By Master Sgt. Dean Miller
Academy Public Affairs

Dual responsibilities to represent those in the Long Blue Line — past and present — and a mission to inspire future officers, are obligations of cadets and graduates alike; they are also attributes of the various weapon systems on display at the Academy. For one such display, retirement day arrives Wednesday.

Standing in front of the Cadet Field House since its dedication ceremony, Dec. 9, 1971, the Minuteman III ICBM display has inspired thousands of Academy cadets over the years, many of whom perform strategic missile operations in America's missile fields today.

The Academy's MMIII, still in the nation's official missile inventory and subject to Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I) monitoring, is being retired from permanent display here. Based on a possibility of collapse related to internal corrosion causing potential structural integrity problems — combined with high winds common to the area— the Cold War veteran is being removed as a safety precaution.

"It is fitting that the Minuteman III is prominently displayed at the Academy," said Director of Academy Communications Johnny Whitaker, whose office is also responsible for presentational static display aircraft on the Academy. "It represents a strategic weapon system that helps maintain our nation's security every night — a system that has been a vital deterrent of nuclear war and stalwart sentry of peace for decades.

The Association of Graduates of the U.S. Air Force Academy announced the selection of William L. Thompson, Class of 1973, as the organization's president and chief executive officer. Known as "T" to classmates and friends, he brings years of experience to the AOG as an award-winning entrepreneur, airline pilot, community and government leader, tax attorney, and public speaker.

While working as a Delta Air Lines pilot, he owned several successful small businesses, and served on boards of directors of a number of diverse organizations, ranging from national charities to local banks. Mr. Thompson served for 17 years as head of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, under three governors from both political parties.

Service to organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Bank of America, Boeing, Boy Scouts of America, and 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. further enhances his résumé.

According to Mr. Thompson, in looking at what other service academy alumni associations have accomplished, he has set his sights high.

"There is no reason why we can't organize our grads and friends of the AOG and the Academy to surpass those excellent organizations in what they do for their members and their institutions. That's my goal going in," he said.

As a cadet, Mr. Thompson was a receiver on the 1971 Falcon team that went to the Sugar Bowl, and as a firstie he served on the Cadet Wing staff.

Thompson assumed the position Monday. He succeeds Gary Howe, Class of 1969, who served as CEO since the retirement of Jim Shaw, Class of 1967. Mr. Shaw left the position in March after more than 15 years of service to the organization.
New CSAF addresses entire Air Force

It is an extraordinary privilege for Suzie and me to join you as your new first family. We are grateful for this rare opportunity. I want to lay out what I think is important as clearly as I can. The U.S. Air Force is a premier organization that provides our nation a vast array of capabilities in air, space and cyberspace. The nation is at war and the capabilities we provide our leadership are critical to success. Whether our contribution is in irregular warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan, the fight to save lives through humanitarian relief operations, or deterrence and dissuasion of potential adversaries, the Air Force is a key contributor to the national defense of America.

We are part of a joint team that trusts us to perform superbly when called upon. Everyone in this organization contributes to our readiness—no one should measure their worth by their proximity to the target. For many years, the U.S. Air Force has been at the forefront of our nation’s business worldwide. As we continue to fulfill the high expectations others have for us, let’s approach our business with enthusiasm, quiet professionalism, and an abiding respect for the values we were taught from the front; I’ll work hard every day and strive to maintain the same high standards as each of you; and along the way we’ll have fun, too!

NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, USAF
Chief of Staff


Character Corner

What’s the score in life’s game?

By Chaplain (Maj.) George Youstra
Center for Character Development

Every endeavor or “game” in life has its own rules and its own definition of what it means to win.

Some teams measure success in the points scored (look at the Denver Nuggets or Phoenix Suns) and others in championships won (look at the San Antonio Spurs). Which is really the more successful NBA team? Some teams are more concerned in their profits while others may look to the number of people they serve. But no matter what the game is, there is always a scoreboard. If a team is to accomplish its goals, it has to know the score.

Why is the score so important? Because team members who succeed make adjustments to continually improve themselves and their situations. In preparation, teams come up with detailed game plans. But as the game goes on, the game plan means less and less, while the scoreboard tells you what really is happening.

Similarly, circumstances in life are like the game—constantly changing. You see, the game plan tells you what you want to happen, while the scoreboard tells you what really is happening. Forgetting is not as easy, especially if it affects the mission.

When you’ve been done wrong, is it easier to forgive or forget?

Lyle Hageberg
Volunteer, Academy Retiree Activities Office

“It’s much easier to forgive. If you can forgive, you can also forget.”

Senior Master Sgt Gerardo Topia
Superintendent, MPP

“It’s easier to forgive—if you forget, you’re not applying any lesson to whatever the mistake was.”

Tech. Sgt. Julie Waltz
NCO-in-Charge, Command Assignments

“It’s easier to forgive, especially if it’s an honest mistake and the explanation is acceptable. Forgetting is not as easy, especially if it affects the mission.”

Alman
Daniel Johnson
10th Medical Group

“It’s easier to forget. If you just let it go, that’s easier than a face-to-face encounter to forgive.”
Gymnast to lead as Cadet Wing commander

Cadet says he’s idolized individual since freshman year

By Valerie Perkin
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director

Air Force senior gymnast Cadet 1st Class Jacob Schonig was selected as the Academy’s Cadet Wing Commander for the 2008 fall semester. The position, which oversees the daily operations of the cadet wing, is the highest leadership role attainable by a cadet. Cadet Schonig is the 20th Air Force athlete to receive the title of wing commander.

“Since my (freshman) year at the Academy, the wing commander has always been an individual who I’ve idolized,” Cadet Schonig said. “When I was appointed to be the next wing commander, it was hard for me to believe. I never thought I would be given this amazing opportunity. Having the honor of leading these outstanding cadets is a dream come true for me.”

As the Academy’s Cadet Wing commander, Cadet Schonig reports directly to the Commandant of Cadets and is responsible for all duty functions performed by the cadets. He and his staff supervise all Cadet Wing activities, while enforcing proper discipline and conduct within the wing. He also has numerous other assigned responsibilities, including supervising the group commanders and executing wing-wide projects.

