Back together
Master Sgt. Dennis Fulmer of the 10th Medical Operations Squadron, wife Julie and sons Matthew, top, and Christian, react to a gift from Academy Base Exchange Assistant Store Manager Tonita Bechert during the Welcome Home Event Tuesday at the Milazzo Center. The event, co-hosted by the Academy Airman and Family Readiness Flight and the 10th Air Base Wing, recognized Academy Airmen returning from deployment since July 2007. Sergeant Fulmer, from 10th MDOS physical therapy, was deployed to South America, Latin America and Haiti.

By Ann Patton

Col. Cheryl Kearney has been named the Academy’s newest Permanent Professor. Investiture ceremonies were held Jan. 16 at the Falcon Club. “I was thrilled to be asked to come back and teach again,” she said. Now head of the political science department, Colonel Kearney served as assistant professor of political science from 1993 to 1996.

By Butch Wehry

District 20’s decision to eventually close Pine Valley Elementary School caused consternation among mostly military parents Tuesday evening, during a town hall meeting in the school’s gymnasium.

A brief about the closure covered the contract between the Academy and District 20. Academy’s plans to demolish some of the area’s housing, the reduced student count plus projections, fiscal issues, options, staff and student issues. The contract calls on the district to provide educational services and required the building be demolished if it is not used to service students living on the Academy. Plans call for the Forest City company to manage housing in Pine and Douglas Valley. Pine Valley’s housing is scheduled for demolition between 2008 and 2013, with 120 units to be demolished this year. Elementary children numbered 318.

By Ann Patton

Col. Cheryl Kearney is enjoying her new roles as Academy permanent professor, head of the political science department and instructor for Political Science 311.

Col. Cheryl Kearney

Before returning to the Academy, Colonel Kearney served as deputy group commander for the 373d Intelligence Group, Misawa Air Base, Japan, and deputy director of the National Security Agency/Central Security Service Colorado, Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School and doctorate in American government from Georgetown University.
Airmen: First on the scene, make lasting impressions

This is the third time I’ve witnessed such an occurrence. At other times, Airmen have impressed those around them by saving citizens choking at a restaurant or bringing home a wayward child. On each occasion, an Airman was the first (and sometimes only) person to stop and render assistance. It’s not only on freeways and dining rooms that Airmen are first on the scene. In Afghanistan, combat controllers were some of the first military members in country to direct incoming forces. In Iraq, Airmen flying RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft have set records for their unit deployments — first arriving in the Middle East in 1990 and still flying. Nearly every disaster in recent history has had Air Force aircraft arriving within hours to escort rescue workers, secure supply routes or deliver much-needed provisions.

Are Air Force core values the reason Airmen are so apt to care for their fellow citizens? Or are those who live by the Air Force’s core values more likely to join and remain Airmen?

I prefer to think it’s a combination of the two hypotheses: Airmen are citizens so filled with the spirit of service that they would likely help others no matter what career field they are in. People notice when you care. While you don’t have to donate the shirt off your back, you make a big impact on every person you interact with while off duty.

Commentary by Capt. Nathan D. Broshear

12th Air Force Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFPN) — On my way to work the other day, I saw a minor car accident. A sedan full of teenagers slammed into the bumper of a Lincoln Towncar driven by an elderly gentleman. Immediately, a uniformed Airman leapt from his truck to provide aid. After checking on the occupants of each vehicle, the Airman began to direct traffic and assist the victims in calling for emergency services. It took only minutes out of his commute, but to these citizens — he was a hero for the day.

Airmen: First on the scene, make lasting impressions

The key is to have a plan now before you’re put to the test. Do this, and you’ll automatically respond in the manner you predetermined for yourself, without compromising your integrity.

Character is found in the actions and decisions you make right now. Make your second count and you’ll like who you see in that mirror.

Character Matters airs Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on KAFA radio, 97.7 FM.

By TSgt. Heather Brandenburg

NCOIC, Honor Division

One of the Academy’s goals is to instill a sense of character in each cadet. It does not end there, nor is it something they leave behind when they graduate. Character is a part of you forever because there is character in everything we do. Whether it’s our Honor Code, the Core Values, or the Airman’s Creed, character is the essence of what makes you stand above your peers and defines who you are.

Character is not something you can understand abstractly. Can you be proud of who you are when you look in the mirror? Can others be proud to be associated with you?

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I promised to live a healthy, positive lifestyle. I am exercising, smiling and maintaining an upbeat attitude while doing a daily religious prayer. It’s going great! 

How is your New Year’s resolution coming along?

Maj. Brett Ashworth — Director of Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins — NCOIC, Internal Information

Wayne Amann — Editor

Whalen Wehry — Graphic Designer

The Academy Spirit is published by Colorado Springs Military Newspaper Group, airmenstuff@usafa.af.mil. Subscriptions are accepted from U.S. military personnel only. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Form 1206 in bullet format for nominations; depending on the breadth of the accomplishments through the Air Force Awards and Decorations Program.

