Excellence dominates UCI review

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The Academy has received an overall EXCELLENT rating from its triennial Air Force Unit Compliance Inspection.

The inspection ran from March 10-14 and covered nearly all Academy operations from academics to air base defense.

"I'm here to give you some good news," Col. Rob Hyde, inspection team chief told Academy staff gathered in Arnold Hall Tuesday for the inspection outbrief.

Col. Hyde congratulated the Academy for its performance and asked those who took part in the inspection to raise their hands.

"You are all part of the results of this inspection and part-owner. Every single person matters," he said and added performance is keyed to integrity.

"It's about doing the right thing when no one is watching and, then, to do it year after year after year when no one is watching," he said.

The 2005 UCI netted the Academy an overall EXCELLENT rating as well.

The IG rating structure spans outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal and unsatisfactory categories.

The Directorate of Athletics topped the list of mission elements with an OUTSTANDING rating. The Superintendent's Items, Commandant of Cadets, Dean of the Faculty, Preparatory School, 10th Air Base Wing and Contingency Operations all received EXCELLENT ratings.

The Academy also received OUTSTANDING ratings for base appearance. The United States Air Force Academy Band, command staff chaplain, Directorate of Plans and Programs, and Inspector General, as well as the Directories of Climate and Culture, and Honor and Character, Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection under the 10th Air Base Wing and Protection of Installation Resources under Contingency Operations.

Commenting on these superb ratings, Academy Superintendent, Lt. Gen. John Regni, said, "In our bread and butter areas, and our hot-button areas, we were OUTSTANDING across the board: Honor and Character and Leadership development by our Commandant, Climate & Culture in our Commandant's area which manages all our respect/assault/human dignity, cadet counseling center programs in the cadet wing, our Command Chaplain overseeing religious programs and climate, our Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection programs, including "active shooter" programs — think Virginia Tech — "best ever seen." And, while the IG can give only a satisfactory or unsatisfactory in the Special Interest Items areas, they put in the report if they could assign a rating, our MEO, EEO and Sexual Assault Prevention programs would all be OUTSTANDING."

Coined for their outstanding individual performances were Warren Greenwood with the 10th Mission Support Squadron, Academy Deputy Fire Chief Ken Helgerson with the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron, Airman 1st Class David Christie with the 10th Security Forces Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Erica Cooper with the 10th MSS, Master Sgt. George Poli with the Dean of Faculty and 1st Lt. Nickolas Thompson with the Directorate of Athletics.

General Regni presented a superintendent's coin to Senior Master Sgt. Michael Amacker, a member of the UCI inspection team and firefighter, who gave service well beyond his inspection duties.

On a casual trip to the commissary, Sergeant Amacker gave first aid to a commissary patron who became critically ill. He is credited with keeping her alive before paramedics arrived.

Colonel Hyde stressed this was not just another inspection.

"We are fighting a real enemy out there. The enemy does not wear an uniform," he said.

See UCI, Page 5
Culture of responsible choices...

By the Academy first sergeants

As a microcosm of our society, our military culture inherited society’s diversity and challenges. Among those challenges is the irresponsible consumption of alcohol. The consequences of irresponsible drinking directly impact you, your finances, your ability to live and drive on base, and your safety. This irresponsibility falls well short of the standards America expects of its men and women in uniform.

Of great concern is the phenomenon of “binge” drinking. Binge drinking is defined as more than three drinks (for women) and four drinks (for men) per occasion. Binge drinkers are more likely to engage in high-risk, dangerous behaviors and up to 10 times as likely to be a victim or aggressor in a physical or sexual assault, experience serious accidental injury, drive recklessly, or damage property.

Active duty members charged with an alcohol-related incident face many consequences: non-judicial punishment, demotion, pay forfeiture, loss of driving privileges, insurance increases, fees and fines for civil procedures, discharge, court-martial and jail. The impact of alcohol misuse is felt by everyone, including you. You’ve got to pause and ask yourself, “Is it worth it?”

Inherent in our Core Values is responsibility—individual responsibility for our actions and for our choices. Alcohol-related incidents corrode the very fabric of our wingman culture—a culture in which we look out for each other and take care of each other—a culture of responsible choices. Airmen, make the right and smart decisions for your fellow Airmen that will not endanger any of them or the ability to accomplish the mission. The benefits of this culture of responsible choices can be improved efficiency and preservation of mission-essential assets, both materiel and personnel. If each and every wingman applies the culture of responsible choices effectively, we can drastically reduce negative consequences that befall too many of our Airmen.

So, when we are out there doing the mission, or just doing the everyday things in life, let’s take care of ourselves and our fellow wingmen. Live the core values, think before you act and make responsible choices. This is too easy!

Character Corner

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

C2C Shows Moral Courage and Servant Leadership

By Lt. Col. Brian Calkins

In the week after attending the Leaders In Flight Today character development seminar, the 2-degree cadets are tasked to apply one of the leadership principles discussed. They then email back a short report describing which principle they chose to employ, how they applied it and the result (if known) of their efforts.

As LIFT co-director, I receive and read them all. I was struck by one in particular in which a cadet described his response to an incident involving a teacher (a senior officer) and one of the 4-degree cadets in his squadron. The cadet noticed that one of his Doolies had applied “Leather Luster” to his shoes—against Cadet Sight Picture regulation for 4-degree cadets. When questioned, the Doolie said one of his academic instructors, a lieutenant colonel, had recommended it to him. The cadet knew it was an unintentional mistake by both the instructor; as well as the 4-degree.