In order to become a Cadet Wing commander, a cadet must pass a rigorous selection process. More than 200 are nominated at the squadron level. This is eventually narrowed down to the top 25 in the wing. There are three wing commanders chosen each year – one for the summer term, one for the fall term and one for the spring term.

Schonig will also serve as a co-captain for the men’s gymnastics team this season. Despite not competing in gymnastics until after entering the Academy, he is a two-time participant at the NCAA Championships, a two-time USA Gymnastics All-American and the 2008 USAG national collegiate champion on the still rings. He is also an all-academic team selection by the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation and the College Gymnastics Association.

New Exhibits

Mike Borrello, left, and John Barnett place a new photo panel in its holder at the North Overlook Tuesday. The National Parks Service and Academy Public Affairs office collaborated on the project, creating four new exhibits to replace the old display. Mr. Borrello and Mr. Barnett are employees with CH2MILL. The Academy’s North Overlook is a popular stopping spot for visitors.
Virtual Airman’s Attic available on-line

Members with excess household items can donate to families in need

By Capt. Corinna Jones
Academy Public Affairs

If you have too much stuff and don’t desire to hold a garage sale, you can give away your belongings at the click of a mouse. The Academy Airman’s Attic now has a virtual option, a web-based program, allowing items to be donated to military members and their families in the rank of staff sergeant and below.

“When times are tough, the attic is here to support families with giving new clothes to ever growing kids, nice household items to make a ‘military house’ feel a little more like ‘home’ and to give furniture to growing families or Newlyweds,” Ms. Cassandra Nordin, Airman’s Attic coordinator. “The virtual Airman’s Attic will allow families who are unable to donate to the physical space of the attic, to still give away their items to families in need. Say you have a couch that you need to get rid of but have no truck to bring it to our location. You can list the couch on the vAA and someone in need of a couch can come and pick it up from your house. It’s a great alternative.”

Items must be offered free of charge. Anyone with a common access card can donate an item by providing a photo or written description of the item with contact information of either an e-mail address or phone number by email at airmanenattic@usafa.af.mil

E-mailed donations are consolidated every Friday and uploaded on the vAA the following week. Listings are posted for three weeks, unless the donor notifies vAA the item has been picked up.

Local Airmen and their family members can shop for items they need or want by searching the vAA website. However, the site must be accessed with a common access card at: https://afkm.wpafaf.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP/Filter=OD-SC-SP-67.

Virtual Airman’s Attic users will coordinate pick-up of donations directly with the donor and must not intend to sell the items received. Doing so will terminate your privileges of donating and receiving through the Academy Airman’s Attic.

Computers are available at the Academy’s Airmen and Family Readiness Center during normal duty hours. Going online is only one new program Airman’s Attic is offering.

“We have a very small food pantry to help families who are in desperate need with about two days worth of food. They can use this program one time every two months. We stress to our families that this is not a money saving program but a last resort program when your pantry is bare and you have no money to buy food to feed your family,” Ms. Nordin said.

Another program is designed to assist families of staff sergeants who are expecting a new baby with a nice gift from the attic. Families just need to come into the attic about a month before their due date and just let us know that they are about to have a baby,” she said. “Then after the baby is born, when they are comfortable to get out again, just come on over and pick it up.

Ms. Nordin said this program is in no way taking away from the Bundle for Babes program the Airman and Family Readiness Center offers and recommends new families to participate in both programs, as the knowledge in the A&FRC Bundles program offers is vital to all new parents!

Airman’s Attic is open to all ranks the third Thursday of every month. Staff sergeants and below have access to the full inventory, and technical sergeants and above are asked to not take furniture or baby items, except clothing.

The Air Force Academy is currently in the process of finding the Airman’s Attic a new location on the base to better serve families. Airman’s Attic also needs volunteers to help run the new location during open hours and for several operations going on during closed hours.

Airman’s Attic is currently located at 8010 Sagebrush Drive and open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 472-7923 or 333-3445.

DONATION GUIDELINES

Items donated must be in good working condition, no non-working electronics, no clothes with rips, stains or holes. No undergarments or food.

Items donated during open hours to the location will be offered a tax receipt, no receipt will be given to thing dropped off after hours.

Donation limitations: unlimited clothing, 20 miscellaneous items each visit. (limits may change with inventory and demand).

ITEMS NEEDED:

Twin beds
Full beds
Queen beds
King beds
Crib
Changing tables
Baby swings
Baby pack n plays
Baby high chairs
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Jogging strollers
Couches
Entertainment centers

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Bush outlines humanitarian, diplomatic intervention

By John Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. military will head humanitarian relief operations in Georgia, President Bush said Wednesday. A C-17 aircraft already has been deployed to deliver the first round of supplies.

“And in the days ahead, we will use U.S. aircraft as well as naval forces to deliver humanitarian and medical supplies,” Bush added during a White House news conference today following meetings with his national security team.

Bush called on Russia to honor its commitment to allow all forms of humanitarian assistance to enter and to ensure that all lines of communication and transport — seaports, airports, roads and airspace — remain open for the delivery of assistance and for civilian transit.

Meanwhile, the president is dispatching Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to France, where she is slated to meet with France’s President Nicholas Sarkozy, who, as current president of the European Union, is leading negotiations to broker a peace agreement.

Bush reiterated the United States’ support of the democratically elected government of Georgia, saying the U.S. insists that “the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected.”

Bush expressed concerns that Russia is continuing attacks on Georgia despite a ceasefire pledge by Moscow. During today’s briefing, he laid out U.S. plans for humanitarian and diplomatic intervention in the former Soviet republic.

Reports detailing ongoing Russian aggression in Georgia contradict Russia’s claim that it has ceased military operations there, Bush said at the White House.

“Russia has also stated that it has halted military operations and agreed to a provisional cease-fire,” Bush said.

“Unfortunately, we’re receiving reports of Russian actions that are inconsistent with these statements.

