epee, and looks to garner the national title with a win at next month’s Junior Olympics, Feb. 13-16, in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Falcons have a home meet Saturday and Sunday and are away at Notre Dame (Feb. 21-22) and Stanford (March 7-8).

Racquetball action wraps up

By Dave Castilla

Intramural Sports Director

The Academy concluded its 7th Annual DOD Racquetball Tournament Sunday afternoon where 15 men in the AB (or advanced) category, and four in the women’s division, competed in double elimination action.

Winners were:

Men’s
1st place—Ray Cordero representing Peterson AFB
2nd place—Richard Romero from Buckley AFB
3rd place—Steve Naftanel also from Peterson AFB

Women’s
1st place—Patsy Joiner, family member of Air Force retiree
2nd place—Terry Baron from Buckley AFB
3rd place—Sandra Ingrassia also from Buckley AFB

In the finals of the men’s division Richard Romero, last year’s DOD runner-up, held an 11-6 lead in the championship. However, Ray Cordero, who is also the Air Force racquetball head coach, called a brief time out and came back to defeat Romero 15-13 in the first game and 15-10 in the final match to clinch the championship.


In women’s division action, Patsy Joiner, whose family member of Air Force retiree won numerous tournaments from the 70’s thru the 90’s, was a late replacement and made it to the final. She defeated Terry Baron, 15-6 and 15-0. Baron defeated Sandra Ingrassia 15-8 and 15-3 to take second place before facing Joiner in the finals.

Men’s basketball
LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Tyson Johnson scored 18 points as Wyoming pulled away from Air Force 72-59 Tuesday. The Cowboys (14-6, overall, 3-3 Mountain West) scored nine straight points midway through the second half for some separation, and then closed strong for the double-digit win. Wyoming now 10-0 at home this season.

Andrew Henke led Air Force (9-10, 0-4) with 18 points, with Anwar Johnson adding 16. It was the Falcons’ seventh straight loss. Air Force led 32-21 at halftime and trailed only 45-43 with 10:50 to play. But the Cowboys stopped the Falcons on six straight possessions to regain their momentum. Leading by seven, the Cowboys closed on a 16-10 run.

Wrestling
The Air Force wrestling team hosts a pair of conference duals today and Saturday. The Falcons will take on North Dakota State today at 7 p.m., while facing off against South Dakota State at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Womens basketball
The Air Force women’s basketball team dropped a 52-41 Mountain West Conference contest to Wyoming Wednesday night at Clune Arena. The Falcons dropped to 4-15, 0-6 while the Cowgirls improved to 10-9, 2-4. In a close game, it was Wyoming’s three-point shooting that was the difference. The Cowgirls made 6-of-11 from long range, good for a 54.5 percentage. Kristen Schiffer did most of the damage for Wyoming, scoring a game-high 21 points and hitting 5-of-8 from downtown. Hilary Carlson also had a strong game for the Cowgirls, adding 13 points and six rebounds.

Track and Field
The Air Force track and field team hosts a pair of meets today...

Down but not out
Academy grappler Stephen Makuka is out for the season with a torn ACL after squaring off against his Stanford University opponent Jan. 16 in the Cadet Gym. In the 141-pound weight class, Makuka’s overall record for this season was 9-14, 1-6 dual mark, and he was leading his team with six falls. The Class of 2010 member hopes to rehab and compete at the varsity level next season. The Air Force team entered that weekend’s meets with 1-5 dual record. Leading the Falcons in total wins for the season was captain Stephen Crozier who had 19 victories and a team-best 5-1 dual record. Seventeen Air Force wrestlers had recorded falls for the season, led by Makuka, whose six pins on the year, are just one short of the team leader for the 2007-08 season.
No. 20 Air Force sweeps Army with 3-2 win

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Derrick Burnett scored two goals in the first period and Air Force held off a furious Army rally for a 3-2 win in an Atlantic Hockey Association game Saturday at the Cadet Ice Arena. The Falcons won Jan. 23, 5-1, to sweep the series for the first time since 2005.

Air Force improved to 17-6-1 overall and 14-3-1 in the AHA. The Falcons moved into a tie for first place with RIT. Army fell to 7-14-3 overall and 6-9-3 in the league.

Army drew first blood, but it was Air Force that quickly answered in the first period. With 3:52 left in the first, and two seconds left on an Army power play, Zach McKelvie fired a shot from the center point that gave Army its first lead of the series. Mike Hall and Bryant Skarda assisted on the play. The Falcons answered just eight seconds later as Derrick Burnett scored on the rush.