Though intimidated, the 2-degree chose to do something about it. He met with the lieutenant colonel and informed him of the incorrect advice. The instructor commended the cadet’s fortitude in (respectfully) confronting him. The 2-degree cadet felt it fair to allow the Doolie to purchase a replacement pair of low-quarters, based on the instructor’s poor advice. Since they wore the same size, he loaned a pair of his own highly polished—but “legal”—shoes to the Doolie until the replacement pair was received. The cadet’s response was an example of both in daily cadet life. Let us all as willing to face our fears, serve others and simply do what’s right on a daily basis.

Where are you going for spring break?

Cadet 4th Class Tony Barr
Cadet Squadron 20

“I’m going to Cancun pretty much to see the sights and get some culture.”

Cadet 4th Class Tim Hartman
Cadet Squadron 12

“I’m going home to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and want to rest and have a good time with my family.”

Cadet 1st Class Jennifer Oeffner
Cadet Squadron 14

“I’m going to France and Switzerland with (Cadet 1st Class) Steve Bennett. We’re going to try and climb Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn.”

Cadet 4th Class Eric Shuk
Cadet Squadron 20

“I’m going home to the Palm Springs (Calif.) area and catch up on all the sleep I missed. I also want to go to the beach.”
MOA to immerse cadets in AFOTEC experience

By Staff Sgt. Tim Jenkins
NCOIC, Internal Information

A new program recently implemented creates a comprehensive mentoring program to assist Academy cadets during their academic and professional development. The program was put into effect with a Memorandum of Agreement between the Academy and the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center and signed Monday in the Dean of Faculty conference room by Maj. Gen. Stephen Sargeant, AFOTEC commander, and Brig. Gen. Dana Born, Dean of Faculty.

The memorandum, which General Sargeant signed during a tour of the Academy’s programs and laboratories, established a collaborative mentoring program involving engineers and testers from AFOTEC with Academy cadets and faculty.

"More importantly than a piece of paper, this is setting up a mentoring and internship program between the operational test and evaluation group of the Air Force to marry up with some of the wonderful activities I saw this morning," said General Sargeant.

The program, which was initially led by AFOTEC’s Detachment 4 at Peterson Air Force Base, will allow AFOTEC personnel to work closely with the Academy in cadet summer research programs, Majors Night, and bring operational experience to this developmental and educational test environment that already exists here," said General Sargeant.

Through a guest speaker program, AFOTEC will have the opportunity to share with cadets the processes, products and programs related to operational testing and to present operational test topics in various academic forums.

"Whether you know it or not, today’s event is all about (cadets)," said General Born. "You will be the beneficiaries as the future of our Air Force in this signing."

During Majors Night and the Academy’s Annual Career Day it will provide AFOTEC people the chance to share operational experience and educate cadets on future opportunities in a variety of Air Force Specialty Codes, which will be valuable in informing undeclared cadets on the benefits of undergraduate engineering study.

AFOTEC involvement with the cadet summer research program will allow cadets to participate in research projects at AFOTEC Headquarters and its Detachments, giving them real-world experience in real-world test environments.

"The Air Force Academy is about developing future leaders for our Air Force," said General Born. "The program here is about learning and development. What we try to do in our labs, classrooms and in the experiences you have is give you real world experience to prepare you for the world that you are going into. This memorandum of agreement is a win for the Air Force Academy, a win for AFOTEC, and it’s a win for our Air Force."

Additionally, the MOA will offer AFOTEC mentoring opportunities within Capstone design projects in the areas of test planning, test execution and test reporting. AFOTEC will help cadets use real-world templates and tools to demonstrate testing methodologies and apply them to cadet capstone projects.

"By signing this memorandum of agreement, we’ll make sure this goes on long after those of us sitting at this table or standing in this room today are replaced by others," he said. "The proof will be in the pudding here over the next 12 months or so, and I look forward to the cadets coming out and getting their sleeves rolled up, getting their hands dirty and working some projects and final phase testing."

General Born also echoed her excitement for what the MOA brings for the future of the Academy.

"The benefits for the future are huge," said General Born. "We’re excited to see the future of how this plays out."

During General Sargeant’s visit to the Academy, he received Cadet Captains team briefings, toured astronautics classes and aeronautics labs and had an opportunity to have lunch with cadets and AFOTEC personnel in Mitchell Hall.

His visit to Colorado Springs also included stops at Air Force Space Command and AFOTEC Det 4.
Cadet earns post-graduate scholarship

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

The National Collegiate Athletic Association announced Tuesday that Cadet 1st Class Kenny Grosselin, an Academy cross country athlete and math major with a 3.95 grade point average, is one of just 58 student-athletes in the nation awarded an NCAA post-graduate scholarship for fall sports.

He is the only student-athlete in the Mountain West Conference that won an NCAA scholarship this fall.

He ran cross-country all through high school. "During my freshman year in high school, I had to choose between running and baseball," said Cadet Grosselin. "It was a hard decision at the time, but looking back, it has definitely turned out to be the right decision." He didn’t arrive at the Academy with the intent of winning a post-graduate scholarship.

"My goal was always to be a high-performing athlete in the classroom and on the track and cross-country course," said the Cadet Squadron 20 math major from Morgantown, W. Va. "For me and my mindset, one was pointless without the other. This kind of balance is rewarded within the scholarship, but the motivation and drive came from other sources."

He said the Academy forced him to realize how precious time can be.

"There were times during my cadet career when I would have given anything to go back," he said. "Time could not go by faster. Now, I would do basic and the four-degree year all over again just to run another season of cross country. The biggest thing I have learned is the importance of entering new activities with an open mind. There are so many different experiences that the Academy demands of cadets, and each one can serve as a source of wisdom and learning opportunity. Most of the time, you can’t take advantage of what these activities have to offer unless you approach them with an open mind!"

In high school, he said, running was just about performance.

"At the Academy running on the cross country team has taught me more about myself, leadership and high-level team performance than any other aspect of cadet life," said Cadet Grosselin. "The only reason I was able to appreciate the lessons is because I have had coaches and teammates who stressed the importance of tackling every workout, race and season as a new learning experience."

