Air Force completes FY12 civilian workforce restructure

by Ann Stefanek
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials announced 4,500 additional positions for elimination as a continuation of its FY12 Civilian Workforce Restructure Jan. 11.

This reduction builds on the realignments announced in November, including the elimination of 9,000 positions and the addition of 5,900 positions against the Air Force’s top priorities. In addition, these reductions respond to the Secretary of Defense’s direction to target civilian funding at fiscal year 2010 levels.

“We value our talented and experienced workforce and are trying to do everything possible to manage these reductions with as little impact to our people as possible,” said Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force. In an effort to encourage voluntary separations and retirements, the Air Force is currently offering its second round of voluntary separation incentive pay and voluntary early retirement authority programs. Civilian employees received VERA/VSIP eligibility surveys from their personnel managers earlier this month and the applications are due no later than Feb. 3. Approved applications will result in separations or retirements that take effect by April 30.

Air Force officials are still evaluating the need for a Reduction in Force. “At this time, we are surveying the workforce for a second round of VERA/VSIP and are in the midst of management reassignments resulting from the first round of the restructure,” said Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso, Director of Manpower, Organization, and Resources. “Once we exhaust all voluntary force management measures, a determination will be made whether or not a RIF is necessary. We hope to have more information in the spring.”

This announcement marks the end of civilian reductions associated with the Air Force’s FY12 civilian workforce restructure.

For information about civilian employment, voluntary separation programs and other personnel issues, contact the Academy’s Civilian Personnel office at 333-4365, or visit the secure Air Force Personnel Service website at https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil.

Academy to adopt DBIDS system

Troy M. Wolf
10th Security Forces Squadron

The Air Force Academy will begin using the Defense Biometric Identification System, or DBIDS, on Feb. 4.

The system has been in use at other Defense Department locations in the U.S. and abroad, including Peterson and Schriever Air Force bases, since 2001.

Retirees whose ID cards do not have a barcode must go to a military personnel section to receive a new retiree ID card. Individuals holding non-compliant ID cards will not be authorized entry to the base. In addition, proximity badges will no longer allow badge holders access to the base or through manned entry control points once DBIDS takes effect.

Installation sentries will use handheld scanners to electronically verify ID cards instead of relying on visual inspection. The scanners are connected to a DOD database that maintains identity and biometric data and is integrated with the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Those who have not previously enrolled in DBIDS will be automatically registered as part of the entry procedures. This saves time, as people will not have to visit the Pass and Registration Center to register.

The electronic scan allows easier control of individuals’ access to the base. If someone is barred from the base or on a revocation or suspension of driving privileges, that information will be displayed on the scanner to alert the sentry.

DBIDS ID cards or access passes may be issued to contractors and vendors who require access to the base but do not qualify for a Common Access Card. Long-term guests may also be issued DBIDS passes or cards when properly sponsored by an authorized DOD member. The cards and access passes have an embedded expiration date that will be scanned upon entry to the base.

A security forces Airman at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., scans an ID card with a handheld scanner March 16, 2010. The scanner is part of the Defense Biometric Identification System, which will be implemented at the Air Force Academy Feb. 4.

TOWN HALL MEETING

The 10th Medical Group commander will host a town hall meeting from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Center Auditorium. The meeting is being held to discuss changes to clinic enrollment policies that will affect retirees and their family members turning 65 and those seeking new enrollment.

Academy grad takes hockey skills to first team

Cadets soar to record gliding season.

FLYING HIGH

Cadets soar to record gliding season.

SLAP SHOT

Academy grad takes hockey skills to first team.
On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous “I Have A Dream” speech, where he expressed hope that one day he would see “little black boys and black girls … able to join hands with little white boys and just as such as sisters and brothers.” Raised in a generation where blatant racism and hatred no longer exists, it is hard for some of us to imagine a world split by color. There are times in my life where I can remember the wandering eyes of strangers who didn’t understand my mixed race or looked at my parents a little differently as I sat in between them. Those strangers were likely exceptions to the fact that most of society has moved well past judging people by the color of their skin.

