Col. Jimmy McMillian prepared for a speech he didn't give. The 10th Air Base Wing commander thought he would be the speaker for the Chief Master Sergeants' dining in Jan. 30 at the Falcon Club. Instead, the chiefs turned the tables on him and made him the guest of honor—and an honorary chief. "It's a huge honor," Colonel McMillian said. "I will cherish it for life." He added, "Not everyone gets to be a chief. There is not much to top it." The presentation was planned months in advance, said Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Granczewski, 10th ABW superintendent. He said Colonel McMillian was the chiefs' unanimous choice for the honor. "It's a very rare event," Chief Granczewski said. "I've only seen it two times in my 27 years in the Air Force." In his nomination for Colonel McMillian, Chief Granczewski cited his ability to focus on taking care of Airmen, to champion for enlisted needs in the Wing and on the Academy and to lead from the front as he continuously meets with enlisted personnel to gather their opinions and perspectives. "He's genuine," said Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis, Academy command Chief Master Sergeant. "From the most senior chief to the most junior airman basic, Colonel Mac can talk the issues of the day and make you feel good about serving in our United States Air Force." Chief Granczewski praised Colonel McMillian for his walk-around visits to Airmen, often well outside regular duty hours. "He's very approachable, and people..." See CHIEF, Page 5

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

10th ABW commander new honorary chief

By Julie Imada
Dean of Faculty research staff writer

If all goes as planned, cadets could soon have the opportunity to learn unmanned aerial vehicle piloting skills at the Academy.

Cadets already build and fly their own radio controlled planes for hobby purposes, but Federal Aviation Administration airspace and aircraft weight rules for official flight of unmanned aerial vehicles has stymied the cadets' ability to get advanced piloting experience. The restrictions could change soon thanks to ongoing negotiations between the Academy and the FAA.

In the meantime, Lt. Col. Dean Bushey and Capt. JamesLotspeich are preparing to undergo range training at Fort Carson with the Academy's larger UAV, the "Cyberbug Grande."

"UAV training will help to prepare cadets for what they may experience in real world combat missions, and the hope is to begin hands-on UAV training during..." See UAV, Page 4
**American history, African American history, a family history**

By Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — My family has been in the same business for more than 65 years now. It started with my grandfather in 1941. He handed it off to my father in 1976, and my father handed it to me in 2001.

Some families run restaurants or bakeries. Some families own and operate their own auto shops or construction businesses. My family business is the Air Force.

My grandfather, Harvey Leon Haynes, was a Tuskegee Airman and a member of the Doolittle Raiders back in World War II. He served in the Army Air Corps and later in the Air Force for a total of 30 years. The majority of those years were during a time when he wasn’t even allowed to enter a movie theater through the front door simply because of the color of his skin. Still, he and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen and others like them served this country and their children and grandchildren could be free of African-American pilots, was inacti-

endure.

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endure.
Falcon Loan to help ease financial emergencies

By Academy Spirit staff

The Air Force Aid Society will begin a new interest-free loan program for active duty Airmen and their spouses March 3.

The Falcon Loan is intended to enhance the support of Airmen on the Academy, said Donna Chavez, family life education and information and referral specialist with the Airman & Family Readiness Flight.

"The society is relaxing the loan process in hopes Airmen will feel less threatened to come forward for help," she said.

The Falcon Loan requires no budget information, backup documentation or approval from first sergeants or commanders.

The only information needed to process an allotment or automatic withdrawal from a bank account is the person’s signature on a downloadable application.

Receipt of a Falcon Loan does not trap.

A loan of $500 or less may be used while the Falcon Loan is being repaid.

The Falcon Loan requires no budget information, backup documentation, or approval from first sergeants or commanders.

All applicants need is a completed AFAS financial assistance application from the Airmen & Family Readiness Flight or through www.afas.org, an ID card and current leave and earnings statement. The material is to be returned to the AFRF for processing.

Spouses with power of attorney may also be assisted.

All military couples, each member is eligible for a $500 loan. They may qualify for a second loan after the first is paid.

Loans fall due in 10 months or by separation from the service.

"The Falcon Loan is not free money," Ms. Chavez stressed. "It has to be repaid, and it is for people with genuine needs."

Capt. Anthony Maripain, chief of scheduling for the 98th Flying Training Squadron said young, new personnel to the Air Force with families may especially benefit from the program.

Ms. Chavez noted one side benefit to the new loan is Airmen can begin to build a relationship with the AFRF.

"We want them to feel comfortable coming to us for services," she said.

Ms. Chavez stressed the Falcon Loan will also provide an alternative avenue of financial support in place of off-base payday loans with high interest rates which can ensnare Airmen in a debt trap.

"We’re here and want to help," she said.

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*All rates and offers current as of February 1, 2008 and are subject to change. Certain restrictions may apply. **This ICIG identifies which times are exchangeable for services.
Until the FAA restrictions over the Academy are changed, the Academy can’t even utilize the technology they have on hand. Fort Carson has restricted airspace and without the threat of mid-air collisions, is the perfect place for flying the Academy’s Cyberbugs. During the several days of training scheduled at Fort Carson, Colonel Bushey and Captain Lotspeich will train on pre-flight processes, the launch and landing processes, in-flight emergency procedures, manipulating the mounted ball turret camera in flight and the various systems and modes of flight operations including manual and auto pilot.

“Once FAA restrictions are fixed, we can train cadets to fly the Grande... the importance is that it can carry up to 10 pounds of payload and support a number of USAFA research projects,” Captain Lotspeich said.

The other goal of undertaking a serious UAV training program at the Academy is to network and partner with other universities UAV programs. “New Mexico State University wants to work with us. They have a very advanced UAV program,” he said and added that the New Mexico program has benefited from working at White Sands Missile Range.

