Energy Savings Tip of the Week: When buying a new appliance, look for the ENERGY STAR label.
Crossroads
Life’s full of challenges, tough choices

By Maj. Jay D. Johnson
386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — During our lives we are all presented with choices, small and large. Most of these choices go unnoticed throughout our daily activities. We encounter choices such as our level of work production — fast, slow, conscientious or carefree — moods we portray — friendly, sad, mad or cheerful — how we respond to co-workers and even what we eat. Some choices will be trivial, while others may have a lasting effect on us.

I approached one major crossroad in my life around my mid-30s. At the time, I was in the fast lane of my life, making more money than I thought possible. I had a beautiful, successful wife, many friends, a loving family and the business world by the tail.

However, for weeks I had fought with a dry cough and an overall feeling of being tired and totally drained of energy. I made a pivotal decision to see my family doctor.

After a few tests, I was brought in and told without emotion and very sternly that I had cancer. I was also told that the disease had aggressively progressed through my body and if I didn’t take immediate action, I wouldn’t survive until the end of the month. It didn’t take immediate action, I wouldn’t have the disease, but also to be here and deployed for the Air Force 13 years later.

What did I learn?
I realized that my mind and attitude were your biggest ally or your worst enemy. I realized that at the time of my cancer crossroad no matter how bad things seemed, they could get worse or they could get better; it was up to me. Control your thoughts and focus on your end result in everything you do. If you stay focused on the negative, then more than likely your results are negative. A positive outlook and continued focus on the right things falling into place will give you the positive results you desire. Your thoughts will equal the outcome.

Character Matters airs Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on KAFA radio, 97.7 FM and online at http://kafa.usafa.org

Presented by the Center for Character Development

“Character is a word that seems to define almost all human activity and then some … Power is what you do and character is what you are … All leaders must face some crisis where their own strength of character is the enemy.”
— Richard Reeves

“The (ancient) Greeks believed that character was formed in part by fate and in part by parental training, and that Character was exemplified not only by acts of bravery in battle, but in the habits of daily conduct.”
— James Cannon

“What a man’s mind can create, man’s character can control.”
— Thomas Edison

“Faced with crisis, the man of character falls back upon himself.”
— Charles De Gaulle

“Between ourselves and our real natures we interpose that wax figure of idealizations and selections which we call our character.”
— Walter Lippmann

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically ... Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.”
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Character Corner
Interesting quotes on character


Lt. Col. Brett Ashworth — Director, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Cortieh Welch — Chief of Internal Information
—— Editor
Benith Wherry — Senior Staff Writer

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Contents of the

Contact usafa.af.mil.

Senior Staff Writer

Ken Carter — Director of Public Affairs

Kenneth Carter — Graphic Designer

“Cotopaxi, Cola. We like to camp there, to be at the gorge and ride the rapids.”
Tech. Sgt. Paige Hanson
10th Medical Group

“Back to Florida where we have family and can go to Disney World.”
Tech. Sgt. Mike Dow
10th Medical Group

“Good luck making it to Denver, we won’t care if you are there or not.”
Tech. Sgt. Aereal Atman
NCO in charge
Academy Veterinary Clinic

“North to Florida … where there’s family, warm weather and nice beaches.”
Amy Sgt. Alceta Atman
NCO in charge
Academy Veterinary Clinic

“To Denver: I want to take my 9-year old there to the Lego store. He says he’s going to be a builder.”

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“Back to Florida where we have family and can go to Disney World.”
Tech. Sgt. Mike Dow
10th Medical Group

“I hope you’ve had a great summer and have the time of your life.”

Tech. Sgt. Paige Hanson
10th Medical Group
Airman’s council establishes connection with leadership

By Senior Airman Antonio Funk
10th Mission Support Squadron

The Airman’s Council was established in June 2008. Its sole purpose and primary goal is to give Academy Airmen an open line of communication to leaders, allowing their voices to be heard.

The council serves as the eyes and ears for the Academy command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis. It makes leadership aware of quality-of-life issues, such as dorm or housing concerns, daycare or deployments, to name just a few.

Current executive members are:
- President: Senior Airman Antonio Funk, 10th Mission Support Squadron
- Vice President: Airman Bianca Bryant, 10th Dental Squadron
- Airman Events Coordinator: Airman 1st Class Joseph Ross, 10th Dental Squadron
- Secretary: Airman 1st Class Jennifer Miller, HQ USAFA/FM
- Treasurer: Airman 1st Class Chandra Block, HQ USAFA/DPY

While there are many professional organizations Airmen can join, it is important to understand the Airman’s Council is here to serve them.

The council has become very active in base and community activities letting it be known Airmen here are motivated and dedicated to the military and our community.

Thus far, we have volunteered by reading to the children in the Academy Child Development Center, helped at the Marian House, and briefed during First Term Airman Center.

Some upcoming events for the council include the Academy Annual Awards Banquet, the March of Dimes, Quality-of-Life家 Issues, the “Wingman” program. During a typical meeting a guest speaker to talks about the past, present and future of the military, professional organizations and how we fit together as a team. We talk EPRA, feedbacks and how to make the most of our military careers. We are bridging the gap between our generation and those that have come before us, for we are the future leaders of the Air Force.