“We expect Russia to meet its commitment to cease all military activities in Georgia, and we expect all Russian forces who have entered Georgia in recent days to withdraw from that country,” he added.

According to reports, Bush said, Russian units have taken up positions on the east side of the city of Gori, which allows them to block the east-west highway, divide the country and threaten the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

Information further indicates that Russian forces have entered and taken positions in the port city of Poti, that armored vehicles are blocking access to the port, and that Russia is destroying Georgian vessels.

“We’re concerned about reports that Georgian citizens of all ethnic origins are not being protected,” Bush said. “All forces, including Russian forces, have an obligation to protect innocent civilians from attack.”

Echoing his previous remarks, Bush said Russia’s actions have damaged the country’s standing with the U.S., Europe and other nations, and raise serious questions about its intentions in Georgia and the region. He added that the U.S. and the world expect Russia to honor their commitment to refrain from deposing Georgia’s democratic government.

“To begin to repair the damage to its relations with the United States, Europe and other nations, and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must keep its word and act to end this crisis,” he said Wednesday.

Now more than a week in conflict, fighting in the breakaway Georgian region of South Ossetia broadened to include Russian attacks on Abkhazia, another heavily separatist region, among other parts of the country.

International press photograph the first of 16 pallets containing $1 million in humanitarian aid to the Republic of Georgia. The delivery was a joint-service effort between U.S. Army Europe Soldiers and Airmen representing U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Mobility Command.

Georgian citizens of all ethnic origins are not being protected,” Bush said. “All forces, including Russian forces, have an obligation to protect innocent civilians from attack.”

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Ever have a light bulb go off in your head for a way to make the Air Force faster, better or cheaper? Steve Sandridge thought he had a way, and it earned him $200 for speaking up.

The programs analyst with the Academy office of Plans and Programs believed the local policy on civilian employee physical fitness could be improved. Previously the policy allowed excused absences for civilians to participate in various physical fitness and recreational activities one hour a day for up to three days a week. However, those hours required participants to take the excused absence in conjunction with their regularly scheduled lunch period.

Mr. Sandridge proposed the policy be changed to allow participants to use the one-hour allowance when they wanted, not just around lunch hours. “It’s a lot more convenient,” Mr. Sandridge said. He also argued his proposal would save transit time, thus increase workout time, allow civilians to participate in unit PT and allow them to take advantage of off-peak times at physical fitness facilities. His idea became a reality in June when the new policy went into effect.

The IDEA program might be considered a sub-set of Air Force Smart Operations-21. While AFSO-21 manages large, enterprise-level improvement, the IDEA program typically targets a specific part of the process, usually because a single individual has a good idea. Monetary awards are calculated on first-year savings only and can be as high as $10,000 for each approved idea resulting in validated tangible savings, and $200 for approved ideas resulting in intangible benefits.

Tangible savings awards are 15 percent of validated savings. A total award will be no less than $200 and no more than $10,000. The intangible benefits award is fixed at $200. Anyone can submit an idea but only Air Force members, federal civilian employees and Academy cadets may earn cash for their ideas. “We highly recommend people submit ideas, and they can earn some cash,” said Janet Gomes, Academy IDEA manager.

IDEA ideas must be clearly titled, present the current method or directive and provide a detailed solution with present and proposed methods and expected benefits and be within a submitter’s job responsibility. Ideas may not be merely thoughts or opinions or a forum for complaints or criticisms.

The process is online at https://ipds.mont.disa.mil. Anyone may log on and create an account. Ms. Gomes said those thinking about submitting an idea should check the Web site’s IDEA pool first. The pool provides information on all previous proposals and their status, thus saving proponents time and energy if their idea has already been submitted.

Submissions are handled quickly. Base-level evaluators must complete an idea evaluation within five working days of receipt of notification. Major command level and Air Force-level evaluators must complete the evaluation within 10 working days of receipt of notification. “We really try to push it and stay on top of it,” Ms. Gomes said of submitted proposals.

For more information, visit the Web site noted above or call 333-IDEA (4332).
The 2nd Annual Academy Youth Diversity Outreach Program matched 11 Colorado Springs youth with 11 cadets Aug. 6.

"It was designed to give a handful of children, ages 10 to 13, a rare glimpse into a day-in-the-life of a cadet, thus introducing our young citizens to local opportunities," said Col. Gail Colvin, vice commandant of cadets and a 1980 Academy graduate.

Her class forged the way as the first in which women graduated from the Academy, opening the door for change and diversity.

For the visiting youngsters, it was a memorable day witnessing the Academy Acceptance Day Parade, an educational visit to the cadet falconry program and lunch at Mitchell Hall.

Cadet 2nd Class Daniel Walker, a Cadet Squadron 40 political science major from Grand Prairie, Texas, thinks a lack of significant minority representation could impede the school from reaching a higher standard.

"If minorities even know this institution exists, they often lack factual information about the Academy, how to apply, and how to qualify academically for admission," said Cadet Walker. "To conquer these issues, we, as cadets and the Academy, have to put forth a chance for youth to come see what we are all about and put a voice and face to their perceptions."

It was up to Cadet Walker to recruit the cadets he felt could make the biggest impact on the incoming youngsters, helping escort the youth to the Acceptance Day Parade and throughout the rest of the day.

He had help from Cadets 1st Class James Hall, Harvey White and Rudy Bowen, Cadets 2nd Class Chelsea Tomkins, Kevin Chavez, Chris Allen, Kayla Beach and Cadets 3rd Class Gavin Foley and Eddie Solange.

"At an institution that demands so much from its students, it can be hard to find people with the time to help out. But these cadets found a way and I would like to thank them for that," Cadet Walker said.

As for the children who participated, some came in hesitant, but all gave it their best.

"Most, if not all, of our guests came in shy; some even refused to do the ropes course when we told them we were headed that way," Cadet Walker said.

"However, at the end of the day, everyone completed the course."

The cadet-in-charge saw future presidents, generals and CEOs in the group of youngsters.

"These kids found something within themselves that allowed them to push past their fears and inhibitions. I did not want a single kid leaving the Academy not believing that they were capable of everything including the perceived impossible. I wanted them to realize they were born with gifts that make them special and that they need to utilize those gifts," he said.

