Three first-class cadets have been named recipients of prestigious scholarships for graduate study in England next year.

Cadet 1st Class Brian Mueller, Cadet Squadron 5, has been awarded the Marshall Scholarship. He will pursue a master's degree in science and security at King's College in London.

Cadet 1st Class Roni Yadlin, Cadet Squadron 30, will pursue a master's in philosophy in international relations at Oxford University with her Bart Holaday scholarship.

Cadet 1st Class Adam Comer, Cadet Squadron 37, has been awarded a Gates Scholarship, allowing him to study at the University of Cambridge. He is the Academy's first recipient of the Gates award, presented by the Gates Cambridge Trust created by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to enable outstanding graduate students from outside the United Kingdom to study at the University of Cambridge. The Trust seeks to elect about 100 new scholars annually, from any nation, and candidates compete at the national level.

"I was completely shocked and surprised. I thought the interview went terribly, and I walked out of the interview certain that my chances of being awarded a Gates Scholarship were over," Cadet Comer said. "I am still trying to come to terms with all of it.”

The Academy double ACE (two semesters with straight As) and mechanical engineering major will study the optimization of fuel injectors of gas turbine engines in an effort to improve efficiency and potentially reveal how chemical and physical differences of certain biofuels affect the optimization process.

The Marshall Scholarship, named for General of the Army George C. Marshall, provides students with opportunities at any university in the U.K. and applicable to any field of study. About 40 Marshall Scholars are selected each year. Cadet Mueller is the 10th Marshall recipient from the Academy and is a political science major with a minor in Chinese. He plans to study the security dynamics and consequences behind the possible militarization of outer space.

The science and security program attempts to bridge the gap between technology and policy by illustrating the
Control destiny through sound decisions

By Senior Airman Shane Dunaway
36th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Controlling your own destiny is a term often associated with sports, meaning a team only has to win to make the playoffs.

In life, “making the playoffs” can take on a different meaning — progress in your career or even your life.

Everyone loves to use the phrase, “We’re underranked,” but in some instances, it doesn’t have to be this way.

The stone-cold fact is we lose a multitude of Airmen every year, whether it’s due to vehicle-related fatalities, off-duty mishaps or UCMI violations. In most cases, especially in regards to the UCMI, these losses are preventable.

Think about the number of people we lose each year to infractions such as driving under the influence or sexual assault. Those people ultimately made the choice to break the rules, but where was someone who could’ve convinced their car keys or recommended a cab? Where was the person who should’ve said, “You need to quit feeding that Airman shots,” or “It’s probably not a good idea for you to go back to that Airman’s room.”?

I’m not saying we all need to be glorified babysitters, but we do need to be better wingmen.

What happened to having the common decency and courtesy to be there for someone when they need the help?

What happened to respecting your fellow Airmen — the ones who fight alongside you against the Global War on Terror every day?

What happened to our integrity — doing the right thing even when no one else is looking?

Put yourself in the shoes of someone who has ever been affected by an incident involving alcohol. Imagine the grief you could potentially cause the next time liquid courage tempts you to drive. The next time you’re feeding an Airman drinks in an attempt to capitalize on a negative situation, ask yourself, “Would I want this to happen to my sister, brother, mother or friend?”

We all need to take a moment and realize we’re all part of the same team — “One team, one fight.” And if we keep hurting each other or ourselves, we’ll never accomplish the mission at hand.

Control your own destiny. Continue winning and progress forward in this fight we all share.

Benjamin Valeriano
USAF Retired

Retiree appreciates total team effort

Editor’s Note: The below letter to the editor is in response to the feature story in last week’s Academy Spirit entitled: “Total team effort comforts family in time of need.”

The story described the combined efforts of Air Force members from E.E. Warren and others deployed to the United Arab Emirates, to the medical treatment provided at Memorial Hospital here in Colorado Springs, to logistical support from the staff at the nearby Ronald McDonald House. All involved were instrumental in bringing comfort into the lives of a young Air Force couple who lost one of their twin girls born at Memorial Hospital, Nov. 11, 2008, just two days after her birth.

Dear Mr. Carter,

This note is to express our thanks and appreciation for the outstanding article that you wrote in the Feb. 6th issue of the Academy Spirit in reference to the Air Force family being second to none.

The article on Staff Sgt. Roman Alvarez and his wife Jamie and their needs at the time of birth with the twins, was very compassionate and insightful.

There are many in our Air Force family who stepped forward and became very visible at the time of need. I specifically refer to the squadron personnel at E.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. The chain of command all kicked into high gear, with the commander, first sergeant, section chief and down the line of command, all involved in assisting with the serious situation. The expeditious action taken to return Sergeant Alvarez from deployment and immediate leave to visit his wife was as if they were taking care of a family member.

Their concern continued with the daily monitoring of the health complications of the mother and babies at the hospital. The Air Force Family’s humanitarian concern was very much in display when Sergeant Alvarez’s military superiors all drove down from Cheyenne, Wyo., to Pueblo, Colo., for the funeral of Amaya.

I earlier mentioned “our Air Force family.” I am a retired Air Force sergeant and always knew that our family had a big heart, but had never seen it in action with such compassion until now.

Staff Sgt. Roman Alvarez is our grandson.

Benjamin Valeriano
USAF Retired

Under the Spotlight

By Capt. Olin Pluemer
Center for Character Development

As former NBA basketball star Karl Malone once stated, “We are all role models. It is us up to us to decide whether we are good ones or bad ones.”

This brings us to a situation that all men and women serving in uniform have faced, past and present. Not only are we judged as role models but also as ambassadors to our service and our country to anyone and all who may be watching. A service member’s voice and actions carry more weight than most people realize (service members included), and the public trust, once damaged, is often difficult and time consuming to repair.

This takes on an even more urgent role overseas as soldiers, sailors, and Airmen represent the face of America during not only the global war on terror but also during relief missions and other deployments abroad.

Whether it is fair or not, all of us serving in uniform are under the scrutiny, but the proper reaction has always been very simple. As with our first core value, integrity, our actions and appearance should also be managed as if no one is looking.

This is only reinforced by the technology of today where the closest camera or microphone is only a cell phone away.

One only needs to pick up the newspaper or surf the Internet to see the consequences of a public figure who has fallen out of public favor due to a not-so-private misstep or lapse in judgment.