A little recognition goes a long way

Airmen have impressed those around them by saving citizens choking at a restaurant or bringing home a wayward child. On each occasion, an Airman was the first (and sometimes only) person to stop and render assistance. It’s not only on freeways and dining rooms that Airmen are first on the scene. In Afghanistan, combat controllers were some of the first military members in country to direct incoming forces. In Iraq, Airmen flying RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft have set records for their unit deployments — first arriving in the Middle East in 1990 and still flying. Nearly every disaster in recent history has had Air Force aircraft arriving within hours to escort rescue workers, secure supply routes or deliver much-needed provisions.

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Powered flight returns to Academy airfield

By Maj. Jennifer Wynnn
Assistant Powered Flight commander

During the last six months, the Academy skies were noticeably quieter. It was a time of transition at the Academy airfield, which meant fewer single-engine airplanes above Colorado Springs and the out-lying areas.

However, a robust new flying program is standing up and will be filled with cadets learning the foundations of flying.

The 306th Flying Training Group’s 557th Flying Training Squadron transitioned from Academy Flight Screening to the new Powered Flight Program during the 2007 fall semester.

In AFS, 557th FTS military instructor pilots and Embry-Riddle contract civilian pilots flew an average of 60 sorties a day. They flight screened 90 percent of pilot-eligible cadets for flying aptitude before attending formal pilot training after commissioning.

In August, AFS was disbanded due to the standup of a similar Air Force program at the Pueblo airport where nearly 950 pilots flew an average of 60 sorties a day. They flight screened 90 percent of pilots before flying aptitude was determined from Academy Flight Screening to Powered Flight Program.

That changed in November when the Powered Flight Program was created.

It is a comprehensive introduction to hands-on aviation as well as a capstone program to the current aviation and academic courses offered at the Academy. It allows cadets to put into practice what they learn in the classroom.

On Jan. 8, PPP flew the first ten cadets operating from the Academy airfield.

Air Force Chief of Staff, General T. Michael Mosley, and the Commander of Air Education and Training Command, General William Loomey, reaffirmed the continuing need for powered flight at the Academy.

Thus, the Powered Flight Program was created.

Eventually, as many as 750 cadets a year will participate in the program while flying nearly 120 sorties a day. This will equal, if not exceed, the amount of flying during AFS.

This program, unlike AFS, will utilize active duty instructor pilots assigned to the Powered Flight Program as well as attached pilots from the Dean of Faculty, Commandant of Cadets and the Athletic Department.

Although the transition from Academy Flight Screening to the Powered Flight Program last fall was rapid, there was a definite hill in flying around the local area.

However, as spring approaches and the weather improves, cadets will once again, at one of the busiest Visual Flight Rules airfields in the country, begin their aviation careers along the Front Range, like three generations of pilots before them.

UCI Tip of the Week

By Master Sgt. Dexter Frederick
Inspector General, Inspections Division superintendent

AFI 33-332, The Privacy Act Program, provides guidelines when e-mailing personal information. The transmission must be adequately safeguarded.

First, determine the validity of sending personal information through e-mail; some information may be so sensitive that e-mail may not be the proper way to transmit it.

The instruction stresses when sending personal information over Department of Defense channels you need to ensure there is an official need, all addresses are authorized to receive the information under the Privacy Act and the information is protected from unauthorized disclosure, loss or alteration.

Protection methods may include encrypting or password protecting the information in a separate word document.

When transmitting personal information via e-mail, add “FOUO” to the beginning of the subject line, followed by the subject and this statement at the beginning of the e-mail:

“This e-mail contains FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) information which must be protected under the Privacy Act and AFI 33-332.”

This instruction also requires the use of privacy act labels and/or statement whenever personal information is put into a system of records (electronic or hardcopy).

Plus, you must not send personal information outside DoD channels, unless specifically authorized by the Privacy Act. The bottom line is, be conscious of about any personal information transmitted to individuals and agencies.

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†Dependent on creditworthiness, term, and model year.
‡Home equity loan example: Borrow $40,000 at 4.99% APR, up to 120 months for new, 60 months for used. Higher rates apply for loans that are not closed within 120 months. See website for more details.

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Cadet researchers took international honors for the second straight year at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics international student paper competition in Reno, Nev., on Jan. 7.

This year’s international AIAA competition featured the winners from the eight AIAA regions in the world. Competitors included aeronautical engineering juggling juggernauts MIT, Notre Dame, San Jose State and Australia’s Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, plus the Air Force Academy’s Department of Aeronautics.

Academy faculty and graduates presented or were co-authors on 19 different technical papers in the premier annual event of this technical society.

“The Academy continues to develop a reputation for very high quality, relevant technical papers, and competes on favorable terms with institutions with Masters’ and Doctoral programs,” said Dr. Tom McLaughlin, director of research for the Dept. of Aeronautics.

Seven of the presentations were made by lieutenants and cadets from the Academy classes of 2007 and 2008. While six of these were presented in regular technical sessions, the seventh was in the International Student Paper Competition, and was won by 2nd Lts. Margaret Frash and Brittany Oligney.

The trail to another international competition started in the fall of 2006, when the two, then aeronautical engineering majors, began their wind tunnel research and then crafted their engineering majors, began their wind tunnel research and then crafted their engineering majors, began their work.