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The command chief has identified goals for the council:
- Goal #1, “Identify and tackle quality-of-life issues.”
- Goal #2, “Team with the Chiefs group, Top 3 & First Sergeant Council to further USAFA enlisted professional development.”
- Goal #3, “Team with the Chiefs group, Top 3, and First Sergeant Council to further USAFA enlisted heritage.”
- Goal #4, “Increase community support and involvement across USAFA and in the Colorado Springs area.”

To find out more about the Academy Airman’s Council, call 333-6276.
Leadership, character, honor on '59ers’ minds

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Except for a few words, the Honor Code hasn’t changed in a half century. That was one of the messages about 40 members of the Class of 1959 received during cadet-led briefings Tuesday at the Falcon Club as part of the Falcon Heritage Forum.

Before and after the briefings cadets and 1959 class members visited during roundtable discussions.

Briefing the ‘59ers were Cadet Wing commander Cadet 1st Class Jonathan Yates, character officer Cadet 1st Class Kavir Patel and Wing Honor Chair Cadet 1st Class Nate Leach.

Cadet Yates shared his journey from an enlisted aircraft mechanic to realizing his ambition to fly. He also reflected on the days when there were only 12 squadrons and no soaring or jump programs.

The need for leaders of character also hasn’t changed, he told the class.

“Of the hardest tasks is to develop it in others,” he said and added as cadet wing commander he sees very little of what goes on day to day “in the trenches.” Nonetheless, he praised those in cadet leadership positions for their accomplishments “unlike anything else I have ever seen.”

Cadet Yates also spoke of cadets training members of the Class of 2012 this year.

“I’m proud of them,” he said of the fourth degrees. “We put them through the wringer, and they did a great job.”

Cadet Patel paid homage to the ‘59ers for the heritage they created.

“We are here because of the traditions you left behind,” he said. “One of the hardest things to do is to develop character in cadets through experience and practice and to instill the wing’s hefty record of community service as well as the National Cadet Leadership Symposium which gives cadets opportunities to hear and visit with leaders of character in all walks of life.”

Cadet Leach detailed to class members the intricacies of the multi-layer honor system and praised the 80 cadets who serve in leadership capacities in Wing Honor.

“This is truly a cadet-run system,” he said.

The cadets not only process alleged honor violations but present lessons and discussions to cadets as part of their Academy training.

“It’s not just the minimum effort,” he said.

See next week’s Academy Spirit for more coverage on the Class of 1959 reunion.

Air Force officials test ability to recall retirees

By Master Sgt. Colleen McGee
433rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Todd Worley and Robert Shelly hadn’t seen each other in about ten years. Both are retired Air Force master sergeants. They recently met up again at the 2009 Air Force Push-Pull exercise here. The Air Force used the exercise to test their ability to recall retirees to active duty should they ever have to.

The 141 retirees used the time to catch up on changes in the Air Force, “I thought this would be a good chance to see what’s going on,” said retired Maj. Kevin Benedict, who left the service about 2 ½ years ago. Since then, basic training increased from six weeks to 8½ giving more time to teach war fighting skills to new Airmen.

Many of the participants remarked on how well the trainees displayed military discipline and how the time with basic weapons training and war fighting skills paid off. In fact, two current trainees demonstrated their skills by stripping down and reassembling an M-16 in about a minute.

Maybe the most noticeable difference for many was the change from the battle dress uniform to the Airman battle uniform. But, some changes are not visible to those outside the current service.

“I was excited about him coming back to see what has changed in the Air Force,” said Capt. Patricia Shelly.
unprecedented number for a cadet. "I spent a big part of my time here flying gliders. People seemed to think that I was really exceptional that I was able to fly so much while I was here. It was a great sense of satisfaction that I was able to do that. And this glider flight was a great reminder of that. It was a pleasure to be on the airfield again and fly with a cadet." Captain Sullenberger, a native of Denison, Texas, and his crew with 155 people aboard Flight 1549 earned international acclaim Jan. 15 when they collectively put their emergency evacuation skills to the test.

Almost immediately after takeoff from New York’s LaGuardia Airport, the Airbus 320 that Captain Sullenberger piloted lost power in both engines after striking a flock of birds. With extraordinary calm and coolness, he began to make decisions and maneuvers that resulted in a successful emergency landing the world is still talking about. The captain explained how he and the crew showed much composure during the crisis that carried the world is still talking about.

"Jeff [First Officer Skiles] and myself had been doing this for so long that we were just focused on doing our jobs," Captain Sullenberger said. "You don’t allow other things to distract you. It was the experience and training of the flight attendants, who displayed an outwardly calm and professional demeanor, that got the passengers to respond in kind."

Exhibiting Air Force core values, he walked the length of the aircraft twice to ensure everyone had safely evacuated the plane.

Three months after the “Miracle on the Hudson,” Captain Sullenberger said he continues to get a large quantity of letters and gratitude from admirers and families that took place in Charlotte, N.C., in February. He said it’s "been a gradual concept" to him during the heroic act on the Hudson River.