As a rule, you need only take pride in what you accomplish and the way you come across to others, service members or not, in plain sight or not. Be mindful of your status as an emissary and you’ll never need to worry about the glare of the spotlight.

Staff Writer
Staff Writer

February 13, 2009

Academy Spirit

To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy
Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth
Director of Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Corriechle Welch
Chief of Internet Information
Ken Carter — Editor

Benjamin Valeriano
USAF Retired

To respond to and answer the community and the public about the Air Force Academy
Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth
Director of Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Corriechle Welch
Chief of Internet Information
Ken Carter — Editor

Refers to the Air Force Academy

Contact the publisher at 329-5236. The number to call for the publication is noon every Tuesday for that week’s publication.

Deadline for free classified ads on a space-available basis is noon every Tuesday for that week’s publication date. Paid classified advertising is accepted by the publisher at 329-5236. The number to call for display advertising is 719-526-4890.

Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions about the Academy Spirit to 1-800-545-7601.

The Academy Spirit accepts story submissions at 315-489-8040 or e-mail to usafa@usafa.af.mil.
Academy Hospital officially becomes clinic
By 10th Medical Group staff

The 10th Medical Group cheered as it received the results from the week-long Air Force Inspection Agency Health Services Inspection. The group’s peacetime and wartime missions and benchmarked Military Treatment Facility with all other MTFs in the Air Force medical service. The 10th MDG scored an overall "Excellent" rating.

"I could not be more proud of the men and women of the 10th Medical Group," said Col. Alan Berg, 10th MDG commander. "This inspection proves we are providing high-quality medical care to our beneficiaries." Along with the nine-person HSI team, an additional team of three surveyors from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care assessed the quality and safety of the care provided by the Academy clinic. The AAAHC surveyed had a busy week visiting each of the outlying facilities, interviewing both staff and patients, and reviewing hundreds of documents.

This survey provides the 10th MDG the opportunity to be assessed by its civilian counterparts. Although the survey results will not be available for 45 days, it seemed the AAAHC surveyors were impressed with the care the 10th MDG provides.

Of particular note was the Ambulatory Surgical Center, a state-of-the-art surgical facility that the team stated compared favorably to any ASC in the civilian community.

This HSI, combined with the accreditation survey from the AAAHC, marks the official end of the 10th MDG’s designation as a hospital and a new beginning as a clinic.

Even with this new status as a clinic, the 10th MDG maintains most of the capability it had as a hospital, and it is not sitting still.

A new 64-slice CAT Scan is being installed and there’s daily evidence of improvements being made as part of the ongoing $22 million renovation project, according to Colonel Berg.

PETRIOR AFB requires early DBIDS registration

By 21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Beginning March 2, people entering Peterson Air Force Base will need to present an ID card that has been registered in the Defense Biometric Identification System or DBIDS. Registration is currently under way. People can get their cards registered at the Academy’s Pass and ID Office or at the commissary from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

The new system will instantly pull up identification card information to validate authorized personnel. Everyone who has a DoD ID card will need to register it in DBIDS prior to March 2. Traffic delays associated with the full introduction of this system at Peterson are expected, but members entering the base can help minimize those delays by registering their DoD ID card early and having the IDs of everyone in their vehicle available when approaching the gate.

Authorized Peterson users are encouraged to register at one of three locations: Peterson’s West Gate Visitor Control Center; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; Peterson Base Exchange satellite pharmacy through Feb. 28: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Building 350 near Military Personnel Section: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Users may call ahead to 556-6660 or 556-7000 to inquire as to what the estimated wait times might be.
Scholarship

From Page 1

consequences of scientific development on foreign policy. Cadet Mueller is unsure where he will pursue another degree during his second year in the U.K. "I was extremely shocked and speechless, yet humbled that I had been selected among such a competitive group of my peers," he said. He was informed of the award the evening following the interview.

"I almost started jumping up and down out of pure excitement after hearing the news," he said.

Cadet Yadlin, an aeronautical engineering major, said she has always had a passion for politics and international relations.

She chose to take advantage of "this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" and study in a field outside her academic arena. The daughter of a former Israeli Air Force pilot and captain of the Academy’s women’s intercollegiate soccer team hopes the combined study will help her to use space technology and space exploration as a means of building relationships between countries and to use space as a realm of peace and cooperation.

The Holaday Scholarship is sponsored by The Dakota Foundation which seeks to foster entrepreneurship in North Dakota and New Mexico. It is awarded annually to a graduating Academy cadet and bears the name Bart Holaday, a Rhodes Scholar who believed Oxford University provides an invaluable global perspective for its location, international student body and premier faculty.

Cadet Yadlin said she felt excited yet felt part disbelief and relief as well.

"I was obviously extremely excited about the prospect of studying in England and can’t wait to start that next chapter of my education and life," she said.

Cadet Yadlin’s disbelief is in realizing that from the pool of impressive candidates she was selected. "I felt relief because all my hard work in preparing for the scholarships had amounted to such great results," she added.

Cadet Comer anticipates applying what he will be learning to good use in his Air Force career by conducting combustion research and reducing the Air Force’s fuel costs and carbon footprint.

Cadet Mueller plans to use his degree and cultural and educational background to educate and inform policy officials on the potential long-term consequences of placing weapons in outer space.

Cadet Yadlin hopes to use her international relations studies to further peaceful relationships with other countries. She is slated to attend pilot training after graduation as well.

All the scholarship recipients have long lists of achievements and activities at the Academy, including academics, sports, overseas cultural immersions and research projects, among others.

All also credit their families, fellow cadets and Academy faculty for allowing them to pursue their interests and encouraging and believing in them.

It won’t be all work and no play in the U.K. for these Academy go-getters. Cadets Mueller and Yadlin plan to get involved with British soccer. All enjoy travel and meeting new friends, natural diversions for overseas study breaks.

"I am humbled to have been selected as a Marshall Scholar and will be very honored to represent not only the Academy but also the United States, while studying in England," Cadet Mueller added. "I’m looking forward to absorbing as much English culture as I possibly can while imparting a positive impression of the United States on the British citizens."

Education and training solutions for military, veterans, and their families.

DeVry University’s Military Appreciation Day

Join us to learn how to advance your interviewing & negotiating skills and resume writing with our mini-seminars. Topics include: Dress for Success, Resume Writing Skills & Formatting, Career Research & Salary Negotiation.