King’s life was dedicated to human rights, inclusion and complete equality. He envisioned a world where we would be judged by the content of our character rather than the color of our skin. He gave generations of African-Americans excitement, enthusiasm and determination to join together in a struggle for freedom and justice. King understood that freedom was man’s greatest gift and believed that every man and woman should be worthy of this gift to live a life that our founder once envisioned, a life filled with happiness. Martin Luther King Jr. Day gives us a chance to pause to reflect on his words and see how our modern world presents itself with new challenges that redefine his dream. Stitched together from the 50 states and numerous countries, the Air Force Academy now reflects this modern world. You see, we are all different in some way. Each of us is unique in the ways we each see the world and how we came to be here in Colorado Springs.

At times society deems different as bad which breeds hatred, injustice, greed, and discrimination. In King’s words: “Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away at its vital unity. Hate destroys a man’s sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the true with the false.” Perhaps the details of today’s struggles are different and the tools to conquer the challenges have evolved, but the portrayal of his dream and call to action is just as real and no less urgent. No matter how tough things got as he addressed the prejudice and injustice seen in the face of a white supremacist, King always had faith that people who would one day love and treat one another as equals.

As we pause and look back at King’s impact on our lives, look forward as well. Find new ways to keep his legacy alive. The differences within ourselves, the uniqueness in ourselves that we try to hide, are what make us special. The differences in how we speak, act, and learn create change and continue King’s dream. His dream is possible if we are not afraid to address the hate, prejudice and injustice that are very much still alive.

As you spot the differences in one another and in yourself, resolve to develop the opportunity to bring the whole family together to discuss what it really takes to stay safe. Personal safety includes a wide variety of topics including crime prevention.

Spend some time examining common everyday habits and behaviors through the eyes of a criminal.
• Could any of your daily habits provide a criminal with an easy opportunity?
• Have you taken precautions to avoid dangerous situations?
• Do you ever leave your belongings unsecured or unattended?
• Could a criminal figure out exactly when you will be out of the house?
• Are there any weak points identified, include a solution in your resolution?

Don’t be an easy victim! Prevent crime before it happens by trying to avoid giving criminals any open opportunities. Many crimes are crimes of opportunity and can be avoided by taking some simple precautions. For example, this is where PINs are a potential problem. They contain your name, address, Social Security number or other important information instead of throwing it away.

Protect your accounts. Don’t keep PINs on or near your debit cards. Record the account and customer service numbers for all credit or bank cards so you can contact them immediately if they are lost or stolen.

Protect your valuables. Record the serial numbers of value items. The 10th Security Forces Squadron provides engravers who can place a personalized mark on high-value items for easier recognition and tracing if the items are ever stolen.

Secure your surroundings. Keep your belongings in a locker and secure it with a lock when using the gym or other recreational facility. At home, always use the deadbolt, as it provides far greater security than a knob lock. Remember, most home break-ins occur during the day. Lock your car’s doors anytime you’re not in it – this applies to both government and privately owned vehicles.

Take notice of people in the immediate vicinity when driving on base. Be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary.

Resolving to stay safe

By Staff Sgt. Michael Young
10th Security Forces Squadron

Make personal safety a priority this year by turning it into a joint family resolution. Use opportunity to bring the whole family together to discuss what it really takes to stay safe.

• Network. Knowing what is normal for your community starts by getting to know neighbors and the surrounding area. Be vigilant. Take a look around the neighborhood. Dark parking or entrance areas caused by broken or turned-off street lights could be a potential hiding place for a potential criminal.

• Don’t be an easy victim! Prevent crime before it happens by trying to avoid giving criminals any open opportunities. Many crimes are crimes of opportunity and can be avoided by taking some simple precautions. For example, this is where PINs are a potential problem. They contain your name, address, Social Security number or other important information instead of throwing it away.

• Protect your identity. Shred junk mail or other documents that contain your name, address, Social Security number or other important information instead of throwing it away.

• Secure your surroundings. Keep your belongings in a locker and secure it with a lock when using the gym or other recreational facility. At home, always use the deadbolt, as it provides far greater security than a knob lock. Remember, most home break-ins occur during the day. Lock your car’s doors anytime you’re not in it – this applies to both government and privately owned vehicles.

• Take notice of people in the immediate vicinity when driving on base. Be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary.

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To help make the Academy a safe community to live in.
Security forces reservist earns Bronze Star

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

A reservist with the 10th Security Forces Squadron received the second Bronze Star Medal of his career during a ceremony at the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance facility here Jan. 6.