"It was many little things that added up to an important whole," he said. "It was the entire experience [at the Academy]."

Captain Sullenberger, who lives in Danville, Calif., with his family, said it’s “been a gradual concept” to fully realize the impact of his heroic actions.

"It’s taken time to process and incorporate those events into my persona," he said. "But I’m confident that we made the right choices. I’m confident that we had the best outcome that we could have under those circumstances. I’m satisfied and very grateful for a successful outcome with no injuries. Over time, I really appreciate how remarkable that event was."

Captain Sullenberger last visited the Academy about 25 years ago during his 10-year reunion.

"I’d had forgotten what a beautiful location it is," he said. "I’ve always loved this part of Colorado, with the big sky and a very dramatic landscape. I’m gratified to see so much construction going on. I’m glad to see the investment being made."

The airline captain said being with cadets was refreshing.

"It was great to be with the cadets," he said. "It couldn’t have been more wonderful. The cadets have taken good care of the Academy while I’ve been gone. The future is bright."

Cadets returned the praise.

"He’s down to Earth," said Cadet 1st Class Anne Marie Wathen, a native of Atlanta. "He’s not in it for the fame. He deserves all the recognition he gets."

Cadet 2nd Class Erik Nelson of Uncasville, Conn., said he has great respect for Mr. Sullenberger because of the passion he shows for flying.

"He’s a notch above the rest," Cadet Nelson said. "His passion for flying gave him the edge to do what needed to do to land the plane safely."

Looking for a career in the Medical Field? Look in the back of the paper under employment for information on an upcoming Hospital Job Fair.
Academy Spirit staff

By Ann Patton

Appointees see Academy life ins and outs

April 17, 2009

In one of the largest appointee orientations in the Academy’s history, members of the Class of 2013 got a healthy dose of what to expect during their first year on the Academy.

Close to 1,000 appointees, family members and friends attended briefings in Arnold Hall Monday for the opening day of the first appointee orientation. The event, spread over two days, will be repeated next Monday and Tuesday and again April 27 and 28.

Col. Chevalier Cleaves, director of admissions, stressed the decisions to accept appointments can only be made by the appointees themselves.

“When you have accepted the appointment, it is yours,” he told them. “This has to be right for you.”

Colonel Cleaves also cautioned them to train well, especially in light of the Academy’s high altitude.

“Take time to prepare. Push yourself,” he said and noted Academy life is challenging.

“Break it down in small victories. Nobody can do it for you.”

Orientation appointees and visitors received briefings from Academy senior leaders as well as overviews of Basic Cadet Training, the Honor and PEER programs, Airmanship, finance, medical care, finance and the Association of Programs, Airmanship, finance, medical care and the Association of Programs.

“One of her favorite monuments on the Academy is the orientation. She estimated about four of five appointees now attend and emphasized the event helps them make informed decisions.

“It has to be ‘I want to be here,’” she said.

One of her favorite monuments on the Academy, the eagle and fledgling statue outside of Mitchell Hall, displays its symbolism of being very learning-focused. General Born said appointees can look forward to studying with world-class faculty, choosing among 32 majors and two minors and exploring out-of-the-classroom experiences such as cultural immersion and research.

The dean reminded appointees the faculty and staff want them to succeed.

“We define success on how the cadets are doing,” she said.

Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Samuel Cox expressed his appreciation to parents.

“Thank you for sending us your best, your sons and daughters,” he said and explained the Academy’s organizational leadership, with cadets as the mainstay in cadet training.

Col. Paul Ackerman, Academy vice superintendent, congratulated appointees and their parents, noting the Academy received 9,890 applications for the Class of 2013.

After appointees board buses from the Association of Graduates to the Hill June 25, they will have no phone privileges until Doolie Day Out. Until then, Colonel Ackerman encouraged parents to communicate the old-fashioned way.

“Keep those letters coming,” he said.

Kinder McCallough from Midland, Texas, has wanted to come to the Academy for two years and is excited about being here with squadron camaraderie and academics. She wants to major in “some kind of engineering” and eventually attend flight school.

“Yes, I’m very supportive of her decision,” said mom Kelley. “I think she can do it and is up to the challenge.”

Kenny Serafinko plans to accept his appointment.

“This is the premier military institution, and the academics are the best in the west,” said the appointee from Chino Hills, Calif.

To prepare for entering, he has been working out in the gym every day and keeping up with his studies.

As part of appointee orientation, appointees paired up with cadets Monday and Tuesday and shadowed them in cadet life.

Graduates.

Appointees also paired off with and shadowed a cadet for a day during their visit. Parents and other visitors took walking tours of Academy facilities along the Terrazzo.

Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born said a first step in succeeding at the Academy is the orientation. She estimated about four of five appointees now attend and emphasized the event helps them make informed decisions.

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Nothing is more important to success as a military officer than good character. Officers are the face of our nation. They develop and then execute policies on the employment of military forces. Air Force officers are responsible for safeguarding freedom, protecting the lives of their subordinates, and when they must, sending those same subordinates into mortal danger. Doing all this within the bounds of morality demands extraordinarily sophisticated judgment and unfailing strength of conviction.