DATES: April 2, 2009 Denver, Westminster Campus | April 16, 2009 Colorado Springs Center TIME: 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Drawing for a FREE digital camera will be held at the end of the event. This event is free to all attendees. To register, contact Devan Barrett at 303.280.7592 or dbarrett@devry.edu.

For more information visit www.DevryNow.com.

DeVry University

Keller Graduate School of Management

1870 W. 122nd Ave. 1175 Kelly Johnson Blvd.
Westminster, CO 80234  Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Consequences of Scientific Development on Foreign Policy.
Cadets get with the program

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Academy cadets took second, third and fourth place in Saturday’s 2009 Inter-Service Programming Contest between the Academy, Marines, Navy and USCGA.

The inter-service programming competition required writing computer programs to solve a variety of problems. For example, one problem required the determination of whether two rectangles intersected or not. In another problem called “walk,” a farmer lost his glasses in a field and a cadet’s program had to create a route for the farmer to search for his glasses. Other problems dealt with placement of commas, factorization of numbers, and optimization of resources for the game “Civilization.”

“The three teams all competed at the same time,” said Cadet 3rd Class Andrew Whitmey a Cadet Squadron 30 computer engineering major from Dana Point, Calif. “It was a timed contest with the other teams at the other academies working at the same time. We used a communal webpage to post the competition problems, and they were released at the same time.”

The three teams competed against each other as well as against those from the other academies. Participating in the competition as Team 1’s Cadets 3rd Class Andrew Whitmey, Brian Hayes and Sean Coombs; Team 3’s Cadets 2nd Class Michael Nettis, Robbie Winchester and David Musielewicz; and, Team 4’s Cadets 2nd Class Alex Larson and Alex Roosma.

“There were six different problems, so that my team split them up, two problems for each person, and got to work,” Cadet Whitmey said.

The hardest problem he personally tried to solve was the “Civilization” problem. “It involved creating an algorithm to maximize output of a specified resource around a city placed on a grid,” the cadet said. “Each grid location had a certain capacity to produce a specific resource, so that our job was to write the program that would maximize the output of the specified resource by placing ‘population units’ on certain squares.”

He and his teammates volunteered for the competition.

“We all love programming and needed the practice for the Computer Science 220 class,” he said.

In this sort of competition, the team members needed an ability to solve problems, not just the knowledge of the programming language syntax. To quickly complete the problems faster than the other teams, competitors needed to have a lot of practice specific to algorithm creation and problem solving, not to mention plenty of soda pop … and maybe an Oreo or two.

“I enjoyed the ‘Comma’ program the most; it was an Oxford comma detector used to scan through a supplied text file and find ‘likely’ or ‘possible’ Oxford commas and give their locations in the file,” Cadet Whitmey said. “I understood how I was supposed to solve the problem, and I carried it out in a short amount of time. However, I got the problem wrong because of certain test cases I hadn’t thought of. Oh well.”

He said just being in CS 210 last semester prepared him for the contest. “I didn’t take any extra steps to prepare for the contest,” the cadet said.
Dental health month promotes regular checkups

By Dr. David Tornberg
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Clinical and Program Policy

February is National Children’s Dental Health Month — a perfect time to make sure your kids have regular dental checkups and brush their teeth every day. According to Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, dental decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease. It is five times more common than asthma, seven times more common than hay fever, and completely preventable.

As parents, it is our responsibility to make sure our children are safe and healthy. Immunizations and “well baby” check-ups eliminate most preventable diseases, but infants and children are still affected by the most common preventable disease — dental decay.

Oral Health
Schedule your child’s first visit to the dentist early. You should take your child to the dentist by the time his or her first tooth appears, or by the first birthday, so the dentist can check for early tooth problems and explain how to care for your baby’s teeth.

Healthy Habits
The American Dental Association recommends the following oral hygiene guidelines:
- After each feeding, wipe the baby’s gums with a clean gauze pad. Begin brushing your child’s teeth when the first tooth appears. Clean and massage gums in areas that remain toothless, and begin flossing when all the baby teeth have appeared, usually by age 2 or 2 1/2.
- Never let your children fall asleep with a bottle in their mouths containing milk, formula, or fruit juice.

Dental programs pay 100 percent for diagnostic and preventive services. Patients are encouraged to enroll in one of these programs. Remember, developing good dental hygiene habits early will help your children keep a healthy smile!
Stamina — A Skills Outcome

By Col. Billy Walker
Stamina Outcome Team Lead

It’s been called by many names: endurance, guts, heart, or determination. History’s greatest military commanders have recognized its importance and implored its necessity in war and peacetime military operations. By whatever name and whatever definition, one thing is for certain ... Stamina is an essential warrior attribute.

For our purposes, stamina is defined as the capability of sustaining prolonged stressful effort – the ability to persist with focus and intensity even when faced with adversity and fatigue. To lead effectively, a warrior — is for certain … Stamina is an essential attribute.

February 13, 2009

Stamina —
A Skills Outcome

As soon as they arrive, cadets are immersed in myriad experiences intended to test and develop their stamina. From in-processing through graduation, stamina is required to successfully navigate the challenging daily schedule of calls. This is by design, as each day the stamina of every individual cadet is enhanced.

Physical stamina is specifically developed through mandatory physical fitness testing, PE classes and competitive athletics, in the form of intercollegiate, intramural or club athletics. Each cadet takes the Cadet Physical Fitness (PFT) and Aerobic Fitness (AFT) tests once per semester which provide direct stamina assessment data. In the case of the PFT, the timed, sequential nature of the test's anaerobic components require an overall level of stamina to complete successfully. PE classes such as Water Survival and Unarmed Combat II expose cadets to stressful situations where they will be required to call upon their stamina to enable them to perform at expected levels.

Cadet 3rd Class Kirsten Lorch, a recent swimming student, referred to the mile swim as an event that she anticipated with great trepidation.

"Honestly, I was a bit scared at being required to swim an entire mile non-stop. I’ve always been a distance runner, so I consider myself someone with healthy stamina, but translating that into the aquatic environment wasn't something I was sure I could accomplish. Although it took 52 minutes, finishing it gave me the sense of confidence that, when required, I had the mental and physical stamina to finish a task I was not initially comfortable with.

