Lt. Gen. Michael Gould took command of the U.S. Air Force Academy, as the 18th superintendent, during a ceremony Tuesday. General Gould is a class of ’76 Academy graduate and the first superintendent to graduate from the U.S. Air Force Prep School.

General Gould comes to the Academy from Scott AFB, Ill., where he served as the U.S. Transportation Command Operations and Plans director.

The Academy’s new superintendent had previous assignments as the 2nd Air Force commander, Keesler AFB, Miss.; 3rd Air Force commander, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England; 97th Air Mobility Wing commander, Altus AFB, Okla.; and, 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander, McConnell AFB, Kan.

The general said both he and his wife, Paula, are ‘humbled beyond belief’ accepting this assignment.

“...accepting this assignment,” he said. “We are responsible for developing future leaders.”

General Gould said he has a lot to learn while at the Academy, but he will lead and build upon the great foundation Lt. Gen. John Regni left.

“One thing remains standard and enduring and that is … beat Army and sink Navy!”

The Air Force Academy is currently at the top of the heap when it comes to reaching predetermined goals in the 2009 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign.

“It was the effort put in by all of the base keyworkers,” said Master Sgt. Robert Hill, Cadet Squadron 31’s Academy military training NCO. “I have worked AFAF campaigns before, but not as the overall installation program manager.”

The Academy set out to raise $50,328, but after receiving donations from around the installation, the original goal was crushed by more than 250 percent totaling $126,971.72.

“I think the reason is twofold: most people are generous by nature and we’ve had several Academy members get much-needed help from AFAS,” he said.

“...critical to the Air Force in the years to come.”

General Gould takes command from General Regni, who is retiring after 40 years of military service, including four years as an Academy cadet.

Though General Gould is looking to the future of the Academy, he still holds past Academy traditions close.

“The Academy exists for one reason—to develop leaders of character.”

General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, shared his confidence in the incoming superintendant during the ceremony. “...critical to the Air Force in the years to come.”

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“One thing remains standard and enduring and that is ... beat Army and sink Navy!”
Greeting Carmen

By Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz
Commander, Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — If you haven’t seen the Air Education and Training Command headquarters building, you’re missing out. It is a grand, historic building built in the 1930s, nestled under age-old oak trees.

Although initially used as an academic hall for new Air Force aviators, the building has had many uses over the years. Today, along with sister buildings of the same era, it houses members of the headquarters Air Education and Training Command staff. For those in the main building, standing on the red-tiled sidewalk that leads to the front doors every morning is Carmen.

Carmen is an important part of my morning routine. You see, each morning I park my car in front of the headquarters building and walk up that wide, red-tiled sidewalk to the front doors of the building. There she stands, working with a mop in hand, water pail nearby, and a bright smile that stretches from ear to ear. I always stop and talk with Carmen — she makes a difference in everything she touches.

Carmen is an unassuming, humble woman with a sparkling, energetic outlook who can make even the darkest day feel brighter. Through the years, she has worked to help support her family and has successfully raised two sons, now grown and on their own.

Although Carmen has held many different positions at military locations around San Antonio, she has made Randolph shine for the last eight years. Today, she isn’t just responsible for the headquarters building. Carmen can be seen all over the base. You’ll find her at the 99th Flying Training Squadron, the chapel, and even at the base fitness center. Carmen is everywhere, greeting dozens of people every day, and this base is better because of her.

Carmen works to ensure that her labor achieves the right effect — that everyone who drives past, visits or works in the building feels a part of something special. The headquarters building routinely hosts foreign ministers of defense, air chiefs, and American civic and military leaders; and represents the nearly 90,000 men and women worldwide that belong to Air Education and Training Command. The building is an integral part of the organization and is everyone’s first impression at work every day. It all starts with Carmen’s attention to detail.

Her professionalism is evident all over the base and it stems from pride. She never complains about her responsibilities and relishes the opportunity to exceed expectations and set a higher standard. Everything she touches is better as a result.

You must realize that in Carmen’s line of work, a job well done is rarely noticed or lauded. We, as a people, don’t notice clean, but we do notice dirt. Carmen understands this and quietly creates a positive impact on the headquarters staff. Others instinctively and unknowingly follow her lead in their areas of responsibility and push for the same standard of excellence that Carmen sets daily.

Such excellence becomes ingrained in the organization’s culture. After all, people are far more likely to pick up a lone piece of trash on the floor than a floor littered with many. This adage goes for all things, not just trash. What has impressed me most about Carmen, however, is her positive attitude.

There is a lot to be said about someone who sees the world as being a “glass half-full.” True, we must guard such optimism with realism, but it is far easier (and more fun) to follow a positive, energetic leader than one who exudes negative gloom. Such a positive attitude is contagious to the entire organization and has a positive impact both up and down the chain of command. It is a key element of any successful team.

The one problem is that Carmen is so effective and efficient that her work begins to blend into the building. After awhile, it can be easy to forget the importance of her labor. I get accustomed to seeing her on the red-tiled walkway and the routine becomes an expectation. I sometimes forget to appreciate her impact.

All of us know people like Carmen, those at your base who quietly make a difference in people’s lives. Take time to recognize and appreciate everyone. And the next time you find yourself at headquarters Air Education and Training Command, take time to greet Carmen on the red-tiled sidewalk. She’s made a difference in my life and I know she’ll make a difference in yours.

By Lt. Col. Bryan Cesnna
Academy Director of Safety

Good Friday morning!
The home improvement projects are in full swing at the Cessna household. Now that the “rainy season” is over — hopefully — and the sun is warming the Front Range, summer activities are prevalent. Whether it is hiking, camping, or a simple picnic at one of the many parks in the area, always remember these key safety tips.

The Pikes Peak Region is the #2 region in the U.S. for lightning strikes. We can expect the potential for thunderstorms virtually every afternoon through the summer months. Although the weather is warming, cold temperatures are still prevalent at the higher elevations. Pack plenty of warm clothing and/or appropriate sleeping bags when venturing into the high country. Also, keep dry to help prevent hypothermia.

Please don’t feed the caddies — I’m sorry, I meant the bears. Natural habitat for Colorado’s wildlife becomes smaller and smaller each year. Humans and wildlife come into contact frequently. Plan for those encounters, put food stores out of reach at night, and avoid those potential life threatening situations.

Enjoy your weekend and as always — be safe!

Summer safety tips promote enjoyment

By Maj. Carlos Maldonado
Academy Biology Instructor

“Wearing our sun block and participating in more passive activities like hiking with our three children.”

By Pete J. Gibreath
Senior Store Associate

“Locking our doors and windows at night, driving only during daylight hours, and focusing on things like ladder safety around the home.”

By Angelina Taylor
Store Associate

“I’m keeping a really close eye on my grandchildren, ages 7, 9 and 11, watching them all the time.”

By Master Sgt. Michael Brooks
306th Flying Training Group

“Learning and practicing safe archery techniques with my wife and teaching it to our boys ages 6 and 4.”