Developing the qualities of character required to be a good military officer is not easy. Many things must contribute to the cadets’ development if they are to achieve the required competence:

- Deep knowledge of the nature of morality and its purposes;
- An understanding of the basic principles that bind us as human beings, citizens, and members of a profession;
- Practice in the art of making moral judgments in both hard and easy cases;
- The settled motivation to act reliably on the deliverances of good judgment.

Providing this knowledge and “know how” is the lofty aim of the Ethics and the Foundations of Character Outcome.

Cadets pursue developing good character in a variety of ways.

- In the core course Philosophy 310, they undertake academic study of moral experience and the works of the classic moral philosophers; become thoroughly familiar with the Just War Theory; and grapple with the theory behind the complex commitments and demands of being a professional military officer.
- In Law 220, cadets master the Law of Armed Conflict, underscoring the legal dimension of these moral obligations.
- When it comes to developing moral judgment, they practice, practice, practice: with case studies across multiple disciplines; by immersing themselves in morally challenging literature in courses delivered by the Department of English and Fine Arts; and in the daily demands of their real lives in classrooms, in the squadrons, on athletic fields, through clubs and in special military programs. The first-class year provides special opportunities, including the real moral decisions they must make in wing leadership positions and in day-long, off-site participation in the capstone Academy Character Enrichment Seminar.
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Comcast welcomes home our returning troops and salutes every member of our military.
By Dr. Ken Siegenthaler
Professor, Department of Astronautics

The U.S. Air Force Academy experienced a profound loss. Brig. Gen. Roger R. Bate died in his sleep at age 86, surrounded by family members, March 18 in McKinney, Texas. General Bate was the first Permanent Professor of the Department of Astronautics and Computer Science.

He also served as head of the Department of Mathematics and vice dean of the faculty. Born Jan. 17, 1923, in Denver, General Bate attended the California Institute of Technology before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and subsequently transferring to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated in 1947. A recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship, General Bate attended Magdalen College, Oxford University, earning a degree in Physics. He served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Upon return from Korea, then Captain Bate was part of a team involved in developing lightweight, portable, nuclear reactors at Oakridge National Laboratory. In 1959, he was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Academy as an instructor in the Department of Astronautics. In 1962 he cross-commissioned in the Air Force and was appointed permanent professor and head of the Department of Astronautics.

In 1966, General Bate earned his Ph.D. in control systems from Stanford University. A true visionary, he established the computer science major in the Department of Astronautics and Computer Science. He served as chairman of the Engineering Science Division, member of the Academy Board for seven years, and vice dean of the Air Force faculty. He also helped found the Academy Research Institute.

In 1971, he co-authored Fundamentals of Astrodynamics, a textbook still used throughout the world. During this time he was an active supporter of Air Force Academy athletics, including serving as the officer representative for the Academy swimming and diving team for seven years. He retired from the Air Force in 1973.

A pioneer in computer software, General Bate spent 1973 to 1991 with Texas Instruments. He developed distributed computing solutions for ballistic missile defense, created TI’s strategy for Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Management, and formed their Advanced Software Technology and Computer Science Research Departments. In 1991, General Bate retired from Texas Instruments as the chief computer scientist and a Texas Instruments Fellow.

In 1991, General Bate joined the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University and served as the chief architect for the Capability Maturity Models for Systems Engineering. He was the chief architect for the Capability Maturity Model – Integrated that fused models for software and systems. Today, more than 3,000 organizations are using CMMI to structure their development processes. In 2008, he invented the concept of constellations of CMMI components to suit a variety of worldwide applications, including CMMI models for acquisition and services. General Bate was a true visionary, scholar, and innovator throughout his life. He was named a Fellow for both the Association for Computing Machinery and the Society for Design and Process Science.

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NEW McCafé LATTÉS, CAPPUCCINOS AND MOCHAS
Clouds lift for Cadet for a Day

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

For eight years, Academy cadets have been making wishes come true for ill youngsters. They made it happen again April 9 through Saturday when Joe Hayford, 13, became the newest Cadet for a Day through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"His eyes were huge, and he never quit smiling," said Wish volunteer Maggie Appenzeller. Accompanying Joe was his family—brother, Shane, 17, and parents, Chong Mi and Keith for the three-day event sponsored by Cadet Squadron -4.

Wish volunteer Peggy Nightingale said the schedule and content are kept secret from Cadets for a Day until events are happening. "We try to keep everything a surprise," she said. The family kicked off events with breakfast in the air traffic control tower observation deck before tours of the tower, gliders and hangers. Then it was off to the Aero Club for a complimentary flight. Maybe.

With the cloud ceiling at a mere 700 feet, the flight appeared all but off. Firefighters with the Academy Fire Station 3 next door to the Aero Club stepped up and treated Joe to an in-depth tour of an engine and the newly-renovated station in the meantime.

Then the clouds literally parted on command, and Joe and Shane took off.

"All I had to do was control the plane," Joe said modestly. It was the third Wish flight for pilot Wayne Morse, a.k.a. "Santa" for his white beard.

"I have kids of my own," he said. "I'm a sucker, and it gives the kids some joy in their life." Ironically, it was April 10, exactly one year before tours of the tower, gliders and hangers.