Maj. Brent McGuire, who works for the squadron in a civilian capacity as a security forces trainer, earned the medal for his actions as commander of the 451st Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

During McGuire’s deployment, the 451st conducted more than 220 fly-away security missions in three countries and 19 austere landing zones, protecting more than 6,000 passengers and ensuring delivery of more than 2,000 tons of supplies to combat forces, according to the medal citation. McGuire also led an effort to eliminate a 1-kilometer gap in the airfield’s perimeter security, further securing nearly 40,000 U.S. and NATO personnel at the base.

“The challenges you take on as a commander are higher than any you make at any other time in your career,” said 10th Air Base Wing Commander Col. Tim Gibson, who presented the medal. “(McGuire) is clearly one of our top warrior Airmen.”

McGuire, fighting back emotion, said he was “fairly humbled” and grateful.

“It would have been awesome if the people I worked with in the 451st (ESFS) had been able to see this as well. These were their accomplishments,” he said. McGuire also credited his family, who attended the brief medal presentation.

“They really took care of me,” he said. “When you’re deployed, you’re trying to solve problems, existing day to day. The family at home ... they’ve been there to support me through my entire career and my deployments. I’m grateful they have the patience with me to let me continue to serve.”

The Bronze Star is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves through heroic or meritorious achievements or service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy that do not involve participation in aerial flight. The medal was established in February 1944.
Free program helps Airmen find local sitters

by Tech. Sgt. Marshah Haynes
Defense Media Activity

FORT GEORGE M. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) — Airmen now have another option when it comes to choosing a caregiver for their children, pets and homes and even tutors.

Sittercity helps connect people who need babysitters, nannies, pet sitters, tutors, housekeepers and adult caregivers with reputable and trusted service providers. Now, the Department of Defense has funded the membership cost so service members can take advantage of the program for free.

The original vision of Sittercity when it was founded back in 2001 was to create a place on the internet where parents could go to find that perfect care provider for their family, said Melissa Anderson, the president of Sittercity’s Corporate Division.

“We invented the concept of matchmaking for care providers,” she said.

The program allows military parents to post jobs with the requirements of what they consider to be the perfect sitter. They can include specifications like sitters who have access to military installations or military-subsidized care providers.

Once the job is posted, sitters apply directly to that job. The parents receive targeted cover letters through email explaining the sitters’ qualifications, experience and compensation from the applicants which one best suits their needs. The communications go directly through the site until they feel comfortable enough to connect with them personally.

“One in four job post gets 11 applicants,” Anderson said. “We connect a military family with a care provider every seven minutes.”

Tech. Sgt. Tanya King, of the 446th Airlift Wing at Joint Base McChord-Lewis, Wash., and her family took advantage of the service after they needed a sitter to work on their daughter.

“If it was possible, I would leave my daughter with someone who they weren’t pressured to leave their child with someone who they weren’t completely devoted to what they were doing. We were able to find sitters who would watch our daughter if she was sick and would come out to the base and pick her up. We also have a dog, so one of our criteria was that the sitter would be willing to care for the dog too.”

The care itself is not free. “We see lots of uses of Sittercity from families who (have a deployed member) or who have (moved) and they are in a location where they don’t have family members to help them care for their children,” Anderson said.

King said because of the thousands of options her family had for childcare providers, they didn’t feel like they were pressured to leave their child with someone who they weren’t totally comfortable with.

“We really got an idea of the kind of care that could be provided, so we were able to find that needle in a haystack. The woman who we chose took a learning approach to childcare as opposed to just babysitting. She actually uses it as an opportunity to teach her sign language. Had we not had so many choices, we probably wouldn’t have found that needle in the haystack.”

Not only does Sittercity help military families find sitters, especially in secluded areas, but it helps spouses find jobs as well.

“We are a proud member of the Military Spouse Employment Program and we recruit military spouses to work on our site,” Anderson said. “We employ thousands of military spouses. We have military families on both sides of the equation.”

For more information on how to get a free Sittercity membership, visit www.Sittercity.com/DO0.

EOD community honors fallen Airman

BY LEXA JOHNSON
21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF WRITER

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The 21st Space Wing family suffered a tragic loss last week after receiving news that Airman 1st Class Matthew R. Seidler, 21st Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordinance technician, was killed in Afghanistan Jan. 5 by a roadside bomb.

“Our deepest sympathies go out to his family in this time of sorrow,” said Col. Shawne Crawford, 21st Space Wing commander. “He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and we will never forget him, nor the others who have met the same fate fighting for freedom both here and abroad.”