On the ensuing faceoff, Matt Fairchild tipped the puck to Jeff Hajner who skated down the left side. His cross ice pass was right on the tape of Burnett who tied the game with a shot that went high, glove side. Burnett's second of the game, and third of the series, gave Air Force a 2-1 lead with just 69 seconds left in the first period. Air Force was killing a penalty when Burnett intercepted a pass at center ice. As Burnett skated down the left side, the penalty expired and he ripped a slap shot high stick side.

The Falcons took a 3-1 lead early in the second period on a goal by Blake Page. Greg Flynn knocked down a clearing attempt by Army and took a shot that was deflected. Page batted the puck in for his fifth of the season.

Air Force held the 3-1 lead until late in the game. With 1:55 left in the third period, a penalty was called on Greg Burgod eer and Army pulled its goaltender for a two-man advantage. With 45 seconds left, Marcel Alvarez kept the puck in the zone and Scott Warner's slap shot from the point got through traffic to make the score 3-2. Army kept the puck in the zone for the entire 43 seconds with the extra skater on the ice, but was not able to score.

The Falcons oustshot Army, 25-19 in the game. Army was 2-for-5 on the power play while Air Force was 0-for-13 in the series. Andrew Volkkening made 17 saves while Josh Kassel made 22 for the Black Knights.

"I liked our energy again," head coach Frank Serratore said. "I thought the better team won. We persevered after the first goal, but we took some bad penalties again. We just couldn't break them. If we would have gotten the fourth goal it may have broken their spirits. We haven't had our legs moving for a long, long time, but we did this weekend and that is certainly a positive. Our foundation is built on the legs of our forwards and they did a good job in the series. I thought we deserved to win both games, but we have some things to work on."

Air Force is on the road as the Falcons travel to Erie, Pa., for a two-game AHA series with Mercyhurst, today and Saturday.

Rifle team misses the mark versus TCU

By Madeline McGuire
Athletic Communications

The Air Force rifle team hosted two contests versus TCU Jan. 17-18 but came up short both times. In the first contest, the Falcons lost 4560-4593, in the second contest the Falcons lost 4553-4605.

Nick Krieger set a personal best of 576/600 in the smallbore match. Tom Chandler was the team's air rifle top scorer with a 568. Pat Everson followed Jarrell's score with a 573. Mike Seery finished the day in air rifle and 2246 in smallbore (4605).

The U.S. Air Force Academy Rifle Team.

Air rifle's Derrick Burnett takes a shot on goal versus Army Jan. 23.

The U.S. Air Force Academy Rifle Team.

Air rifle and 2246 in smallbore (4553). TCU scored 2239 in air rifle and 2266 in smallbore (4605).

The Academy's rifle team's next contest is Saturday and Sunday in Charleston, S.C., against The Citadel.


The women's heptathlon is at 9 a.m., followed by the women's 1-meter springboard, at 4 p.m. Saturday, the men's 1-meter springboard begins at 9 a.m., followed by the women's 3-meter springboard at 10:30. Competition concludes with the men's and women's combined platform, at 1:30 p.m.

Swimming and diving

The Air Force men's and women's diving teams are in action today and Saturday, as they host the annual Air Force Diving Meet, at 1 p.m., today. The men's and women's combined platform, at 1:30 p.m.

Falcons on the Web...

Fans at home will be able to follow all of the action in Clune Arena this year, as each of Air Force's home wrestling contests will be video streamed live. Live stats of each of the Falcons' home duals will also be available. To tune in, just click on the links that are featured on the events schedule on goairforcefalcons.com.
ADC closure
The ADC office will close Monday through Feb. 6 to attend a training conference at Charleston Air Force Base. No UCMJ actions, administrative actions, cadet discipline actions etc., will be handled during this time. In an emergency, call the command post at (719) 333-2633. However, the staff’s ability to return calls may be limited during normal duty hours.

The Art of Love
Academy artisans will pay tribute to St. Valentine during the Academy Arts & Crafts Center’s “That’s Amore” art contest. All forms of art may be entered but must either contain the color red, a heart and the word “love” or its concept. Entries will be accepted through Wednesday, and entry forms are available at the center. A show and awards reception is set for Feb. 6 and will include hors d’oeuvres. For more information, call 333-4579.

Teachers sought
Leisure time instructors in all levels of piano and Mexican cooking (Tamale, Salsa and Tortilla making) are being sought for Academy programs. Contact Linda Crom, 333-2928 for details.

Horse cents
The Academy Equestrian Center is offering a winter deal for serious riders. The basic cost is $150 for the first horse and $100 for each additional horse per month, per family. Arrangements for the Winter Lease Program are by appointment only with Jeanne Springer at 472-8639 or e-mail jeanne.springer@usafa.af.mil

A&FRC offerings
The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes for January. Call the A&FRC @ 333-3444 with any questions or to register.

- Group Pre-Separation Counseling Mondays (except during TAP week); 2 to 4 p.m.
- Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing assists you in identifying benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

Volunteer program
There are several on-base organizations in need of volunteers. Contact Jeannie Lopez at 333-3168/3444 for more information.