Colonel Bushey added any UAV efforts the Academy offers “incredible research experience for cadets.” Colonel Bushey said because of the multi-disciplinary nature of UAV work, to include electrical and mechanical engineering, computer science and aeronautics, cadets have the opportunity to push the envelope.

“Beyond the Academy, we are directly supporting and developing Air Force leaders for the future,” Colonel Bushey said. He added cadets who are trained in advancing technology become officers who are knowledgeable about the systems they will use in the Air Force.

Another significant offshoot of the new UAV training opportunities at Fort Carson is new opportunities for other UAV researchers. Dr. Daniel Pack of the Academy’s electrical and computer engineering programs agreed that the Fort Carson opportunity offers more research flexibility and access. But Doctor Pack also said until the FAA restrictions at the Academy are waived, cadet participation in UAV programs and research opportunities will be limited.

Colonel Bushey and Captain Lotspeich’s efforts are a precedent, and by opening the door for their fellow Academy UAV researchers, Bushey said it helps in the establishment of a world-class UAV program at the Academy and in “what we can do for cadets becoming Air Force leaders.”
can confide in him,” Chief Granczewski said.

He also praised Colonel McMillian for recognizing Airmen in public for their accomplishments with such awards as coinings and “First-Down” certificates, which Colonel McMillian instituted.

“The simple thank-you he shares with all he comes in contact with motivates them to want to do a better job for their commander,” Chief Davis said. “You just can’t fake genuineness on behalf of a commander caring for his or her Airmen.”

Growing up, Colonel McMillian recalled caring for siblings while his mother worked to care for her family financially. The responsibility as a youth required structure and discipline, traits he found uncommon among his peers at the time.

He also admired the energy, enthusiasm and teamwork of the military.

“They were all opportunities for growth,” he said.

Before coming to the Academy, Colonel McMillian served as executive officer to the commander of the Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. He has 25 years service with Air Force Security Forces in various locations.

Among his commendations are the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

As 10th ABW commander, he has more than 2,000 military, civilian and contract personnel under his command who support base-level activities.

“It’s never about you,” Colonel McMillian said. “It’s about the people who serve. It’s on their shoulders where I stand.”

His formula for success is simple.

“The measure is how your people are doing,” he said. “They want to know ‘Do you care about me and can you lead?’”

Colonel McMillian gives great credit to his team on the Academy for their energy and professionalism.

“They bend over backward to make it happen,” he said. “I have world-class people providing world-class support to our Air Force Academy, our United States Air Force and our United States of America.”

During Air Force functions he regularly checks for the presence of Old Glory.

“I always like to stay close to the colors. The red, white and blue is a constant reminder of why we serve for all Americans,” he said.

Also close to Colonel McMillian are his family—son, Darrius, and wife, Mary, to whom he has been married 24 years.

“They are the wind beneath my wings,” he said. “I’d be nothing without them.”
Cadets to gain leadership awareness at conference

By Capt. Peter Reiley
Instructor, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership

Four cadets will represent the Academy at the 2008 Student Leadership Conference hosted by the Center for Ethical Leadership at the University of Texas at Austin. Cadets 2nd Class Mark Bailie, Ashley Miller, Caroline Tetrack and Danny Velo will participate in the international conference with over 180 undergraduate students invited from colleges and universities around the United States and Mexico on Thursday, March 2.

“The conference will be a fast-paced, intense experience featuring a blend of great speakers, small-group workshops and opportunities for informal discussions with peers about leadership and important issues,” said Dr. Howard Prince, Director of the Center for Ethical Leadership. “Students will share their knowledge and experience while taking part in leadership enrichment challenges and skill development activities; we are pleased to have Air Force Academy Cadets at our conference.”

The conference will also be highlighted by several distinguished speakers including the Honorable Michael Powell, son of General Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission Ms. Ginger Kerrick, an International Space Station systems instructor for the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center and the first non-astronaut spacecraft communicator, and Dr. Rosemary O’Leary, who served on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Return to Flight Task Group and the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel as a consultant to NASA management on issues pertaining to organizational culture and change.

The stated goals of the 2008 Student Leadership Conference are to inspire young men and women to seek or accept leadership responsibilities as part of their contribution to society, increase awareness of current and emerging leadership challenges in a variety of settings, and develop a network of younger leaders to support future collaboration among these emerging leaders. For the cadets, the conference not only prepares them for future leadership positions in the Cadet Wing but also provides exposure to leadership perspectives outside of the military culture.

“I think that the conference will be a great opportunity that will allow me to see a different point of view on leadership, get connected with peers and superiors in a new environment, and increase my awareness of leadership as a whole,” said Cadet Velo. “I am hoping to learn how others are leading and interacting in the civilian world and apply what I learn at USAFA and throughout my career.”

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100 and counting …

Cadet 1st Class Brian Rahl, Cadet Squadron 7, learns where his first Air Force operational assignment will be during the Academy's annual 100th Night celebration Feb. 15. The Academy tradition allows fourth classmen to “decorate” the rooms of cadets 1st class while they are out at the 100th Night celebration in Mitchell Hall.

Cadets 4th Class wove a tangled web of yarn and balloons in a Cadet Squadron 24 room during 100th Night.

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February 22, 2008

Brandon, a vibrant 13-year-old doctors thought would never walk. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy shortly after birth. Today, he is as playful and mischievous as any other kid his age.

With United Way providing funding, the Cerebral Palsy Association helped cover out-of-pocket expenses of therapy and provided wheelchairs and walkers for Brandon over the years.

Roller coasters are Brandon’s biggest thrill. When he describes his favorites, his eyes light up. Brandon has to work hard every day just to keep moving, and with a little help from his “friend,” he’ll continue to push forward.

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By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Forget “four-eyes” or dried out, dirty contact lenses.