Cadet Walker said he hoped the children would see the cadets who were escorting them were not super heroes.

"I wanted them to know we were all kids like them and that they could easily be just as successful if not more successful than us if they just make the right decisions."

"As long we keep up the connections we made with these kids and a few of them, if not all, get going down the right track, then I will be satisfied," he said. "I didn't want this to be another tour, so the day I know it made a difference will be the day I am completely satisfied with my involvement."

The statement above was made by John D. Rockefeller, the richest man in history. In fact, a study of the 10 wealthiest people has uncovered one striking commonality. This commonality is that they invested into assets when everyone else told them to sell. As markets spiraled downward, these wealthy individuals invested significant sums of money to acquire assets at discounted prices.

When the market eventually rebounded, as they always do, their wealth escalated significantly.

Consider J. Paul Getty’s purchase of the Hotel Pierre in the midst of the depression for $2.35 million. When the economy rebounded, this hotel went on to be worth between $25 and $35 million.
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FREEDOM IS
having room to grow.
The story behind the story of base defense

By Butch Wehry
Academy staff

Maj. Matthew Rodman was officer in charge of this year’s base defense training and he relied upon the wealth of knowledge provided by the Academy’s NCO cadre to make changes.

“They live and breathe air base defense and did a great job training cadet cadre. It is always a joy to watch the NCOs, all Academy Military Trainers, work,” said the Academy history instructor from Lubbock, Texas.

Not surprisingly, they make it a point to include recent and relevant material from the Global War on Terror.

“We incorporate these ‘war stories’ at every turn,” Major Rodman said. “It’s critical new cadets understand the Air Force mission goes well beyond fighting from a cockpit.”

Except for NCOs from the Cadet Wing, all other permanent party members helping him were from the Academy Department of History.

“We are very keen to continually incorporate documented historical examples into the training,” the major said. “We’re not just making this stuff up to ‘play army’.”

He drew upon his own deployments to tweak training.

“Although air base defense is the most visible lesson learned at Ops Warrior, it is not the only one,” Major Rodman said. “There are thousands of Airmen deployed in the Global War on Terror and many of them are on the ground.”

From his experience on several deployments, Major Rodman is very familiar with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers. In the operational Air Force, he is a B-1B weapon systems officer instructor.

“The Airmen and their Air Liaison Officers, pulled from the cockpits of combat aircraft, are critical to putting bombs on target when working in coordination with ground units. They are integrated directly with Army units on the ground in both Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said.

“When an Army unit needs help, the call goes through the JTAC. For me, that means that an Airman is talking to an aircrew. We speak the same Air Force language. We train together, and given the need, we work as a team to eliminate the enemy. It is a great working relationship, but it requires Airmen and officers on the ground. The skills we teach at Ops Warrior are the very first step to learning the skills needed down there.”

When Air Force personnel are integrated with the Army, the major feels they have to be able to hold their own and that’s exactly what they do, he said.

“I want new cadets to understand there is a better than even chance they will be deployed on the ground, even if they are flyers, before their career is finished,” the major said. “Not only are ALOs flyers, there are aviators performing counter-IED duties on the ground, acting as members of provisional reconstruction teams, sometimes travelling with convoys and executing a host of other missions that could benefit from our training. And, of course, there are also the dedicated jobs like security forces, combat control and para-rescue that rely upon the kind of skills we introduce.”

A tactical air control element from Fort Carson’s 13th Air Support Operations Squadron was at Jacks Valley every day during lunch to speak to the basics.

“They have been there and done that and I believe their daily speeches opened plenty of eyes about one of the key Air Force ‘on the ground’ missions,” the officer-in-charge said.

But it’s not just about air base defense.

“Given the war we’re fighting, officers can very well be expected to man defensive positions,” Major Rodman said. “It’s not common, but it is certainly not without precedent ... especially on a bare-bones base that is being hastily established. And, even if you, the officer, never spend an hour in a defensive fighting position, your troops will. It pays for you to understand what those in your charge are doing. You are the one responsible for making sure they have what they need and that they can get the job done.”

His goal is simple.

“I tell this to every basic cadet squadron at the end of the day,” he said. “In four years, if they dedicate themselves to earning their commissions through the Academy, I want them to walk across the stage thinking back on how much fun Ops Warrior was in their first summer. I want them to think about just how much the cadet and permanent party cadre taught them that hot summer day out at Jacks. Of all their Academy memories, I want them to remember Ops Warrior as one of the best. As we scale back from overseas bases and often deploy into spartan conditions, I promise that the Airmen will be heavily involved in ground tasks, to include security, for the foreseeable future.

“Even in the Air Force, you may be called upon to perform ground-related tasks,” Major Rodman said. “We are a joint war-fighting team in today’s military. I have directly supported Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine troops on the ground with both kinetic and non-kinetic airpower. Understanding what the ‘guy on the ground’ is doing allows me to support him more effectively and vice versa.”

Major Rodman was recognized by Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins as the courses permanent party “Operation Warrior” officer-in-charge for 2008 Basic Cadet Training.

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Recycle this newspaper!
GTC mailing begins this week

Citibank officials will mail out new government travel charge cards Wednesday through Sept. 19. Initial distribution will begin with cardholders at overseas locations and migrate from the west to the east coast. The new cards will be sent to addresses on file with Bank of America, so all cardholders must ensure their information is current. Any mail sent to an incorrect address will be returned to Citibank.

Those who do not receive a new card by Oct. 1 should contact their local agency program coordinator. The new cards will not be active until Nov. 30, so cardholders will continue to use the Bank of America cards until then.

Upon receiving the new card, all cardholders will need to verify receipt by following the instructions affixed to the card.

Travel Card Mailing Schedule:

- Aug. 22: Centrally billed accounts
- Aug. 22 through Sept. 2: Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin and Michigan
- Aug. 29 through Sept. 9: Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana
- Sept. 8 through 16: District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois
- Sept. 15 through 23: Virginia and Florida

Retraining offers NCOs new career opportunities

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force is seeking volunteers to accept jobs in more than 1,077 shortage career field and special duty positions during the 2009 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program which began Aug. 1.