Being a student-athlete was one of his top priorities during his four year cadet career.

"The cooperation between the Athletic Department and academic faculty facilitates high performance in the Academy’s student-athletes," Cadet Grosselin said. "I am fortunate to be in a situation where success in the two areas is not mutually exclusive. To me, this scholarship will always reflect the incredible situation I was placed in over these past four years."

One of his favorite parts of competing over the past four years was getting to know the runners at the Academy and meeting all the athletes from different schools.

"I met a lot of impressive individuals, and to be chosen from such an elite group makes it all the more special," the cadet said.

After graduation, he will attend the Pardee RAND Graduate School to earn a doctorate degree in policy analysis. "After that, I will serve as a space and missile officer," said Cadet Grosselin.

The NCAA rewards student-athletes for participation in NCAA sports, athletics and academic achievement. Campus involvement, community service, volunteer activities and demonstrated leadership are also evaluated.

Airmen visit coffee company to learn AF SO 21

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (AFPN) — A group of Air Force officers and senior NCOs from the Pentagon took a tour of a local coffee company here March 12 to learn about improvement efforts in a civilian company using similar tools to those used in Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century.

Leaders of the Eight O’Clock Coffee Company met with the Airmen to share their processes and production by eliminating elements that slow their work.

"We operate with the belief that with structure comes freedom," said Joe Navin, the director of manufacturing. "By sticking to this program, we’ve been able to improve our production time and service to our customers."

Choosing a coffee company as a place to learn about AF SO 21 concepts was easy, said Lt. Col. Juan Carlos Gacharna, the chief of AF SO 21 Integration and Transformation for the Air Force Operations, Plans and Requirements Division at the Pentagon.

"The company is a little over a year into its improvement journey; and it’s struggled at times to keep momentum," he said. "It was beneficial to visit an operation that is in the early stages of its efforts; making significant gains yet has vast room for improvement."

The tour included a briefing from Mr. Navin and other plant leaders, who shared the company’s history; lessons learned and successes since they implemented their new processes. The Airmen, who were all from Air Force Operations, Plans and Requirements Division, were then led out onto the production floor, where they watched coffee beans being unloaded from the trucks, hauled through the roasters, sent to packaging and then stored away in a warehouse.

"The overwhelming and unanimous response to the visit was positive," Colonel Gacharna said. "This group could easily see the value in touring a facility that of the Air Force’s to improve operations. Airmen from around the globe have visited package delivery businesses, airlines and hospi-

tals.

"AF SO 21 is not a temporary spur-of-the-moment idea," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley during a past tour of United Airlines’ administrative and maintenance offices in San Francisco. "It is going to help us see ways of doing things more efficiently, which helps the warfighter, saves money and makes the Air Force a better place to work."
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President honors servicemembers during speech

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The president of the United States honored servicemembers during a speech at the Pentagon Wednesday to mark the five-year anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We removed a tyrant,” said President George W. Bush, “liberated a country and rescued millions from unspeakable horrors. Some of those troops are with us today. You need to know that the American people are proud of your accomplishment. So is the commander in chief.”

Four Airmen were selected to attend the speech as special guests. Staff Sgt. Huey Harris III, from Dover Air Force Base, Del.; Tech. Sgt. Agustin Elias, from Andrews AFB, Md.; Capt. William White, from the Pentagon; and Maj. Patrick Ward, also from the Pentagon, were recognized for their individual accomplishments during various deployments.

President Bush spoke of what servicemembers faced when they first entered Iraq, saying the troops added new chapters to the story of American military heroism.

“Our troops engaged in battle with Saddam, death squads acting on the orders of Saddam Hussein that obeyed neither the conventions of war nor the dictates of conscience,” he said. “These death squads hid in schools, in hospitals, hoping to draw fire against Iraqi civilians. They used women and children as human shields. They stopped at nothing in their efforts to prevent us from prevailing, but they couldn’t stop the coalition.”

He said that even though the war has stretched longer than most expected, and at a high cost, he is proud of what the men and women in uniform have done over there and sees a brighter future for Iraq.

“We will stay on the offense,” he said. “Defeating the terrorists means changing their murderous ideology. There, we have another advantage with our military when it comes to finding the terrorists and bringing them to justice.”

He closed his speech by reaffirming the commitment to stamping out terrorism around the world, especially in Iraq.

“The battle in Iraq is noble,” he said. “It is necessary and it is just. With your courage, the battle in Iraq will end in victory.”

President George W. Bush delivers a speech at the Pentagon Wednesday offering his views on the progress being made in the war on terrorism. The speech was timed to coincide with the 5th anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.
Officials detail scope, units of AFCYBER command

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — The work of building Air Force Cyber Command continues with officials releasing details of what the scope of the command will look like and how it will function in lieu of having a permanent base named for its headquarters location.

“We are aggressively moving forward with plans for having initial operations capability by the Oct. 1 deadline mandated for us by the Secretary of the Air Force,” said Maj. Gen. William T. Lord, AFCYBER (Provisional) commander. “That (IOC) means we will have a portion of the staffing we need and the organizational structure in place to continue to build the command until we reach full operational status.”

Conditions for initial operations capability include, but are not limited to, establishing a budget, articulating details of organizational realignments, developing and assigning manpower requirements, and establishing policies and procedures for daily operations. Many of these details are either still being defined or are under review.

Distributed command, interim location

Normally, having a permanent location is also part of IOC requirements. However, the SECAF has directed the command headquarters to function at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., in the interim.

HQ AFCYBER is authorized 541 positions to carry out its mission, and officials are planning to organize the command under a distributed command concept, whereby those positions will be spread across numerous bases.

As Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said on Capitol Hill recently, “We’ve asked (the command) to become virtual. In other words, we’ve said, we don’t want to see them yet and how they operate and the Napoleonic era. ...We asked them to look (into... 

How the command will be structured

The proposed organizational structure of the command calls for a headquarters, a Numbered Air Force, to be designated as 24th Air Force, and then four wings with more than 65 squadrons assigned to those wings collectively, to include units from the Reserve Command and Air National Guard.

The headquarters will oversee the Air Force Network Warfare Center and through the NAF, will command an Air and Space Operations Center. These functions serve to set policy, enforce standards and guide the rest of Air Force in its daily cyberspace operations.

There will be four wings within AFCYBER to include the creation of a new Electronic Warfare Wing and a new Cyberspace Wing. Joining the new wings will be the Air Force Information Operations Center, located at Lackland AFB, Texas, which will be re-designated as the 689th Information Warfare Wing. Finally, the 67th Network Warfare Wing, located at Lackland AFB, Texas, will round out the command.

The 450th Electronic Warfare Wing will consist of various electronic attack and protection units, as well as having operational input for the EC-130J Hercules and EA-6B Prowler aircraft and flying missions.

The 689th Cyberspace Wing will consist of primarily communications and information functions and various deployable communications capabilities. This wing will assume functions performed currently by the Air Force Communications Agency, located at Scott AFB, III., and the Global Cyberspace Innovation Center, located at Langley AFB, Va. Those two organizations will then deactivate when AFCYBER declares IOC.

Still working details

Working these details has been the task of 160 members of the provisional staff, who have been working since September to chart the command’s course to IOC.

“We have a lot of smart people looking at how to proceed. Ideas are great, but then we have to follow through ... so we’ve been very flexible in how we’ve approached our many challenges,” said General Lord.

“We’re making history, and the (Air Force) has not stood up a command like this, in this way, ever. So, we are being extremely careful and thoughtful in how we move forward on this to ensure we do this right. Some of these things must change, but this is what we’re looking at right now.”

Once IOC is declared, then new team will then continue to work to bring the command to full operational capability, which may take another full year to complete.
Member of famed ‘Doolittle Raiders’ dies

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Retired Staff Sgt. Jacob DeShazer, 95, one of the famed “Doolittle Raiders” who helped boost American morale in the early days of World War II with a surprise air attack on Japan, died March 15.

Born Nov. 15, 1912, in Salem, Ore., Sergeant DeShazer graduated from Madras High School in 1931. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940.

Sergeant DeShazer, then a corporal, was the bombardier of Crew No.16 flying the “Bat Out of Hell,” the last of the 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers to launch from the USS Hornet April 18, 1942, on the famous bombing run over Tokyo. Led by legendary aviation pioneer Lt. Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle, the raid is one of the most studied and talked-about missions in the history of aerial warfare.

All 16 bombers made it to their targets. However, they were forced to ditch or bail out over or along the Chinese coast because the task force had been spotted by Japanese picket boats, and Colonel Doolittle had decided to launch early — more than 600 miles from the Japanese mainland and 200 miles farther out than planned.

Sergeant DeShazer and the rest of his B-25 crew were forced to parachute into enemy territory over Ningpo, China, when their B-25 ran out of fuel. The entire crew was captured by the Japanese the next day.

During his captivity, Sergeant DeShazer was sent to Tokyo with the survivors of another Doolittle crew, and was held in a series of prison camps in Japan and China for 40 months, 34 of which were in solitary confinement. During this time he was subjected to unbelievable cruelty, including being forced to watch helplessly while one of his friends died of slow starvation.

“My hatred for the enemy nearly drove me crazy,” he said. “My thoughts turned toward what I had heard about Christianity changing hatred between human beings into real brotherly love. I begged my captors to get me a Bible, and when the emperor of Japan told them to treat us better, I got one.”

Sergeant DeShazer was able to read the Bible for only three weeks. Still, its message had a lifelong impact on him. After his release, he attended college and then seminary in preparation to become a missionary.

Sergeant DeShazer returned to Japan in 1948, where he spent 30 years preaching and teaching Christianity. He leaves behind his wife, Florence, and five children.
March 21, 2008

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Cadets shine at Operation Night Scorpion

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Cadets with M-16s recently found themselves shooting and being shot by rounds.

Competition for Operation Night Scorpion 3 an Airsoft competition at Fort Wolters, Mineral Waters, Texas, was March 7-9.

Golf Company had the uniform requirements of Desert Combat Uniforms while Hotel Company wore the standard Battle Dress Uniform in woodland configuration.

AirSoft guns shoot 6 millimeter round pellets commonly known as "BBs." They travel at speeds much lower than real bullets and they cannot kill someone nor cause heavy bleeding injuries unlike real guns.

Most AirSoft guns are exact copies of the actual weapons.

They didn't enter the competitions naively.

"This was not a typical tournament," said Maj. Jasin Cooley, Cadet Squadron 36 air officer commanding who took 10 cadets to the event. "This was a military simulation event where two competing sides combined many teams in squads on both sides. There were a total of 73 players on the Hotel Company side. The Academy team competed on the side of Golf Company, which had a total of 53 players to start with."

As a club, they typically play twice a month with as many as 50 players at on-base locations.

Gear was closely checked in order to prepare for the hardships they would face at the area of operations.

"During "skirmishes," protective gear is worn to avoid serious injuries, especially around the eyes and protective outfits are recommended to be worn. Sweatshirts and thick pants can protect the skin from being directly hit.

They showed the rest of the teams and the best players on the Hotel Company side. The Academy team lost a lot of bodies to the wrong end of 10 automatic weapons before they were able to push across," said Cadet Root. Later in that scenario, a Hotel fire team, staying out of range, followed five cadets up a road, hoping they would lead them to their supply depot.

"Actually, the road led away from the depot, and, once we lost sight of them around a bend, we quickly jumped into the woods and set up an ambush," he said.