Two other EOD Airmen were also killed in the attack. They are Senior Airman Bryan R. Bell, 23, of Erie, Pa., assigned to the 2nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; and Tech. Sgt. Matthew S. Schwartz, 34, of Traverse City, Mich., assigned to the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

Seidler, 24, was from Westminster, Md. He entered the Air Force in November 2009 and arrived at Peterson in January 2011. He was the first Airman from the 21st Space Wing killed in action since the wing’s inception in 1992.

Tech. Sgt. Jason Warden, 21st CES EOD craftsman, said he was almost the perfect Airman. He was really polite and he was really big on customs and courtesies.

Seidler could often be found in the shop after work studying the equipment or for classes. “You could tell that he was completely devoted to what we do, and he immersed himself completely in it. He turned into an incredible EOD Airman and enlisted friend, Matt. He really enjoyed being here in Colorado, especially the outdoor life,” Kimberling said.

“He really enjoyed being here in Colorado, especially the outdoor life,” Kimberling said.

“The EOD Community is very small, with less than 1,000 members Air Force-wide, Kimberling said. “When the news spreads it hurts everyone whether you knew them directly or whether it’s just the fact that he was an EOD brother. Everyone feels it.”

Li. Col. Mark Donnithorne, 21st CES commander, added, “EOD Airmen have been vital to Operation Enduring Freedom, and unfortunately, the pride we’ll feel when we meet Matt’s name on the EOD Memorial Wall at Eglin AFB will not extinguish the sorrow we feel from his loss. We will never forget Matt’s sacrifice and dedication to his critical, yet dangerous, mission.”

Seidler’s funeral will be held Tuesday in Virginia where he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Peterson AFB will hold a memorial service at a later date.

Army Air Force PHOTO

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE. Airman 1st Class Matthew R. Seidler, a 21st Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance technician, was killed in Afghanistan Jan. 5 by roadside bomb. Seidler was the first Airman from the 21st Space Wing killed in action since the wing’s inception in 1992.

Airmen in the 21st Space Wing modernized post signage to honor the Airman. EOD community honors fallen Airman
Obama approves $13.4M for large-vehicle inspection station

By David Edwards
Academy Spirit staff writer

Work on a permanent large-vehicle inspection station at the Air Force Academy is scheduled to push ahead. The Academy received $13.4 million through the National Defense Authorization Act signed by the president Dec. 31 for its inspection station, which is scheduled to begin construction in the spring.

Air Force regulations require bases to have such a facility as an antiterrorism precaution. The facility will handle inspections of large vehicles to prevent hidden threats to Academy security such as explosives, said Hank Medlock, an Academy engineer involved with the project.

The Academy already has a makeshift inspection station for large vehicles on Kettle Lakes Road. The new station will be built adjacent to checkpoints at the South Gate.

Construction is estimated to take six months once it begins. The project is now being bid out to preapproved design-build firms.

The Army Corps of Engineers is directing the entire process but is receiving input from Academy employees including Medlock. Although the station will be built alongside the guard stations for South Gate entrants to the Academy, the project is not expected to affect drivers.

“We’ve not tearing up any of the traffic way,” Medlock said, “so there’s not going to be any disruption of traffic.”
SAN ANTONIO (AFNS) — A new year often begins with resolutions to lose weight and get in shape. Air Force services officials recently launched a new program designed to help Airmen and families accomplish this common goal through proper nutrition and activity.

The USAF FitFamily website now includes LivingFit, an online interactive tool that allows participants to set weight loss goals, monitor their progress and receive tips and tools to help them stay on a healthy track. LivingFit expands the resources on www.usafittamily.com and provides another tool for Airmen and families to stay fit and motivated, said Con dredge Fisher, an Air Force Services Agency youth specialist.

“The LivingFit program identifies a key component in being resilient, which is being healthy,” he said. “I believe when families watch their nutrition and maintain healthy body-weight, they will be in better physical and mental shape to face challenges caused by deployments, separation, permanent change of station moves, etc.”

To sign up, users must register at www.usaflivingfit.com to create a profile. They will enter their current weight, goal weight, the date they'd like to achieve their weight loss and their activity level. Once a profile is created, users can design custom meal plans as well as goal activities. Activities are categorized as bronze, silver and gold, ranging from nonvigorous to challenging.