Dance lessons
Weekly ballroom dance lessons, one hour each for three more weeks, continue Wednesday at 7 p.m. Learn the swing, foxtrot, slow waltz and rumba dance steps. Cost is $70 for couples and $40 for an individual. Call 333-2928 for more information or to sign up.

Opening Reception
Love is in the Air. The Hunter-Wolff Gallery, 2510 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, unveils its “Love is in the Air” gallery-choice collection on one of the most romantic days of the year. Join us on Valentine’s Day from 2 to 6 pm for the Opening Reception. Whether you are an art lover or prefer studying the art of love, you will not want to miss this captivating collection which includes paintings in all mediums, stone sculpture, blown glass and fine jewelry with a romantic theme. This first time ever exhibition and sale, by a select group of the region’s most notable artists, will run through mid-March.

Water aerobics
The Academy Fitness & Sports Center offers a 10-punch card for water aerobics. The cost is $30 and the card does not expire. Water aerobics classes are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:05 p.m. Improve muscular strength and endurance and increase overall aerobic conditioning with zero impact on the joints. For more information, call 333-4522.

Ski rental
Season ski rentals from the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center require an appointment for a fitting. Call 333-4753.

Honoring MLK
Attendance for this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Luncheon Jan. 23 at the Falcon Club was more than 110, double that of last year. “From the hard work of the MLK committee, to the singing of the national anthem by Cadet 1st Class Jasmine Pettie, to the very compassionate message delivered by guest speaker Dr. Aaron Byerley, it was first-class,” said Al Holland, MLK committee co-chair. “The tremendous impact Dr. King had on Petty Officer 1st Class Jasamine Pettie, to the very compassionate message delivered by guest speaker Dr. Aaron Byerley, his life was obvious. He too grew up in a segregated family that had not experienced the impact of desegregation until he reached the seventh grade ... and that impact has lasted his lifetime.” Petty Officer Curtis Thompson, MLK committee co-chair, and Community Center Chief of Chaplains Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dwayne Peoples, above, were among those in attendance at the luncheon.

Water aerobics
The Academy Fitness & Sports Center offers a 10-punch card for water aerobics. The cost is $30 and the card does not expire. Water aerobics classes are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:05 p.m. Improve muscular strength and endurance and increase overall aerobic conditioning with zero impact on the joints. For more information, call 333-4522.

Ski rental
Season ski rentals from the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center require an appointment for a fitting. Call 333-4753.

Opening Reception
Love is in the Air. The Hunter-Wolff Gallery, 2510 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, unveils its “Love is in the Air” gallery-choice collection on one of the most romantic days of the year. Join us on Valentine’s Day from 2 to 6 pm for the Opening Reception. Whether you are an art lover or prefer studying the art of love, you will not want to miss this captivating collection which includes paintings in all mediums, stone sculpture, blown glass and fine jewelry with a romantic theme. This first time ever exhibition and sale, by a select group of the region’s most notable artists, will run through mid-March.

Water aerobics
The Academy Fitness & Sports Center offers a 10-punch card for water aerobics. The cost is $30 and the card does not expire. Water aerobics classes are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:05 p.m. Improve muscular strength and endurance and increase overall aerobic conditioning with zero impact on the joints. For more information, call 333-4522.

Ski rental
Season ski rentals from the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center require an appointment for a fitting. Call 333-4753.

Opening Reception
Love is in the Air. The Hunter-Wolff Gallery, 2510 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, unveils its “Love is in the Air” gallery-choice collection on one of the most romantic days of the year. Join us on Valentine’s Day from 2 to 6 pm for the Opening Reception. Whether you are an art lover or prefer studying the art of love, you will not want to miss this captivating collection which includes paintings in all mediums, stone sculpture, blown glass and fine jewelry with a romantic theme. This first time ever exhibition and sale, by a select group of the region’s most notable artists, will run through mid-March.

Mickey plays host
At the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, through Dec. 23, each active or retired member of the U.S. military may obtain one free five-day “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” ticket with “Park Hopper” and water park options. The ticket is valid for five days of admission into the four Walt Disney World theme parks, plus a total of five visits to a choice of a Disney water park, DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive Theme Park or certain other attractions. Active or retired U.S. military personnel also may make a one-time purchase up to five “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute Companion” tickets - good for five days – for $99 each, plus tax, for family members or friends. Although this ticket for family members and friends does not include either the Park Hopper or Water Park Fun & More options, it can be upgraded to add either such option, or both, for an additional $25, plus tax, per option. All tickets and options are nontransferable and must be used by Dec. 23. A similar offer is in place at Walt Disney Land in California. More information is available at installation ITT/ITR offices.