What are you doing to promote summer safety at home?
Units combine to promote efficiency

Academy Spirit Staff

The 10th Services Division and 10th Mission Support Squadron merged Wednesday forming what is now known as the 10th Force Support Squadron.

Officials say the new alignment is a result of functional area mergers of mission support and services squadrons Air Force-wide, and is expected to be completed by 2010.

"Because we're a leaner force, we need to focus on getting our people and organizations operating at maximum efficiency," said 10th FSS Director Gary Garland. "This reorganization puts the Academy's military and civilian personnel and services capabilities under one leadership hat, which reduces overhead and gives our people the flexibility to be more responsive to our customers' needs."

The reorganization is intended to be relatively seamless to customers, however any future significant changes will be widely publicized, officials say.

The new FSS includes six flights: Force Development, Personnel Services, Airman and Family Services, Sustainment Services, Community Services, and Cadet Support. The new structure also combines similar functional areas that have historically worked closely together.

Six test bases helped guide where specific responsibilities and processes will be placed within the organizational structure and how they will operate. The goals of the new squadron is to streamline processes, maximize customer service and cut costs associated with maintaining two separate organizations.

"Most importantly, we hope to reap the benefits of a newfound synergy created by this merger," Mr. Garland said.

Academy tops in Air Force for anti-terrorism

Academy Spirit staff

The Academy's antiterrorism program has been named best in the Air Force for a fixed installation. Notification of the award arrived at the end of last month.

The Academy's program is entered into Department of Defense competition, expected to be complete by the end of July.

"This was a team effort," said Paul Ceciliani, Academy antiterrorism officer who pointed out all units and mission elements have AT representatives who contributed to the program's success.

"We had a lot of support and involvement," he said and added, "We had a great 2008."

The Academy AT program was noted for its "outstanding" rating during the Air Force Inspector General Unit Compliance Inspection, recognized as "Best Program seen to Date" and praised for perfect security execution for President of the United States' visit during the 2008 and "flawless operations" by the Secret Service.

The program also received kudos, among other achievements, for major improvements to mass communications, enhanced Giant Voice, initiation of Desktop Alerting System and revision of active shooter plan now a benchmark plan for service academies.

In addition, the Academy's program was recognized for excellence in AT training, incident response planning and response, planning for protection of installation resources and hardening of the North Gate and protection planning for Direct Reporting Unit headquarters.
Father promotes son via video teleconference

By Erin Blauvelt
87th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — Can you hear me, Dad? ... Pop, can ya hear?” “Loud and clear.” And just like that, from halfway across the world, Lt. Col. Steven Black, chief of nutritional medicine at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, was ready to promote his son, 1st Lt. Travis Black, Materiel Management Flight commander, 87th Logistics Readiness Squadron, to captain at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst via video teleconference.

With a nearly life-size, live video stream of his father behind him, and his mother, Carolyn Black, and wife, Jillian Black, present to pin on his newly earned insignia, Captain Black’s promotion ceremony also served as a special, miniature family reunion.

Colonel Black left his home in Colorado Springs, where he is a professor of biology at the Air Force Academy, in early January for a deployment to Afghanistan. It had been more than four and a half months since he had seen his family.

With thousands of miles in between the two, Captain Black, a 2005 Air Force Academy graduate, had originally “written off the idea” of having his father promote him, Carolyn Black said.

“But he was the best choice,” Jillian Black added. “Travis looks up to him so much as an officer and as a dad. It just made it that much more special and personal.”

Captain Black described how his father mentored him. “My father has always been a sounding board for me,” he said. “As a young cadet, he encouraged me to keep pushing through the first year of the Academy. Now, both active-duty officers, ‘His guidance has not stopped — he often shares the highs and lows, good and bad, and his overall lieutenant colonel take on leadership.”

Colonel Black’s dual role as father and officer is not new to the family. “The title ‘Captain Black’ still reminds me of my father,” said the younger officer. “He wore that rank when we first moved to Colorado Springs (in 1997). It’s humbling to wear the rank he once wore.”

As Captain Black develops as an Air Force officer, he said he will look to his father as a role model. “I know I have big shoes to fill — my father is such a great, level-headed, passionate, and charismatic officer. I can only hope to live up to the officer he is,” he said.

Colonel Straight, installation deployment officer and the ceremony’s presiding officer, encouraged Captain Black, saying, “[He] will face significant challenges, as we all do in the real world. I know he’ll do well.” He described the promotion ceremony as an “awesome, awesome thing” and being a part of it as “an honor.”

Colonel Black said he is “one proud papa” to be able to promote his son to the rank he once wore.

“It was really special to Travis, especially because his dad administered the oath when he was sworn in as a second lieutenant into the Air Force,” Jillian Black said. “And as his dad gets closer to retirement, this may be the last promotion he’ll be able to administer the oath for.”

While Colonel Black was clearly an easy first choice to administer the oath of office, the logistics of the video teleconference were a bit more complicated. Only three places at McGuire AFB have the capability to host a VTC. “Once I knew the medical clinic had the capability needed, it instantly became my first choice,” Captain Black said. “My father, a medical corps officer, is stationed at a medical facility at Bagram AB. I knew it would be unique to have two medical facilities coordinate this promotion.”

The technical aspects of VTC were a result of the collaboration between Gerald Calabro, 87th Medical Support Squadron systems analyst, and Tech. Sgt. Terry Rainey, NCOIC of the information systems shop at Bagram AB, Afghanistan.

See PROMOTION, Page 11
AF leaders release uniform board results, focus on improving the current inventory

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials here have released the results of the 98th Virtual Uniform Board. While the board did not introduce new uniforms, the majority of the uniform-wear policy results improved upon existing servicemember uniforms.

The service’s senior leaders said they intend to provide fully functional and appropriate uniforms to support all Airmen both stateside and deployed, with emphasis on the current uniform inventory, in response to Airmen feedback.

“We remain committed to fix, improve and upgrade uniforms in our current inventory,” said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services and chairman of the Virtual Uniform Board. “Our goal is to provide the optimal uniform and equipment to Airmen in order to allow them to best carry out their mission,” he said.

The general explained that the uniform team is committed to ensuring Airmen have a fully functional uniform at the right time and at the right cost to support the joint mission worldwide.

The Air Force’s top enlisted Airman underscored the importance of ongoing analysis and constant response to wearer feedback.

“Our Airmen spend their hard-earned money on these uniforms, and we owe it to them to do the research, development and quality assurance necessary to guarantee every uniform item put on the shelf is right the first time,” Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley said. “The Virtual Uniform Board is essential because no one knows better than Airmen serving today what uniform changes are needed.”


Board members recommended and the chief of staff approved the green fleece formerly worn only as the All-Purpose Environmental Clothing System liner to be authorized Air Force-wide as an outer-wear garment. Senior leaders also approved adding the name, rank and service designators to the green fleece when worn as an outer-wear garment.