The Air Force especially needs NCOs to choose opportunities to conduct investigative work in the Office of Special Investigation career field or to lead Airmen as a ‘shirt’ in the first sergeant career field. NCOs were notified Aug. 6 that they have been identified to retrain.

NCOs have the opportunity now to volunteer and establish a career path of their own choosing,” said Chief Master Sgt. Christine Williams, chief of the Air Force Personnel Center enlisted skills management branch here. “Last year, volunteers filled 62 percent of career field shortages, and we hope to eclipse that percentage this year.”

Eligible NCOs can now apply for retraining through the Air Force Personnel Center online applications process. When needed, personnel assistance is available for retraining questions through the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center.

Retraining eligibility listings by grade and Air Force Specialty Code were posted on AFPC’s virtual Military Personnel Flight Web site Aug. 6. By selecting a particular grade or projected grade, NCOs may view their ranking on the list and apply for retraining.

“AFPC is making personnel services as easy as online banking,” said Chief Williams. “If you need to submit a package, you do it all on line.”

Master Sgt. Deitra Mathis said now is the best time for those NCOs identified for retraining to get started.

“The Air Force will take additional steps if necessary to fill these shortage career fields, but would prefer to fill them with volunteers,” said Sergeant Mathis, the AFPC enlisted retraining superintendent.

For more information, Airmen should contact their own career advice advisor or the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775 or DSN 665-5000.
Spectators find COS Annual Balloon Classic uplifting

Academy cadet pilot launches for fourth straight year

By Ken Carter

While many infants, with still blurry vision, are captivated by toy hot-air balloons attached to the railing of their cribs, one Academy cadet, starting at less than two weeks of age, has never settled for anything less than the real thing.

Each Labor Day weekend, weather permitting, the Colorado Springs early morning sky-line becomes even more breathtaking, as, just after sunrise, dozens and dozens of hot-air balloons lift off from Memorial Park. There are also Glows® both Saturday and Sunday evening, where we’re going to land and have to evaluate the wind situation to find a spot. “Every time we fly, we take off without knowing where we’re going to land and have to evaluate the wind situation to find a spot.”

The sport also helps lay the groundwork for a future career. “Ballooning requires making decisions on the fly when the stakes are quite high,” Cadet Lowenstein said. “As a future Air Force pilot, the piloting skills I’ve learned flying balloons will prove invaluable. With a fixed wing aircraft, there is a motor and directional control. Balloon pilots have neither of these and therefore, when we’re in the air we have to find winds where we want to go based on altitude and then find a suitable place to land. Every time we fly, we take off without knowing where we’re going to land and have to evaluate the wind situation to find a spot.”

The sport also helps lay the groundwork for effectively working together with a flight crew. “Ballooning requires several people to make a flight happen, not a one man show and, as such, the skills of organizing my crew and assigning and explaining tasks is also useful to a future Air Force officer,” he said.

Ballooning is clearly a team sport. There is no way a pilot can set everything up, fly, and pack it up alone. Every step of the process requires crew participation, and the chase crew that follows the balloon after takeoff and tries to be there upon landing.

“Every year they would come to Albuquerque for the balloon fiesta but would not bring any crew. The people who worked at the local Motorola plant would volunteer to help crew for the balloons. This became a sort of tradition for several years, with my dad and me helping crew for these balloons. In 1998, Al decided he had crewed enough and might as well actually learn to fly, and earned his certification not long after. At times Cadet Lowenstein has felt the “generation gap” between himself and other pilots who’ve been around the sport for decades. “Interacting with other pilots has always been both interesting and challenging,” he said. “First, as a whole, ballooning is an older sport and there is a definite lack of younger pilots so there always

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seems to be a bit of a generational gap. Although each comes with a vast wealth of experience that I always try to absorb whenever I interact with other balloonists.”

Generally, ballooning is considered to be very safe—with the exception of one major potential hazard.

“As with anything worthwhile, there are risks involved,” Cadet Lowenstein said. “Ballooning is no different. For balloonists, power lines are our ‘worst enemy’ of sorts and are really the only way to seriously become injured or killed. Overall though, ballooning is a very accident free sport.”

Even with a Falcon Football home game on tap, visitors in town for Parents Weekend might want take advantage of checking out this event. Cadet Lowenstein’s participation offers all the more reason to get out and see a member of the Class of 2009 soar along the Front Range with pride.

“Flying in the Springs is always fun, with the mountains on the west there is usually quite a view,” he said.

The Colorado Balloon Classic was organized in 1977 and has grown to be the largest and the longest continuously running hot air balloon festival in the Rocky Mountain Region, as well as all of Colorado. It is an annual family event and admission is free.

Launches are held in Memorial Park off Pikes Peak Avenue between Hancock Ave. and Union Blvd., near the shores of Prospect Lake. Mass ascensions with more than 100 balloons are scheduled for Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings with a Balloon Glow® scheduled for Saturday and Sunday evenings. Each year a variety of concessions are available and entertainment is provided.

It takes some 800 volunteers to make the event a success. Anyone who wants to become involved in the Balloon Classic, even if only for a few hours, should call 471-4833.

The Academy seems to serve Stubbs as an ideal retirement destination, especially when he gets to do good will for new riders.

The old horse has garnered attention for his age from multiple sources, on and off the Academy. "Stubbs handles his celebrity status with humility and appreciation for life," Mr. Barrett said. "He greets staff with a nicker each morning, enjoys the shade of his stall on hot days and the southern exposure to his stall on winter days where he basks in the sun."

"I'm sure he thinks he is in horse heaven," Mr. Barrett said.

Stubbs has earned the respect of the other horses. "They treat him as if he were the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Mr. Barrett said.

Stubbs has gained a reputation as a ladies' man, in a manner of speaking. "He's been around people before, he's healthy, and he's real gentle with other people," she said.

For Alexis Paulson, 5, it's "5 or 10 or 62." For Landyn Curlin, age 5, it's "5 or 10 or 62."