This is precisely the result desired by the outcome team.

While more difficult to objectively assess, mental stamina is clearly developed as well. Everything from Basic Cadet Training, to Commandant’s Challenge, to Recognition, tests one’s mental and physical stamina. And anyone who has pulled an “all-nighter” studying for a physics final knows the stamina required for that enjoyable evening.

Accomplishing the total COI, the accumulation of all cadet academic, athletic, character, and military graduation and commissioning requirements, in a jam-packed and highly structured four-year block of time is a daunting experience. To do so, cadets must endure an increasingly challenging daily schedule requiring great stamina.

“To persevere as a cadet, to constantly juggle the COI requirements, day after day, week after week, for four years, requires tremendous mental and physical stamina and self-discipline; simulating the stamina and discipline required of our armed forces during combat,” said Associate Athletic Director for Physical Education Jeff Heidemous, a member of the schedule of calls development committee.

Stamina is a necessary characteristic for all military members, and is absolutely crucial to the demands of military leadership. The U.S. Air Force requires robust leaders who have the capacity to lead from the front for prolonged periods, in environments that span the full spectrum of military operations. By providing a vigorous, challenging curriculum and training program, the Academy ensures that its graduates have developed and internalized the stamina necessary to be effective leaders of character for the nation.
A gift they’ll love.
A price you’ll love.

Phones that run on the network with the best coverage worldwide!

©2009 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the AT&T logo, and all other marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.
Leadership honors cadet academic Aces

By Dean of Faculty Staff

Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born hosted a remarkable group of cadets at her quarters last week. Joining her in honoring the fall semester “Dean’s Aces” (4.0 semester grade point average) were the superintendent, vice superintendent, commandant of cadets, athletic director, character and leadership chair and command chief. Of 4,497 members of the Cadet Wing, only 24 cadets earned an A in every class, including physical education.

The list below gives the names of all Aces. Five classes were represented, as well as several intercollegiate athletes and high-ranking members of the cadet chain of command. The list encompassed 13 different majors including three from Aeronautical Engineering, and two each from Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Biochemistry.

Six Aces attended the U.S. Naval Academy last semester as exchange students and one Ace joined the Long Blue Line, following in the footsteps of students and one Ace joined the Long Academy last semester as exchange engineer.

Additionally, five of the ACES participated in intercollegiate sports and two held group-level positions last semester.

Following the dinner, Quadruple Ace CIC George Sondecker commented that he greatly appreciated the Deans’ support and the support of the Academy’s permanent party. He further said, “It is always a tremendous privilege to be a part of such a talented group of cadets. Cadet 4th Class Dustin Hayhurst said, “I greatly enjoyed listening to the stories told by the senior leadership and I had a wonderful evening.”

CIC Riley Livermore expressed similar thoughts saying, “I had an enjoyable time talking with the senior leadership and I greatly enjoyed listening to the stories told by the senior leadership and I had a wonderful evening.”

Cadet Aces gather recently to be honored by Academy leaders.

You are invited to First Baptist Church of Peaceful Valley

- Independent - Fundamental
- King James Bible
- Soul Winning and Visitation Program
- Bus Ministry
- Faith Promise Missions
- Annual Missions Conference
- Old Fashioned Preaching
- Strong Bible Centered Families

Services are as follows:
- Sunday 9:45am Sunday School
- 10:30am Preaching Service
- 6:30pm Evening Service

Wednesday 7:00pm Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Thursday 9:30am and 6:30pm Visitation Saturday Men’s Prayer Meeting

We are located at the corner of Fontaine and Powers
7825 Fontaine Blvd Colorado Springs, CO 80925
AW Payne, Pastor (719-392-4444)
www.firstbaptistchurchofpeacefulvalley.org

ONE GREAT nation

EARN A TOP-RATED DEGREE AND ADVANCE YOUR MILITARY CAREER!

1.800.392.7984
www.Regis.edu/Military

REGIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

is proud to support service men and women who want to continue their education and advance their military career. That is why we offer flexible Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees for active military personnel and their spouses at a preferred tuition rate. With online courses, multiple campus locations, and six start dates per year, Regis gives you the freedom to earn a nationally recognized degree that is accessible and affordable—no matter where duty takes you.

EARN A TOP-RATED DEGREE AND ADVANCE YOUR MILITARY CAREER!

1.800.392.7984
www.Regis.edu/Military

REGIS UNIVERSITY
College for Professional Studies
Learners Becoming Leaders

Colorado Springs Campus
7415 Campus Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

7 Colorado Campuses | 2 Nevada Campuses | Online
NCO seeking remains says, ‘nothing more rewarding’

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

An Academy NCO is off on his third recovery mission to Southeast Asia in mid-February where he will help seek remains of military people from the Vietnam War.

“It’s easy for a military member to understand the commitment we make to our country when we enlist,” said Master Sgt. Greg Meinert, 306th Operations Support Squadron’s aircrew life support NCOIC. “The motto ‘Till they are Home’ demonstrates the resolve of this country that no matter how long, no matter what it takes. We will continue the promise to bring home every American POW/MIA. Those missing have made it easy for me to give my time and effort to this mission because they gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.”

His 93 year-old grandfather continues to tell him stories of back when he was in WWII. An uncle served in Korea and another uncle served three tours in Vietnam.

See SEEKING, Page 16

Deployment history to be removed from boards

By Richard Salomon
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Air Force officials here recently announced that 45-day deployment history data will be deleted from duty qualification briefs for officer selection and pre-selection and from senior noncommissioned officer evaluation briefs.

This total-force initiative will apply to all active-duty members, Reserve and Guard personnel.

“These changes will impact management level reviews, as well as officer and enlisted central selection boards,” said Lt. Col. John Giles, chief of promotions and evaluations at the Pentagon.

The deployment data will be removed from senior NCO evaluation briefs with the February 2009 senior master sergeant promotion board. It will also be removed from the June 2009 lieutenant colonel (line of the Air Force) and medical service corps promotion boards when the system modifications are complete.

For the Reserve, the change will go into effect with the April 2009 (chaplain, line of the Air Force judge advocate general) major and lieutenant colonel board. For the Guard, the change will occur with the colonel’s Federal Recognition Review Board that convenes in March 2009.