“Research on this and many other projects rolled on well past the graduation of each senior class, continuing the Academy’s impact and influence in current weapons systems and future American aircraft and spacecraft design.”

These research programs illustrate how our cadets are making important contributions to front line Air Force and NASA efforts while gaining invaluable experience which will make them better officers,” said Dr. Yechout. “I consider every cadet and student that participated in the AIAA competition a winner based on the experience they gained from being involved in these projects. The level of competition was very high.”

The paper Lieutenants Oligney and Frash authored is the second consecutive first-place finish for cadets in the AIAA's international student paper competition. That competition was won in 2007 by now 2nd Lt. Matt Karmody. While an aerol major here, the 2006 Academy graduate performed extensive computational and practical research on the AC-130H Spectre gunship. He analyzed the gunship’s performance at various altitudes, and created energy maneuverability charts for the cannon-toting icon of close air support.

Lieutenant Karmody is at MIT finishing a masters degree, and will then report to undergraduate pilot training at Vance AFB, Okla.
Instructor

From Page 1

Among her awards and decorations are the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star.

As department head, Colonel Kearney is charged with leading instruction for the department and serving as a member of the senior leadership. She also teaches Political Science 311, a core course. It is a responsibility she relishes.

So far this semester, her students have been studying the founding fathers and the U. S. Constitution.

“It’s fun to get them excited about the subjects,” she said. “We have a lot of fun in class.”

Kearney especially enjoys teaching core courses because students represent a broad spectrum of cadets.

“That is when you teach and reach the most cadets,” she said. “They are so inquisitive.”

For the first five minutes of class Colonel Kearney devotes time to giving her 24 students a taste of their future.

“You choose your attitude each and every day,” she reminds cadets. “The same is true for character.”

Colonel Kearney said the Academy’s curriculum is evolving to respond to today and the future of the Air Force.

She noted the interdisciplinary core courses now include such classes as economics, culture and foreign language as well as political science.

Faculty members are challenging students to be critical thinkers and to understand processes, national security and the intelligence community.

“We need to create curiosity,” she said. “They have to be curious about the future of the world.”

Colonel Kearney said American politics has changed little from the country’s founding. Founding fathers had their squabbles and bickering, as do today’s politicians.

“It’s more public now,” she said but pointed out the ability to compromise is still a necessity in the political process.

Colonel Kearney called the U.S. Constitution a “brilliant document,” hammered from a process of compromise.

“At the end of the day, we’re still all Americans,” she said.

The most important people in her life are her family. During the investiture ceremonies she presented roses to her mother, Karen Lynd, for her support of her daughter’s Air Force career and expressed her thanks to her husband, Dan, whom she called “my confidante, my mentor and my best friend.”

She presented her son, Marine 1st Lt. Christopher Kearney, with the coin she received for serving as a casualty officer following the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

“I’d like you to give you my personal 9/11 coin to keep you safe as you begin your 270-day deployment to Afghanistan next month. You do make a difference every day,” she told him.

During her time in Air Force intelligence, Colonel Kearney worked in offices without windows.

As political science chief, she now has a corner office on the sixth floor of Fairchild with a panorama of the cadet area and the mountains.

“I thought, ‘Wow. This is really cool,’” she said.
Researchers honored for excellence

By Julie Imada
Dean of Faculty Research staff writer

The annual Air Force Academy’s Dean of the Faculty Research Awards ceremony, on Jan. 18, highlighted the relationship between the Academy's hands-on cadet research efforts and members of the Academy’s faculty. The event recognized five cadets for their outstanding research during the summer of 2007 as well as some of the Academy’s outstanding faculty researchers.

“The success of the cadets in their academic pursuits is the mark of success for the Academy and faculty,” said Brig. Gen Dana Born, Dean of the Faculty. “The wide spectrum of research and learning opportunities available to cadets at the Academy allows for the cultivation of the skills necessary to navigate in the uncertain and complex world around them.”

She also acknowledged the critical role faculty members play in cultivating those skills in cadets, providing rich and learning-focused academic experiences.

The annual Thomas D. Moore Award was named in honor of C-7 Caribou pilot Maj. Thomas D. Moore, who was shot down on Nov. 30, 1967 while on a mission in Vietnam. The award is given to the top cadet summer research efforts and members of the Academy’s faculty.

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This year’s winners were Cadets 1st Class Asha Padmanabhan for social sciences, Andrew Saleh for humanities and Jacob Rohrbach for engineering. The overall Moore Award winner and basic sciences winner was Cadet 1st Class William Bauer.

Cadet Padmanabhan’s work focused on supporting associated costs with the creation of four geographically separate Global Positioning System ground antennas. Cadet Saleh was recognized for his work on the Air Force Research Laboratory’s development of a non-lethal method for stopping vehicles at checkpoints in Afghanistan and Iraq. The invention of a new plasma thruster plume analyzer for the TacSat-2 flight program earned Cadet Rohrbach his award.

Cadet Bauer did his research at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and was recognized for his discovery of a new amorphous metal coating. His coating, which is patent pending, increases the corrosion and wear resistance of metal and will be used on the anti-ski deck for the new littoral combat ship.