The Academy’s Refractive Surgery Center is doing away with the need for glasses and contacts and doing it with the most technically sophisticated equipment available.

Operational since 2001, the Center at the 10th Medical Group has performed more than 15,000 refractive eye surgeries since it opened.

“Overall, almost 90 percent of patients are seeing 20/20 or better without glasses or contacts, and virtually all are 20/40 or better, the legal driving limit,” said Maj. Derrick Montgomery, 10th MDG Ophthalmologist, Corneal Specialist and the Chief of the Refractive Surgery Center.

The Center prides itself on providing the highest quality eye care to patients from the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force warfighters, cadets and pilots, as well as reservists from all over the world. The 10th Medical Group hospital was recently acknowledged as the top Air Force hospital in the CONUS and the USAF is fortunate enough to have a Laser Center commensurate with its prestige. Led by some of the most qualified physicians, optometrists and administrators in the Department of Defense, the Center is forging into the new millennium, utilizing the most cutting edge technology.

“Our equipment is state-of-the-art,” said Paul Dondi, Center manager. “It’s the best on the market.”

For deployed warriors, refractive surgery is especially attractive because it eliminates the need for vision corrective gas mask inserts and modifying night vision goggles to conform to eyeglasses.

The Center boasts a 99 percent pilot-qualifying success rate on pilot candidates who have received laser surgery at the Center.

“Most people are good candidates,” Maj. Montgomery said of the two kinds of refractive surgeries, which would come with hefty price tags off base.

Mr. Dondi, estimated the cost for the elective surgeries could run between $4,000 and $5,000.

“The cornea functions much like the lens of a camera, and the retina the film. Refractive surgery involves reshaping the cornea, which functions much like a “windshield” of the eye, to make light rays fall precisely on the retina.

The Center also provides patients with the oppor-
Fluoride prevents tooth decay

By Capt. Casey Campbell
10th Dental Squadron

February is National Children’s Dental Health Month, and we should use this time to review the use of fluoride supplements to overcome the fluoride shortage in the drinking water both on base and in most of Colorado Springs. Our city remains to be one of the largest American cities lacking fluoride supplementation.

Ironically, the benefits of fluoride were first discovered here in Colorado Springs. In the early 1900s, a young dentist documented mottled, brown teeth that were harder than normal teeth, yet lacking in any cavities. It was eventually determined that this was due to extremely high natural levels of fluoride in the water supply. The fluoride levels in old Colorado City and Manitou Springs have remained the same, and residents of those communities have ample fluoride—too much, in fact. Yet in the very city where scientists first documented what would later be named by the Centers for Disease Control as one of the “Ten Great Public Health Achievements—United States 1900-1999,” two-thirds of the citizens have too little fluoride in their drinking water. While not particularly a problem for adults, it is a detriment to our children.

Fluoride is nature’s own cavity fighter. It is a mineral that occurs naturally in all water sources and is effective in preventing and reversing the early signs of tooth decay. It makes the tooth structure stronger so teeth are more resistant to acid attacks. Acid is formed when the bacteria in plaque break down sugars and carbohydrates from the diet. Repeated acid attacks break down the tooth, which causes cavities. Fluoride also acts to repair, or remineralize, areas in which acid attacks have already begun. The remineralization effect of fluoride is important because it reverses the early decay process as well as creates a tooth surface that is more resistant to decay.

An abundant source of fluoride is even more important in the early years of life (6 months to 16 years) while the permanent teeth are developing. It is during this stage that fluoride is able to integrate into the biochemical structure of teeth from deep within. After teeth have erupted in the mouth, fluoride can only act on the external surfaces of teeth which, while still beneficial, is not as fully protective of over-the-counter mouth rinses containing fluoride. A pediatrician can prescribe the correct dosage based on the natural fluoride concentration of the child’s drinking water and the age of the child. To find out the fluoride concentration in the area where you live, you can contact Colorado Springs Utilities and ask for a free copy of their citywide map detailing fluoride levels throughout the city and surrounding areas. Some other sources of fluoride can be found in some over-the-counter vitamin supplements, as well as certain bottled waters. In addition to fluoride supplements, there is also a documented benefit to the topical use of fluoride on the enamel. Most of us will get this topical dose from standard toothpastes bearing the American Dental Association seal of approval. There are also a variety of over-the-counter mouth rinses containing fluoride.

For more information, contact your dentist or pediatrician.
Summer jobs available at Air Force bases worldwide

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- Students and certain other eligible persons can gain marketable skills and earn money while enjoying their summer vacations with the Air Force Summer Hire Program, Air Force Personnel Center officials here said Feb. 19.

Job vacancies will be posted on the USAJobs Web site and may be advertised locally by a base's civilian personnel flight via bulletin boards, services squadron newsletters or base newspapers.

Also, many civilian personnel flights interact with local community colleges and high schools and have already identified eligible and interested students. In either case, the job request and the name of the hire will be sent to AFPC and processed.

In most cases, the request for personnel action will be sent to an AFPC Management Advisory Clearing House, or "MACH," inbox. There is a specific MACH for every major command. There it will go through normal checks and balances, advertised for hire, and a list of qualified names sent to the requesting official, just as any recruitment action would do.

Applicants must be able to show proof of their eligibility, either school enrollment paperwork, proof of citizenship, or other proof before being hired.

“These great temporary jobs will run from May through September,” said Robbie Brown, a technical adviser to the program. "Bases are looking for clerical workers, lifeguards, recreation leaders and other proof before being hired.

“The "Above All" campaign kicks off this month and will be shown on television, in print and, of course, in cyberspace. In addition to being shown at several sporting events, "Above All" ads will be seen in magazines and during commercial breaks on many top-rated commercial and television news and entertainment programs, Colonel Caldwell said.