After the brief flight, Joe and his brother got a taste of the cadets’ 32 hours of ground training before parachuting as they hitched up on training harnesses. "It's like a really good swing," Joe said.

Later events included hanging out with his new squad mates, leading noon meal formation, lunch on the staff tower, tour of the chapel and visit to simulators. The 10th Security Forces working dogs Rocky and Kelly bared their pearly whites during a demonstration of their patrol skills.

Before heading home, the family visited the Falcon mews.

For Cadet 3rd Class Krystal Sweitzer, working with the foundation is a natural. "I absolutely love the Make-A-Wish Foundation," she said. "They gave my best friend her wish, and I've always wanted to back to it." It's front and center as Joe Hayford, the Air Force Academy's most recent Cadet for a Day, leads the Cadet Wing at noon formation April 9. The Academy has worked in conjunction with the Make-A-Wish Foundation since 2001 to help seriously ill children experience cadet life. Joe was diagnosed with leukemia in April 2008.

Cadet Squadron 4 vied against 22 other squadrons to host the event.

"This is such a great squadron," said Air Officer Commanding Maj. Jill Whitesell. "This is a unique and rewarding experience for us. We're so blessed to have Joe today."

It was the first Academy wish visit for volunteer Adrian Walton.

"I'm just blown away," he said of the cadets. "They go the extra nine yards. I feel very humbled and rewarding experience for us. We're so blessed to have Joe today."

Mrs. Hayford said her younger son is something of a comedian.

Continued next page
Joe Hayford, the Academy’s newest Cadet for a Day, said it’s all systems go as the family’s official home in Louisville, Colo. weekend after the family’s arrival trip, “she said. “Joe had an amazing time,” she said, and added the family’s official wish from the Foundation was a trip to Hawaii. “We came away from the Academy with more fun. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Mr. Hayford reflected on the weekend after the family’s arrival home in Louisville, Colo. “I was always afraid he would turn into the class clown,” he said of Joe who enjoys movies, music, video games, skateboarding and especially sleepovers with friends.

The weekend for Cadet 1st Class Christie Wise was wistful. She has served as a Cadet in Charge for the Make-A-Wish events for three years. She heads off to pilot training after graduation. “I’m sad, and I will definitely miss it,” she said. “It’s one of the best programs at the Academy. It makes a difference in children’s lives, and we cadets have a great time.”

Joe gets a taste of parachuting ground training at the 98th Flying Training Squadron.

It’s all systems go as the Academy’s newest Cadet for a Day, Joe Hayford, checks out an Academy glider.
Old Glory’s stars, Airmen’s stripes enhance Rockies’ home opener

By Ken Carter

Rockies’ 3rd baseman Garret Atkins is greeted by outfielder Brad Hawpe as Atkins crosses home plate following his home-run blast contributing to a 10-3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Across top: More than 200 volunteers took to the outfield at Coors Field in Denver pre-game ceremonies April 10 to display the Stars and Stripes. The size of the American Flag was: Above: Once fully unfurled, the American Flag was the size of a football field.

“Of course, not many people get the chance to see that appreciation for all U.S. military folks in uniform. “To me, the best part of the day was to see the crowd respond to the military contingent.” Mr. Lee was quick to identify the entire experience as “amazing.”

Academy members who participated in the pre-game ceremony included:

Staff Sgt. John Key
Airman Andrus King
Staff Sgt. Laura Kiser
Airman Jeporra Korzun
Staff Sgt. Bartis Lebby
Airman Amanda Libman
Airman 1st Class Corinne Lubeck
Staff Sgt. Trenx Lucka
Tech. Sgt. James McClint
Tech. Sgt. Brady McCoy
Staff Sgt. Dwayne McDowell
Master Sgt. Jerry Miltska
Tech. Sgt. Steve Morris
Airman Ana Naid
Senior Master Sgt. Robert Nolen
Airman 1st Class Uhilaka Otsa
Tech. Sgt. Jason Oto
Master Sgt. Robert Peterson
Master Sgt. George Pali
Tech. Sgt. Gregor Ray
Staff Sgt. Alexandrea Ross
Master Sgt. Troy Shemza
Staff Sgt. Michael Schumak
Master Sgt. Denise Scott
Tech. Sgt. Charles Simos
Airman 1st Class Kathleen Siala
Airman Blanca Stewart
Airman Patricia Shin
Staff Sgt. Kevin Vega
Tech. Sgt. Peruol Wiloso

It’s been labeled by many as America’s favorite pastime. Great weather, a friendly crowd with an undeniable appreciation for America’s military men and women, a spectacular show of air power, and the Rockies trouncing the Philadelphia Phillies 10-3, made for a very Good Friday.

More than 60 Academy enlisted Airmen joined other Colorado-based military members, as well as Denver police and firefighters, in a patriotic tribute during the Colorado Rockies 2009 season home opener at Coors Field in Denver April 10.