LivingFit will keep users on track through automated emails to remind them to record their weight each week. Fisher said the meal plans and nutritional guidelines are two of the most useful tools the program offers. “Included in the meal plan is an option to choose your ideal weight, meal options, and menu ideas to support your meal choices,” he said. “The nutritional guidelines include nutritional tips, an ‘eat this not that’ section and a fast food healthy option section.”

Once users meet their goals, they can set new goals or just come back to the site to continue maintaining their healthy lifestyle. “The hope is Airmen and families form healthy habits and they continue to visit the site to view new content or add their own content such as photos and stories,” Fisher said.

For more information about LivingFit visit www.usaflivingfit.com. It can also be accessed from www.usafittfamily.com, which contains additional resources on proper nutrition, sports and fitness, educational projects and other ideas to keep Airmen and families fit.
Law, regulations restrict political activities for military members

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — With election activity steadily picking up, Defense officials are in the process of issuing regular election-year guidance to remind military and Defense Department civilians that they’re subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

This issue — one the department regularly addresses during election periods — came to light earlier after an Army Reserve Soldier appeared in uniform endorsing a partisan political candidate in Iowa Jan. 3.

Several sets of rules help to protect the integrity of the political process, DOD officials said. DOD Directive 1344.10 applies to members of the armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve components not on active duty, as civilian employees’ participation in political activities that imply — or even appear to imply — official sponsorship, approval or endorsement, officials said. The concern, they explained, is that actual or perceived partisanship could undermine the legitimacy of the military profession and department.

That’s not to imply, however, that military members and civilian employees can’t participate in politics. In fact, DOD has a longstanding policy of encouraging members to carry out the obligations of citizenship, officials said.

DOD encourages its military and civilian members to register to vote and vote as they choose. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues. However, officials emphasized, they can do so only if they don’t act as — or aren’t perceived as — representatives of the armed forces in carrying out these activities.

Beyond that, the list of do’s and don’ts differs depending on whether the employee is a member of the armed forces, a career civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career Senior Executive Service, officials said.

Military members, for example, may attend political meetings or rallies only as spectators and not in uniform. They’re not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in partisan political campaigns.

They also are barred from engaging in any political activities while in uniform. A combat engineer assigned to the 416th Theater Engineer Company potentially violated these rules Jan. 3 when he stepped onto a stage at Ron Paul’s headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, during the Iowa Caucus to offer a personal endorsement. Although he was wearing his uniform, the soldier was not in an active status at the time, Army Maj. Angela Wallace, an Army Reserve spokeswoman, confirmed.

Wallace emphasized that the soldier “stands alone in his opinions regarding his political affiliation and beliefs, and his statements and beliefs in no way reflect that of the Army Reserve.”

His chain of command is aware of the issue and is considering appropriate disciplinary action to take, she said.

Most civilian DOD employees, from civil service workers to political appointees, are governed by the Hatch Act, are permitted to be active in and speak before political gatherings and serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups, officials said. These activities, however, cannot involve fundraising.

Civilian employees also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

There are, however, exceptions to this, including but not limited to Senior Executive Service. While the do’s and don’t’s concerning political activity may vary, the basic tenets hold true for all DOD employees.

The bottom line, officials said, is that they should steer clear of any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating DOD or the military with a partisan political activity, or that “is otherwise contrary to the spirit or intent” of the rules described.
Cadets soar to record gliding season

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

The cadet cross-country soaring team here earned 26 Soaring Society of America flight badges in 2011 to capture the Robert B. Evans Trophy, beating Penn State University and Embry-Riddle University, which placed second and third, the SSA announced Dec. 30.

This is the Academy’s seventh-straight trophy and its 13th since 1995, said Mark Matticola, the soaring team head coach and instructor of advanced soaring for the 94th Flying Training Squadron here.

While clubs with large fleets of gliders tend to perform better, the Academy soaring team reached its milestones with only four aircraft, said Maj. Aaron Dripps, the advanced soaring program director. Their total fleet is five gliders, but one was in maintenance for most of the season. Cadets flew 17,203 miles — the second most in the soaring program’s history — on route to earning the badges, Matticola said. That places the team in the top fifth of soaring teams around the world, according to statistics compiled by the Soaring Society Online Community. The Academy team’s record, set in 2010, was 20,281 miles.