The campaign will feature real Airmen performing their missions, like Staff Sgt. Lee Jones from Barksdale Air Force Base, La. His featured prominently in the campaign as a warrior on the front lines of the Air Force’s cyberspace mission.

“I’m excited to be a part of this and to represent the Air Force this way,” said Sergeant Jones, a computer systems operator and cyberwarrior. “Above All is a great slogan because it says how we shine in what we do to defend our nation and accomplish our mission.”

This program gives Air Force bases a highly qualified and enthusiastic group of temporary workers to fill important seasonal positions, Ms. Brown said.
LASIK involves creating a paper thin corneal stromal flap, or flap. The corneal flap is replaced in its original position. The flap is lifted and retracted. The corneal flap is then lifted and retracted. A laser is applied to the corneal bed once the epithelium. A laser is then applied directly to the cornea and allowing for better vision.

There are two alternatives for making the flap. The first, a microkeratome, is used extensively around the country with great results and utilizes a super sharp blade to make the corneal flap. The second, the IntraLase femtosecond laser, created by Advanced Medical Optics, is known as the “blade-less” or “all-laser LASIK.” Over one million procedures have been performed with the IntraLase laser since it’s inception in 2001.

Creating a corneal flap with a mechanical blade is reliable but does incur the remote risk of flap complications that are possible even in the best surgical hands. Intralase takes the guesswork out of the procedure by providing a virtually “perfect” flap every time.

The IntraLase femtosecond laser works by using infrared light to divide corneal tissue by a process known as photodisruption. The laser delivers energy to the underlying corneal stroma at 30,000 pulses per second to create an extremely uniform plane at a precise depth within about 15 seconds.

There are several advantages of using the femtosecond technology. Because of the amazing accuracy of the laser, it broadens the scope of the procedure in that the surgeon can more confidently treat patients who might not otherwise be eligible for LASIK and provide them with the best quality vision science has to offer, said Major Montgomery. “Maybe you can be next.”

To apply for refractive surgery on the Academy, email 10mdg.lasereyeclinic@usafa.af.mil. To learn more about refractive surgery visit www.refractiveeyesurgery.org.
Moonstruck!
Total lunar eclipse wows cadets, visitors at Academy observatory

Cadet 1st Class Kevin Nastasi, Cadet Squadron 3, takes an opportunity to view Mars through the observatory’s 24-inch Cassegrain reflector telescope Wednesday while the total lunar eclipse was blocked with cloud cover. Cadets, instructors and guests stopped by the observatory to view the total lunar eclipse, which will not happen again until 2010.

Cadet Nastasi views the full lunar eclipse through one of the observatory’s telescopes. The entire event was visible from South America and most of North America Wednesday night, as well as Western Europe, Africa, and western Asia on Thursday.

Dr. Devin Della-Rose, Academy Observatory director, takes some photos of the eclipse during a break in the clouds as Saturn and the star Regulus shine nearby. Regulus is the brightest star in the constellation Leo. The physics and astronomy clubs hold education and public outreach events at the observatory throughout the year. For more information, call 333-3266.

Cadet 1st Class Shannon Kranich, Cadet Squadron 31, aligns one of the observatory’s two telescopes.

This photo of the moon was taken from the Academy observatory Monday.
Abernathy a champion for human rights

By Capt. Sabine Peters
Department of Foreign Languages instructor

The success of any major endeavor rarely comes at the hand of only one person, and the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s is no exception. Many capable hands and minds worked tirelessly in the shadows, side-by-side with the people whose names so quickly come to mind when talking about America’s quest to end social injustice. One such person was Ralph David Abernathy.

The tenth of twelve children, Ralph was born March 11, 1926, in the small town of Linden, Ala. His parents, William and Louvire Abernathy, were sharecroppers and, like many of Linden’s black residents, made their living working the fields of local white landowners. William was a very hardworking and frugal man who eventually escaped to manage poverty by selling enough money to buy land, 500 acres in all, which made the Abernathy’s owners of one of the largest farms in the area and even better off than many of the white families in Linden. During the Great Depression, the Abernathy farm supplied the community with a variety of food and other essentials so the family was largely protected from its widespread devastation. Because of his work ethic, William Abernathy became one of the leaders among the African American community serving as deacon in his church and on the school board of the local African-American high school. He became the first African American in Linden to vote and serve on a grand jury.

When Ralph was 16, his father suffered a massive stroke and passed away. Soon after their father’s death, his three older brothers left home to serve in the Army. In April of 1944, shortly after his 18th birthday, Ralph’s three older brothers left home to serve in the Army. In April of 1944, shortly after his 18th birthday, Ralph was accepted into Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., and was sent to Fort Devens, Mass., for basic training. He arrived, but he saw first hand the destruction and devastation this war had caused. After being discharged from the Army, he went to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Kalamazoo College in Michigan, and his alma mater, Alabama State University. A year after publishing his autobiography, "Tumbling Down" in 1989. He was awarded honorary degrees from Long Island University in New York, Morehouse College in Atlanta, Kalamazoo College in Michigan, and his alma mater, Alabama State University. Year after year in Montgomery. A civics professor once talked to his class about the power voting would have for black people. Ralph was so inspired by his words that he convinced a group of students to go to the courthouse with him to get registered to vote. His friends failed to complete the lengthy registration form and were refused, but Ralph managed to provide every bit of detail the form called for and received his voter registration card.

In 1950 he graduated from Alabama State with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a year later with a master’s degree in sociology from Atlanta University. During his time in Atlanta he had the opportunity to be a guest preacher in other churches in the area. One Sunday, he attended a service at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to hear another young preacher by the name of Martin Luther King. Ralph later admitted he felt envious of King’s “learning and confidence.” He immediately saw King as “a man with a special gift from God” and introduced him to King that day, and the two men became friends.