The U.S. military’s rendition of the Mile High Salute was provided by a combination of Soldiers from Fort Carson, Airmen from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Buckley Air Force Base, and U.S. Navy and Marine recruiters and Coast Guard members from the greater Denver area. Local police and firemen also joined forces in the tribute. The total team of more than 230 enthusiastically unfurled Old Glory (as big as a football field) across Coors Field during a pre-game event which also included a balloon release, streamers, a thunderous flyover of four F-16 Fighting Falcons from Buckley AFB, and a tremendous unfurling of Old Glory (as big as a football field) across Coors Field during a pre-game event which also included a balloon release, streamers, and the Rockies trouncing the Philadelphia Phillies 10-3.

For the sixth consecutive year, Academy Chief of Community Relations Eddie Lee has facilitated Academy representation that continues to grow every year.

“My first year of involvement was 2002, the show choir sang the national anthem and I took a falconer and cadet,” he said.

By 2004, the Academy’s representation had increased to 30 enlisted members to help unfurl the flag.

“This year’s group of 62 enlisted members once again did us proud showing off our great Air Force for a record-setting opening day crowd.”

The Academy is most widely known across the United States as a military university and thus, also for the cadet population. Mr. Lee sees this annual event as an opportunity for the enlisted members assigned here to also be recognized for their outstanding contributions toward performing the Academy’s mission year-round.

“My office is involved in a lot of activities with the community, and many folks here get to participate, mostly cadets and officers,” he said. “This is the only event every year I can dedicate to our enlisted members.”

The Academy’s participants ranged in grade from airman basic to senior master sergeant with members representing a diverse array of Air Force careers.

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Nolen, the ranking member on the trip to Coors Field, said, “It was inspirational to see and hear 50,000 fans provide the welcome we received.” The 20-year veteran from Syracuse, N.Y., won’t be able to volunteer next year as he’s en route to Korea soon.

“I will highly recommend it to others, though,” Sergeant Nolen said.

“Talking to fans in the stands … all with whom I spoke were very thankful for the sacrifices the men and women in the Armed Forces and first responders make on a daily basis. So many people just walked up and thanked me for my service,” the senior NCO from the Academy Plans and Programs staff said. “It will be one of those USAFA memories I will remember for the rest of my life.”

With only a year in service, Airman Matthew Baker from the 10th Medical Group echoed the senior NCO’s thoughts.

“It was incredible — having all the fans cheering for their armed forces was very emotional,” Airman Baker said. “To me, the best experience was the fans thanking us for our service as we walked through the tunnel.”

As a phase II radiology student here, Airman Baker said, “I loved the experience, watching the huge flag wave, watching the game, the smell of the ball park, and excitement of opening day and the roar of an appreciative and patriotic crowd.”

“Seeing the crowd’s response to the military presence was truly amazing,” he said. “Many of our volunteers remain in their uniforms after the opening ceremony as they watch the game, and fans approach them, shake their hands and thank them for their service to the country. It’s great to see that appreciation for all U.S. military folks in uniform.”
Buckley claims top IM honors

By Dave Castilla
Intramural Sports Director

Members of the Buckley Air Force Base’s basketball team will get to put their name on the Rocky Mountain Traveling Plaque for defeating Peterson Air Force Base in the final game of the round robin tournament 56-54 to go undefeated in Saturday action at the fitness center.

Buckley was down 10 points in the first half but pulled together to lead Peterson at the half, 27-21. Late in the second half Peterson took the lead, however, Buckley’s Arlington Riley’s 3-pointer put them up 53-51.

James Lewis followed with a bucket making it 55-51, Peterson’s Derrick Canty, 3-pointer closed it to 55-54.

Then Buckley’s Daevon Wall hit one of two free throws making it 56-54 with 17.9 seconds on clock. Peterson had the ball called time out with three seconds on the clock and missed a half-court shot.

The top two teams, Buckley and Fort Carson, also received T-shirts for their efforts.

results:

Buckley 3 0
Fort Carson 2 1
Peterson 1 2
USAFA 03

Buckley 47, USAFA 44
Fort Carson 50, Peterson 39
Buckley 60, Fort Carson 57
Peterson 62, USAFA 63
Buckley 56, Peterson 54

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Highlighted by numerous outstanding performances, the Air Force track and field team wrapped up competition at Missouri’s Tom Botts Invitational Saturday in Columbia, Mo. The men accounted for 173.5 points, while the women placed third with 130 points. In all, the Falcons claimed six first-place finishes and one meet record.

The women picked up multiple first-place finishes, including a one-two punch in the javelin throw, Katie Weber won the meet with a distance of 143'10", while Paige Blackburn threw a 138'4" to finish second. Blackburn’s toss is the eighth-best in Academy history.

Men’s Sports:

All were played intramural style with a running clock, with exception of the last two minutes of the second half.

Next up will be the Rocky Mountain Volleyball Championships at Schriever AFB Saturday.

Women’s gymnastics

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Air Force Aftan Boudreaux earned USAG All-America status as the women’s gymnastics team concluded the 2009 season at the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championships this afternoon Saturday in New Haven, Conn.

Boudreaux finished seventh on the uneven bars with a score of 9.650. Boudreaux, the lone Air Force gymnast to compete in the event finals, was the fourth competitor on the bars, tallied a score of 9.650. That mark matched her third-highest score of the season.

