Cadet of the year honored

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — A senior in Cadet Squadron 06 was honored at the Pentagon May 10 as the Air Force’s cadet of the year for 2011.

Cadet 1st Class Dustin Hayhurst received recognition for demonstrated excellence in military skill, academics and athletics in an Air Force commissioning program during a ceremony hosted by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley.

“I can’t tell you how grateful I am to receive this award, and not just the award but the opportunities I have been given at the Air Force Academy,” Hayhurst said.

Hayhurst, who will graduate from the Academy Wednesday, said he could not have accomplished this achievement without support from the staff at the academy, his classmates and most of all his family.

“This is as much their award as it is mine,” he added.

Hayhurst is a systems engineering team member on the Academy’s FalconSAT program, which is tasked with designing, building, testing, and launching unique satellite systems and has been an active member of the Academy triathlon team during his time there.

The commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe has been nominated by the president to succeed Gen. Norton Schwartz as the Air Force chief of staff. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced May 10. Gen. Mark Welsh III will be the 20th chief of staff of the Air Force and, if he is confirmed, will be the fourth Air Force Academy graduate to hold the service’s highest commissioned office.

“I’m tremendously honored and deeply humbled by the nomination to serve as the next Air Force chief of staff,” Welsh said. “If confirmed, I’ll do everything in my power to live up to the example set by Gen. Norty Schwartz and the other great officers who have led our service so well throughout its remarkable history.

“It’s always a great day to be an Airman … but this one is extra special for me. I came into the Air Force because I was in love with the airplanes. I stayed in because I fell in love with the people,” he said. “Being allowed to continue to serve them, our Joint partners and the nation in this role would be the privilege of a lifetime.”

Welsh graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1976. He traveled to the Academy in November of 2011 to talk to cadets about what awaits them once they enter the active-duty Air Force.

“We expect you to be credible,” he told the cadets. “When you tell your Airmen later that you’re going to do something for them, you’d better do it. If you tell them you’re going to follow up on an action for them, you’d better follow up. If you tell them you’re going to look into something low up on an action for them, you’d better do it. Folks, you get one chance. One chance. Be ready.”

Welsh has been assigned to numerous operational, command and staff positions. Prior to his current position, he was the associate director of the Central Intelligence Agency for Military Affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C.

Panetta recalled his close working relationship with Welsh when the secretary served as the CIA director.
Surviving rape:
A mother's perspective

By Sharon Kingsley
Air Force Special Operations Command

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) — It began with the phone ringing at 5 a.m., which is never a good time for a phone call. It was my 18-year-old daughter sobbing, saying she was at the police station. I asked her what she had done (not my best parenting moment).

She said she had been raped, and my heart stopped.

I told her that she was not a victim and, by going to the police, she had given her power back. I asked if she had been hurt as well, and she said no. She had to go because the police were going to take her to the hospital for a rape exam.

I wanted to wrap her in my arms, but she was in college at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla., and I was in Springfield, Va., where we were stationed. My husband was TDY to Montgomery, Ala., so we were all spread out. I had to call my husband and let him know what had happened to our baby girl, a very hard thing for any dad to hear. He made arrangements to leave the conference he was attending, rent a car and drive to Tallahassee to help our daughter.

I talked to her several times that day and got most of the story from her. She had just started working at a coffee shop and bar across the street from the university. She had never been a waitress before, so she was making mistakes.

During her third day at work, her boss took “pity” and offered her a shot of alcohol to help her relax. Let me state again, she was only 18. She ended up drinking several shots during her shift and was pretty drunk by the time the bar closed.

Talke takes away her boss raped her in a back room at the bar and then drove home.

My daughter was distraught and didn’t know what to do. She went to a common room in her dorm that was empty and called her best friend, a boy who lived on the same floor of her dorm. He immediately rushed to her, and my daughter shared the whole story with him. Her friends and roommates to let them know what had happened. My daughter just wanted to crawl into her bed and hide, her two roommates, while well-intentioned, hugged her and told her she didn’t have to go to the police.

But her best friend steadfastly insisted, “You have to go, and we will go with you and support you.”

That was a very long and hard day for my daughter. She called me to let me know what had happened. Children are often afraid to let their parents know about an assault, partly because they don’t want the parents to be disappointed in their behavior.