Other uniform enhancements include the addition of a small surname tape to the pocket flap of the APECS left sleeve.

While General Newton delegated the authorization of black-boots in industrial areas to MAJCOMs in February, the concept, like many changes, originated from a Virtual Uniform Board input.

“We rely on feedback from Airmen about a wide variety of uniform issues. As such, the Air Force uniform team created the Virtual Uniform Board,” Ms. Ewalt said. “The virtual uniform board capitalized on available technology that Airmen are familiar with, the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program,” said Ms. Ewalt.

“Unlike an open forum board, it’s an avenue to voice an input and recommend a solution to resolve the issue,” Ms. Ewalt said.

“It is an opportunity for everyone wearing the uniform to bring well thought out and substantive issues, along with solid recommendations to resolve those issues, to the attention of Air Force senior leadership,” she added.

General Newton shares Ms. Ewalt’s sentiments.

“We heard the feedback from the field and will continue to tailor our uniforms to their operational needs,” General Newton said.


Airmen also can access uniform information at the Air Force Portal by typing “uniform” in the search box in the page’s upper right-hand corner.
MC-12 flies first combat mission

By Staff Sgt. Dilia Ayala
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

J O I N T B A S E B A L A D, I r a q ( A F N S ) — The Air Force’s newest intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft flew its first combat sortie June 10 over Iraq.

The MC-12 Liberty, assigned to the 362nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, arrived in Iraq June 8 and took off from Joint Base Balad at approximately 2:30 p.m. local time for a four-hour mission.

“This is truly a success story,” said Brig. Gen. Brian T. Bishop, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. “Our mission here is to deliver combat airpower and overwatch to the joint fight in-theater, and the MC-12 brings a huge ISR capability to employ in support of the ground commander.”

“This is the first combat mission for the 362nd ERS, and it was a huge success,” said Col. Mike Fantini, the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander. “The milestone continues the extraordinary program to push more ISR capability to the joint-force commander.”

Landing at approximately 6:20 p.m. local time, the four-person crew was all smiles after completing the historic sortie.

“It feels good being out here and doing something good for the warfighter,” said Capt. Jason Goodeale, the pilot.

“The crew was great,” the Sioux Falls, S.D., native deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. “We performed exactly as we trained. It is great to be part of something that is bringing a unique feature to ground forces.”

Flying alongside Captain Goodeale were Lt. Col. Phillip Stewart, the mission commander deployed from Langley AFB, Va., and a native of Silver Spring, Md., and the two sensor operators: Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Hunter, deployed from Offutt AFB, Neb., and a native of Rock Springs, Wyo.; and Staff Sgt. Shaun Nelson.

“It was a great mission,” Colonel Stewart said. “It couldn’t have gone any better.”

“It feels really good to validate the training we went through,” he added. “I’m extraordinarily proud of (the Airmen of the 362nd ERS). They are a tremendous group of Airmen. All of them volunteered to come to a brand-new program not knowing what to expect because they believe in the mission and they believe in the men and women that we are protecting on the ground.”

Designed to augment information gathered by other intelligence-collection capabilities operating in-theater, the MC-12 provides real-time full-motion video and signals intelligence and allow military leaders to make battlefield decisions.

“It’s an awesome mission,” said Sergeant Nelson, deployed from Tinker AFB, Okla., and a native of Lenox, S.D. “I think we are all excited to be a part of it. It’s a big capability, and it’s nice to be able to bring this capability to more and more of the troops on the ground. The job satisfaction is amazing out here. You know you’re making a difference. You know you’re helping the guys on the ground. That’s what we are here to do.”

Lt. Col. Phillip Stewart conducts a preflight inspection of an MC-12 Liberty prior to the aircraft’s first combat sortie June 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

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By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The Academy Exchange is having a party, and everyone’s invited.

The grand opening celebration July 1 will cap the store’s renovation, which begun nearly a year ago.

“It’s going to be kind of like a festival,” said Kim Lopez, Army & Air Force Exchange store manager. “Our customers deserve a party.”

During the grand opening, the road in front of the store will be blocked to allow for food and gift vendors, entertainment, demonstrations, a book signing, the appearance of an AAFES “monster truck,” among other offerings. The BX will also feature special promotions and enter-to-win contests.

Academy senior leadership and Lionel Rivera, mayor of Colorado Springs, are scheduled to be on hand for the celebration.

“We want to kick it off in style,” Ms. Lopez said. The grand opening was originally scheduled for November last year, in time for the holiday season. Due to unexpected delays completion was postponed.

As the renovation progressed, major structural problems emerged, such electrical issues and the presence of asbestos.

“It took a lot longer in some unexpected areas,” she said. “Now it’s safe and up to code and like a new building in an old shell.”

Ms. Lopez called the renovation a “100 percent gut job.”

The facility’s restrooms were also fully gutted, spanning from sewer lines to ceilings. They now are retiled with new fixtures and fully meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Customers will enjoy the new look overall and the “shopability” of the completed renovation.

Ms. Lopez added. “It’s much lighter and brighter,” Ms. Lopez said and pointed out the facility is also more energy efficient.

New interior entrances have contributed to the new look, including the addition of three passages into areas housing toys and hardware (an area formerly occupied by sporting goods). An additional entrance has been added from the main store directly into the outside patio area.

New lighting, expanded aisle space and raised ceilings have also added to the more open feel of the store. Overhead signage indicates department locations throughout the facility.

Books and magazines have moved to their new location near the main entrance of the store, and the electronics area has been significantly expanded. The ladies’ wear department now occupies about 5,000 square feet of the estimated 30,000 square foot facility.

Renovation has also created space for an anticipated move of Academy Bank in the future.

Not immediately visible to customers will be some shifts in merchandising, with reductions and increases in inventory based on sales records of certain items. One example is hair color and another baby items.

Ms. Lopez stressed, however, the store will continue to carry a “nice mixture of the basics” for infants.

She is grateful to the store’s patrons who have been loyal during the renovation.

“Many customers have made our day and have been our cheerleaders. I thank all of them who’ve hung in here with us,” she said. “We couldn’t have better customers.”

Aeschilliagi Brown checks the inventory of fine jewelry in the Academy Base Exchange. The jewelry department is now in its permanent home following the renovation. The grand opening is set for July 1, with activities scheduled for both inside and outside.
Top high school chemists hit Academy labs

Academy Public Affairs

Twenty of the nation’s top teenage chemists are putting the Academy’s Department of Chemistry through its paces.

The Chemistry department is hosting the 41st annual Chemistry Olympiad’s summer training camp here, which started June 3 and continues through Thursday.

In conjunction with the American Chemical Society, the Academy’s chemistry department has supported this camp for the past 25 years.

“In terms of the Air Force Academy, this is a very high profile event and receives national attention,” said Dr. Kim Gardner, associate professor in the chemistry department and camp director.