"As they passed, we thinned their numbers before their medic intervened. Our small force was wiped out, but the diversion took them an hour."

Hotel retreated across the river, and the Airmen and Golf squad forced them back up the road.

Now back at the Academy, the cadet reflected on Operation Night Scorpion 3.

"I imagine what I experienced feels very different from actual combat," he said. "There is not the stress of actually fighting for your life or actually harming the person in your sights," he said. "It does give you an appreciation for teamwork and watching out for the guy next to you, however. Numerous times during the operation, I would have been killed if not for the quick action of my teammates."

A shot participant was "wounded" and laid still for five minutes. If a team's medic could reach the wounded in that time, they were "healed" and resumed the fight.

"We had run directly into Army Ranger retired Master Sgt. Howard Mullen, the Hotel Company commander and his security detail. Our fire team scored hits and dropped the master sergeant."

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Now back at the Academy, the cadet reflected on Operation Night Scorpion 3.

"I imagine what I experienced feels very different from actual combat," he said. "There is not the stress of actually fighting for your life or actually harming the person in your sights," he said. "It does give you an appreciation for teamwork and watching out for the guy next to you, however. Numerous times during the operation, I would have been killed if not for the quick action of my team-mates."

A shot participant was "wounded" and laid still for five minutes. If a team's medic could reach the wounded in that time, they were "healed" and resumed the fight. If not, the person was "dead" and had to leave the battle and come back later "regenerated."

One of Cadet 2nd Class Daniel McLaughlin's favorite parts was during the last day, when the Academy team, in conjunction with a couple other squads, had taken over the enemy's fire base and was trying to prevent them from reclaiming their land.

"I called it the 'We Were Soldiers' moment because it reminded me of that part in the story when one squad became separated from the main force and got themselves surrounded to the point where they couldn't lift their heads for fear of being shot," said Cadet McLaughlin, an electrical engineering major from Midland, Texas.

"We had a similar situation going on at that particular moment in OPNS III, because the BBs were flying so thickly that I had to low crawl in the tall Texas grass from wounded player to wounded player in order to avoid getting myself shot."

His role was that of a medic.

"It was kinda funny in the end though, because I later found out the other team couldn't see me and had thought that our guys were cheating by 'coming back to life after they'd been shot'," he said.

Around 24 cadets will attend a local "Operation Sudden Strike" on the Wyoming border outside of Fort Collins, Aug. 15-17.

Cadets will also attend "Operation Bull Dog" at Fort Hood, Texas, sometime in October. It will allow the cadets to encounter forces in a military operation in an urban terrain in an environment simulating many of the city conflicts facing U.S. forces in the Middle East today.

America is at War...

Men and women in military uniforms are on the front lines of our war on terrorism. In wars past, a Blue Star Banner in the window of a home showed a family's pride in their loved one serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and reminded others that preserving America's freedom demands much.

Every neighborhood has someone serving in the current war on terrorism. As we steel ourselves for a long and difficult war, the sight of the Blue Star Banner in homes will remind us of the personal sacrifices being made to preserve our way of life.

From the more than 4 million men and women of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion...and all your fellow Americans...we say, "Thank you."
Women's History Month featured artist: Ida Wells

**By 1st Lt. Lisa McLean**
10th Mission Support Group executive officer

This week we honor a woman who devoted her life to equality through the language arts, specifically journalism.

Ida Wells was a born a slave in 1862 in Holly Springs, Miss. Her family achieved freedom three years later and immediately began a new life through education. At the age of 16, Ms. Wells worked as a school teacher and, in 1880, headed to Fisk University in Tennessee, where she would find her passion for human rights.

She started making a name for herself with her strong views on women’s rights. This marked the beginning of her lifelong campaigns for the civil rights movement and the National American Woman Suffrage Association. NAWSA was one of the first organizations to lobby for women’s voting rights as well as women’s rights in the workplace.

In March 1892, Ms. Wells became a public figure in Memphis when she led a campaign against segregation in the local railroads. In the same year, she lost her job as a teacher after criticizing the Memphis Board of Education for under-funding African-American schools. This would not prove a setback, but the beginning of another chapter in her life.

In the subsequent years, Ms. Wells went on to write against lynching, Jim Crow laws and other injustices while advocating civil rights and women’s suffrage. She wrote for several newspapers to include, Free Speech in Memphis, The New York Age in New York and The Conservator in Chicago. Even after becoming a wife and mother of four, Wells continued her writing through pamphlets and books.

Ida Wells was also one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909. At the first conference of the NAACP, she successfully persuaded the organization to resolve to make lynching a federal crime. In 1913, she began campaigning for NAWSA, using her literary talents to advocate the importance of women’s rights.

During World War I, Ms. Wells wrote for the Chicago Tribune and campaigned for racial equality in the U.S. Army.

Racial inequalities in the U.S. Army were of particular concern for Ida Wells. She wrote about the tragic 1917 Houston Riot, which resulted from tensions between the Houston citizenry and the Third Battalion of the 24th U.S. Infantry, an all-black unit. It is reported that Houstonians thought showing respect to the black servicemen would encourage local blacks to request the same treatment. Fighting during the riot caused nearly 20 deaths. Twelve soldiers (some articles claim 14) were later sentenced to death by hanging, and over 40 others were given various prison sentences. In her report of the incident, Ms. Wells wrote, "This was done to placate Southern hatred. It seemed to me a terrible thing that our government would take the lives of men who had bared their breasts fighting for the defense of our country.”