Because my daughter drank too much, she didn’t realize who she was and was emotionally confused. She went back to her dorm room with her friends, and her dad met her there. We arranged for her to fly home with her father for four days. We all needed her home to take care of her and to see for ourselves that she was going to be okay. Then, my brave little girl returned to school and finished the semester.

The next year and a half was an emotional roller coaster. She did well in school initially but was an emotional wreck. She went to see a counselor, which helped her a lot.

However, she still had bad moments. In the beginning, she blamed herself. She felt guilty about drinking and losing control of the situation. My husband and I kept telling her we were proud of her and that she was smart and strong. It took her a long time to believe us. Eventually, she understood that what he did to her was wrong. “While I was stupid, he was criminal,” she told me.

At first, the legal process also contributed to her stress. She had to tell her account over and over again to the police, to the state attorney, to the counselor and in a deposition to the defense. After being scheduled four times, we finally went to trial after a year and a half. The trial lasted two days, and her attacker was found guilty and eventually sentenced to 15 years in jail.

After the trial was over, our beautiful, happy daughter was back! The stress of the legal process was worth it. It was a huge relief for her. Now, she has graduated college, has a career and a boyfriend she loves. She has been able to move past the events of five years ago, and lives a happy and fulfilled life.

In the years since this happened to my daughter, my eyes have been opened about how frequently assaults happen and, even more tragically, how frequently they are not reported. Women are ashamed, or afraid of not being believed, or not wanting to get someone into trouble. I know how hard it was for my daughter to tell anybody what had happened. She said, because she told her friend what happened, she had support to do what needed to be done. Once she had gone to the police, it was easier to tell us.

She told me that if she had not told anyone she would not have been able to get over it. After the rape first happened, she blamed herself. Her inner voice was telling her she was stupid, weak, wrong and bad. Between her friends, family and counselor, we were able to eventually drown out her negative inner voice and help her see herself as the strong, capable and smart woman that she is.

If someone you know tells you they were raped, help them report it to the proper authorities. If you are the loved one of someone who has been raped, support them, love them and help them realize that they are not victims. They can choose to take their power back by reporting what happened.

I think the main reason my daughter was able to heal from this is that she told someone.

Once she told her friend, he believed her. That gave her strength to tell her roommates; they believed her too. She was then, with her friend’s support, able to tell the police, and they believed her. She called her family, and we believed her. I believe that because the people that mattered to her believed her, she was able to take action against the attacker and heal from the rape.

If you have been raped, then tell someone you trust. You need love and support as you go through the process of reporting what happened.

My daughter felt guilty at first because she accepted so many drinks from her boss, but she eventually came to realize that he was at fault, because no one deserves to be raped. Ever.

For more information about reporting a sexual assault case, visit the Air Force Personnel Center’s Sexual Assault Response Coordinator website.

(”Editor’s note: Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs received permission from Brig. Gen. Michael and Sharon Kingsley’s daughter to publish her story.”

REF: USAFA Cares... (Official): sexual assault prevention. This space-available base is open every Tuesday for question and public discussion. “USAFA Cares...” is a public affairs publication that is approved for publication by the publisher at 719-476-4188. For advertising, please contact Maria Bash at 719-476-4188.

Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the Academy Spirit Online at 719-335-9717.
CANNON AFB, N.M. — As Air Force supervisors and mentors, we have enormous responsibilities and a strong sense of dedication when it comes to duty, honor and country. We hear all the time how Airmen are really doing some remarkable things, and how Airmen are making a difference all around the world. We also hear about protecting our loved ones and fellow Airmen - it is a top priority whether it is down range or on the home front. Unfortunately, there are times when we lose Airmen in the combat zone and to traffic accidents at home station. We must learn from these events and ensure they are not forgotten.

My friend and co-worker Senior Airman Juan Navarro lost his life due to an unfortunate motorcycle accident. I was his sponsor at our first duty station at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. I remembered him from the first time he drove on base, checking into lodging, asking questions about the base and the unit, telling me his short-term and long-term goals. He was the type of guy who was always looking for a competition, whether it is on the track running, tasking at work, or even winning awards. From the get-go he always competed with me, and in a short period of time we became competitors. I had so many “best room” awards at Laughlin AFB until he finally beat me, instructor of the quarter for our unit. Until he finally beat me, he was always competing. We even made crazy bets about who would make master sergeant first. Today, I still remember him every time I walk into a room to test for promotion.