In the comments the Academy’s received over the years, one message has been clear — the Air Force Academy is the only place that could support this program with the depth and quality that has been accomplished here for the past quarter-century, she said.

Slots in the chemistry training camp here are highly competitive. The 18 boys and two girls who won the final 20 spots did so from a competitive pool of more than 11,000 high school students nationwide.

“These kids are so bright that they really push us to lecture at their level – they study college level chemistry, not high school chemistry,” said Dr. Gardner. That would take half a semester with our two degrees.”

From these 20 chemists, four will be chosen for the final team which will represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympiad. The four finalists will represent the United States during the international competition in Cambridge, England, July 18-27, and compete against teams from 65 other countries.

The teenagers participate in classroom lectures and laboratory exercises covering analytical, organic, inorganic, physical and bio chemistry.

“In organic chemistry they are told to read the first eight chapters of their textbook before they even get here,” said Dr. Gardner. That would take half a semester with our two degrees.”

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The U.S. team has been a strong competitor at the international event. The 2008 team won one silver and three bronze medals. In 1999 and 2000, the U.S. team won the gold medal.

The 2009 competitors are being mentored by chemistry teachers Linda Wood, Lowndes High School, Valdosta, Ga.; Jack Kotz, State University of New York, Oneonta, N.Y.: Kristin Fletcher, of the Academy’s Department of Chemistry; and Andrew Frendo, 2006 silver medal winner of the International Chemistry Olympiad and now a student at the California Institute of Technology.

The International Chemistry Olympiad began with Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary in 1968. Other Western and European countries joined later, with the United States first participating in 1984.
Immersion trips grow in 2009

By Academy Spirit staff

Thirty-six escorts and 284 cadets, including 24 Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet candidates, are participating in Cadet Summer and Language Immersion Program trips this year.

Some of the four-week programs departed May 23 and will return around June 19. Two groups participating in six-week programs featuring Chinese and Arabic visits departed May 26 and are scheduled to return July 11.

Last year, 196 cadets participated in CSLIP. This year, 260 are in the program. Thirteen trips were made in 2008, compared to 19 planned trips this year.

The Olmstead Foundation funded this year embrace 155 cadets, up from 85 last year. Twenty-eight countries will be visited compared to last year’s 18.

“We are able to offer cadets some incredible international programs that will allow them to develop language and cultural ties that will be important in their careers in our very internationally engaged Air Force,” said Lt. Col. Scott Allen, Academy director of international programs.

“We are also looking for opportunities abroad for technical majors at foreign civilian universities,” Colonel Allen said.

Cadets are scheduled to visit: Spain, Costa Rica, Peru, Argentina, Panama, Brazil, Germany, France, Morocco, China, Japan, Egypt, Jordan, Ukraine, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Cameroon, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Ethiopia, Rwanda, India, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Senegal, France, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Uganda and Vietnam.

Portugal is participating in CSLIP for the first time.

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Their moniker is “Big Brothers, Big Sisters” and they don’t make headlines too often. What they do is personal.

“This program pairs two cadets to a local child ages 6-13 from a single-parent family,” said Capt. Jessica Kashka, who with Maj. Gregory Bennett, are the new officers in charge of the Academy’s BBBS 2009 program.

“Each month, the Falcon Club sponsors a single event, such as a trip to the zoo or a day at the roller skating rink. The purpose of the events is for the cadets to develop and foster a mutually beneficial relationship between the cadet and his or her ‘little,’ the captain said.

The Falcon Club is a distinguished “Operation Mentor” program participant with a proud 30-year history at the Academy. It has repeatedly been recognized for its innovative approach to mentoring community children from single parent homes.

“The children may develop self-esteem and confidence through their positive interaction with a role-model,” the captain said.

She has the numbers to back that up.

The positive effects of the Academy’s BBBS program is documented with 67 percent of the children improving their grades, 73 percent of the children reporting better peer and family relationship, and an average of 98 percent of children not getting involved in gangs, criminal behavior, or using drugs and alcohol.

“We are able to offer cadets some incredible international programs allowing them to develop language and cultural ties that will be important in their careers in our very internationally engaged Air Force,” said Lt. Col. Scot Allen, Academy director of international programs.

“We are also looking for opportunities abroad for technical majors at foreign civilian universities,” Colonel Allen said.

Cadets are scheduled to visit: Spain, Costa Rica, Peru, Argentina, Panama, Brazil, Germany, France, Morocco, China, Japan, Egypt, Jordan, Ukraine, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Cameroon, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Ethiopia, Rwanda, India, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Senegal, France, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam.

Portugal is participating in CSLIP for the first time.

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Their moniker is “Big Brothers, Big Sisters” and they don’t make headlines too often. What they do is personal.

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The BIG $10 Cable Sale

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Offer ends 06/16/2009. Offer available to new residential customers only. Free installation offer limited to one pre-wired cable outlet and applies only to standard installation of first outlet for cable service. Additional outlets are charged current installation rate. Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. After promotional period or if service is cancelled or downgraded, regular charges apply. Comcast’s current monthly service charge for Basic Cable ranges from $13.69-$18.99, depending on area. Prices shown do not include equipment fees, additional outlet, taxes and franchise fees. Call for restrictions and complete details. ©2009 Comcast. All rights reserved. CSMNG
Air Force officials revise fitness program

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The need for a “clear, understandable and simpler” fitness program will mean significant changes to the Air Force’s current fitness program, said the service’s top officer during a senior leadership conference held June 4 through 6 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz met with the service’s other four stars at CORONA TOP where one of the key agenda items was Air Force fitness.

Air Force Chief of Staff Enlisted Promotions, Evaluations and Physical Fitness Chief. Dr. Mark Long, the Air Staff enlisted promotions, evaluations and physical fitness chief.

Chief McKinley explained that Airmen must constantly hone their fitness abilities to withstand and overcome the demanding rigors of deployment and combat.

“Airmen must present the proper military appearance and project to the American public our ability to defend our nation and its interests,” the chief said.

While commanders have responsibility of their unit’s fitness programs, each Airman is responsible for meeting and maintaining fitness standards 365 days a year, said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

“With these program revisions and enhancements, we encourage a culture of fitness, empowering all Airmen to take responsibility for being physically mission ready,” General Newton said.

General Newton added that the new Air Force fitness program, expected to be reported from unit to wing to major command for review.

Airmen will be able to view component scoring charts in the new AFI.

Further questions on the program can be directed to Colonel Arcuri, Lt. Col. John Giles and Chief Long at DSN’s 224-8270, 222-4532 and 227-1661 respectively.

Promotion

“From Page 4

“We get requests for VTCs all the time,” Mr. Calabro said, “but this was the first request we had for this sort of event. Everyone was happy to jump on the bandwagon to get it done.”

More than a week of planning and testing culminated in a successful 20-minute promotion ceremony. The two hospitals connected via satellite, “which can be difficult due to the high winds and dusty conditions,” Sergeant Rainey said.