For the first time in its history, the Air Force Institute for Information Technology Applications awarded its annual research award to a cadet. Cadet 1st Class Michael Byrnes collected the award for his work on the command and control capability of senior cadets supervising basic cadet training during the summer.

The ceremony had the largest attendance to date including Academy leadership represented by Col. Paul Ackerman, the vice superintendent, the Cadet Wing, the AOC’s of cadet squadrons plus special guests Col. Michael Hatfield, Commander of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Dr. Ken Goretta, Director of the Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development, and Mrs. Thomas D. Moore.
Quartet honored by ALOs for freshman accomplishments

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Each year, Academy Admissions Liaison Officers honor a first-year student from each cadet group at their annual Liaison Officer Director Conference.

"Since 1960, the ALOs have annually recognized four cadets who have excelled as fourth class cadets and sustained superior performance throughout their fourth class year," said Col. Chevalier Cleaves, the Academy’s Director of Admissions.

Cadets 3rd Class Austin McKinney, Brittany Morreale, Jonathan Tellefsen and Rachel Crawford were selected by the Commandant of Cadets as the Class of 2010's "best of the best" and the big picture is a grand one!" said Cadet Squadron 26's civil engineering major.

"I found the hardest part of my freshman year was make friends with upperclassmen," said the cadet from Colorado Springs. "Although professional relationships are essential, it is hard not being able to make friends with three quarters of the squadron—people you spend hours every day with."

The award hasn't changed her feelings.

"Honestly," she said. "I truly haven't put much thought into it. Awards don't make people, actions do."

Cadet McKinney did not consciously go after an outstanding achievement award and only learned recently that he had been nominated for it.

"My performance as a fourth class cadet is a direct result of the extraordinary people that surrounded me," stated the Cadet Squadron 22's management major from Detroit, Mich.

His nomination said he exceeded standards across the full spectrum of cadet life. If Cadet Tellefsen's eyes are good enough he hopes to be a pilot.

"Otherwise I'll hopefully do something with flight testing," he said.

But Cadet Squadron 3's aeronautical engineering major from Coon Rapids, Minn., said he never focused on doing his best just to win this award.
Time for volunteers to rummage in the Attic

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Those who aid needy Airmen and their families are in need themselves.

The Academy Airmen’s is seeking volunteers to help with sorting, shelving and hanging merchandise and assisting customers.

Only three volunteers currently the store, which is open Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“We need several more,” said Attic director Cassie Nordin. “If we had more, we would be open more often. We'd like to be open five days a week.”

In the same spirit, Attic director Mrs. Nordin stressed two to three volunteers are needed when the Attic is open. Ideally, volunteers could work for four hours per shift. Even a one-day per month commitment would be welcome.

Airmen’s Attic, although on the Academy, serves families, many of whom have four or more children.

“We are their main source for toys, clothes and beds,” Mrs. Nordin said.

She expects customer numbers to rise as Fort Carson completes future troop additions.

Newlyweds with little or nothing in the way of household items often turn to the Attic.

“We’re here to better families’ lives with items they may not otherwise be able to afford, and we’re here to help them start their lives,” she said.

No referrals are necessary, and customer names are in strict confidence.

Attic shoppers are limited to two pieces of furniture and 20 household items per month.

There is no upper limit on clothing.

“The Attic does require, however, that “purchased” items not be resold for profit at outlets like yard sales or flea markets.

Shoppers may also put their names on a “wish list” for out-of-stock items and receive priority when the items become available.

Volunteering for the Attic has its perks.

Volunteers get dibs on incoming items and receive

free childcare for children one year and older if care is provided by home day care provider.

“You just have to want to help,” Mrs. Nordin stressed. “There are a lot, and I mean a lot, who need the Airmen’s Attic.”

All items in the store are very usable, wearable and in good condition.

Thanks to a Denver non-profit which manages donations from businesses wanting to make good use of discontinued or excess merchandise lines, the Attic will soon be receiving new furniture, toys, rugs and home accessories donated by upscale retailers and manufacturers.

Mrs. Nordin expects deliveries to the Attic from the Denver warehouse to begin within two weeks.

Yet the need for donated usable items is constant since goods flow quickly in and out the Attic’s doors.

Items of any sort found in a home are welcome except for food and undergarments.

The Attic’s is a tax deductible non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible.

It accepts donations during regular business hours, but contributors may place items in outdoor sheds next to the building when the Attic is closed. No pick-up service is available.

The Attic receives no government funding and is staffed strictly by volunteers.

Baby items like cribs, clothes and toys, furniture, especially beds and dressers, and electronics like computers and DVD players are especially valued donations.

An outdoor shed is also needed.

For more information on the Airmen’s Attic or to volunteer, call 472-7923.

Cassie Nordin makes sure Airmen’s Attic merchandise is “just so” before shoppers arrive.

No matter how many times you change your major, you'll never have to change your account.

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Shake, shake, shake ... shake Djibouti!