One of Navarro’s long-term goals was to represent the Air Force as a boxer during the Olympics. At work, he would brag how he grew up in a boxing family. He often brought up boxing techniques in discussions - even when the conversation had nothing to do with boxing. It was his passion.

One morning, during physical training, our superintendent gave us personal workout time. Navarro looked at me and said, “Let’s spar a little.” It was a moment I had been waiting for a long time just to see if he was any good.

We got boxing gloves from the front desk at the gym, and found a room, where he explained the rules of sparring. We started going round for round not giving up, no matter how tired and exhausted we were, we just kept sparring. I could tell we both shared a mentality of never giving up no matter what the situation was. I also recall how punching Navarro was like punching a brick wall – this guy never took a break, never gave up. We didn’t want to be late to work so we had to stop, but in the back of my mind I was telling myself, 10 more seconds and I would have called it quits. He really was that good of a fighter.

In April 2007, a friend sent me a message asking if Navarro had died and I immediately said “No, I left him at Laughlin doing OK.” So I called back to a friend when I heard of the tragic, accident. I was shocked; I didn’t know what to say. He was young, ambitious and wanted to do well by the Air Force. On April 23, 2007, Navarro was doing what many of us do every day - taking his motorcycle to get some dinner off base. Despite some bad weather rolling in, he continued to go off base, and lost control going around a corner. In a flash, Navarro was gone. The next day, the flag on base was lowered to half-staff in his honor and a memorial service was held. The unit felt a great loss; and so did I. To this day I still have the email announcing that he passed away.

I know we cannot control who lives or dies but we should continue as leaders to make sure we are aware of what our Airmen are doing on and off duty. As peers we should try to be aggressive in helping each other make the right decision. This article is not only about remembering my friend, Navarro, it’s about us taking a few moments every day to think about the risks we take on a daily basis. Be bold with your safety programs, be a well-trained military rider, and continue to serve as an American Airmen.
By Tech. Sgt. Jess D. Harvey
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON — Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Phil Breedlove and his counterpart from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps testified May 10 before members of the Senate Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support about U.S. military readiness in light of recent budget cuts.

In his opening statement, Breedlove pointed out that the American people are fully aware that the nation has been at war for more than a decade, but that they might not know the Air Force has been engaged in combat operations since the first Gulf War.

“We have been conducting combat operations continuously for well over two decades,” he said, highlighting that Dec. 17, 2011, marked the first time in 20 years the Air Force did not fly an air tasking sortie over Iraq.

According to the general, the Air Force operated at full capacity during 2011 as Airmen simultaneously provided humanitarian support to Japan, executed a large presidential airlift to Japan, executed a large presidential airlift to Japan, and provided humanitarian support to Japan. He noted that the Air Force supported full-spectrum training in Afghanistan.

“However, this intense level of performance has not come without a cost,” said Breedlove, who pointed out that the force as a whole is stressed while at the same time shrinking in size.

“Next year, we will be the smallest we have been since the inception of the U.S. Air Force in 1947,” he said. “Our force capacity of the future may not support this high level of sustained simultaneous operations.”

Breedlove also pointed out that Air Force aircraft are older than they have ever been, with the average age of fighters being 22 years old, bombers averaging 35 years old and tankers averaging 47 years old.

An aging fleet, increasing aviation fuel costs and higher-than-expected overseas contingency operations costs have resulted in a current year bill significantly greater than expected, according to Breedlove.

“We are working hard with (Department of Defense) leadership to address this shortfall to avoid actions that might harm readiness,” he said.

Breedlove said, however, that what really worries him with fiscal constraints isn’t an aging or shrinking force, but rather the impact on training.

“What really concerns me are the challenges we face to get our full-spectrum training,” he said. “We are proficient in the current, countersurgency fight, but we’ve had to put high-end, full-spectrum training on the back burner, which has the greatest effect on our combat air forces.”

The general told the senators that despite fiscal pressures, there continues to be an increasing demand for air, space and cyber capabilities, which is evident in the DOD’s new defense strategic guidance.

“In order to keep faith with the American people and provide our unique capabilities, upon which the entire joint team so greatly relies, it is imperative that we balance our force structure to preserve our readiness and maintain our risk-balanced force,” said Breedlove.

“In doing so, we must rebalance our active and reserve component mix to ensure we can meet joint force requirements, while not exceeding deploy-to-dwelling ratios across the entire total force.”