Fortunately, we were able to configure our VTCs to bypass the typical connection that must go through Landstuhl, Germany.

Although time was a concern, and just minutes before the ceremony was to begin the connection timed out, but when 10 a.m. came, everything went smoothly.

“There was the typical half-hour away communication delay that is expected on overseas calls and there was occasional scrambling of the audio, but otherwise it was the next best thing to being there,” Colonel Black said.

“(Mr. Calabro and Sergeant Rainey) deserve a bonus.”

Both men were able to see their work pay off. “It was well worth all the coordination and setup. Especially when you see how much it meant to Captain Black and how proud Lieutenant Colonel Black was to deliver the oath to his son,” Sergeant Rainey said.

“I felt really good about doing something outside the typical work spec. It was definitely a feel good thing,” Mr. Calabro said.

While Colonel Black’s virtual presence made the promotion ceremony unique, it was the entire family being together that made the occasion particularly special for Captain Black.

“They have been with me at my best and worst throughout my short Air Force career. All of them are always cheering me on, giving me advice, and just listening when necessary,” the captain said.

“I was thrilled that my mother was there to share this opportunity to see my father live through the VTC capabilities.”

Carolyn Black was equally pleased to take part in the ceremony. “I was impressed Travis put it together — actually made it happen,” she said. “And I know it meant a lot to Steve.” The audience that gathered for the ceremony, which included many Airmen from the 87th LRS, could also see Colonel Black’s excitement as he took a moment away from his official demeanor to snap a picture of the streaming video on his end.

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“It was incredibly gratifying to be a part of such an important milestone — even though I was on the other side of the world,” Colonel Black said.

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“And it was an honor to be among people who respect Travis and provide him such strong support.”
Healthy futures in store for children

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Academy youngsters are getting a jump start on a life-long healthy lifestyle—and having fun doing it—through the Fit for the Future, Meet Me in the Park program.

Twice a week children and parents gather at housing area parks for two hours of outdoor games, play and socialization. The program, from 9 to 11 a.m. and targeting children ages 2 – 5, meets Tuesday in Pine Valley and Thursday in Douglass Valley, both weather permitting.

“We want to teach children to eat properly and exercise,” said Linda Smith, family childcare coordinator. “All kids should be outdoors at least an hour every day.”

Fit for the Future is now in its sixth year on the Academy and was initiated by the late Donna Head, who was family member flight-chief.

Children can enjoy the park equipment as well as other play tools trucked to the site, including big-wheeled riding toys, a mini train and pint-sized exercise equipment such as elliptical trainers, stationary tricycles, treadmills and a weight bench.

Mid-playtime, youngsters help themselves to healthy snacks like fresh vegetables, fruit, cheese and roll-ups. Only plain, chilled water accompanies the snack.

A play parachute signals to the children the day’s activities are coming to an end.

“Ms. Smith said about 40-plus youngsters come out for the program. Off-base military family members are always welcome.

All children must be accompanied by a parent. “Our main concern is safety,” she said and emphasized safety is foremost in selecting equipment, such as Nert golf and horseshoes.

Parents appreciate the opportunity for children to enjoy the outdoors.

“You really can’t beat this program,” said Lindsey Stoney, whose husband Brandon is with the 10th Security Forces Squadron. “They get to play with things they don’t ordinarily get to play with, and they make new friends. It builds confidence and relationships.”

A family care provider, Mrs. Stoney said she also emphasizes exercise every day, including dancing in the house during inclement weather.

Linsey Mach, whose husband is with the 10th Medical Group, said her son, Nathan, 5, asked her all winter when Meet Me in the Park would begin again.

“He loved it and had so much fun,” she said. “It’s a wonderful program.”

Mrs. Mack said moms as well enjoy the time to socialize among themselves and get to know each other.

Skyler Stoney, 5, enjoys playing with his friends, riding on motorcycles and sliding down the slide.

“I want to come back,” he said.

Nathan Mack also enjoys seeing friends and playing on the exercise equipment, as well as on the Douglass Valley park equipment, but with some reservation after rain soaked the Academy the day before.

“I got my pants wet on the slide,” he said.

Youngsters fly under and around the play parachute as Fit for the Future, Meet Me in the Park activities come to an end for the day. The program runs from 9 – 11 a.m. Tuesday in Pine Valley and Thursday in Douglass Valley through the end of July.
KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea
(AFNS) — Do you know the Airman’s Creed? The Airman’s Creed has been out for more than two years, yet there are still some Airmen who do not know it. Yes, I know sometimes it’s hard to remember all of those lines on a piece of paper, but what you need to do is to add meaning to it for yourself. This is the only way I can remember the creed.

Let’s take a look at the first paragraph. “I am an American Airman, I am a warrior, I have answered my nation’s call.” What does that mean to you? To me, it means that I represent the folks from my hometown in east Tennessee. I have not lived there for more than 25 years now, but I still feel that they are the folks that I am responsible to. To the folks back home in your hometown, you are their Airman, their warrior, and their representative in the great military of our nation. To prove my point, think about the times when you’ve gone home to visit all your friends and family. You are not only their pride and joy, but also the pride and joy of the entire local community. This is because you are an Airman, a warrior, and you have proudly answered your nation’s call.

Now, let’s move on to paragraph two. “My mission is to fly, fight, and win. I am faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor and a legacy of valor.” This paragraph speaks to me about the great history of the Air Force and how we each have a chance to play a part in shaping the future of not only the Air Force, but of the United States as well.

The third is the most powerful part of the creed.

With words like freedom, justice, sword, shield, sentry and last but certainly not least, avenger, this paragraph strongly appeals to me. It reminds me that we in the military are often the only thing that stands between chaos and anarchy in many parts of the world. It reminds me that we are there to help maintain and often rebuild the countries of our friends and enemies alike.

Finally, the closing line strikes me the most, “I defend my country with my life.” I am reminded of the people mentioned in the first paragraph; those friends and family back in east Tennessee. I am willing to give my life for them. Additionally, the final paragraph, to me, is all about the bond that we have as Airmen and the responsibilities we have to one another.

We are all in the profession of arms and we enjoy the power that comes with it. However, with that power comes great responsibility. We are all part of something bigger than ourselves. We have to be leaders, followers and yes, sometimes we have to be warriors. We have the responsibility to the Airmen on our left or right to take care of each other and demand the best of each other. We have to be strong for each other and we can never leave anyone behind because we are only as strong as the weakest Airmen. We cannot fail. Our nation needs us to be the strongest and most professional military force in the world.

If you believe and live this creed you will have no problem remembering those lines because they will be more than just lines to you. They will be a lifestyle.

Do you know . . .

By Capt. Angelic Dolan
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — Twenty United States Air Force Academy cadets deployed here for a month as part of Operation Air Force, an annual program that places cadets at operational Air Force bases throughout the world for career shadowing, mentoring and familiarization.