Cadets’ 2011 SSA badges consist of seven A-badges, seven B-badges, seven C-badges and five bronze badges, Matticola said. A-badges require a solo flight; B-badges require 30 minutes off tow, and C-badges require an hour off tow. Bronze badges represent two two-hour solo flights and passing a written exam that covers soaring knowledge.

Staff members with the 94th earned three A-badges, three B-badges, three C-badges and two bronze badges, Matticola said.

In addition to the SSA badges, cadets earned three silver badges and one gold badge through the International Air Sports Federation, or FAI, to set a program record for the most FAI badges earned in a single season, Dripps said. Staff members with the squadron also earned three silver FAI badges.

Silver FAI badges require an altitude gain of 1,000 meters after tow cable release and a flight distance of 50 kilometers. Each of the altitude, distance or time legs can be earned at any time, but all must be flown solo, and the duration is often challenging because of cadets’ time requirements.

“So to get a five-hour flight, they’ll launch, rush to find lift, then land just before official sunset,” Dripps said. Most competitions also don’t afford the opportunity, as cadets are usually aloft no more than three or four hours.

Gold badges also require flights of five hours or longer, but a soaring pilot must fly 300 kilometers and gain 3,000 meters of altitude from tow cable release. That makes altitude a limiting factor, as the altitude gain plus the base flying altitude in Colorado Springs would place a glider in airspace restricted by the Federal Aviation Administration for aircraft flying under instrument flight rules, Dripps said. However, flights starting at lower altitudes, such as flights at soaring competitions, allow cadets to hit the gold badge altitude leg.

Cadets also earned two diamond goal badges, which they met by flying 300 kilometers to a preset goal, Matticola said.
Wings of Blue wins national championships

Parachute team drops in the Orange Bowl and Insight Bowl


Academy Wings of Blue bowl game appearances included the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., and the Orange Bowl in Miami. Jumping into the Insight Bowl were Cadets 1st Class Ben Arneberg, Ryan Fantasia, Ryan French, Dane Lannon and Mike O’Donnell. Cadets 1st Class Richard Brennan and Willis Brown and Tech. Sgt. Brad Shimkus joined French, Lannon and O’Donnell for the Orange Bowl jump.

Wings of Blue cadets won 21 gold, 15 silver and seven bronze medals and set six new collegiate national records and seven Arizona state records at the competition.

Cadet 1st Class Shawn Johnson of Cadet Squadron 09 was named the outstanding competitor of 2011, with three gold medals and one silver medal.

The Air Force Academy makes more than 20,000 parachute jumps per year, and trains about 700 cadets in basic free fall parachuting annually.

Cadet parachuting at the Academy began in 1963 when interested cadets formed a recreational club. The basic Academy course evolved from that original club into today’s program. The objectives of the parachute program are three-fold: train cadets in basic free fall parachuting, represent the Academy at competitions and demonstrations, and provide a leadership laboratory and motivational experience for cadets.

Team Awards
- Four-way relative work, open division: Air Force Intrepid (first)
- Four-way relative work, intermediate division: Air Force Legacy (first), Air Force Paradigm (second)
- Vertical formation skydive: Air Force Inception (first), Air Force Hysteria (second)
- Six-way formation: Air Force Be With You (first), Air Force Sierra Papa (second)
- Team accuracy: Air Force Lawn Darts (first), Air Force Legacy (second)

Individual Awards
- Classic accuracy, masters division: Cadet 1st Class Shawn Johnson (first), Cadet 1st Class Zach Helton (second), Cadet 1st Class Travis Thornton (third)
- Classic accuracy, intermediate division: Cadet 2nd Class Jeremy Krohn (gold)
- Sport accuracy, masters division: Cadet 1st Class Casey Habluetzel (second), Cadet 1st Class Josh Moore (third)
- Sport accuracy, intermediate division: Cadet 2nd Class Danielle Griffith (third)
It was a good thing for Air Force on Monday that a college basketball game doesn’t end after the first 20 minutes. The Falcons shook off their first-half malaise to coast to a 67-50 win over Texas-Pan American at Clune Arena. Air Force heads into Mountain West Conference play sporting a 10-4 record.

Before intermission, though, this game was very much in doubt. The Falcons were ice cold from the floor and the line, and they went to the locker room down 27-25. That was a result of 38-percent shooting from the floor and a 2-for-11 effort from behind the arc.