“Many factors have led to the recent change in policy, especially since deployments now take many forms across the Air Force,” Colonel Giles said.

In addition to “traditional” deployments, such as long-term deployments to the area of responsibility, some career fields such as space and missile and unmanned aircraft system operators do not typically deploy but provide daily support operations Iraq Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In addition, many global mobility Airmen, as well as Guard and Reserve Airmen, do not spend 45 consecutive days in the AOR (a minimum requirement for documentation), but often deploy for more than 45 cumulative days within a calendar year.

“All of these are valid and important deployments, but they are documented elsewhere in officer selection records and senior enlisted selection records,” Colonel Giles said.

This documentation includes decoration citations, bullet points on officer and enlisted performance reports, promotion recommendation form statements, letters to officer promotion boards and more.

For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775.
Generals reflect on importance of diversity

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — “We're not all that different,” Maj. Gen. Larry Spencer says of diversity.

The trick to finding that out, however, is talking about it.

General Spencer, deputy assistant secretary for budget, thinks that’s what a lot of African-American History Month is all about.

“People get scared to talk about diversity,” the Washington, D.C.-native said. “But once we open up and discuss our differences, we find out that we have more in common than we may have thought. We all want to succeed in life; we all want to provide for our children. Talking about our diverse backgrounds gives us a chance to learn about each other and from each other.”

Maj. Gen. Darren McDew, the Air Force public affairs director, said that diversity is a source of strength for the Air Force.

“Diversity means bringing different ideas to the operation,” General McDew said. “If you think about it, that's the strength of America. America was a lot of folks from a lot of different places who came together to bring strength to a new operation.”

The two generals, while both African-American, have followed two very different career paths.

General Spencer entered the Air Force in the late ‘70s as an enlisted information manager before cross-training into finance. He then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering technology from Southern Illinois University. He earned his commission through officer training school, and eventually held a variety of command assignments. As the Air Force budget director, he is responsible for planning and directing the Air Force budget that totals more than $116 billion annually. General Spencer handles all things financial for the Air Force, from buying its aircraft to ensuring its people get paid.

General McDew graduated from the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va. There he found himself immediately in the minority as he knew he wanted to join the Air Force despite most graduates joining the Army. Besides, the general’s father was an Airman; he would be too. General McDew soon earned his pilot wings and flew a variety of airlift and tanker aircraft before holding several command positions and even served as a Senate liaison officer and Air Force aid to the president. In his current assignment, he advises the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force on public affairs matters, plans and executes communication processes, and is responsible for 3,000 broadcasters, multimedia and public affairs professionals.

As varied as their backgrounds have been, they both agree that the diversity of Air Force people is what makes the service work - that no matter where a person comes from, what their beliefs are, or what their race or ethnicity is - they can add something to the mission.

“You wouldn’t line up 11 quarterbacks or 11 linemen on a football field to make a play,” General Spencer added. “You need diversity. People have their own unique backgrounds and skill sets that help them accomplish the mission. We need all those talents and only when we work together do we find success.”

Both generals found the opportunity for educational benefits a rewarding aspect of joining the Air Force. General McDew received an Air Force ROTC scholarship while General Spencer earned his degree going to night school.

After joining the Air Force full-time, both generals noticed how success in the military had nothing to do with their backgrounds or skin color.

“Our Air Force is a great ‘meritocracy,’ as I like to call it,” General McDew said. “If you do your job well, you will be rewarded. You get out of the Air Force as much as you put into it. What’s made the Air Force so great is that there have been Airmen who have given it their all, no matter what their race, ethnicity or religion. They earned success based on merits of their actions.

“If we’re to be as successful in the future, we’ve got to get people to appreciate the notion that just because you don’t think the way I do, it doesn’t mean you don’t add value to our Air Force,” General McDew added. Within his own career field, General Spencer stresses to his people that while mentorship is important, they should strive to mentor members from various ethnic groups.

“It gets people out of their comfort zone when they find a mentor who doesn’t look like them or was raised the way they were,” he said. “Having a mentor who is a different ethnicity or one with different religious beliefs provides perspective for Airmen. That mentor can help them solve issues in ways they might not have thought about.”

The diversity of Airmen and civilians has long been one of the keys to success for the Air Force and stands to be a decisive element in the future, General McDew said.

“I’ve had the opportunity and privilege to command and every time, diversity has helped out in the success of those commands,” he said. “I like to bring in civilians, members of the Air National Guard, Reserves, and active duty to form a team where everyone gets a chance to contribute and know that their part of the mission is valued. And what they bring is appreciated. That is always success in my mind and what diversity means to me.”

---

**Air Force Academy 2009 African-American History Month Events**

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today
10th Medical Group foyer
African-American displays, exhibits and tribute to Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen (including an original member)
Tribute to African-Americans in jazz/poetry

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today
10th Medical Group Dining Hall
African-American theme meal: “Soul Food”

2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday
10th Medical Group Dining Hall
Healthcare Lecture Series Part 1: “Addressing Health Disparities in Communities”

2 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25
10th Medical Group Dining Hall

6:30 p.m., Feb. 26
Arnold Hall Ballroom
Celebration Dinner: “History: A Torch for the Future”

Call 333-7615 or 719-229-8506 for ticket information.

All events are free except for the Theme Meal and Celebration Dinner. Parking will be limited. Carpooling is recommended.

---

**Dollar Daze 7 Days a Week**

The Channel Cats
Friday, Feb. 13th, 9-1 am
Mention this ad & get...
Wings for only $5.00
Burgers for only $3.95

719-633-0583 • 2423 W. Colorado Ave.
Engaging speakers set to take NCLS stage

By Maj. Olivia Nelson
Center for Character Development

Among the NCLS Keynotes:

Hit by a car bomb in Baghdad on Memorial Day 2006, CBS reporter and author Kim Dozier crossed the line from reporting on troops to living both their tragedy and their triumphs. She lost her crew, the Army captain they were filming, and was seriously injured herself. Her presentation, "Breathing the Fire: Fighting to Report & Survive the War in Iraq," discusses this challenging time, the people who cared for and inspire her, and her journey from bomb victim to survivor.

Air Force veteran and former NASA Flight Director Gene Kranz worked extensively on Projects Mercury and Gemini, and served as Flight Director for the Apollo 13 mission. His lecture, "Failure is Not an Option," will take listeners through the history of early manned spaceflight and the lessons learned that allowed the mission to safely return.