Ms. Wells herself faced injustices in retaliation against her campaigns. While distributing anti-lynching buttons, Wells was accused of treason against the United States government. The investigating officers chastised her for being critical of the government and indicated that not even her fellow blacks would support her if she continued. Never one to crumble under intimidation, Ms. Wells replied: “I'd rather go down in history as one lone Negro who dared to tell the government that it had done a dastardly thing than to save my skin by taking back what I have said. I would consider it an honor to spend whatever years are necessary in prison as the one member of the race who protested, rather than to be with all the 11,995,999 Negroes who didn't have to go to prison because they kept their mouths shut.”

This type of personal strength and conviction was a hallmark of Ida Wells’ character throughout her life. Even after her retirement in 1928, she wrote on the need for civil rights revision in her autobiography, Crusade for Justice. In it, she detailed historic collaborations with such noted figures as Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and Jane Addams. Had her race and gender been taken more seriously at that time, more information might have been preserved regarding this spirited writer’s influence.

Ida Wells died of kidney failure on March 25th, 1931. She left behind a literary legacy that has changed countless people’s views on the rights of women and African-Americans.

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Pilot inducted into women’s aviation hall of fame

**By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee**
Air Force News Agency

SAN DIEGO (AFPN) — In the months since her last flight as the Thunderbirds No. 3 right wing pilot, Maj. Nicole Malachowski has had a hard time putting her accomplishment of being the first woman to fly on a U.S. military flight demonstration team into a proper perspective.

At the San Diego Air & Space Museum March 14, she was blindsided by an emotional moment that placed her pilot moment and had to excuse herself for a few minutes. “I’m 33 years old and looking at something that I wore in so many airshows displayed in a museum,” she said. “People were just looking at it and taking photos and standing there. I realized the significance of what I have done and how I could inspire others.”

Women have been involved in aviation since the time of hot air balloons,” Major Malachowski said. “It’s only normal to me that women are going to add their strength and skills to the effort of pushing aviation forward.”

The major said one of the highlights for her in the conference was interacting with members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, which was an organization essential in freeing up male pilots for combat service and duties in World War II. The women would transport aircraft throughout the U.S. and Canada. They also assisted in training pilots. Thirty-eight women died while performing these duties.

“We have to honor the accomplishments and courage of the Women Airforce Service Pilots,” Major Malachowski said. “People think it is great that these women were flying aircraft 60 years ago. It is not remarkable because they were women. It is remarkable because they were there in defense of the free world and helped bring our country and allies to victory. I know I had the Thunderbirds experience, and I’m standing here today in this wonderful uniform because of the contributions and sacrifices of people like them.”

The conference was also attended by more than 250 military people. In her duties as a security forces member, Senior Airman Tara Carrah has spent a lot of time guarding an aircraft while stationed at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. She said she really enjoyed the professional development courses in the conference.

“I have been inspiring to see so many powerful women,” she said. “It makes you feel like you can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it.”

The Airman also had a chance to speak with Major Malachowski.

The major said her mantra has always been that actions speak louder than words.

“I wanted to show through my actions that women are capable of anything,” she said. “I did my best, and I hope I represented our Air Force with the respect it deserves.”

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All-female crew completes in-flight refueling over Iraq

By Senior Airman Carolyn Viss
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — An all-female crew of three women deployed to Southwest Asia flew an in-flight refueling mission together in a KC-135 Stratotanker over Iraq in honor of National Women's History Month Tuesday.

Maj. Leslie Picht, the aircraft commander; 1st Lt. Cindy Dawson, the co-pilot; and Senior Airman Killian Lange, the boom operator, refueled an A-6 and two Navy F-18 Hornets supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

They are all deployed to the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron in Southwest Asia.

Maj. Adrian Byers, the 340th EARS director of operations, said he enjoys scheduling crew members to fly together in conjunction with heritage months because it reminds the unit — and, hopefully, the world — of the progress that's been made by the people who came before us.

"I have noticed a change in operations for women in theater," Major Picht said. "Five years ago, when I was a co-pilot deployed to Saudia Arabia, female pilots or boom operators sometimes could not get controllers to acknowledge them on the radios. I would intentionally lower my voice for radio calls to prevent any problems. All-female crews were intentionally avoided to prevent problems with support for diverting aircraft. These things have definitely changed in the last few years. It's nice to see our progress in racial and gender equality is not just a national progression, but we are now changing the norms internationally by our presence."

Perhaps proof of that change, the two more junior-ranking women said their experiences as female pilots haven’t been difficult or fraught with gender-based obstacles to overcome. The military has come a long way since the 1950s when women were taught how to wear makeup in boot camp.

And the fact that they’re female fliers isn’t too surprising to most people today either.

"Most people, especially civilians, assume when you say 'Air Force' that you fly planes anyway, so it’s not really shocking to them," Airman Lange said. This is her third deployment in the three years she’s served. "I never thought I'd be in the military, but once I became interested in joining, I knew I wanted to do a flying job."

She said she doesn’t really think of what she does as "something amazing" until she sees Air Force recruiting commercials and talks to her friends and family about her job. Then, "getting other people's input makes me realize how cool it is."
Recognition

Continued from page 1

“The training is a key part to the Officer Development System that serves as the roadmap to take basic cadets and, four years later, mold them into second lieutenants.”

With recognition, fourth-class cadets gained stamina, pride and hard-won privileges. “I’m so much happier. Everything is so much better,” Cadet Hart said of his post-recognition days.

The Class of 2011 is no longer required to walk at attention on the terrazzo, wear uniforms while away from the Hill or keep their rooms in perfect order every hour of the day.

Cadet Hart said life in the squadron especially has improved dramatically for him. In the days following recognition he is finding upperclassmen friendlier, and he can close his door during the day which makes visiting with friends easier.

“It’s like a load’s been lifted,” he said.

“Wearing my backpack,” said Cadet 4th Class Alister Call with Cadet Squadron 37 of his favorite new privilege. “Everything’s heavy if you carry it around all day.”