Nonetheless, the Broncs came out of the gate strong, building a lead with torrid shooting from the outside. Guard Bronco Brandon Provost nailed three consecutive 3-pointers at the outset, en route to a game-high 17 points. Texas-Pan American opened up a 23-16 lead with just more than 7 minutes remaining in the first half. But then the Broncs’ outside shots stopped falling, allowing Air Force to go on a 6-0 run and close the gap to a single point.

Trailing 23-22, the Falcons squandered three excellent opportunities to take the lead. They sandwiched two missed layups around a pair of misses at the line by center Taylor Broekhuys. Air Force managed to keep it close in the first half by cleaning the glass. A 20-15 rebounding edge was aided by a handful of offensive rebounds, giving Air Force extra possessions.

Whatever Head Coach Jeff Reynolds said at halftime had an effect. Air Force took the lead with a 3-pointer on the first possession of the second half and never looked back. In fact, Air Force scored on its first four possessions after intermission.

Forward Kamryn Williams said Reynolds told the team to play with more energy and clamp down on defense. Air Force did exactly that.
There’s a saying that’s been making the rounds in recent years: Those who can, do; those who can’t, teach.

Don’t ever try telling Tony Black that. For the past two years, Black has offered part of his time away from his day job at USA Wrestling to mentor cadet wrestlers at the Air Force Academy.

As the one NCAA-permitted volunteer coach on the staff of Air Force wrestling Head Coach Joel Sharratt, Black comes here twice a week to teach. But like Sharratt, a former national champion at the University of Iowa, Black was once an accomplished wrestler himself. Clearly, there is plenty of “can do” in this teacher.

“If you look at the guy, Coach Black isn’t built like a man who will tear you apart with his bare hands,” said Cadet 1st Class Alec Williams, the team captain. “However, if he ever gets a hold of you on a mat, he has the skills necessary to do just that.”

Wrestling was omnipresent in Black’s family throughout his years growing up in River Falls, Wis. His older brother, Kevin, was a four-time Wisconsin state champ in high school and never lost a match in those four years. His father, Dave, has long been an important figure in Wisconsin wrestling circles.

Both brothers wrestled collegiately at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and were four-year lettermen. Wrestling at 125 pounds, Tony earned an All-America selection and fifth place at the NCAA tournament in 2003, his senior season.

Today, Kevin owns and operates the Victory School of Extra Technique in the mornings, a mutual respect for one another, also develop a friendship out of it, comes to wrestling, but I hope they hope that I’m helping people when it develops with people,” Black said. “I

Twice a week, early in the mornings, he brings all that expertise and experience up to the Air Force Academy for an appreciative group of cadet wrestlers.

“His ability to teach extra technique to those interested has helped everyone, but more directly (it) has helped me by reteaching the fundamentals and helping me perfect those skills,” Williams said. “His technical expertise is superb.”

Black called wrestling “a volunteer-driven sport” and said that’s especially true at the collegiate level. In addition to the two practice sessions a week he spends helping cadets, he also attends Air Force dual meets in the area as his schedule allows.

As a result, he often crosses paths with colleagues in the wrestling fraternity at other schools. Even though he has an extensive network of contacts, however, it is his previous accomplishments on the mat that resonates with cadets.

He has imparted his vast assortment of techniques, maneuvers and strategy, all of which gives Falcon wrestlers an edge at crucial times. Because he speaks from experience, he commands the automatic attention and respect afforded to someone who’s been there and done that — and done it exceptionally well.

“Tony has given the members of our team who want to get better an extra opportunity to do so,” Williams said. “His morning sessions allow the willing to get better while others sleep in.

To show his gratitude for what Black does for the cadet wrestlers, Sharratt presented him with the gift of a flag that had flown over Iraq and Afghanistan. It was a fitting choice, and Black was extremely grateful.

Black said that he is well-acclimated to morning workouts and prefers them to evening workouts. Even so, it is a 30-minute drive from home to the Academy and then a 15-minute drive to work after the training sessions. The sacrifice in time and effort could easily become drudgery were it not for the intangible ways the cadet wrestlers also show their appreciation.