Hall of Fame football coach and three-term Nebraska Congressman Tom Osborne and his wife, Nancy, founded the "TeamMates" mentoring program which provides support and encouragement to school-aged youth. His keynote address, "Many Ways to Serve," takes listeners on a journey through the gamut from Congressional service and military service, to service to young people through mentoring and coaching.

Invited:

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday. The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday’s presentations.

The theme of this year’s NCLS is "Answering the Nation’s Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

The theme of this year’s NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday. The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday's presentations.

The theme of this year's NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

Among the NCLS Keynotes:

Hit by a car bomb in Baghdad on Memorial Day 2006, CBS reporter and author Kim Dozier crossed the line from reporting on troops to living both their tragedy and their triumphs. She lost her crew, the Army captain they were filming, and was seriously injured herself. Her presentation, "Breathing the Fire: Fighting to Report & Survive the War in Iraq," discusses this challenging time, the people who cared for and inspire her, and her journey from bomb victim to survivor.

Air Force veteran and former NASA Flight Director Gene Kranz worked extensively on Projects Mercury and Gemini, and served as Flight Director for the Apollo 13 mission. His lecture, "Failure is Not an Option," will take listeners through the history of early manned spaceflight and the lessons learned that allowed the mission to safely return.

Hall of Fame football coach and three-term Nebraska Congressman Tom Osborne and his wife, Nancy, founded the "TeamMates" mentoring program which provides support and encouragement to school-aged youth. His keynote address, "Many Ways to Serve," takes listeners on a journey through the gamut from Congressional service and military service, to service to young people through mentoring and coaching.

Invited:

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday. The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday's presentations.

The theme of this year's NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday. The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday's presentations.

The theme of this year's NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday. The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday's presentations.

The theme of this year's NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday. The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday's presentations.

The theme of this year's NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.

More than 6,400 students, faculty and staff are expected to attend the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium here beginning Thursday. The three-day event launches with a presentation from Lt. Col. (ret.) Barry Bridger, a former prisoner-of-war speaking about the lessons he learned while incarcerated in Vietnam's Hanoi Hilton, and features many more inspirational speakers from a wide spectrum of professional and personal experiences.

"A military professional might go through his or her entire career without meeting so many phenomenal servant-leaders," said Col. John Norton, director of the Center for Character Development. "Our cadets, permanent party members and visitors have an incredible opportunity to interact with these 38 dynamic and amazing personalities within the span of a few days."

In fact, Academy leadership has placed such emphasis on the value of the forum that – for the first time in the 16-year history of NCLS – the cadet wing will be allowed a professional development day to ensure each and every student can attend Friday's presentations.

The theme of this year's NCLS is "Answering the Nation's Call...Our Legacy in the Making.” Attendees can find more information, including updated copies of the schedule, by clicking on the National Character and Leadership Symposium graphic at the top of the Cadet Area or via the NCLS link on the www.usafa.edu Web site.
USO

Local staff aims for enjoyment of all

Story and photos by Ken Carter

Military members and their families throughout Colorado Springs looking for a “home away from home” need look no further than nearby Fort Carson.

Not far from Gate 1 off Hwy 115, they’ll find a spectacular facility featuring great food in their snack bar, a Xbox 360 game room, a billiards table, a state-of-the-art WiFi Internet café, a movie theater room, a conference room, a children’s room and, most importantly, down-home friendly volunteers who offer warm welcomes to service members and their families.

“Our longstanding tradition of bridging the gap with the American public and our military families is accomplished through the United Service Organizations facilitating a place to relax, decompress and enjoy the amenities of five-star treatment,” said Center and Program Manager Phil Martinez.

The USO staff’s primary goal is to gain exposure for the facility, open only since September, to get the word out to surrounding installations and the Air Force Academy that all are welcomed.

“We will continue to invite more volunteers to become part of our wonderful team dedicated to giving back to our troops,” Mr. Martinez said, and that giving back is intended to benefit all U.S. service members and their loved ones.

For many years, in the interest of morale boosting, the USO has catered to military members around the globe through big-name entertainment, most notably, the legendary Bob Hope. That tradition continues at home and abroad with special guests dropping into the Fort Carson facility as recently as Tuesday. Basketball and baseball Hall of Famers Rick Barry (HOF 1987) and Goose Gossage (HOF 2008) hung out with soldiers fielding questions, sharing their views on the importance of giving back to our troops, “Mr. Barry, the father of four boys who’ve all gone on to play professional basketball, also appreciates the intense challenges within the profession of arms. When asked about his underhand free-throw technique throughout his basketball career, with a success rate as high as 94.7 at one point, he said, “It’s the only part of the game (free throws) where a player can be selfish.” His record-breaking success with the technique that many laughed at made him one of the toughest all-round players in the history of the sport.

Mr. Gossage, who also recognizes tough when he sees it, refers to baseball as, “just a silly game.” He says visiting Vietnam era veterans, meeting members of the Wounded Warrior program and travelling to visit troops in combat zones, including bunkers in Kosovo, has helped him keep life in perspective. “Being in bunkers with 18-year-olds prepared to fight for America is really shocking.”

Although neither Mr. Barry nor Mr. Gossage was thrilled about the political climate that can lead nations to declare war, they were both passionate about expressing their appreciation for those who voluntarily put themselves in harm’s way to defend our nation’s freedom.

Among those hearing the sports icons speak was Army Pvt. Thomas Byrd. “There’s an aura, a mystique, in hearing what these guys had to say. After hearing them, from their perspectives as hall of famers, you can put a lot of stock in what they say.”

Despite opening its doors as recently as Sept. 26, more than 16,000 visits have been tallied in the still sparkling facility that also features wide-screen TV and leather furnishings among many other perks.

According to Air Force Academy Class of 1983 member and the Director of the Denver and Fort Carson USOs Joe Aldaz, he’s working to get more cadets aware of the facility as well.

“We’re working, particularly with various people in Academy athletics, to try and set up evenings where entire teams can come down for a couple hours and enjoy this great facility,” he said.

With a relatively small staff overseeing the operation, Mr. Martinez has nothing but praise for the more than 130 volunteers who serve the troops locally. “Volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization, and part of a worldwide force of more than 44,000 volunteers,” he said.