USCENTAF Band kicks off SW Asia tour

By Tech. Sgt. Joel Langton
U.S. Central Command Air Forces Public Affairs

The 9-Piece U.S. Central Command Air Forces Band Live Round kicked off the Djibouti leg of its Southwest Asia tour with a one-hour show Tuesday morning at Djibouti’s National Police Academy. The band is a blend of members from the Air Force Academy Band based in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Band of Mid-America at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

The ensemble performed before about 100 members of the tiny nation’s police force and police department’s administration.

Live Round’s good-will effort fostered stronger relations between local law enforcement and the American military community based out of nearby Camp Lemonnier, said Capt. Christopher Crim, 3rd Battalion commander. The camp is part of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Captain Crim’s Marines protect a portion of the environment, “Captain Crim said.

The hour-long show certainly gave Djibouti policemen, American Marines, Soldiers and Airmen different perspectives on each other as they sat together, clapped and even danced to a few songs.

“Even though many of our French-speaking policemen couldn’t understand the words, the music spoke to us,” said Lieutenant Nour. "I feel like we understand the Americans better now and we have a better relationship."

For the band, it was a home run as well.

“It gave validity to our reason for being here and that is to deepen relationships,” said Tech. Sgt. Victoria Bruyette, Live Round singer. The band has nine shows scheduled during their five-day African community relations effort, with only one show on an American installation.
Cadets immerse in African adventure

By Col. Martin France
Head, Department of Astronautics

While most cadets were enjoying the break between Fall and Spring semesters at home with family, an adventurous set of four cadets traveled to Africa for a Global Cultural Immersion trip through the Academy's International Programs Office.

Cadets 1st Class Cory Pilinko and Nicole Graziano and Cadets 3rd Class Marie McLendon and Dany Gatsinzi went on a two-week tour of Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia funded by the Olmsted Foundation.

Cadet Gatsinzi, the Academy's first international cadet from Rwanda, was instrumental in planning the trip and served as an expert guide during the first phase of the trip. Born and raised in Uganda, Dany's family returned to Rwanda from Kampala following the Genocide of 1994. After two years at Rwanda's National University, he was chosen to attend the Academy and will return in 2010 to serve in the Rwanda Defense Forces.

The group arrived in Kigali on Dec. 21 after overnighting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and began their visit with a tour of the National Genocide Memorial.

The next day, they toured the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology and the Lycée de Kigali, Dany's former high school. They also visited a primary school in Kigali headed by Dany's sister, Mary, and her husband. On Dec. 22, they were the invited guests to the U.S. Embassy holiday party hosted by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Cheryl Sim.

Later, while traveling into the Rwandan countryside, the group witnessed a "reburial" of genocide victims whose mass grave was recently discovered, attended a local soccer game between Ugandan and Rwandan junior teams, visited the National Police Academy, and went as far west as Lake Kivu and the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On Christmas Eve, Ms. Sim hosted a coffee for the group where they were able to discuss cooperative efforts between the U.S. and Rwandan governments on military training, malaria eradication, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. They traveled to RDF headquarters where they met the RDF Chief of Staff and continued their discussions of the Rwandan military, its status and responsibilities in East Africa.

On Christmas Day, they left for Volcanoes National Park for hiking and a visit to the wild mountain gorilla areas made famous by Dian Fossey's research. Guides led them through the thick jungle to an adventure rendezvous with "The Sabyinyo Group" of gorillas whose leader, named Guhonda, is the largest gorilla in the park at 220 kilograms. The group was amazed at these calm, gentle apes who didn't seem bothered by the strictly controlled human visitors, each gorilla group may be visited by only one group of no more than eight human tourists per day for one hour. The hour passed quickly as they watched the gorillas wrestle, eat and groom.

From Rwanda they flew to Kampala, Uganda, and then a six-hour drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park for two days of safari. While in the park, they tracked Chimpanzees in Kyambura Gorge, cruised the Kazinga Channel between Lakes Edward and George, and went on three "drives" through the park to observe wildlife at dusk and dawn. The thousand square kilometer park is Uganda's biggest and includes elephants, buffalo, kob, waterbucks, bush bucks, wart hogs, lions, hyenas, hippos, crocodiles and numerous species of monkeys and birds.

They returned to Kampala for a city tour and spent their last full day in Uganda white-water rafting on the Nile River, below its source (Lake Victoria). Their guide, Tutu, was a former Olympic kayaker for Uganda and he trained the team to survive four sets of Class 5 rapids over the 35 kilometer trip, which included two capsizings. The cadets put their survival swimming lessons to work, and all made it back from the Nile with only a few bruises and many great memories.

That evening, they enjoyed New Year's Eve and a two-hour fireworks display in downtown Kampala, before leaving for Ethiopia.

Ethiopia offered tours of the Addis Ababa University, the ethnological museum, and national museum that included specimen displays of many archaeological finds, including the three million year old "Lucy" skeleton. The cadets traveled to the U.S. Embassy where they were luncheon guests of the Honorable Donald Yamamoto, U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, and the full Defense Attaché's staff. Their final two days began with a tour of another national park that offered wild ostriches, gazelles and more wart hogs, plus visits with rural farmers and their families. They also toured several Ethiopian Orthodox churches, including the Holy Trinity Church in Addis Ababa that houses the tomb of the last emperor or Ethiopia, Haile Selassie. They visited "The Mercato," Africa's largest open-air market, bought souvenirs, and had a final sampling of Ethiopian cuisine at the Fasika National Restaurant.