The program provides the cadets a unique opportunity to learn about the active duty Air Force from a deployed environment and exposes them to career-specific experiences through internship and mentorship, according to Capt. Sean Lovell, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing antiterrorism officer.

“The program brought the cadets to the Persian Gulf region to broaden their knowledge of the Air Force and make them well-rounded officers,” Captain Lovell said. “It also gives them perspective on other career fields.”

Cadets share Airmen in different career fields and interact with officers and the enlisted corps in handpicking after several records reviews and interviews. These cadets are in the top percent of their class.”

The cadets have to meet the same deployment requirements as any other Airmen entering the region. “We are an expeditionary force, and it is important for the cadets to understand that concept instead of graduating and heading to their assignment and then deploying,” Capt. Lovell said. “This gives the cadets the opportunity to understand what we do in the area of responsibility and what our mission is here as an expeditionary force. They will get the first-hand knowledge and experience in the AOR.”

Cadet 1st Class Selena Rodts said by participating in this program she gets more of an insight on how the Air Force operates in a deployed environment, giving her a more hands-on experience.

“We have teachers who deploy and come back and tell us their experience and what to expect, but you never really know until you experience it for yourself,” she added. “That is why we are here. I look forward to what we will be learning in the next couple of weeks.”

Cadets deploy as part of Operation Air Force

By Capt. Angelic Dolan
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Sanchez Zepeda, 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron load master driver, assists Cadet 1st Class Nathaniel Thalhofer with properly securing body armor at an Army base in Southwest Asia, June 8.

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By Chief Master Sgt. Mike Hayter
8th Missions Support Group superintendent

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Mirage returns home

By Master Sgt. Claudia Weir
Air Force Academy Band

After performing 41 concerts in six countries for nearly 10,000 people and traveling thousands of miles, Academy musicians are grateful to be home!

When Mirage returned from a two-month deployment to the Colorado Springs Airport June 4, they were greeted by family members, friends, and members of the Academy Band.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Woods, percussionist and superintendent of the group, said he was, “excited and relieved to be home. Coming off the plane and seeing my wife and our two daughters was tremendous. I’ve been in the Band for 19 years, and seeing all the band members was like coming home to family.”

Group leader and clarinetist Master Sgt. Heike Gazetti said, “My legs were trembling just like my daughters were when I held her. There were lights, music, cameras; it was such an amazing, warm reception.”

“It was great to see our families,” Vocalist for the octet, and mother of five, Tech. Sgt. Nancy Poffenbarger said.

Two additional groups from the Academy Band have deployed in recent years.

Deployed bands perform for troops, as well as in communities at schools, embassies, community centers and orphanages breaking down previously high walls between host countries and Americans.

Before Mirage arrived, members of the Academy Band gathered in the lobby with their instruments. They were poised to play the Air Force Song as Mirage members entered the lobby.

Master Sgt. Janusz Masta1zer, who had previously deployed, said he was happy to be there and support his colleagues. “First of all it was exciting because it is a great tradition … playing the Air Force song, it creates a nice feeling that we have a band family. It reminds us why we went there, why we made the sacrifices we did in separating from our families, and how important our mission is.”

Between the eight Mirage musicians who’d deployed, there were 14 children left behind.

They range in age from 19 months to more than 20 years old. The children were there to greet their parents, some had balloons, and others flowers. All had enormous smiles. The spouses were equally as excited, and relieved their loved ones would soon be in sight. The families were allowed to go to the gate to meet their loved ones.

Others waited in the lobby.

As the octet emerged, Drum Major Master Sgt. Karl Bradley counted off “One, Two” and the band performed the Air Force Song.

Mirage members returning looked sleep deprived, dazed, and happy. However they mustered the energy to gather their luggage and go home with smiles on their faces and loved ones under their arms.

VICTORIA, Grenada — An orphan from the Father Mallaghan’s Home for Boys sings along with the U.S. Air Force Academy Band “Blue Steel” in Victoria, Grenada, June 1. Blue Steel spent the day with orphans from Father Mallaghan’s Home for Boys before performing a public concert in the center of the village.

Mission of music
Flag Day: Americans personified in war-torn fabric

By Ken Carter
Editor

Whether one calls her "Old Glory," "Stars and Stripes," or, "Star Spangled Banner," she'll be honored Sunday during our nation's annual celebration known as Flag Day.

The history of the combination of red and white stripes, the blue union, and the 50 stars represent the bloodshed and bravery of those who've served to ensure America's freedom. Countless military heroes have paid the ultimate sacrifice in preserving that freedom and a handful have become household names — most, however, have not.

The appreciation for the power of symbolism in a flag's design is especially appreciated by military members who swear to support and defend it and the liberties for which it stands.

Two great Americans near and dear to the heart of the U.S. Air Force who've recently passed away are Chief Master Sgt. Paul Airey, the first to serve as chief master sergeant of the Air Force, and Newt Heisley the designer of the POW*MIA flag who called Colorado Springs home.

Chief Airey was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery May 28. At 86, he had passed away March 11 in Panama City, Fla. Mr. Heisley died in his home here in town May 14 at the age of 88.

"When you talk about a lifetime of contributions, you say it thinking of Paul W. Airey" said Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, 10th Mission Support Squadron superintendent.

The appreciate for the power of symbolism in a flag's design is especially appreciated by military members who swear to support and defend it and the liberties for which it stands.

As a previous special assistant to the chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Tapia recalled the honor in the Space Observer.

"I had the incredible privilege of spending lots of time with many former chief master sergeants of the Air Force," he said. "He's the only person I know to receive an immediate and rousing standing ovation at the mention of his name from officers and enlisted members alike.

This response is no doubt due to the dedication that Chief Airey demonstrated while serving his country: the chief enlisted in the Army Air Forces after the attack on Pearl Harbor and began his career as aerial gunner protecting B-24 bombers. While flying over Europe in 1944 as a newly promoted technical sergeant, his aircraft was shot down and then Sergeant Airey found himself a Prisoner of War.

That's where Mr. Heisley's love for America later evolved to revealing the POW*MIA flag design that is flown across the nation six times a year and has been on permanent display in the rotunda of the United States Capitol since 1989. In 1990, Congress designated it "the symbol of our nation's concern ..." for those still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

The Williamsport, Penn native enlisted during WWII and served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He later spent more than 20 years working for advertising firms in the New York City area where he conceptualized the POW*MIA flag design for the largest flag manufacturer in the United States at that time.

Today it continues to wave with Old Glory around the globe — honoring the heroes who've played major roles in making up the fabric of America.

What better time to reflect on the significance of the U.S. Air Force core values: Integrity, Service and Excellence, than Sunday — Flag Day.
USAFA wrestlers receive NWCA academic awards

By Melissa McKeown
Assistant Athletic Communications Director

MANHEIM, Pa. - The Air Force wrestling team was named to the Division I All-Academic Top 30 Team by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA), while recent Academy graduate Stephen Crozier was named to the NWCA Individual All-Academic wrestling team, as announced by the organization.