Abernathy returned to Montgomery and became a full-time minister at the First Baptist Church. In college, Ralph had met and dated Juanita Odessa Jones, and on August 13, 1952, the two were married. Sadly, their first child, Ralph II, died in infancy. Their second child, Juandalynn, was born in 1955, and Ralph III, in 1956. In 1954, Martin Luther King Jr. moved to Montgomery where he accepted a position as minister of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, and their friendship grew into a close, enduring partnership.

In December 1955, a Montgomery seamstress named Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on one of the segregated city buses. Mrs. Parks was arrested, and the news and circumstances of her arrest spread quickly. King and Abernathy were contacted about initiating a boycott of the buses, and, along with leaders from other African American organizations, they formed the “Montgomery Improvement Association” to guide the protest. Over the next 381 days, the 17,000 black residents of Montgomery walked or carpooled, and on December 20, 1956, the boycott ended with the Supreme Court’s affirmation that segregation on city buses was unconstitutional.

In 1957, King and Abernathy met with other African-American clergymen to form the “Southern Christian Leadership Conference,” an organization committed to using non-violence in the struggle for civil rights in all other areas of life. King became president, and Abernathy was elected secretary-treasurer of the organization.

King returned to Atlanta in 1959 and officially announced Abernathy as the new president of the MIA. “Abernathy has proven his ability as a leader, and I predict that under his leadership, Montgomery will grow to higher heights and new and creative things will be done,” said King.

Juggling his responsibilities as a minister, treasurer of the Atlanta chapter of the SCLC and president of the MIA proved too much, and, at the urging of King, Abernathy followed his friend and accepted a position as pastor of the West Hunter Baptist Church in Atlanta.

In the spring of 1963, King and Abernathy, along with other SCLC leaders, organized wide-spread desegregation efforts in Birmingham. At the conclusion of 250 other demonstrations, the Civil Rights Act was signed into law, followed by the Voting Rights Act. Abernathy rode to the hospital in the ambulance and followed him into surgery, but the wounds inflicted by the bullet proved too severe. King was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m.

Abernathy succeeded King as president of the SCLC, and he had little time to mourn his friend. Less than a week after the fatal shooting, he led the planned march in support of the sanitation workers in Memphis. A Poor People’s Campaign in Washington, D.C. in May of that year, intended to bring attention to the nation’s impoverished. He spoke to tens of thousands of people in front of the Lincoln Memorial, but during the course of the events was arrested for unlawful assembly and spent three weeks behind bars.

In 1977, Abernathy left the SCLC and was able to devote more time to his church and his family. He went on to lecture throughout the United States and published his autobiography "And The Walls Come Tumbling Down" in 1989. He was awarded honorary degrees from Long Island University in New York, Morehouse College in Atlanta, Kalamazoo College in Michigan, and his alma mater, Alabama State University. Year after year in the 1980s and 90s, Abernathy continued his efforts to bring about change, and he died of heart failure on April 17, 1990, at Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta.

Abernathy was a champion for human rights.
Academy personnel accomplish important mission away from home

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Camp Slayer is part of Victory Compound, a large area in Baghdad surrounding Baghdad International Airport. Academy Protestant Chaplain Capt. Michael Shannon and Cadet Chapel Programs NCOIC Staff Sgt. Holli Meuschke's part partly doesn't see a lot of rocket attacks, just mostly small arms fire.

"Part of it is surrounded by mostly water which makes it a better target," explained the chaplain. "The rest of Victory Compound experiences much more hostility than those of us in our location.

Assigned to the 10th Air Base Wing and working primarily with thePreparatory School and Security Forces, the chaplain from Atchison, Kan., is now the 360th Civil Affairs Airborne Brigade's deputy brigade chaplain.

His main duty is to provide for the "Free Exercise of Religion" to all service members, ensuring all service members have the right to worship according to their faith.

"I also provide counseling, visitations, and brief moral and ethical situations to the commander, preach every now and then and teach Bible studies as needed," Chaplain Shannon said.

"Although I'm deployed with an Army unit, the unit is made up of mostly Navy and Air Force personnel. Our mission is to 'Win the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi people.'"

The unit helps with the building of the infrastructure of water systems, roads, electricity, economics, rebuilding schools, rule of law, medicine, medical clinics, veterinarian support and agriculture.

"Some of our people work to find sponsors in the States to send Iraqi children back to the States to get much needed surgery," said the chaplain. "It has been heart breaking to see these parents with beautiful and lovely children who, like us, want nothing more than the best for their children and get the kind of help we Americans take for granted. I'm so proud of what we do here to help the Iraqi government and the kind of help we Americans take for.

"Some of them are in some very dangerous areas and have seen a lot of conflict," said Chaplain Shannon.

"Many are 'battle stressed' and weary. The warriors I minister to are faced with loss of relationships due to lengthy deployments, stress due to having to go 'outside the wire' each day not knowing if today is their last, the loss of life and fellow soldiers killed. They have to maintain a constant state of vigilance which results in a battle stressed soldier."

One soldier recently approached Chaplain Shannon and wanted to know, "How do I get images out of my mind?" He had seen a fellow soldier killed by an IED and half of his body was gone. He couldn't get that image out of his mind.

He meets Islamic people on base.

"We have by cultural, by-lingual advisors," the chaplain said. "They are ex-Iraqis that are now American citizens and have come back to Iraq to help in various ways. We have three or four doctors and a pharmacist.

Sergeant Meuschke and I go to one of the medical clinics with them from time to time to help out. It's interesting to hear their stories as to what Iraq was like before the first Gulf War and then the sad decline between the first war and the second. They give you a clear picture how just how ruthless and evil this man was to the Iraqi people."

Brutality notwithstanding, this man of the cloth shared what he said is the greatest demand for his services.