The group returned to Colorado agreeing it was the trip of a lifetime. Experiencing Africa was amazingly rewarding and a tremendous complement to Academy education and training.

Cadets 3rd Class Marie McLendon and Dany Gatsinzi share a ride on a horse cart with African villagers.

Cadets 1st Class Cory Pilinko and Nicole Graziano mingle with elementary school kids in Kigali, Rwanda.

Above: Juvenile male elephants spar in the Kazinga Channel, at Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda.

Left: A female gorilla takes a break in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda.
Falcons prove they belong among best

AF ranked in all three polls, Ehn hurt

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Sophomore Matt Fairchild scored his first career hat trick as Air Force defeated fourth-ranked Denver, 5-2, Jan. 18, at the Cadet Ice Arena.

The Falcons earned their first win over Denver since 1980, breaking a 19-game losing streak to the Pioneers. It was the first time Air Force defeated the Pioneers at home. Fourth-ranked Denver (17-6-6) was the highest opponent Air Force has defeated since beating fourth-ranked Colorado College, 7-6, in overtime, at the Academy in 1976.

Then on Saturday third-ranked Colorado College scored two power-play goals and then held off Air Force for a 2-1 win in a nonconference game Saturday at the Colorado Springs World Arena.

Air Force fell to 12-7-4 overall while No. 3 CC improved to 18-6 overall. Thanks to the split against two of the top four teams in the nation, the blue-suiters are, for the first time in school history, ranked in the top 20 in the three major polls. They sit 18, 18 and 20 depending on the poll.

The 2-1 loss marked the second straight year Air Force lost to Colorado College by the same score. Air Force is now 3-2-1 vs. ranked teams this season.

The Falcons never trailed in the DU game as freshman Derrick Burnett scored his third of the season at 8:03 of the first period. With five seconds left in the first period, Fairchild scored his first of the game, and his second short-handed goal in the last four games.

Midway through the second period, Josh Schaffer scored his second of the season and the eventual game-winner at the 11:03 mark on an odd-man rush. Four minutes later, Fairchild scored his second of the game. Olson made a centering pass from the corner and Fairchild again beat Maninno from right in front for a 4-0 lead.

“Getting the lead was huge. Never in my dreams did I think we would get ahead like that, Air Force head coach Frank Serratore said. “Our focus was exceptional tonight. The only coaching I did was to keep encouraging them to keep playing hard not to go into the prevent defense.”

After the goal, DU pulled Maninno from the net and put in freshman Marc Cheverie.

At the 7:37 mark of the third, Falcons Brett Nylander and Scott Kozlak were each called for separate penalties and the Pioneers had two minutes of a 5-on-3 advantage and the Falcons killed the two-man advantage. DU got just one shot on net in two minutes on the Falcon penalty kill.

With just over five minutes remaining, DU pulled Cheverie from the net in favor of the extra skater. But it was the Falcons who capitalized when Fairchild netted his third of the game.

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Falcons sophomore Matt Fairchild jostles with Denver’s Patrick Mullen. Fairchild netted his first career hat trick in the game.

For his performance, Fairchild was named the Atlantic Hockey Association Player of the Week.

On Saturday Colorado College scored first in the game on the power play at the 8:14 mark of the opening period when Bill Sweatt scored on a rebound from Mike Testwuide and Andreas Vlassopoulos. The Tigers out-shot Air Force, 16-4, in the first period, but Falcon goalie Andrew Volkening made 15 saves.

“I was impressed with how CC came out in the first period,” Serratore said.

“They expended a lot of energy. They tried to put us away but Volkening did what all great goalies do, he gave us a chance to win. When he only gives up two goals, we have to find a way to get it done.”

Play in the second period was much more even as AFA out shot CC, 8-5. However, the Tigers capitalized on a 5-on-3 opportunity midway through the period. CC had 96 seconds of a two-man advantage and lit the lamp with just three ticks left when Steve Schultz scored on a flurry in front from Addison DeBoer and Brian Connelly.

Air Force had plenty of chances in the third period, out shooting CC, 14-10, but could not convert.

The Falcons lost more than the game when Air Force’s Hoby Baker finalist

Calhoun inks new deal

The Academy and head football coach Troy Calhoun have finalized a new five-year contract that runs through the 2012 season, according to an announcement Tuesday from Director of Athletics Dr. Hans Mueh. The contract was signed and completed the Academy internal process this week. Calhoun’s contract was signed and completed last fall according to an announcement Tuesday from Director of Athletics Dr. Hans Mueh. The contract will run through the 2012 season, and the new deal is structured as a rolling contract that will renew each year. The Academy also completed new contracts for the civilian assistant coaches.