“It’s pretty easy to come back when there are people who I can tell are interested in learning,” Black said. “If there are people who feel that I have something to offer, it’s a whole lot easier to get up and turn the alarm off when it goes off at 5:15.”
Intramural Basketball
Weekly Wrap-up

Hospital No.1 continued its domi-
nance as the number one team, de-
feating the Firefighters 74-58. The
firefighters kept the game fairly close
in the first half and were only down
9 at the half, 33-24. However, in the
second half, the Medic’s turned up the
heat. Hospital’s Mike Davis finished
as the Medic’s top scorer, finishing
with 27 points.

Hospital No.2 has worked itself
from the bottom of the standings the
past weeks and now is in second place
as they knocked off the Cops, 58-50.
The game was tight the whole night
with the cops finishing a four-point
lead at 27-23. In the second half Dar-
rell Holden’s 16 points spearheaded
the Medic’s comeback. Holden
finished the game with 25 points. The
Cops were led in scoring by MarkKeith
Wimbush with 12 points.

Prep School pulled out a tough
victory as they defeated DRU 64-
60. Both teams played with only five
players and were exhausted as the
teams were never separated by more
than eight points. Prep School’s Kyle
Rowland had 16 points in the first
half to put the preps up 34-30 at the
half. DRU’s Noah Garrigue and Mike
Davis who also played his second
game of the night, scored 25 of the
team’s 30 first-half points. The second
half was pretty much the same, as
Rowland scored 17 points to finish
with game-high honors of 33 for the
night.

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Solution on page 11

01-13-12
Free tax preparation available

The Academy tax center will offer free tax preparation starting Feb. 3. Taxes will be done by appointment only. Appointments will be available 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. weekdays. The gross income limit for eligibility is $60,000 for either an individual or joint tax filers. The program is open to cadets, Academy service members and dependents of Academy service members.

The tax center is in Arnold Hall, and it will begin taking appointments this month. For more info, call 333-3905.

Entry decal discontinued

Fort Carson has eliminated the use of the Department of Defense vehicle decals (DD Form 2220) for access to the installation.

The vehicle decal is no longer available at the Academy’s Pass and Registration Center. The PRC will now issue Cadet Area stickers. The times are Monday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Community center activities

Lunchtime table tennis - Monday through Friday starting at 11 a.m. in the Milazzo Center. Sponsored by the 10th Medical Group. Call beforehand to sign up, 333-2928.

Dance classes - Line dance classes are taught in six-week increments. Ballroom dancing consists of four lesson blocks, one hour per block. Classes for both take place Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Double-feature movie nights - Tonight at the auditorium. The first movie, “Puss and Boots,” rated PG, starts at 6 p.m., and the second movie, “Tower Heist,” rated PG-13, starts at 8:30 p.m. Soda and candy will be on sale. Also, Jan. 27 at the auditorium. The first movie will be “Johnny English Reborn,” rated PG, and the second movie, “Tower Heist,” is rated PG-13. Start times are the same as Friday’s Chess Tournament - Jan. 21 at the Milazzo Center. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the tournament starts at 9 a.m. There is no entry fee. Participants must be members of the US Chess Federation. Trophies will be awarded.

SnoFest 2012

SnoFest 2012 is Jan. 27-29 at Keystone Resort. Lodging is now on sale by calling 800-258-0437 to book. Provide Group Code GC8PRB and base affiliation. Lift tickets can be purchased from Outdoor Recreation at 333-4475.

Assortment of skiing options

The Outdoor Recreation Office has ski passes available for purchase. The list of options is as follows: Monarch, Loveland, Patriot Pass (unlimited Copper Mountain and Winter Park), Patriot Pass Plus (unlimited Copper Mountain and Winter Park and six days at Steamboat), and Liberty Pass for Keystone and Arapahoe Basin. Call 333-4475 for more info.

Nominate your Red Cross hero

Every day, ordinary people perform extraordinary acts of compassion or self-sacrifice. The American Red Cross Pikes Peak Chapter needs your help to identify and recognize these local heroes in our community.

The Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross will accept nominations through Sunday. Winners will be selected by a committee of community leaders.

You can go to www.ppcr.org/Sheros to nominate your hometown hero. Categories include adult, youth, military, animal, community partner agency and community service volunteer.

Event sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information call Catherine Bardé at 719-571-2711.

Academy Lanes offerings

Breakfast at Ten Pin Grill: Monday-Friday, 7-11 a.m. Hot breakfasts featuring eggs, hash browns, bacon or sausage, biscuits and gravy, and more.

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