"I provide a taste of home and a continuity of faith similar to what they experience in their home churches," Chaplain Shannon said. "I also provide a lot of counseling on marriage relationships, dealing with battle stress, suicide and family reunions. Both of these points I have found to be very important to the warriors I serve."

To many people, Iraq seems to be a desert.

"Camp Slayer was something like a resort for Saddam Hussein," the chaplain said. "There are lakes and several of his palaces surrounding us, and it is, at times, a very peaceful and beautiful place to be. The thing I think, makes Camp Slayer something of a paradox. You are sometimes easily lulled or even captured by the beauty of this place, but then you are awakened to the fact that right over the wall there's war going on and there are people who want to kill you.

He likes being out with the troops making visits and talking with them about their issues. "Whenever I help these warriors, even if it's just one, I have an overwhelming sense of satisfaction, Chaplain Shannon said.

"There's a great line by Eric Liddell in the movie, Chariots of Fire, when he says, 'When I run, I feel God's pleasure.' That's what it's like for me. When I preach or I'm out with the troops providing spiritual care I feel God's pleasure. This is what gives me purpose and satisfaction in life and ministry. That's why I came into the military…to help people. I also have made some good life-long friends with those serving in the Army and Navy."

His wife, daughter and son await his return to the Academy in April.

"I know it's been hard on my wife, like most spouses who remain behind, to do the parenting and everyday life on her own, but overall they are all doing well."

The chaplain believes he'll return a changed man.

"I can't imagine someone going through all of this and not have it change you in some way," he said. "I think it's helped me to put things in better perspective as to what's really important in my life. You only get one shot at life."

He has concluded there's more to life than career, rank, awards, privileges and power.

"When it's all said and done, no one is going care what rank I achieved, or what awards I've won, but for those who will attend my funeral I would hope they will remember the character of the man in the casket and his legacy of being uncompromisingly devoted to his faith, a loving husband and father to his wife and children, and a caring friend and chaplain," he said. "It's all about perspective. I deeply love my wife, and I think she is the real hero in all this. She has made tremendous sacrifices to allow me to do this great work here. Besides Christ, she really is the love of my life."

Sergeant Meuschke is now serving as the 360th CA Brigade's Religious Support Team's NCOIC. The sergeant from Paris, Mo., departed and will return with Chaplain Shannon.

She was deployed to Kuwait in 2001 and Oman in 2003 and said she was ready for the arrival at Camp Slayer. Captain Shannon and Sergeant Meuschke spent time training at Fort Bragg, N.C., before entering Iraq in October.

"I was very ready," Sergeant Meuschke said. "I was well trained and well equipped."

She works mostly with deployed Air Force people and an Army and Air Force chaplain.

Her duties shadow Chaplain Shannon's.

"I see spiritual things happening at the Academy as well as here," she said. "What makes it different here is people seem to cling more to their faith in a place of uncertainty."

She helps distribute donated items, such as clothes, shoes, medicine, food, and toys to the local Iraqi people at the Civil Military Operations Center.

"I have drawn closer to God and my faith," Sergeant Meuschke said. "This has been the most mentally and spiritually challenging deployment for me. I would like to think I'm stronger for it."

"What satisfies her the most so far? "Seeing the Iraqi children smile when I visit them," she said. "I love children, and it helps to hug them when I'm missing my own children."

Sergeant Meuschke and her husband have four children.

"By the end of this deployment I will have missed all their birthdays, but I have made my 3-year-old promise not to turn four until I get home, and he happily agreed," she said. During the other deployments, her husband was a writer and worked from home.

"Now he works out of the home, and the kids are older," said the sergeant. "I think this has been very hard on them. I couldn't do my job if it wasn't for the confidence I have in my husband to run the home-front. He is the one I look up to."
Hot-shooting Lobos top Falcons

By Maj. Brett Ashworth
Director, Public Affairs

New Mexico rode a steady offensive wave to hand the Falcons a 68-51 loss in front of 3,658 fans at Clune Arena Wednesday night. The 17-point loss is the biggest home defeat this season for Air Force.

The Lobos shot 57 percent from the field, including 73 percent from the three-point line, in the first half and 55 percent from the field in the second half to hold off the Falcons. Air Force fought back from a 27-13 deficit in the first half behind the hot hand of Eric Kenzik to tie the game at 29 with just over four minutes left in the first half.

Andrew Henke hit a three-pointer with less than a second left in the first half to knot the game at 35 at intermission. Kenzik scored all 11 of his points in the first half in leading the Falcons to 58 percent shooting from the field.

"They boxed out, played zone and probably played more man then they have in the past," said New Mexico coach Steve Alford. "We got into them (his team), because I thought that our offense was really good, and we didn't guard.

The second half was a different story. The Lobos continued their offensive assault while the Falcons cooled to 33 percent shooting after the break.

"They played very well offensively. We just couldn't defend them," said Falcons coach Jeff Reynolds. "We had three turnovers right off to start the second half, and I think that set the tone for the rest of the game." New Mexico went on a 14-2 run midway through the second half with help from Air Force turnovers and a cold shooting to put the Falcons away.

"They definitely stuck it to us in the second half. They took it right to us," said Henke. "They got to the line and made shots. We had momentum going into halftime and the ball to start the second half. We have to take advantage of that, and we didn't."

Senior Tim Anderson echoed Henke's assessment.

"I think at halftime they came out fired up, and we came out nonchalant," he said. "We need to come out with more intensity."

Kenzik's 11 points and 22 minutes were both career highs. The loss drops the Falcons to 13-12 on the season and 5-7 in the Mountain West Conference.

New Mexico climbs to 21-6 and 8-4.

Next up for the Falcons is a road game at 7 p.m. Saturday at Colorado State.

"We've had a couple of rough games (at home)," Anderson said. "We now need to bounce back coming down the stretch."