The best part of the party for her was sitting on Stubbs but cautioned, "I haven't kissed him yet either."
Academy missile launches officer’s career

By Master Sgt. Dean Miller
Academy Public Affairs

In the course of any Airman’s career, opportunities to step-up to a leadership challenge present themselves. Experts on leadership believe these early events, and how they are handled, are key to developing character that often defines an individual. Class of 1973 graduate, Maj. (retired) Donald Rightmyer, is a classic example.

As a cadet, Rightmyer stepped up to many challenges. Often these would merge his two greatest passions: history, and air and space power. As a cadet, he was honored to bring the silver goblets of the Doolittle Raiders to their annual reunion in 1972 where he met Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and other surviving Raiders; it was an event that left a profound impression on the 21-year-old.

Cadet Rightmyer also chaired the Cadet Heritage Committee, a place where air power and history often merged. It was in this capacity he found himself on Dec. 9, 1971, center stage outside Clune Arena, side-by-side with then Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Albert P. Clark, and Brig. Gen. Salvatore E. Felices, then Strategic Air Command’s deputy chief of staff for materiel. Rightmyer was named to represent the Cadet Wing at the dedication of the Academy’s new Minuteman III ICBM display, a gift from SAC.

“I remember that day so clearly,” said Mr. Rightmyer, retired since 1993. “That dedication just brought one more really important element of Air Force mission and heritage to the aircraft, the weapons, and statues already displayed at the Academy.

“These displays both preserved and demonstrated our heritage,” said Mr. Rightmyer. “It thought it was so important when SAC gave us that missile, and I was privileged and honored to represent the Cadet Wing at the ceremony. It was one of many really remarkable things I got to do as a cadet.”

Mr. Rightmyer, today a retired cold-warrior in his own right, is reflective as he contemplates the retirement of the Cold-War icon he helped dedicate. “There’s a note of sadness as we see the aircraft and weapon systems we trained and served in being retired. But, there’s also a huge feeling of accomplishment for the service these aircraft and missiles allowed us to provide to our nation’s defense through our years of service in the U.S. Air Force,” Mr. Rightmyer said.

“As we walked by the Minuteman III missile and various aircraft displays at the Academy on a daily basis, they reminded us of the rich heritage of air and space power which the Air Force has forged,” Mr. Rightmyer said. “I’m very encouraged by the young men and women who have passed through the Academy since I graduated and continue in that same tradition of service to our country today.”

From the Academy in 1973, 22nd Lt. Rightmyer, with a degree in military history, went on to serve as an F-4 navigator, flying in Korea, England and Germany. He served as a historian in the Headquarters Air Force History Office and later served as an intelligence officer on the Soviet Awareness Briefing Team in Washington D.C. In 1983, he returned to flying, this time in F-111s at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Later, Rightmyer served as editor, TAC Attack Magazine, Tactical Air Command’s Safety Publication, as a war plans officer at 16th Air Force in Madrid, Spain, and as editor, Air Scoop, U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s Safety publication, before his retirement in 1993.

Today, Mr. Rightmyer is a state government employee in the city of Frankfort, Ky., serving as editor, Kentucky Ancestors, a quarterly publication of the Kentucky Historical Society. He resides in Danville, Ky.

Missile

From Page 1

“It is also a weapon system entrusted to 115 Academy graduates deployed on strategic alert in our nation today. As a cadet, Rightmyer stepped up to many challenges. Often these would merge his two greatest passions: history, and air and space power. As a cadet, he was honored to bring the silver goblets of the Doolittle Raiders to their annual reunion in 1972 where he met Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and other surviving Raiders; it was an event that left a profound impression on the 21-year-old.

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September’s Glamour magazine features cadet

Cadet 1st Class Lindsey Robinson knew neither of the military lifestyle in general nor the specific Academy challenges she’d face following her arrival here in 2005. She’s since come a long way as evidenced by being featured in the September issue of Glamour magazine, as one of “America’s Next Top Role Models.”

“I have learned that every second of free fall is a lifetime of discovery,” the cadet from Beavercreek, Ohio, with 320 jumps and a Wings of Blue member, told the magazine. “Life is such a beautiful opportunity. I do not think a second of it should be wasted or taken for granted. I cannot take credit for any abilities and experiences I have been given; but I do thank God for them and I think the only thing of worth I can do is to invest myself in others. If I can say that I truly loved and served others, then how long I live or how much money I make does not matter.”

This Cadet Squadron 12 electrical engineering major with a Spanish minor played a key role in starting the Academy’s Engineers Without Borders Chapter.

“EWB began as the vision of a few friends and I. The goal is for cadets to combine engineering with cultural and other aspects to provide sustainable solutions to communities in developing regions. We spent the past year setting up the chapter and getting approval. This year we hope to have two projects, one with Navajo Nation and a second with Horn of Africa,” she said.

The formerly home-schooled cadet tutors African refugees with Cadet 1st Class Brian Williams. In cooperation with Lutheran Family Services, the refugee program is an excellent way to both impact and learn from the developing world without leaving Colorado Springs. As a volunteer, they visit the homes of families from Cuba, Nepal, Iraq, Burundi, Tanzania and elsewhere to help in anyway needed—whether it is practicing English, playing with children, learning how to use a microwave, or filling out job applications.

Cadet Robinson also started her squadron’s Homeless Outreach program.

“We spent a day in Acacia Park grilling food, providing live music and games, and talking with many of the homeless in the local area,” she said. “We served about 400 people and received a great response from many in the community. I am very proud of my squadron for taking the initiative with this project and the commitment we have made to making this an annual event.”

It is unlikely that exposure in the national Glamour magazine will spoil Cadet Robinson.

“I do not think many of my friends read Glamour, those who do are surprised to see me in it and maybe more curious about being a woman at the Academy,” she said. “I do not prefer the personal attention, but I am proud of my Academy and my jump team and I know both truly deserve the recognition, not me. I especially hope that Glamour’s target audience— young women — will be inspired to pursue challenges such as skydiving, engineering, or military service. “There are so many amazing people at the Academy, I do not believe I am unique or more deserving,” Cadet Robinson said. “I fail at things and make mistakes a lot. I only pray that I can grow from every experience and I am very thankful for everyone who has helped me along the way. I really appreciate all the opportunities that are available and the great friendships I have made. I have never regretted my decision to come to and to stay at the Academy.”