There’s plenty more up the sleeves of the USO staff in the way of future programs and more invited guests. To find out more, visit the USO Web site at: usofortcarson.org or call Mr. Martinez at 719-306-1894.

Youngster Nickolas Weber connects with Hall of Fame Pitcher Goose Gossage for an autograph. Later, Nickolas garnered another prize, the Big League legend’s autographed jersey, after winning a drawing at the USO hosted event Tuesday at Fort Carson.
Wyoming paddles AF in regular-season finale

By Melissa McKeown
Athletic Communications

In their final dual meet of the season, the Air Force men's and women's swimming and diving teams were swept by visiting Wyoming Saturday afternoon at Cadet Natatorium.

The Falcon men, who finish the season with a 7-12 dual record and 1-4 mark in the MWC, dropped a 167-133 decision to the Cowboys. Meanwhile, while the women fell to the Cowgirls, 178-109, to end their dual slate with a 6-14 overall record and 0-8 conference ledger.

For the women, captain Jane Hwang had a strong showing in her final home meet, winning both the 100 breast and the 100 freestyle. Hwang's mark of 1:06.17 in the 100 breast was a personal-best, and ranks sixth all-season with a 1:06.17 in the 100 breast.

The Falcon men also scored a first-place finish in the 200 butterfly, with Katharine Ernst clocking in at a personal-best 2:10.68 to win the event. Ernst also posted the second-fastest time in the 100 fly, registering a mark of 1:00.65.

Betsy Scarry recorded a second-place finish in the 500 free, while also placing third in the 1000 free. Jenna Dolata added a second-place finish in the 200 breaststroke for the Falcons.

Alison Cerasinki and Cassie Fletcher were the top performers for Air Force in the 50 free and 100 free, respectively, with both finishing third.

Meanwhile, Lauren Shetley led the women's divers with a third-place finish on the 1-meter springboard.

On the men's side, the Falcons continued their recent run of victories in the 200 medley relay to open the meet, as the team of Kai Yamashiro, Justin Day, Chris Morin and Robert Dawson registered a close win with a time of 1:32.56.

Air Force also added four individual men's victories in the meet, including a pair by seniors Yamashiro and Day. Yamashiro took first place in the 200 backstroke with a mark of 1:52.07, while Day was the winner of the 100 breaststroke, clocking in at 56.78.

Yamashiro and Day also added second-place finishes in the 100 back and 200 breast, respectively.

Benjamin Gunn took first place in the men's 50 breaststroke. Gunn was the Falcons' top performer in the 50 breast, clocking in at 29.52.

The two-day meet, which will feature 16 different events, begins at 9 a.m. today.
Lamoureux's hat trick leads Air Force to win

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Jacques Lamoureux's second hat trick of the season led Air Force to a 4-1 win over UConn in an Atlantic Hockey Association game Saturday at the Academy's Cadet Ice Arena. A crowd of 3,206 extended AFAS school-record sellout streak to six games. The sellout was also the ninth of the season, setting an Academy record for all sports. The men's basketball team also had eight sellouts in 2006-07.

With the series sweep, Air Force remained in first place in the league with a 19-7-2 overall record and a 16-4-2 AHA record. The Falcons are one point ahead of second place RIT. UConn fell to 6-22-1 overall and 5-15-1 in the league.

The game was scoreless until early in the second period when Lamoureux scored the 1-0 mark. Scott Mathis took a shot from the left point that was saved by Beau Erickson. Lamoureux cleaned up the rebound and zipped a wrister over the shoulder of Erickson for a 1-0 lead. Less than two minutes later, UConn answered on the power play. Chris Waterstradt took a shot from the center point that was saved by Andrew Volkening. However, the puck slid under his right arm and was free in the crease. Matt Pedemonti scored his second of the series on the back door.

Lamoureux broke the 1-1 tie at 5:32 of the third period on the rush. Brad Sellers tipped a loose puck in the neutral zone to Lamoureux on the blue line. The center skated down the right side, made a move to get Erickson out of position and slid the puck into the net for a 2-1 lead. Air Force then scored two empty-net goals in the final minute. Air Force was on the power play when UConn pulled Erickson in favor of the extra skater. With 58 seconds left, Lamoureux scored his third of the game in the empty net from Michael Mayra and Josh Frider. Then, with nine seconds left and UConn with an empty-net, Greg Flynn gave the puck to Sean Bertsch who scored his second of the series and sixth of the season.

Air Force outshot UConn, 36-20, in the game, including a 14-5 advantage in the third period. Air Force was 1-for-5 on the power play while UConn was 1-for-3. Erickson made 32 saves while Volkening made 19.

"It was a hard fought game," head coach Frank Serratore said. "UConn is so much better than their record shows. They might be the best defensive team we've played against all year. They played us dead even and didn't give us a lot of chance. We were fortunate the puck popped loose and Jacque scored early in the third. That is a team I would not look forward to playing again. You know what I liked about our team, we didn't wish our way through the final 10 minutes. We worked and played our way through it. I really liked our approach. The guys were focused. The turning point was a blocked shot Phillipich late in the game. If he backs off, that puck could have gone in, but instead our captain made a play. The third period tonight might be the best we played all year. The fourth line was our best line of the weekend with Weisgarber, Bertsch and Phillipich. There was a lot of energy in the crease to see a very good game. And then at the end, the class of Greg Flynn dropping the puck off to Sean Bertsch. What an unbelievable play and that tells you a lot about the kind of man Greg Flynn is."

Air Force is on the road with a two-game AHA series at Bentley today and Saturday in Waltham, Mass.
“It’s hard to imagine what it was like for them going through what they went through,” said the 18-year Air Force veteran from Milwaukee.

"It’s easier to imagine what he is heading into," Sergeant Meinert was also on recovery missions with the Joint Prisoners of War/ Missing in Action Accounting command with Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines in Laos in 2006 and 2007.

A typical JPAC recovery team is made up of 10 to 14 members, led by a team leader and a forensic anthropologist. The team leader is responsible for the overall safety and success of the mission, while the civilian anthropologist directs the excavation of the site much like a detective over-sees a crime scene. Other team members include a team sergeant, linguist, medic, life support technician, forensic photographer, and an explosive ordnance disposal technician.