As a team, the Falcons ranked 22nd on the list with a combined GPA of 2.975. It marks the first time since the 2005-2006 season Air Force has been named an NWCA-All-Academic Team. In determining eligibility for team all academic status, the team GPA is comprised of 12 student athletes, including the 10 wrestlers who were the entries in the NCAA tournament conference qualifier. If teams had fewer than 10 entries for their respective qualifier, they may fill those spots with wrestlers who competed in at least one varsity dual during the season.

Meanwhile, Crozier earned individual all-academic accolades for the second consecutive season. This year, Crozier is one of just 73 wrestlers to receive the honor. To qualify for selection on the NWCA Individual All-Academic team, wrestlers must: have a 3.2 GPA and been an NCAA qualifier or won 60 percent of his total schedule and must have competed in 60 percent of team schedule or, have a 3.0 GPA and earned NCAA All-American honors.

Crozier carried a 3.59 GPA and graduated last month with a degree in economics. Also an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District selection, Crozier compiled a 25-16 record (.610) during the 2008-2009 season to lead the Falcons in total wins for the second-straight year.

Academy graduate 2nd Lt. Stephen Crozier (left) was recently named to the National Wrestling Coaches Association Individual All-Academic wrestling team.

An NCAA qualifier in 2008 and three-time All-Western Wrestling Conference honoree, Crozier is a two-time NCAA West Regional runner-up, wrestling at 165 pounds in 2008 and at 174 pounds in 2009.

Irrving named assistant Coach of the Year

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Scott Irving, the associate head coach for the Air Force track and field team, was named the Division I Mountain Region Women's Assistant Coach of the Year. Irving, who coaches the throwing events for the Falcons, is the first Air Force coach to earn such an honor.

Under Irving’s direction, the Air Force throwers made a tremendous impact on the women’s program during the 2009 outdoor season. Academy records were set in the shot put and hammer throw, while six other top-10 incursions were made in the four throwing events.

The Falcons’ throwers, highlighted by a pair of all-conference selections from Sara Neubauer, accounted for 37 of the women’s 62 points at the Mountain West Conference Outdoor Championship. Neubauer was named to the third team and earned the Academic All-America Men’s At-Large Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and Phillips was honored as the Mountain West Conference Field Athlete of the Year.

Comm Squadron did not score in the bottom of the seventh inning and would never lose the lead as Derek Damien singled to left driving in a pair of runs. Lance Gore received an RBI on a sacrifice fly and John Salinas blooped single scored the fourth run.

In the third inning, Travis Perkins’ double down the third-base line scored. Craig Buntien and Perkins came home on a single by Damien making the score 7-1.

Irrving named assistant Coach of the Year

By Dave Castilla
Intramural Sports Director

The intramural softball program finally got its first night of regular season games in since 20 May. There was a two-week delay with graduation and a week off due to rain.

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron started the season off right winning their first game of the season 14-8 over 10th Communications Squadron.

Comm Squadron had its biggest inning in the sixth scoring seven runs. Tom Sapp hit a three-run homer to dead center and RBI’s from Jason Evans on a single and Daren Holdon on a double to left tightened the score up to 5-8.

However, in the top of the seventh Ken Helgerson hit a bomb over the centerfield fence and Damien ended the scoring as his high fly to right field grazed off his fielder’s glove for a three-run triple.

Comm Squadron did not score in the bottom of the seventh ending the game.

AFAs fourth Academic All-American in hockey

Air Force Academy senior hockey player Mike Phillipich was named to the 2009 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Men’s At-Large Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Phillipich, selected to the third team, graduated with a 3.77 grade point average as a systems engineering management major. Phillipich won the Derek Hines Unsung Hero Award as the “nation’s consummate team player and team builder.” Phillipich was one of just five players in Air Force history to play on a national championship team and was a finalist for the Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award, recognizing excellence in academics, athletics, character and leadership. Phillipich played in 38 games as a senior as Air Force claimed its third consecutive AHA championship and earned its first trip ever to the NCAA Championship.

Irrving named assistant Coach of the Year

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Firefighters scored three more runs in the fourth—the big hit a triple off the fence by Jackie Jacobs driving in John Salinas.

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Scott Irving, an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District selection, Crozier compiled a 25-16 record (.610) during the 2008-2009 season to lead the Falcons in total wins for the second-straight year.

Irrving named assistant Coach of the Year

Comm Squadron had its biggest inning in the sixth scoring seven runs. Tom Sapp hit a three-run homer to dead center and RBI’s from Jason Evans on a single and Daren Holdon on a double to left tightened the score at 10-8.

However, in the top of the seventh Ken Helgerson hit a bomb over the centerfield fence and Damien ended the scoring as his high fly to right field grazed off his fielder’s glove for a three-run triple.

Comm Squadron did not score in the bottom of the seventh ending the game.
JPSO closure
The Academy’s Joint Personal Property Shipping Office, located below the Community Center’s barber shop, will be closed from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today for training. The Office will re-open at 7:30 a.m. Monday. For more information, call Richard Wood at 333-3008.

Track repair
The repairs on Husky Field Track will continue through July 15. For safety reasons, the track is unavailable for use during the construction period. Call Tricia Bonsor at 333-3408 for more information.

Sponsors needed
Sponsors are needed for students attending the Preparatory School at the Air Force Academy for the 2009-2010 academic year. The USAFA Prep School is designed to prepare students for admission and success at the Air Force Academy. If you are a 0-3, E-7, GS-705 or NSPS equivalent and above or general contractor and would like to apply to sponsor one or more of these students, please contact Cleo Griffith at 333-3057 or e-mail cleo.griffith@usafa.edu.

Academy Flea Market
By popular demand the Academy Flea Market will be held twice monthly through June, July and August. The dates are as follows: June 20 and 27; July 18 and 25; and, Aug. 15 and 22. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot between the Academy Exchange and the commissary. Setup time is 8 a.m. Spaces are $10 each, $15 for front to back space with auto and table rental is $5. Call 333-2928 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays for more information or to reserve a space.

Spaced out?
There’s space available at the Milazo Center and Community Activities Center downstairs for functions. Rooms are available for military functions, retirements, promotions, dining in/out, off sites, meetings and training sessions, etc. Call 333-2928 to make an appointment to visit facilities.

Ongoing road work
There will be partial - single lane road restrictions through late July on Southgate Blvd. from I-25 to Pine Drive, both north- and south-bound lanes. The construction will continue around the clock until project completion. Bicycles remain prohibited on Southgate Blvd. throughout the construction. When possible, Academy drivers should use the North Gate entrance to alleviate congestion. Call Mel Peppers at 333-2928 for more information.

Pikes Peak or Bust
Get “Ready to Ride” - Tickets are on sale now for 69th Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Days. The 69th Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo returns July 8-11 to the Norris Penrose Events Center Arena as one of America’s premier rodeo competitions sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

A&FRC offerings
The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host the following classes during June. Contact the A&FRC @ 333-3444 for any questions or to register.