Cadet Call, a Preparatory School grad, was also relieved his two-year path to recognition was behind him. “It’s finally over,” he said.

Cadet 4th Class Jessie Stimpson, Cadet Squadron 36, said she won’t miss the long list of information she shouted to upperclassmen in the dorm halls. Recognition meant she, too, can visit with friends more readily.

Led by upperclassmen, the recognition challenges began Thursday night in the squadrons when fourth-classmen were simultaneously tested physically and mentally, and put through a stand-up knowledge test.

On Friday, the soon-to-be-recognized class took on chutes and ladders for physical endurance, an assault course, a leadership course for coordination and team work and a “tour” of the terrazzo when freshmen absorbed the Air Force heritage displays, including the class crest wall, static aircraft displays, graduate memorial, honor wall and spirit hill.

An unexpected heavy snow forced chutes and ladders, and the leadership and assault courses inside...
to the gyms. The fourth-classmen didn't escape the winter weather all together. They were still required to do push-ups in the snow in front of the class wall during the terrazzo tour.

Friday evening "theme rooms" called the fourth-classmen for reflection. Two of the rooms were scenarios for prisoners of war and as visitors to their own funerals.

Saturday morning, rooms and uniforms went under the microscope of upperclassmen. Before trekking out for formation for the run to Cathedral Rock, upperclassmen "slammed" their rooms by strewing personal possessions throughout the room.

During the run to the rock, upperclassmen graciously restored order in the fourth-degree rooms.

Saturday evening, in the darkened hallways of the dorms, lined with upperclassmen rendering salutes, each fourth-classman at last heard the sweet words, "Recognition granted."

Dinner followed in Mitchell Hall where upperclassmen congratulated the new official members of the Cadet Wing.

Cadet Hart found the weekend tough, physically and mentally.

"You're tired when you do things but have to be able to think when you're tired," he said.

The hardest part for Cadet Stimpson wasn't necessarily the various wearying challenges, but the anticipation.

"That was brutal," she said.

Theme rooms provided a welcome break from the physical rigors.

Cadet Stimpson was impressed with the prisoner of war room. Fourth-classmen were initially briefed on the scenario whereby they were shot down, taken prisoner and interrogated.

"It really opened my eyes to what could happen," she said.

Cadet Call was a visitor to his own funeral in another theme room, where fourth-classmen heard their own eulogies and saw photos of themselves on display.

"It was pretty powerful," he said.

Cadet Hart also attended his own funeral, and it left a lasting impression.

"It made me think of the possibility of what life in the military could mean," he said.

Persistence, endurance and team work from the fourth degrees earned respect from upperclassmen and other leadership.

"Throughout the weekend I saw several fourth classmen reach what they thought were their physical limits," said Cadet 1st Class David Franck, who served as acting commander for Cadet Squadron 11.

"The upperclassmen in the squadron did a great job in pushing them past their limits, to show them they are truly capable of more than what they think."

Academy Military Trainer for Cadet Squadron 36, Master Sgt. Robert Hill, was also impressed with the fourth degrees.

"As physically and mentally tough as each day was, they never gave up," he said. "I was impressed by the effort, professionalism and determination these young men and women showed. I couldn't have been more proud to be one of their AMTs."

Colonel Mackenzie was also pleased with the fourth-classmen and the upperclassmen who led the exercises.

"It was amazing to see the time and effort the upper-class cadets invested to make this training event a success," he said. "I think in some ways the upper-class cadets worked just as hard as our freshmen."

Celebration for Cadets Stimpson, Call and Hart meant a dinner out and time away from the Hill.

Cadet Hart also invested in some new civilian clothes—and caught up on much-needed rest.

"I slept as long as I wanted to," he said.
Air Force takes AHA throne with double overtime win

Win gives Falcons NCAA tourney bid

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Josh Frider's goal 56 seconds into the second overtime lifted Air Force to a 5-4 win over Mercyhurst in the championship game of the Atlantic Hockey Association Tournament Sunday at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester, N.Y.

With the win, Air Force wins its second consecutive AHA championship and earns the automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament. Air Force, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, will play in one of the four regionals on March 28-30. The opponent and site will be determined on Sunday. Air Force is the first AHA team to ever win back-to-back titles.

A wild third period saw Mercyhurst twice take the lead, only to have Air Force tie the game each time and force overtime. The Lakers took their first lead of the game less than four minutes into the third period when Nick Vandenbeld scored from Chris Risi for a 3-2 Lakers lead.

The Falcons came back to tie the game when senior Josh Schaffer scored. Mike Phillippich and Sean Bertsch assisted on the play to tie the game at 3-3. Just over a minute later, the Lakers took a 4-3 lead on a goal by Brett Robinson. His goal, a rebound of his own shot at the 11:09 mark, came from Matt Pierce and Kirk Medernach. The Falcons again tied the game 19 seconds later on a goal by Josh Frider. Olson took a shot from the left side that bounced off the back wall. Frider collected the puck and beat Lundin short side for his twelfth of the season.

Each team had chances late in the game, but it was the Lakers that had the final opportunity in regulation. Cottreau scored on the power play. Just seconds later, Ben Cottreau scored on the flurry in front from Jeff Terminisi. After a penalty on Falcon's Jeff Hajner, Laker winger Steve Cameron scored with a wrister from the left side to tie the game at 2-2.

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PUEBLO, Colo. - The Air Force baseball team rallied from 5-1 and 8-7 deficits for an 11-8 win over South Dakota State on a cloudy and cold Sunday at Hobbs Field in the Rynnow Sports Complex. The Falcons take their first series of the season and improved to 7-9. The Jackrabbits fell to 5-9.

The Falcons received clutch hitting and relief pitching performances for the second consecutive game against the Jacks.