Track and Field

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Highlighted by numerous outstanding performances, the Air Force track and field team wrapped up competition at Missouri’s Tom Botts Invitational Saturday in Columbia, Mo. The men accounted for 173.5 points to place third, while the women placed third with 130 points. In all, the Falcons claimed six first-place finishes and one Meet record.

Hockey highlights

The Air Force hockey team just completed its most successful season in school history with a school record 28 wins, the first-ever Atlantic Hockey Association regular season title, the third consecutive AHA Tournament title and a victory over Michigan in the NCAA tournament.

Now is your chance to get in on the action for the 2009-2010 season. Season tickets are available now. As an added bonus, anyone who buys or renews season tickets prior to June 1 will receive a free copy of the 2008-2009

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This weekend's Front Range Cycling Classic (weather permitting) will offer many thrills for participants and spectators alike.

The following general information is provided for those who plan to check out the event:

**Saturday**

The time trial will run from 7:35 to 10:30 a.m. The best viewing location is at the finish line on West Monument Creek. If you drive to the finish, please park off the road as riders will be travelling at high speed. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. the criterium (a small closed course where packs of riders do multiple laps) will be held at the football stadium. Southbound Stadium traffic will be rerouted onto the western side of the northbound lane (similar to the reroute during football games) for the short distance in front of the stadium only. This is a spectator-friendly race. The Best place to watch from is right in front of Falcon Stadium.

**Sunday**

The Road Race will go from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will use the outside loop of the Academy going clockwise. Racers will climb Pine Drive in packs being led and followed by race vehicles. There will be several categories on the course at the same time. The start line is in the upper cadet fields and the riders will begin racing once they reach the perimeter road. The finish line at the top of the overlook hill will also be the best place for viewing. There are other great locations for viewing along Pine Drive.

**Helpful definitions**

**Time trial:** A race against the clock. Riders proceed individually (usually at one-minute gaps) and go from the start to finish. The person with the fastest time wins. A team time trial is where four to six riders on the same team, riding at very high rates of speed, draft off each other to get from the start to the finish. The U.S. Air Force Academy Team placed 5th in the Nation last year in the event and they are one of the best teams in the country this year!

**Criterium:** A spectator-friendly event on a closed short course, usually about one kilometer in length. Riders travel around the course in packs. The winner is the person across the finish line first. Prizes are often given along the way for riders who cross the finish line first on given laps. These are called “primes” and make the race exciting to watch.

**Road race:** A road race is a longer course and the racers travel over a distance (sometimes more than 100 miles) in a peloton (or pack). Riders try to break away from the pack to cross the finish line first. These “breakaways” riders might ride away from the peloton early in a road race but because of the distance, riders must pace their efforts cautiously. Often, the smartest, not the strongest, rider wins a road race. A fun place to watch from is right in front of Falcon Stadium. The best viewing location is at the finish line on West Monument Creek. If you drive to the finish, please park off the road as riders will be travelling near the speed limits. Vehicle drivers should only pass cyclists when it's safe; they should never pass a pack of cyclists or should they pass race vehicles. Because of the high rates of speed, delays are usually minimal.

Anyone caught behind a pack of cyclists is encouraged to cheer on Academy Cadets riding in the red, white and blue uniforms.

For more information, call 333-5305.

**Phillipich wins Derek Hines Unsung Hero Award**

By Dave Toller

**Air Force Hockey**

Air Force hockey player Mike Phillipich earned the Derek Hines Unsung Hero Award as announced by the Hockey Commissioners Association in Washington D.C. The award was established by the HCA in honor of former Army player Derek Hines, who was a consummate team player and team builder. Hines played at Army from 1999-2003 and was a four-year letter-winner as well as a co-captain his senior season. He was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan in September 2006.

"I cannot begin to express what it means to win an award named after such an amazing individual like Derek Hines," said Phillipich. "I was honored to be considered for the award and this is truly humbling. My teammates inspired me to give my all every day and I simply attempted to return the favor to them. It is hard to be singled out from such a brotherhood of friends and teammates, any of which would fit the bill for this award. Derek Hines gave everything he could for those around him. My contributions to my team seem minuscule in comparison to the sacrifice he made for our country."

Phillipich is one of just five players in Air Force history to be a two-year team captain. He was the MVP of the 2007 Atlantic Hockey Association Final Four as a sophomore as Air Force claimed its first ever conference championship and berth in the NCAA Tournament. As a junior and senior, he captained the Falcons to two more AHA tournament championships and NCAA appearances. A systems engineering management major, he carries a 3.77 overall grade point average and 3.87 GPA in his major. His has been on the dean's list every semester and is a three-time academic all-conference selection.

A finalist for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, Phillipich was named to the Lowe's All-American team, recognizing excellence in academics, athletics, character and leadership. He is the third straight Air Force player to earn a spot on the Lowe's All-American team, joining Billy Devoney in 2007 and Frank Scharnow in 2008.

The winner of the Derek Hines Award was chosen by sports information directors from the six conferences.

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Front Range Cycling Classic hits Academy

By Jim Weinstein
Cycling Club Officer in Charge

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Community Center Happenings
Call 333-2928 for more information on any of the following three events.