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 identifies benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

Sponsorship training
Tuesday and June 30; 8 to 9 a.m.
This class is for those sponsoring newcomers to the area. Contact your unit sponsorship monitor for details.

Troops to Teachers
Wednesday; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
This workshop provides information for military members interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher.

Newcomer’s orientation, information fair
Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
This is a mandatory orientation for all newly assigned Academy members. Spouses are welcomed to attend the event held at the Milazo Center.

The Internet and your job search
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Adult tickets range from $10 to $25; children, 2-12, range from $7.50 to $10 and the Saturday matinee is $1.

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June 12, 2009

Retirees are being encouraged to return to the service sector, with the goal of bringing back 1.5 million jobs in 2015. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the service sector is the largest employer in the United States, accounting for about 39% of all jobs.

The service sector includes a wide range of industries, such as healthcare, finance, education, and retail. The growth of the service sector has been driven by demographic trends, such as an aging population and increased demand for services.

To support retirees, the Chamber has launched the Retiree Readiness Plan, which includes a variety of resources and programs to help retirees transition to a new career or to continue working.

The plan includes a website with job listings, career development resources, and information on benefits and retirement planning. The Chamber also offers one-on-one career coaching and workshops to help retirees develop new skills and find new opportunities.

In addition to these services, the Chamber is working with employers to create more jobs for retirees. This includes promoting the benefits of hiring retirees, such as their experience and work ethic, and encouraging companies to offer flexible work schedules and remote work options.

The Chamber is also collaborating with other organizations, such as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, to provide resources and support for retirees.

The Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting retirees and helping them to transition to a new phase of life. By working with employers and providing resources and support, the Chamber is helping to create a positive future for retirees.

The Chamber's efforts have been recognized by the Obama Administration, which has praised the Chamber for its work on behalf of retirees. The Chamber's Retiree Readiness Plan has been cited as an example of how companies can work together to support retirees.

The Chamber of Commerce is committed to continuing its work on behalf of retirees, and is continually looking for ways to improve and expand its programs. The Chamber is always looking for new partners and ideas to help support retirees in the years to come.

For more information, visit www.chamberofcommerce.org or contact your local Chamber.

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Brighten up a Kitchen to Make it "Cozy" and Inviting

BY ROYCE BENNETT GILBERT

Q: I have had enough with so-called "crazy country kitchens" and all their clutter, dingy old colors and peeling paint. Quaint, it ain't — in my book, at least. Having said that, where do I go for ideas on contemporary kitchen design?

A: Go no farther than the nearest bookstore. Ideas galore overflow in a new book by an old hand in kitchen design, experienced editor Mervyn Kaufman. He's teamed with the editors of Woman's Day Special Interest Publications to produce "Contemporary Kitchen Style," subtitled "the essential handbook for a new and innovative design" (FlipCity Publishing).

Kaufman has spent years overseeing state-of-the-art kitchens created by the Women's Day National Kitchen/Bath Industry Show. He knows his stuff and also recognizes the rights of others in design. For one, he pictures the garden-fresh kitchen was a showcase for the cabinetmaker/artisan.

From the glass-lined walls out, Merit designer Ingrid Lees orchestrated a springtime Different greens into a bright white workspace that incorporates while cabinets, countertops at glowing quartz as well as touches of gleaming stainless on the sleek range hood, cabinet hardware and appliance.

Around the center island, the kitchen features a smooth induction cooktop with(queryable) burners (one is steam/convection) and automatic pan-sensing. Above, two upper cabinets for quick access to stored items. You'd hardly call this kitchen "cozy," but it does manage to remain cook-friendly and inviting, despite its clean, no-nonsense lines and straightforward allegiance to the work ethic.

Q: My sister-in-law's drapes are so long that they spill out on the floor. Should I suggest that she get them hemmed to the proper length?

A: For her, extra-long is the "proper length." It's called "puddling," a look that's not your place to bring your sister-in-law up short, so to speak.

Q: My husband fell in love with our friends' installed wood floor in their entry and living room. It looks really old, but our friends say it is handmade somewhere in Pennsylvania. We're redoing our basement family room and would love to use something similar to it. Can you help?

A: Sounds as if you've discovered hand-scraped hardwood flooring, a process that calls for individual handling of each wood plank. That way the texture and color vary interestingly from piece to piece, once the flooring is installed.

HomerWood Premium Hardwood Flooring, one such manufacturer, actually employs Amish craftsmen from the Pennsylvania-based community long renowned for the simple beauty of their woodwork. According to Erik Christiansen, HomerWood's general manager, the planks are so individualized "it's like commissioning your own personal piece of floor art."

The Amish craftsman sign the back of whose home it's to be installed. The floors come in woods like cherry, hickory, oak and black walnut, and also — lucky you — come in widths that they spill out on the floor. It's possible under this new program!
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Here is a daily transcript of news and real estate listings from June 12, 2009:

**Monument**
- 4 bd, 2 ba, 2 car garage, 2,600 sq. ft.
- 69000 Anderson Rd.
- $189,900
- Call (719) 583-7155

**NEWS**
- U.S. Army Reserve soldiers test new technology.
- Colorado Springs snowboarder wins gold.
- Local school district faced budget cuts.

**Real Estate Listings**

**INTERSTATE**
- **WOODLAND PARK**
  - 3 BR, 2 BA, 1 car garage, 1,000 sq. ft.
  - $118,900

**JUST SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN**
- **Powers**
  - 4 bd, 3 ba, 2 car garage, 2,000 sq. ft.
  - $210,000

**CENTRAL**
- **Centennial**
  - 3 BR, 2 BA, 1 car garage, 1,500 sq. ft.
  - $180,000

**NORTHEAST**
- **Sunset Park**
  - 4 bd, 2 ba, 1 car garage, 1,200 sq. ft.
  - $160,000

**WEST**
- **Cottonwood & Bluff**
  - 4 bd, 3 ba, 2 car garage, 2,000 sq. ft.
  - $240,000

**SOUTHWEST**
- **Powers & Peterson**
  - 4 bd, 2 ba, 2 car garage, 1,800 sq. ft.
  - $220,000

**RE/MAX**
- **Colorado Springs**
  - 4 bd, 3 ba, 2 car garage, 2,200 sq. ft.
  - $210,000

**Western Slope**
- **Glenwood Springs**
  - 3 bd, 2 ba, 1 car garage, 1,500 sq. ft.
  - $180,000

**CANON CITY**
- **Frisco**
  - 3 bd, 2 ba, 2 car garage, 1,500 sq. ft.
  - $250,000

**SOUTHEAST**
- **Superior**
  - 3 bd, 2 ba, 2 car garage, 1,700 sq. ft.
  - $190,000

**NEW**
- **Powers & Peterson**
  - 4 bd, 3 ba, 2 car garage, 2,000 sq. ft.
  - $220,000

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