Trailing 7-3 in the fifth inning and the bases loaded, South Dakota State opted to leave in starting pitcher Jared Koch to face Air Force cleanup hitter Addison Gentry. After swinging through a changeup, Gentry took the second offering from Koch, another changeup, and hammered it over the right field fence for a grand slam which tied the game up.

After SDSU re-took the lead in the top of the sixth to jump ahead 11-8.

The Falcons had 14 hits on the day. Derbigny went 4-for-5 with three runs and two RBI. Gentry went 3-for-5 with two runs and six RBI. Nathan Carter added three hits and two runs scored. Air Force also swiped five bases on the day with Carter stealing three and Derbigny two.

South Dakota State had 11 hits in the game. Four players recorded two hits, with Stephen Turner hitting a two-run homer to go with his two hits. Reliever Christian Larson (0-3) took the loss. Koch went four innings, allowing seven runs on eight hits.

Falcon starter David Miller pitched three innings, allowing five runs on seven hits while striking out two.

Air Force held an early 1-0 lead but SDSU scored five in the fifth inning, highlighted by six consecutive hits in the inning. The Falcons rallied with two runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it a 5-3 game.

Air Force is now 7-3 on the season when holding opponents to under 10 runs. The Falcons have won six in a row in games holding opponents under ten.
AFRF offers options

Nutrition Month observed

Athletic facility closures

more information, call 333-3733.

35 runs; Tuesday, 4 p.m., at the Santa Fe Trail located near the HAWC. HAWC staff will provide refreshments and run times at the turnaround point and end of the run route. Prizes will be awarded to the top two male and female finishers. For more information, call 333-3733.

AFRF offers options

The Airman & Family Readiness Flight presents:

Resume writing: Wednesday, 9 to 11 a.m.: Provides information on different types of resumes and cover letter styles and how to improve resumes.

Writing effective accomplishment statements: Wednesday, 11 a.m. to noon: Learn how to write effective accomplishment statements that clearly reflect your expertise and how to get a resume noticed.

AF Civil Service class: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Provides information on how to prepare and apply for a civil service career.

Newcomers’ Base Red Carpet Tour: March 28, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Offers an informative, fun-filled base tour that gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals all there is to see and do at the Academy.

Babes for Babies: April 2, 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.: Expectant active duty Air Force personnel and spouses are invited to attend this class, which offers information on budgeting for a baby, calming a baby, coping with stressors and Air Force Aid Society resources. Eligible families will receive a “baby bundle.” Dads are encouraged to attend. All other expectant parents are welcome to attend, but will not receive a layette bundle.

Military Spouse Portable Career & Virtual Assisting Training. April 2 and 3, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Virtual Assistants are military spouse self-employed professionals who provide off-site support services to their clients from home. The class will be held at the Peterson Air Force Base Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information, call Jeanne at 333-3168. 

Smooth Move: April 3, 3 to 4 p.m. or April 10, 4 to 6 p.m.: Lessen the stress of an upcoming move by learning innovative ways to make it a smooth one. This is a mandatory class for all Academy personnel who are experiencing a permanent change of station.

For more information or to register for a class, call 333-3444.

Legal office closure

The Base Legal Office locations in Harmon Hall and the 10th Air Base Wing will be closed April 1 from noon to 2 p.m. For emergencies, call the Command Center at 333-2633 and ask for the on-call legal representative.

Money Makeover Live

Dave Ramsey’s The Total Money Makeover Live will be held April 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Fort Carson Special Events Center, Bldg. 1829. The event is free to all military I.D. card holders and Department of Defense civilians and tickets are limited. For more information or to sign up, call the Academy Airman and Family Readiness Flight at 333-3444.

BLAST! at Arnold Hall

BLAST!, winner of the 2001 Tony Award for “Best Special Theatrical Event” and the 2001 Emmy Award for “Best Choreography” performs April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Arnold Hall. For tickets, visit the Academy Concerts box office or call 333-4497.

Toastmasters sought

The Academy is starting a Toastmaster International chapter and is seeking those interested in attending. Those interested must submit their names, and once all the names are collected, a demonstration meeting will be scheduled with the regional director. To submit your name or for more information, contact Master Sgt. Angela Evans at angela.evans@usafa.edu or Master Sgt. Donald Compe at donald.compe@usafa.edu.

Scholarships offered

The Academy Officers’ Spouses’ Club offers 2008 Merit Scholarships for high school seniors and non-military spouses of 0-3 equivalents 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 on remote tours, 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 Much 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, retired, dependents and contractors. For more information or to add your name to the mailing list, contact Ed Hall at 964-7058 or spooker@aol.com.

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 student body of the Academy. 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 a clear address, 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.

Scholarships offered

As part of the Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade, Alent Management Services, in coordination with the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Division, sponsors scholar- ship awards to deserving family members of U.S. Military servicemembers killed or wounded in action while in a designated combat zone. The scholar- ships are awarded to family members who have been accepted into an accredited college or university, or who are current college students seeking support for either a traditional degree-seeking program up to and including master’s degrees, or for vocational/career and technical education. Applicants must be committed to attend during the 2007/2008 academic year. For more information or for a scholar- ship application, contact Brian Binn at (719) 575-4325 or brian@ccx.org, or Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade Event Manager, Brenda Carender at (719) 262-7160 or brenda.carender@aleutmgmt.com.

Earth Day opportunity

Volunteers are needed to support Earth Day activities April 19 at Garden of the Gods. A start time is to be determined. Activities include cleaning up the park, 30th Street (along the front of the parking lot) and the mesa overview. Lunch will be provided to volunteers, and events promoting Earth Day for children will be offered after the cleanup. Volunteers are encouraged to bring work gloves, sunscreen and water to dress for the weather. For more information or to volunteer, contact Senior Master Sgt. Keith Roche at 554-2506 or keith.roche@peterson.af.mil by April 11.
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