Falcons Split Pair of 4-3 Matches

Air Force downs Montana State, falls to Arkansas State

By Athletic Communications

The Air Force women's tennis team split a pair of 4-3 matches Sunday at the Academy. In the morning, Air Force won its third consecutive match, defeating Montana State, before falling to Arkansas State in the afternoon match.

With the split, Air Force is now 3-7 this season.

Air Force relied on a pair of freshmen to seal the victory over Montana State. Trailing 3-2 to the Bobcats, Air Force freshman Christen Monreal won the No. 6 match over McKenzie Hilmer, 6-3, 6-4, setting up the deciding match at No. 5.

Air Force head coach Kim Gidley said AFA freshman Samantha Sarkis won the No. 2 match. Wilson won the No. 3 singles match 6-3, 6-3, over Nuria Hernandez.

"Sarah and Christen really came through for us against Montana State," said Air Force head coach Kim Gidley. "Our top two doubles teams also played very well in this match."

In the nightcap against Arkansas State, it was déjà vu as the Falcons were trailing 3-2 with two freshmen remaining on the courts. This time, Katrina Eromin rallied from a set down to defeat Leydi Zora, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4 at No. 6, but Cassman could not repeat her performance and fell to Renee Branker at No. 5, 7-5, 6-1. Cassman saved 12 set points in the first set but could not pull it out.

The Indians captured the doubles point with wins at the top two spots. Academy sophomore Erylyn Rudico and freshman Samantha Sarkis won the No. 3 match, 8-4.

In singles, Kiser won the No. 3 match 6-4, 6-3, over Rome Van Wyk, and Sarkis won at No. 4 over Menna Kamal 1-6, 6-1.

"The effort from our entire team was amazing today," said Gidley. "We are improving week by week and this weekend was a huge stepping stone."
By Lorna Gutierrez

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Playing football after high school is a dream for many, and playing after college simply a fantasy. For Brett Huyser, a former satellite operator for 4th Special Operations Squadron, the fantasy is a reality.

Mr. Huyser, the assistant deputy director for international plans at the U.S. Air Force Academy, is one of 24 men who play for the Arena Football League’s Colorado Crush. This will be Mr. Huyser’s second year on the squad, where the 6-foot-4-inch, 310-pound reservist plays offensive line. He appeared in six games for the Crush in the 2007 season and had 2.5 tackles for the year.

Prior to his time with the Crush, Mr. Huyser played with the Arena Football League 2 team, the Green Bay Blizzard, where he earned Second Team All-AFL and All-Colorado honors. He also played college ball at the Academy, where he earned All-Mountain West team honors as a senior.

Mr. Huyser said the best part of football is being part of a team. “I get to play games and I get paid for it,” he said of the experience.

Mr. Huyser and the rest of the Crush squad practice about four days a week during their 17-week season, with practices beginning at 10 a.m. Games are played on the weekends and, just like the NFL, there is Monday night football, which is broadcast on ESPN 2.

A native of Rock Valley, Iowa, Mr. Huyser is loyal to both the military and football in addition to farming. He goes back to Iowa every year to help his dad harvest on his farm.

Mr. Huyser also comes from a military family. His dad and siblings are part of the South Dakota Air National Guard, his sister has recently been assigned to Peterson Air Force Base and his girlfriend, 1st Lt. Carey Wooten, is also assigned at Peterson.

The Crush’s official season kicks off March 2 versus the Columbus Destroyers at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

Junior Sean Houseworth posted a new Academy record in the 5000-meter run, crossing the finish line in a career-best, NCAA provisional qualifying time of 13:59.28. Finishing seventh overall, Houseworth broke Ben Payne’s 2004 standard of 14:04.26, while matching the conference-to-date performance earned him the second-fastest time in the conference to date.

In addition to Houseworth, four other Falcons competed in the 5000-meter race. Junior Joe Curran posted a time of 14:30.60 to finish 33rd, while classmates Parker Cowles earned a 40th-place time of 14:35.13. Seniors Josh van Wyngaarden (14:45.82) and Kenny Grosselin (14:55.36) rounded out the Air Force contingent with respective 52nd- and 61st-place finishes.

Junior Daniel Castle was the lone Air Force track and field team member to compete in the mile, finishing in 4:13:52 to finish 34th.

On the women’s side, sophomore Ally Romanko clocked a 800-meter time of 2:12.39 to finish 18th, while senior Kelly Robinson finished the mile in 5:11.08 to finish 49th.