Breedlove said that as the Air Force rebalances the force, the service remains committed to advancements in technology and future investments “to continually sharpen the sword.”

“Although we will be smaller, we will remain an effective and ready force,” he said.

Welch
From Page 1

By Tech. Sgt. Jess D. Harvey
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A nearby image of a poster promoting the film "Battleship," opening May 18, shows a battleship on the ocean with the text "The Battle for Earth Begins at Sea" and "Starts Friday, May 18."
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Graduation 2012 schedule of events

Today
Salat Ul Jummah, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Cadet Chapel
Ring Dinner Out (Second-class cadets and their guests only), 5:30-7:45 p.m., Mitchell Hall
Jewish Sabbath Service, 7-8 p.m., Cadet Chapel
Ring Dance (Second-class cadets and their guests only), 8-11 p.m., Arnold Hall Ballroom

Saturday
Preparatory School Graduate Reception, 4:30-6:30 p.m., High Country Inn
Bluebards Production, Jekyll & Hyde - Next to Normal, 7-8 p.m., Cadet Chapel

Sunday
Baccalaureate Services: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cadet Chapel
• 8-9:15 a.m. - Catholic Mass, Squadrons 28-40
• 9-10:15 a.m. - Protestant Service, Squadrons 21-40
• 10-11:15 a.m. - Catholic Mass, Squadrons 14-27
• 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - Jewish Service, Squadrons 1-40
• 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Protestant Service, Squadrons 1-20
• Noon to 1:15 p.m. - Catholic Mass, Squadrons 113
• 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Buddhist Service
Superintendent's Family Reception, 1-5:15 p.m., The Carlton House
• 1 p.m. - Third Group, Squadrons 21-30
• 2:05-3:05 p.m. - Fourth Group, Squadrons 31-40
• 3:10-4:10 p.m. - First Group, Squadrons 1-10
• 4:15-5:15 p.m. - Second Group, Squadrons 11-20
Cadet Orchestra Concert, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Arnold Hall Theater
Bluebards Production of Next to Normal - 7-9 p.m., Arnold Hall Theater

Monday
Organizational Awards Parade, 10:17 a.m., Stillman Field
Donors’ Luncheon (by invitation only), 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m., Falcon Club
Individual Awards Ceremony, 1:30-3 p.m., Clune Arena
Individual Awards Reception (by invitation only), 3-4 p.m., Field House Concourse

Tuesday
Graduation Tapping Ceremonies - Curtis, Civil Air Patrol and 100-Year Honor Roll (by invitation only to cadets and their guests), 8-9 a.m., Arnold Hall Ballroom Balcony
Graduation Parade & Airmanship Demonstration, 10-11 a.m., Stillman Field
Academic Department Award Ceremonies, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., various times/locations
Academy Scholars Ceremony, 2-3 p.m., Fairchild Hall, F1 Thunderbirds Practice Show (roads closed noon to 3 p.m.), 2-2:45 p.m., Falcon Stadium
Catholic Choir Concert, 2-4 p.m., Cadet Chapel
Commissioning Ceremonies, 4:30-6:30 p.m. various locations
Graduation Formal Reception, 5-8 p.m., Mitchell Hall
Commissioning Ceremonies, 7-9 p.m., various locations
Graduation Ball, 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Arnold Hall

Wednesday
Graduation Ceremony, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Falcon Stadium, (followed by Thunderbirds Performance)
Air Force Academy Foundation Luncheon (by invitation only to AFAF and cadets), 2-3:30 p.m., The Carlton House

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Colorado Christian University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
WASHINGTON (AFNS) — After extensive internal review, the Air Force released today its basing criteria that will be used to select candidate bases for the KC-46A formal training unit and first two main operating bases.

The formal training unit (FTU) and first main operating base (MOB 1) will be led by active duty units. The second main operating base (MOB 2) will be led by an Air National Guard unit. The FTU and MOB 1 will begin receiving aircraft in FY16. MOB 2 will receive aircraft in FY18.

The basing criteria for the MOBs, approved by Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff General Norton A. Schwartz, include mission (proximity to refueling receiver demand, airfield and airspace availability, fuels considerations, and the potential to establish an association), capacity (hangar, runway, ramp space and facility considerations), environmental requirements and cost factors.