Photo by Mike Kaplan

Cadet 3rd Class David Barron is briefed by jumpmaster Cadet 1st Class Lindsey Robinson during Airmanship 490, Basic Parachuting, an airmanship program where cadets earn their basic jump wings after successfully completing five free-fall jumps.

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PREPARE TO BE IN CHARGE.
The 2008 Air Force women’s soccer team will learn on the fly. Saturday in exhibition action here versus Colorado as a prelude to its regular-season opener versus Northern Colorado Aug. 24.

With just seven returning upperclassmen, the Falcons will rely heavily on a young team featuring eight sophomores and 20 freshmen. Yet despite the lack of veterans, Head coach Marty Buckley believes the team is significantly improved from a 3-14-2 season a year ago.

“Our veteran numbers may be on the smaller side, but they are valuable players who will make us compete," Buckley said. “In addition to our upperclassmen, we brought in what our staff feels as a very strong group of talented and new members that will make an immediate impact.”

The Falcons return six starters and 15 letter winners off the 2007 squad, including two-time All-Mountain West Conference defender Rachael Emory. In addition, senior team co-captains Kristen Wolverton and Roni Yadlin will be called upon to provide leadership and guidance in developing the young team.

With so many newcomers and untested underclassmen, the Falcons will look to capitalize on any advantages they can attain. Buckley hopes nine of the first 10 games being at home (including three exhibition matches) will help acclimate the freshmen to Division I play. In all, the Falcons will play at home 13 times and go on the road just seven times.

“By getting to play so many contests, we feel this is an advantage for our team and will help speed up the learning curve for our underclassmen,” Buckley said. “We hope that the early slate of home games and the two tournaments this season will prepare us to be playing our best late into the season when we enter Mountain West Conference play.”

A major key towards improved success in 2008 will be a stronger emphasis on goal-scoring, a problem that has plagued Air Force for the past couple years. In addition to the scoring struggles, the team is looking to improve upon its chances at timely goals, something that has also helped the Falcons elevate the win column.

Air Force dropped six games by a goal and managed just one multi-goal game a season ago.

“We were so close to capitalizing on our scoring chances last year, but didn’t," Buckley said. “We feel we have improved up top with the newcomers bringing a big group of freshmen to the mix and some new faces to plug into starting roles. Junior Susan Finch and sophomore Sarah Horton showed significant improvement during spring ball and have the inside track to earn starting spots. A slew of newcomers enter fall practices with opportunities to earn playing time. Incoming freshmen who can play at the striker spot include Sharon Aradine, Kelly Bieber, Bridgette Murphy, Brittany Szewc, Kristin Connell, Stephanie Puzak and Shauna Thompson.

“We’ll be young and untested up top, but we have some youngsters who have some talent,” Buckley said. “We're looking for some players to step up and earn starting roles as we progress through the pre-season practices.”

The Midfield:

As with the forward positions, the Falcon midfield will mix of several veteran players and a group of newcomers. With the losses of 2007, starter Kelsey Yip and three-year letter-winner Kimberly Hale due to knee injuries, several new players look to earn starting roles.

Roni Yadlin will anchor the midfield as a returning starter and sophomore Ali Neptune looks to step into a bigger role after playing a reserve role in 2007. Sophomores Erin Flanigan and Sarah Horton will also earn playing time in the middle. Four freshmen also have the chance to earn some playing time. Kelly Laurent, Heather Watts and Kelly Wert will see time as scoring midfielders and Kalyt Tung and Meghan Martinez will also see time as defensive midfielders.

“We are pretty versatile in the midfield, where we have several players who can play as midfielders or mid-defenders,” Buckley said. “We just have to find out who can make the plays and go from there. But I am encouraged at the depth we have and feel confident we have the players to get the job done.”

The Backfield:

Buckley sees the Air Force backline as being the team’s strength. Despite the loss of team captains Rhett Chase and Christin Brodie to graduation, the Falcons return starters Emory and Wolverton. In addition, sophomores Jess Brown, Lyndsey Horn and Shannon Nall saw considerable action as freshmen and will be in the mix for starting slots.

“With the return of Rachael and Kristen, we have two solid returning starters,” Buckley said. “In addition, several freshmen saw a lot of playing time and should contribute significantly this year. We have a deep pool of freshmen to work with also so I like our depth and talent in the backfield as well.”

The Goalkeepers:

Air Force returns all three goalkeepers from a year ago and are adding two freshmen to the mix. Junior Ashlee Curtis has worked her way into the starting lineup as she finished her sophomore season the starter in front the Falcon net. Depending on how her experiment with playing forward goes, senior Erin Wallace may back up Curtis or possibly work her way back into a starting role. If not, sophomore Elizabeth Smith will backup Curtis and may push for more playing time with a solid fall. In addition, freshmen Ariana Green and Susan Vanden Dries come to the Academy with strong high school and club credentials.

“We have several options at goalkeeper," Buckley said. “Ashlee has the early nod, but both Erin and Elizabeth will compete for time during fall practices. We also have a pair of solid freshmen who could surprise us.”

Falcons host Saturday exhibition action

Regular season-opener set for Aug. 24

By Nick Arseniak

Athletic Communications

Saturday, Aug. 24, in Falcon Stadium, the Falcons will host their first regular-season game since 2006.

The Falcons open the 2008 season against Northern Colorado at 6 p.m. Mountain Time.

Preparatory School

2008 Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>New Mexico Prep Snow College</td>
<td>Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Snow College</td>
<td>Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Garden City, KS</td>
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<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Dodge City, KS</td>
</tr>
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</table>

All home games feature Mountain Time. For away games, Central Standard Time. Game dates and times are subject to change without notice.