Air Force competes again today in the Robert Shine Invitational in Laramie, Wyo. The meet will serve as a final tune-up for the Mountain West Conference championships, which are set to begin Thursday at the Academy.
Black History Month
In celebration of Black History Month, the Academy presents:
Food tasting: Today, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Community Center Ballroom.
Storytelling in the African American tradition: Wednesday, 2:15-3:30 p.m. at Pine Valley Elementary School. The event features Opalanga D. Pugh as the storyteller.
Movie Night: Feb. 29, 7 p.m. in Fairchild Hall (F1): The event offers a double feature: A Soldier’s Story and Stomp the Yard.
A Black History Exhibit will be available in the Cadet Library for the remainder of the month.
For more information on any of the Black History Month activities, call Master Sgt. Ingrid Williams at 333-9412.
AFR offers classes
The Airman & Family Readiness Flight offers the following classes:
- Transition Assistance Program Seminar: Tuesday-Feb. 29, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Learn how to build a resume, interviewing skills, networking and dressing for success. This class is offered to those separating in a year or retiring in two years or less.
- Home Buying Seminar: Thursday, noon-6 p.m. Learn about obtaining a mortgage, VA vs. FHA loans, mortgage loan fees, working with a realtor or broker and other factors to consider when buying a home. To register, call 333-2247.
- 2008 MWC blood drive: Feb. 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Peterson Air Force Base OSC Thursday, 2:15-3:30 p.m. for deployed troops. For the month of February, donations will be accepted for a class, call 333-3444.
- Going once . . . going twice: Douglass Valley Elementary School presents a Silent Auction and Art & Music Show today from 6-7:30 p.m. The event features a silent auction on items donated from Academy people and local businesses. Students and parents who have graduated throughout the school, and students will provide entertainment with vocal and instrumental performances in the school gym. A complimentary dessert will be provided and all proceeds from the auction benefit the Douglass Valley Elementary community.
- MWC blood drive: A blood drive will be Feb. 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Arnold Hall. The drive is being held in conjunction with other Mountain West Conference schools to see which school can collect the most donations. For more information, contact Cadet 1st Class Pam Findlay at C08Pamela.Findlay@usafa.edu.
- OSC offers brunch, Bunko: The Academy Officer’s/Spouses’ Club offers “Bunko for the Cure” with the Peterson Air Force Base OSC Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Peterson AFB club. All proceeds from the event will go to the Susan G. Komen Colorado Mountains Cancer Foundation. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jeanne by Saturday at 243-3887 or pikespeakscc@gmail.com.
- Donations needed: The fifth graders at Douglass Valley Elementary are conducting a fundraiser for deployed troops. For the month of February, students are collecting microwave popcorn, beef jerky, hard candy, Crystal Light singles and ChapStick. The items will be sent to military members deployed overseas. Donations can be dropped off at the Douglass Valley Elementary School main office or at the District 20 administration building. For more information, call Greg Miller at 234-4266.
- Awards banquet nears: The Academy 2007 Annual Awards Banquet is Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Falcon Club. Cost is $25 for club members and $27 for non-members. Dress for the event is mess dress or semi formal for military, formal for civilians. For more information contact a unit first sergeant.

Astronautics turns 50
The Academy will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its Department of Astronautics March 7. Throughout the day, the Department of Astronautics will host facility and classroom tours as well as discussions of past and current activities. The day will culminate in a gala affair at Doolittle Hall with a reception, dinner and presentations. All current and former astronautics, space operations, engineering science (astronautics track) and systems engineering (space track) majors are invited to attend, as are all current and former Astronautics Department faculty and friends. Seats for the reception and dinner are limited. For reservations, call Cadet 1st Class Pam Findlay at 333-4110 or Dr. Ken Siegenthaler at 333-6993.

Cats visit Arnold Hall
The musical show Cats will be performed in the Arnold Hall Dynasty March at 7 p.m. and March 8 at 2:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Arnold Hall theater box office at 333-4497 or by visiting a Ticketmaster outlet.

Scholarships offered
The Academy Officers’/Spouses’ Club offers 2008 Merit Scholarships for high school seniors and non-military spouses of 0-3 equivalent and below. Eligibles include dependents or spouses of active duty stationed at the Academy, dependents or spouses of retirees eligible for membership at the Academy Club, dependents or spouses of active duty officers on remote tour, dependents or spouses of POW/MIA or deceased Academy affiliates and dependents or spouses of civilian employees eligible for membership at the Academy Club. The application period runs through March 31. Applications are available at the Academy Education Office, area high school counseling centers and the Academy Thrift Shop. For more information, call Sally Mueh at 599-0694 or Carrie Oliver at 488-9625.

Lunchtime volleyball offered
A group of volleyball players is looking for other players interested in participating in pick-up games in the Cadet Gymnasium’s east gym. Games are played once a week from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The activity is open to active duty, retirees, Cadets and students interested. For more information or to add your name to the mailing list, contact Ed Halke at 964-7058 or spooker@aol.com.

AFAS grants available
The Air Force Aid Society is accepting applications for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant 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, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members; state/suicide spouses of active duty members and Title 10 Reserve and surviving spouses of deceased personnel for their undergraduate studies. Applications are available at the Academy Airman & 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 2008. Use of funds is limited to tuition, books, fees or other curriculum-required materials.

Estate claims
If anyone has a claim for or against the estate of Cadet 3rd Class Lindsay M. Brown, contact Lt. Col. Nerisse Fernandez, Cadet Group 2, at 333-6824 or Nerisse.Fernandez@usafa.edu.

Memorial fund
Donations to the Air Force Academy in honor of Mrs. Donna Head should be sent to: HQ USAFA/CMA, Attn: Mrs. Donna Head Memorial Fund, 2304 Cadet Dr., Suite 3200, USAF Academy, CO 80840-5002. Make checks payable to the Air Force Academy.

Nominations wanted
The Academy is seeking nominations for the 2008 Air Force Academy Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented annually by the superintendent to a military person, civilian or group whose contributions (not as part of their official duty) have had a distinct impact on the morale or well-being of the Academy. Anyone who has contributed significantly and directly to the morale or well-being of the Academy through the generous donation of time, resources or influence is eligible. Nominations must be submitted by April 1 to HQ USAFA/CMA, 2304 Cadet Dr., Suite 3200, USAF Academy, Colo., 80840-5002. Nominations packages must include a single page with biographical data to include name, rank, organization or company, telephone number and mailing address, in addition to a typed narrative justification, not to exceed one page, describing the nominee’s accomplishments. For more information, call Steve Simon at 333-8827.

Running series steps off
The 10th Annual Great Prize of Running series kicks off March 15 with the “5k For St. Patrick’s Day” run in downtown Colorado Springs. More than 1,400 runners are expected on the flat course that ends in Acacia Park. There will be Irish music and refreshments available at the finish line, plus a “Leprechaun Fun Run” for children 12 years old and younger. Registration for the 5k and children’s run is available at www.runningcolorado.com. People can also register at the Runner’s Roost store at 107 E. Bijou St. The runs will be followed by the 25th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade at noon.
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