INTERCOLLEGIATE

Men’s Basketball
Jan. 19 at Albuquerque, N.M.
New Mexico 70
Falcons 64
Jan. 12 at Denver
Falcons 75
Colorado St. 59
Women’s Basketball
Jan. 11 at Denver
New Mexico 75
Falcons 45
Jan. 11 at Fort Collins
Falcons 56
Colorado St. 43

Hockey
Jan. 18 at AFA
Falcons 5
#4 Denver 1
Jan. 19 at Colorado Springs
#2 Colorado College (Falcons 1)
Women’s Basketball
Jan. 19 at Colorado Springs
Purdue 35
Falcons 6
Jan. 21 at Bloomington, Ind.
Bloomington 61
Falcons 14

917 Indiana 39
Falcons 36
Gardner-Webb 6
Falcons 3

Track and Field
Jan. 18 and 19 at Boulder, Colo.
Pots Towson
(Pots Towson)
Danniel McCarty, 1,999 pts, 3rd (Pots Towson)
Skyler Morgan, 4,764 pts, 2nd (Pots Towson)

Swimming & Diving
Jan. 19 at Los Angeles, Calif.

117 Falcons (Men) 123
117 Falcons (Women) 117

Gymnastics
Jan. 18 at UCLA
Gymnastics 190.625
Falcons (Women) 188.400
Jan. 20 at Lincoln, Neb.
Nebadon-Taylor 323.650
Falcons (Men) 323.650
points
3rd
Rifle
Jan. 19 and 20 at Charleston, S.C.
Falcons 4,488, 1st
Second half spurt seals win over CSU

By Wayne Amann
Academy Spirit Editor

Tim Anderson scored 26 points, including 12 straight to open the second half, in leading Air Force to a 75-59 win over Colorado State Tuesday night at Clune Arena before 3,677 vocal fans.

“I have to give credit to our coaching staff,” Anderson said. “At halftime they thought of a play that would work against their defense. We ran it a couple times and it worked.”

Air Force jumped ahead early and held on to the narrow lead of 29-28 at the intermission, but thanks to a 13-0 run to start the game the bleusuiters rebounded (7-10, 1-4 MWC) to claim a 56-43 win over Colorado State (2-15, 0-4) in MWC action Wednesday at Moby Arena. The 43 points was the fewest points CSU has ever scored in the series.

Junior Brooke Cultra led the Falcons with 14 points and four assists in the loss to the Lobos.

The Falcons faced another hot three-point shooting team and struggled with rebounding the ball. New Mexico shot 61.9 percent from three point range, making 8-of-10 three’s and outscoring the Falcons 46-24.

Air Force struggled from the field, shooting 34.7 percent and hitting just one three in 13 attempts. The Falcons did shoot well from the free throw line, making good on 83.3 percent of their attempts.

Meanwhile, in Fort Collins, the Falcon defense held the Rams to one field goal over the final nine minutes of the game.

The trio of Steele, Rainee Beck and Kim Kreke combined to score 40 points for the Falcons. Steele recorded her fifth double-double of the season with game-highs of 15 points and 10 rebounds. Beck, who went 4-for-4 from behind the three-point line in the first half, scored 14 points and dished out four assists. Kreke scored 11 points and grabbed four rebounds.

The Falcons started the game hitting a trio of three-point baskets and a pair of jumpers. The Falcons shot 50 percent from the field in the opening half and hit 75 percent of their three point baskets to jump ahead 32-24.

Colorado State could not get it’s offense going, scoring just six field goals in the second half and 16 for the game. The Rams shot 25.4 percent from the field. Juanise Cornell led CSU with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The win snapped the Falcons eight-game conference losing streak dating back to the 2006-07 season.

By Nick Arseniak
Athletic Communications

It’s supposed to be easier to win at home than on the road. Just the opposite happened for the Air Force women’s basketball team which lost to New Mexico (10-7, 2-2), 75-45, in Mountain West Conference action Saturday in Clune Arena.

But, thanks to a 13-0 run to start the game the bleusuiters rebounded (7-10, 1-4 MWC) to claim a 56-43 win over Colorado State (2-15, 0-4) in MWC action Wednesday at Moby Arena. The 43 points was the fewest points CSU has ever scored in the series.

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"We played an uninspired second half," Air Force head coach Ardie McInelly said. "All the things we talked about doing in the second half, for whatever reason, we didn’t do.

Amy Beggin led the Lobos with 20 points, making 6-of-8 from downtown. Brandi Kimble scored 16 points and was 4-of-5 from three-point range and had a game-high seven rebounds. Forward Dionne Marsh added 14

We knew we had to shut down their 3-point shooters,” Cultra said. "But, having Marsh down low gives them an inside outside game that was tough for us to defend.

Cultra also led the Falcons with five rebounds and four assists. Pamela Findlay and Dana Lovelace each had four rebounds. Alecia Steel netted 11 points to go with three assists, while Jamie Davis had four steals.

Air Force trailed only 29-21 at the half. New Mexico caught fire from behind the arc after intermission, making 8-of-10 three’s and outscoring the Falcons 46-24.