The basing criteria for the FTU, approved by the Secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff of the Air Force, include mission (proximity of aircraft available to support air refueling training, student throughput, aircrew training systems, fuels considerations, and the potential to establish an association), capacity (hangars, runway, ramp space and facility considerations), environmental requirements and cost factors.

“The KC-46A tanker is a critical force multiplier and essential to the way this nation fights its wars and provides humanitarian support around the globe,” explained Schwartz. “The KC-46A is a game changer, and will be a great asset to the nation, not only as a tanker, but as a means to augment the airlift fleet, provide aeromedical evacuation and transport of passengers and cargo.”

“The Air Force is committed to an open and transparent process to address KC-46A basing,” said Kathleen Ferguson, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for installations, “As we progress through the basing process, we will share information so interested communities are aware of what to expect.”

The Air Force will evaluate all sites within the defined enterprise against the approved criteria. This information will be used to identify candidate bases for the KC-46A. After the release of the candidate bases, Air Mobility Command will conduct site surveys at each candidate base.

Site survey teams will assess each location against operational and training requirements, potential impacts to existing missions, housing, infrastructure, manpower, and develop cost estimates to determine how to beddown the KC-46 at each location.

Based on the results of these efforts, the Air Force plans to announce KC-46A preferred and reasonable alternatives and begin the environmental impact analysis process (EIAP) for the FTU and MOB 1 in December 2012. Likewise, the Air Force plans to announce the preferred and reasonable alternatives and begin the EIAP for MOB 2 in the spring of 2013.

“This enterprise-wide look enhances our ability to create, protect, and sustain all air and space forces across the full range of military operations,” said Ferguson. “It is a deliberate, standardized, and transparent process.”
Engineering career creates pathway for leadership

by Dale Eckroth
Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service

Ever since childhood, Col. Daniel Uribe set his sites on one day becoming an airmen officer. It seemed like a far-fetched dream for a boy growing up in Juarez, Mexico, located along the U.S.-Mexico border near El Paso, Texas. But it was a dream he relentlessly pursued and one that would literally take him around the world. Uribe’s path to an engineering career began when his family immigrated to the United States in 1978 and settled in El Paso. During his senior year in high school, the future Air Force officer applied to the Air Force Academy. But since he wasn’t a U.S. citizen at that time, he first had to attend the Academy’s Preparatory School and was subsequently offered an appointment to the Academy’s Class of 1988.

“The Air Force Academy offered a path to a great and free education,” he said. “I also chose the Air Force Academy because of the engineering programs available and the mission of the Air Force.”

Graduating with a bachelor of science degree in astronautical engineering, Uribe launched his Air Force career as a guidance and control engineer with the Small Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. He led a team of contractors and military personnel in the test, evaluation and certification of the navigation, Guidance and Control system for the experimental Small ICBM. As a member of the launch team he was also responsible for the go-no go launch decisions based on the readiness of the critical Small ICBM systems.

An assignment to Holloman AFB, N.M., gave the colonel an opportunity to lead the GPS Integration team there responsible for orchestrating the integration of the technology into every weapon system in the Air Force. He also created a joint service test team that helped minimize or eliminate duplication of the GPS test capabilities in the Department of Defense.

Following his Holloman assignment, Uribe was given an opportunity to step out of his day-to-day familiarities and enhance his leadership experience through a unique assignment known as a career-broadening tour. He accepted a teaching position at the place where his Air Force education began – the Air Force Academy. There he taught Spanish and astronautical engineering. He also served as the executive officer to the Professor and Head of the Department of Foreign Languages.

Following his career broadening tour, Uribe moved to Hanscom AFB, Mass., where he was the lead for the team responsible for developing the Air Force’s “next generation” GPS-based precision landing system. A later assignment took him to NATO’s Air Component Command in Izmir, Turkey, where he held several positions including being the executive officer to the Air Component Commander.

“There are many things I liked about my job as an Air Force engineer, but perhaps the most salient was the opportunity early on to lead technical teams to achieve very visible objectives (i.e. launching ICBMs or flight testing GPS Navigation systems). The other aspect I truly enjoyed about my technical duties was that all of them had a real and direct impact on the Air Force mission,” Uribe explained. “For example, the development of the Small ICBM and the Peacekeeper operational testing strengthened our strategic posture during the Cold War, the integration of GPS into all weapon systems vastly improved the Air Force’s operational capabilities (later demonstrated in Iraq and Afghanistan).”