“At the beginning of a recovery, the anthropologist sections the site into grids with stakes and string,” said Sergeant Meinert. “Then, each section is excavated one at a time. This allows the team to precisely track what the team finds and where they find it.”

To help with what can be a massive soil removal effort, the team may hire anywhere from a few to more than 100 local workers. Every ounce of soil dug from the site is sifted by hand through quarter-inch wire screens. The screens allow team members to catch even the smallest pieces of remains, artifacts or personal effects. Sites are discovered by interviewing local witnesses.

“As a life support investigator I look for life support equipment to include any piece of gear associated with a pilot that would indicate his presence within a crashed aircraft. Items such as parachute parts or helmet pieces can be critical in determining if a pilot was in the aircraft at the time of impact and if the crash was survivable,” he said.

Multiple life-support items may indicate the number of individuals associated with a crash site. Life support items along with any remains that are found are sent back to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, for further identification.

The senior NCO will spend up to 70 days with JPAC Det. 2 in Hanoi where he expects to be living in some field conditions.

“We get issued a tent, sleeping bag and other supplies,” Sergeant Meinert said. “We have to bring a 30-day supply of food with us. JPAC will send people out to the site to set up a temporary kitchen to cook food. Depending on the site, we may stay in a guest house. However, we still need to supply our own food, though occasionally the staff will cook breakfast and dinner for us.”

The volunteer for this assignment said, “In our career field we are given the opportunity to go through a Life Science Investigation Class. After completing this course we are able to go on Class-A mishaps as part of a Safety Investigation Board and also get on these recovery missions through JPAC. This is a very rewarding mission. It is a special feeling that we can bring closure to a family who has lost a loved one in a past conflict when we can find remains. I have been fortunate to go on a third mission.”

He shared yet more personal thoughts and feelings.

“After my last mission I was on a motorcycle trip and meet some Vietnam Vets, I thanked them for what they have sacrificed for their country and I also told them of my last mission and that we were able to find some remains and bring them home,” he said. “Words cannot explain the thankfulness they expressed knowing that they were not forgotten and that we are doing missions like this to bring everyone home. That is why I do these missions. I feel it is my duty, not as a member in the military but as an American. "I have been in the military for a long time, I have been all over the world and have seen and done many things," he added. "But nothing has been more rewarding than being a part of something this special. Being able to talk to family members who have come out to the site to see what we are doing and the appreciation they have for us is amazing. I can only return the favor by helping to bring their loved ones back home to them.”
**Dance lessons**
Weekly ballroom dance lessons, one hour each for one more week, 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.

**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@usaфа.af.mil.

**AAFRC offerings**
The Airmen and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes. Contact the A&FRC at 333-3444 for any questions and/or registration.

- **Group pre-separation counseling**
  Held every Monday (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.

- **Mock interviewing workshop**
  Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Preparing for your next career move?**
  Feeling a little rusty on your interviewing skills? Sign up for the next best thing to the real thing, mock interviewing with real HR reps.

- **Civil service class**
  Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Mandatory orientation for all newly assigned USAFA personnel**
  Spouses are welcome to attend. Event held at the Milazzo Center.

- **Medical records review**
  Feb. 23; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **TAPressive**
  Feb. 24-27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Necessary skills? Sign up for the next best thing to the real thing, mock interviewing with real HR reps.**

- **Civil service class**
  Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **TAPressive**
  Feb. 24-27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? Call now to reserve your spot in the next available TAP class.**

- **Newcomer’s red-carpet tour**
  Feb. 27; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- **An informative base tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals many things to see and do here.**

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

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

---

**Horse lessons**
Weekly horse lessons are available at 333-3444 for more information.

**National prayer luncheon**
The 10th Air Base Wing National Prayer Luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. Feb. 23 in the Milazzo Center. The featured speaker will be Chaplain, (Maj. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, chief of Air Force chaplains. Lunch will be catered by Red, Hot and Blue Barbeque and tickets are $5 per person. Contact the Community Center Chapel staff at 333-3300 for information or tickets.

**History month**
February is African American/Black History Month. The Academy Equal Opportunity office is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to plan events and make this year’s celebration a success. The committee is open to everyone. Call Gina Moore at 333-4258 for more information. The theme for 2009 is The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas.

**Community Center Chapel**
Call 333-2636 for more information.

**CADET CHAPEL**

- **Catholic Masses:**
  - Sunday: Confession - 9:15 a.m. Mass - 10 a.m.
  - Wednesday: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 5:30 p.m. Confession - 5:30 p.m. Mass - 6:30 p.m.
  - Weekday: Mon., Tues. and Thurs. - 6:45 a.m.

- **Protestant Services:**
  - Sunday: Traditional/Liturgical - 9 a.m. Contemporary - 11 a.m.
  - Jewish Services: Friday Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.
  - Buddhist Worship: Wednesday Traditional Mahayana Service - 6:30 p.m.
  - Muslim Prayer: Friday Salaat ul-Jumman - 12:30 p.m.

- **COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL**
  - Catholic Masses:
    - Saturday: Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m. Mass - 4 p.m.
    - Sunday: Mass - 9 a.m.
    - Religious Formation - 10:15 a.m. (September - May)
  - Protestant Services:
    - Wednesday: Night Live - 6 p.m. Dinner followed by Religious Education (September - May).
    - Sunday: Evangelical - 10:15 a.m. Gospel - 11:30 a.m.
    - Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:
      - Contact Tech. Sgt. Longorier at 333-6178

---

**In Town Activities**

**Mardi Gras**
The Taste of New Orleans, an authentic Creole and Cajun cuisine restaurant in Old Colorado City, is proud to celebrate its Grand Opening. Mardi Gras style. The Old Town Plaza merchants will be joining the taste of New Orleans in celebrating Mardi Gras at the heart of Old Colorado City on the corner of 25th Street and West Colorado Avenue. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22. A special costume contest will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 21 and prizes awarded for the best and most creative Mardi Gras costume. Charles Irwin, president of the Old Colorado City Merchants Association, will preside as the Grand Marshall for the celebration.

**Music galore**
Sunday at 2 p.m. the Falconaires will present a performance featuring the 2009 Colorado High School All State Jazz Band at the Pikes Peak Center. Free tickets are available at the Pikes Peak Center and World Arena box offices.