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The win snapped the Falcons eight-game conference losing streak dating back to the 2006-07 season.
Be barrier aware for security, safety

By Scott Bowshott
10 Civil Engineer Squadron, Construction manager

Now that barrier construction at the North and South Gates is complete, it’s important for drivers to be aware of the additional signage and to drive with care. Saturday night’s performance will begin at 7 p.m. The posted speed limit is 25 mph at all times. So please drive safely. The barrier is operational, and the lights are working with the proper function of warning drivers of the presence of the barriers. Entry controllers can immediately activate the pop up barriers when necessary for force protection. Upon activation, the lights will change from flashing yellow to a steady red – in advance of when the barriers will deploy.

Vehicle Barriers and they’re fully operational. They are installed on both inbound and outbound traffic lanes to prevent a threat from entering the installation.

The posted speed limit is 25 mph at all times while approaching the barriers. Lights on posts, installed to the right and left sides of the barriers, are added for safety features. These lights flash yellow to alert drivers of the barriers’ presence. Entry controllers can immediately activate the pop up barriers when necessary for force protection. Upon activation, the lights will change from flashing yellow to a steady red – in advance of when the barriers will deploy.

Lights turn to red, ensure your vehicle comes to a complete stop before the white painted line on the roadway in front of the barrier. If the posted speed is adhered to, drivers shall have adequate opportunity for stopping if the barriers are deployed.

Security Forces will perform a daily test of these barriers at certain hours to minimize traffic disruption. Stay alert while driving on Academy roads and adhere to posted speed limits at all times, especially when approaching the gates.

Air Force Ball nears

The Air Force Association, Lance P. Sijan Chapter, Headquarters Air Force Space Command and other local units, host the annual Air Force Ball at the Broadmoor Resort Feb. 15. Entertainment is by Tops in Blue. A social hour begins at 6 p.m. in Colorado Hall and dinner starts at 7 p.m. in the Broadmoor’s International Center. Academy people can purchase tickets from Eddie Lee on the 2nd Floor of the Academy Visitor’s Center. Tickets range from $15-$800 depending on grade and affiliation with the military and the Academy. Tickets must be paid by cash or charge. For ticket information, contact Mr. Lee at 333-7648 or eddie.lee@usafa.af.mil. The last day to buy tickets is Feb. 1. For more information on the Air Force Ball, visit the Sijan Chapter website at www.usafasijan.com. The Broadmoor offers a special rate of $155 for the evening. For reservations, call the Broadmoor at (719) 577-5775 and use group code AFB08.

A & FRF offers options

The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers:

- **Career tracks**: Tuesday-Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Course assists military spouses with assessing skills, values and interests; building an efficient “toolkit” through a career assessment, education and volunteerism; conducting an efficient job search through research, networking, career fairs, interviewing and resume writing; and gives employer feedback on what information opportunities specifically look for in a candidate. People must be registered to attend.
- For more information or to register for a class, call the Airman and Family Readiness Flight at 333-3440 or 333-3445.

Services survey underway

Air Force Services is conducting a customer feedback survey to evaluate and improve how they serve military members and their families. Customers can complete an online survey at www.usafervoice.com or fill out a paper survey while visiting a 10th Services Division activity through Thursday. All active duty and TYD personnel assigned to the Academy, Guardsmen and referees, family members 18 years of age and older, DoD civilians and eligible Air Force contracted personnel, retirees and family members are eligible to complete the survey. For more information, call Wayne Ebert at 333-2822.

Honor Guard recruiting

The Academy Base Honor Guard is looking for new members to participate in 2 details per month while being an active member of a flight of 10-15 guardsmen. There are no grade requirements for memberships. The next training flight is scheduled for Feb. 26. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Hugo Reinor at hugo.reinor@usafa.af.mil, or Staff Sgt. John Hoffman at john.hoffman@ usafa.af.mil.

AFAS grants available

The Air Force Aid Society is accepting applications for the General Henry H. Arnold Civil Engineer Program, which provides $2,000 grants to sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, reserve and deceased Air Force members; statewide spouses of active duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists and surviving spouses of deceased personnel for their undergraduate studies. Applications are available at the Academy Airman and Family Readiness Center, 6248 West Pine Loop or online at www.afas.org. Applications must be submitted by March 7. Awards are announced in June. 25% of funds is limited to tuition, books, fees or other curriculum-required materials.

Tax volunteers needed

The Academy legal office needs Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Representatives for the 2008 tax season. Last year’s VITA representatives saved customers an average of $76,000 in tax preparation fees. All Academy enlisted, officers and civilians are welcome. For more information or to volunteer, contact Tech. Sgt. Timothy Johnston at 333-3940 or timothy.johnston@usafa.af.mil.

Walk with dinosaurs

The World Arena presents Walking With Dinosaurs: The Live Experience through Sunday. Viewers can see 15 life-sized dinosaurs walk and move in the theatrical event modeled after the award-winning BBC TV series Walking With Dinosaurs. Military members are eligible for a $10 discount on all $48 and $35 tickets for the 7 p.m. show today and the 7:30 p.m. show Saturday. For tickets, call Kimberly at (719) 477-2116. For more information, visit www.dinosaurs live.com.

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