Note: Preparatory Weekend Games

1. Parents Weekend Games
2. Parents Weekend Games

Assistant coach sets pace for Olympians

Lopez Lomong carried the American flag at the Olympic Opening Ceremony, but that’s not all he carried. Lopez Lomong, a volunteer assistant for the Academy cross country team and two-time Olympic gold medalist, carried the American flag at the Olympic Opening Ceremony.

“Quora Mont and I presented my country and raised the flag proudly,” Lomong said.

Lomong, who will compete in the 1,500 meters, has been an American citizen for a little more than a year.

“Within the return of Rachael and Kristen, we have two solid returning starters,” Buckley said. “In addition, several freshmen saw a lot of playing time and should contribute significantly this year. We have a deep pool of freshmen to work with also so I like our depth and talent in the backfield as well.”

The Goalkeepers:

Air Force returns all three goalkeepers from a year ago and are adding two freshmen to the mix. Junior Ashlee Curtis has worked her way into the starting lineup as she finished her sophomore season the starter in front the Falcon net. Depending on how her experiment with playing forward goes, senior Erin Wallace may back up Curtis or possibly work her way back into a starting role. If not, sophomore Elizabeth Smith will backup Curtis and may push for more playing time with a solid fall. In addition, freshmen Ariana Green and Susan Vanden Dries come to the Academy with strong high school and club credentials.

“We have several options at goalkeeper,” Buckley said. “Ashlee has the early nod, but both Erin and Elizabeth will compete for time during fall practices. We also have a pair of solid freshmen who could surprise us.”

Assistant coach sets pace for Olympians

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Safety First  
Motorists on Aspen and Cedar Drives, near the Preparatory School and the Fitness Center, should use extra caution due to the high number of pedestrians crossing the streets in the area. The speed limit is 20 m.p.h.

Extinguisher Training  
The Academy Preparatory School will host a fire extinguisher training class from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. today in the Community Center Theater. Unit training NCOs need to provide their own training sign-up sheets. Seating is limited to 200 attendees and reservations will not be taken.

BK Dining  
The Academy Burger King dining room is open again. The refurbished Burger King is the first in Colorado to accomplish the new design. The most noticeable improvements are the refinised walls, ceiling, lighting, new counters, chairs and tables and a new energy efficient broiler. Also newly installed is an Airman and Family Readiness Center. The refurbished room is open again. The refurbished room is open again.

Guided Tours  
The Cadet Chapel staff is now conducting four daily guided tours weekdays at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 and 1:30 p.m., excluding holidays. The 30-minute tours are designed to provide visitors with more in-depth knowledge of the Chapel. Reservations are not necessary. Interested visitors should arrive a few minutes early.

Celebration Tea  
The Academy’s Officers’ Spouses Club celebrates 50 years at the Air Force Academy with a 10 a.m. Tea at the Carlton House Sept. 3. Please RSVP to Debbie Kyger by Aug. 29. The event is for anyone who has been involved with the club over the last 50 years, as well as newcomers who want to be a part of the next 50. For more information, call 282-0275 or e-mail dskyger@comcast.net.

The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers the following:

- **Red Carpet Tour**  
  Aug. 22; 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
  This informative, fun-filled base tour gives insight into the Academy mission and reveals what there is to see and do here.  
  TAP Seminar  
  Aug. 26-29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
  Separating in a year or retiring in two years or less? Call now to reserve your spot in the next available TAP class. It will guide through building a resume, interviewing skills, networking and Dressing for Success and more.

- **Military Appreciation Day**  
  Academy Ice Arena military appreciation day is set for 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 7. Skate for free, win prizes and learn about “Learn to Skate” programs. The arena is located in the Field House, near the Cadet Area. The program is based on the U.S. Figure Skating Association Skate with Us, basic skills program. Military personnel, family members and accompanied guests and government civilian employees are welcome. For more information, call 333-0389.

Next Level  
The Protestant parish of the Community Center Chapel begins one night of ministry! The Next Level continues each Wednesday at 6 p.m. through May 2009. The night begins with a hearty meal followed by an inspirational opening assembly in the chapel and dynamic programs for all ages: TNL Youth (6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade classes), TNL Kidos: Grades 1-5, rotating between five exciting stations: music, crafts, snacks, games, and surprises, as well as classes for Pre-K through kindergarten and infants, toddlers, and twos. Adult small group studies are also offered as part of TNL.

Volunteers Sought  
The Academy’s Base Honor Guard needs volunteers. Join an elite group and gain valuable leadership skills while having fun and advancing your career. Training is held periodically. All ranks are eligible. For more information, call 333-5684.

Fairly Focused  
The Colorado State Fair in Pueblo runs Aug. 22 through Sept. 1 and offers entertainment for the whole family. The hours of operation will be as follows:
- Grounds, daily, 10 a.m. to midnight; creative arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Monday through Thursday noon to 10 p.m.; cultural heritage, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; exhibit halls, daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; fine arts building, daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Americraft Hall, daily, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; carnival rides, weekdays, 2 to 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. to midnight weekends.
- Directions: From the Academy, take I-25 South to Exit 97A (Central Avenue). Go north one block to Northern Avenue. Turn left on Northern Avenue to Prairie Avenue. Turn right on Prairie Avenue and go two blocks to fairgrounds. Driving time is approximately 50 minutes. For more information visit: www.coloradotatefair.com.

Golf Tournament  
Fort Carson’s Cheyenne Shadows Golf Course will host a benefit golf tournament for the Knights of Heroes Foundation on 8 a.m. to noon Aug. 25. The entry fee for this 18-hole scramble is $75 which includes a golf cart and a free future 18-hole round. All proceeds will be used to support the Knights of Heroes Foundation, a non-profit organization started by a local Air Force Officer. The foundation puts on a one week summer camp for sons of fallen soldiers. For more information on the Knights of Heroes, visit www.knightsofheroes.org. Registration for the tournament, contact Maj. Steve Harrold at (719) 964-3387.

YMCA Outing  
Join local military mothers and sons for an evening of food, fun, “Flick ‘n Float,” bounce house, games, climbing wall and photos from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 20 at the SE Armed Services YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive. Call (719) 622-9622 to register or for more information.
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