Today: 6:30 p.m. Family Fun Bingo in the Academy’s Community Center downstairs ballroom, Bidg. 5136. Card packs $5 play all 10 games.

Saturday: The Academy’s first 2009 outdoor flea market will be held in the Base Exchange parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting. Space fee is $10. Space with car is $15; tables are $5 each.

Sunday: Open ballroom dancing from 2 to 5 p.m. in the downstairs ballroom, Bidg. 5136. Entry is $10 per couple.

A&FRC offerings
The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts the following classes.

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 covers benefits and services associated with transitions.

Newcomer’s red carpet tour
Today: 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
This informative tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals much of what there is to see and do at the Air Force Academy.

TAP seminar
Tuesday through April 24; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? Call to reserve a spot in the next available Transition Assistance Program class.

Volunteer recognition
The “Celebrating People in Action … Celebrating Academy Volunteers” awards ceremony is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 24 at the Academy Falcon Club. All can partake in the complimentary deli and hors d’oeuvres buffet from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The ceremony will immediately follow.

Medical records review
April 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the DAV review their medical records.

Veterans Affairs
April 27; 8 a.m. to noon
This briefing provides information on VA benefits for separating/retiring military personnel.

Cadets getting married Smooth Move
April 28; noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.
April 30; noon to 1 p.m.

Cadet Smooth Move briefings
April 29; noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.
Sponsorship training
April 30; 8 to 9 a.m.
This class is for those who have been assigned to sponsor a newcomer to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

Call 333-3444 for information and registration.

Academy Airman & Family Readiness Center offers the following Transition events.

Civil Service Class
May 7
9 a.m. to noon

Mock Interviewing Workshop
May 13
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SCORE
Starting Your Own Business
June 2
9 a.m. to noon

MOAA
Marketing Yourself for a Second Career
June 5
9 to 11:30 a.m.

Troops to Teachers
June 17
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Call 333-3444 to register!

Law Day Golf
Law Day was created in the late 1950s, by the American Bar Association to draw attention to both the principles and practice of law and justice. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day by proclamation in 1958. The staff’s Law Day Golf Scramble is set for 11:30 a.m. May 1 on the Eisenhower Blue Course. Entry fees are $55 per person for active duty and USAFA DoD civilians; and, $85 for those non-affiliated with the military or DoD. The cost covers greens fees, cart fee, use of practice balls on the driving range, lunch, and prizes. Call Capt. Jacob Frank or Jay Bragg at 333-3940 for more information. Entry deadline is Wednesday.

Operation Purple
The National Military Family Association’s Operation Purple® camps offer a free week of fun for military kids whose parents have deployed, are deployed or will deploy. Colorado offers three sessions of Operation Purple camps: May 31st – June 5; June 7-12; and, June 14-19. Outer Edge Performance and Operation Purple camps are designed to promote: Realizing Potential! The camps are all outdoor adventures serving youth and teens entering third through 12th grades. They will be held in Black Forest and will provide opportunities to participate in activities such as high and low challenge course, team-building activities, outdoor rock climbing, mountain-biking, whitewater rafting, horseback riding and more. Each child may register for one summer camp. Deadline is April 20. For more information and to register visit: www.operationpurple.org

Call Vivian Sylvest, Alison McKay, Tim Burke or Mary Marcantonio at Outer Edge Performance at: 303-458-1909.

BIRTHDAY BASH
Airmen enjoy a steak dinner at the High Country Dining Facility during the Airmen Birthday Dinner. The High Country Inn Dining facility hosted the 1st Quarterly Airmen Birthday Dinner Wednesday. Dining-facility manager Mr. Lou Moya said it was great to see Airmen in the facility again and enjoying a festive dinner. The Airmen Birthday dinner is a time honored Air Force tradition that allows base leadership the opportunity to enjoy a dinner with their Airmen during their birthday month. Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, 10th Mission Support Squadron superintendent, reminded Airmen what an important role they play at the Air Force Academy. “The Airmen Birthday Dinner is a tradition we practice at many of our bases all over the world. We are extremely proud to be able to do this for you. Your leadership is here today because they want to wish you a happy birthday and tell you they appreciate the value that you add to our mission set. You represent our future and we are very pleased with what we see. Happy Birthday, Hooyah!”

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-Jummah - 12:30 p.m.

All Other Faiths
Call 333-2636 for more information

COMING HOME CENTER CHAPEL
Catholic Masses:
Saturday
Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.
Mass - 4 p.m.
Sunday
Mass - 9 a.m.
Reconciliation - 10:15 a.m.
Mass - 12:30 p.m.

Paganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:
Contact Tech. Sgt. Longrier at 333-6178
Robert.Longrier@usafa.edu

Eisenhower Blue Course. Entry fees are $55 per person for active duty and USAFA DoD civilians; and, $85 for those non-affiliated with the military or DoD. The cost covers greens fees, cart fee, use of practice balls on the driving range, lunch, and prizes. Call Capt. Jacob Frank or Jay Bragg at 333-3940 for more information. Entry deadline is Wednesday.