Throughout his career, Uribe has taken advantage of Air Force education opportunities to pursue advanced degrees at no cost to him. “All of my education has been provided or facilitated by the Air Force,” he said. “I earned a master’s degree in Astronautical Engineering as a full-time student at the Air Force Institute of Technology and a PhD in Educational Technology at Arizona State University (also as a full-time student).”

Uribe’s Air Force education programs have also had a profound effect on the colonel’s career. “The master’s degree opened up jobs in the Air Force that would otherwise not have been accessible. The PhD allowed applying to the Air Force Academy as a senior faculty member and also allowed me the opportunity to compete for the position that I now hold of Permanent Professor,” he added.

Uribe returned to the Air Force Academy in 2007 and was selected as Permanent Professor. The position is unique in the Air Force and the selection process included reviews by the secretary of the Air Force, Air Force chief of staff and required a presidential nomination and Senate confirmation.

“The most important thing I’ve learned about myself in the Air Force is that I am capable of far more things than I ever thought possible. The Air Force has pushed me beyond my limits physically and mentally, and I have been able to succeed,” the colonel said. “As I have faced challenges, the Air Force Academy or throughout my career, I’ve had the confidence to know I could overcome them. This confidence has allowed me to take on increasing levels of leadership and responsibility and has allowed me to serve as a mentor to younger officers.”

In discussing engineering opportunities in the Air Force, Uribe is quick to point out that hard work is rewarded and individuals are only limited by their own dreams and work ethic. “The Air Force provides you with the opportunity to fulfill your dreams in just about any technical field,” he said. “If you’re interested in working in cutting-edge research, the Air Force has a job for you. If you’re interested in leading technical teams, you can do that. If you’re interested in field operations (flight testing, etc.), you can be involved in the development of the newest fighter aircraft, the next generation space launch system or satellite for the world’s most powerful Air Force.”

New guide helps Airmen, families navigate social media

by Tech. Sgt. Karen Tonak
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO – LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) – Airmen and families have a new resource at their fingertips with the recent release of an updated and revised social media guide by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency in San Antonio, Texas.

The guide features sections geared toward all Total Force members and their families, including all sections of the five service leaders. It highlights topics including using social media effectively, securing a content strategy and understanding the impact of social media on personal and professional communications.

“The guide has made great strides in updating this guide,” said Larry Clavette, Air Force Public Affairs Agency director. “Airmen and families will see a lot of information they can apply to their social networking practices, whether they’ve been using social media for years or are just coming onboard with the technology. Without the right information on social media has been around for several years, the types of platforms people use evolve and new ones start up nearly every day. No matter which social media platform you use, and whether you use social media personally or professionally, many basic principles apply.

Operations security ranks first and foremost in the minds of many military members, but the casual nature of social media can easily lead to inadvertent sharing of sensitive personal information via personal profiles and accounts. Everyone should make sure they share personal information only with people they trust and understand that no matter how sure they set up their privacy settings and friend can unintentionally share details about their lives with people who may have malicious intentions.

Though the desire to protect personal information is one reason people may not join social media platforms, the familiarity with social media platforms is another commonly cited reason for staying out of the social media arena.

“By now, many people are already using social media so this guide is for people who have set up these personal accounts,” said Capt. Amber Millerchips, the deputy director of public communications at AFPAF.

“Instead, we focused on how to communicate and effectively use one of the most commonly used social media platforms. We hope everyone finds something in the guide they can use in their personal or professional communications on these platforms.”

For most Airmen and family members, staying in touch with the social media policy references, frequently asked questions and resources at the end, cover the basics they need to successfully navigate social networks. Unit leaders and public affairs professionals will find them all in the guide that addresses social media and a public

See SOCIAL MEDIA page 16
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Prep School honors grads
Cadet candidates recognized for academic, character development

By Amber Baillie
Academy Spirit staff writer

Graduates, parents and distinguished guests gathered for the 2012 Air Force Academy Preparatory School graduation Tuesday in Arnold Hall Theater to applaud cadet candidates on their pre-Academy achievements.

A total of 201 were honored for completion of the school’s 10-month program of intense military, academic and physical training to develop the skills and character needed for success at the Academy.

“I’m confident that over the last 10 months we’ve gone to great lengths in preparing your sons and daughters to succeed at the Academy and become cadets and officers of character,” Preparatory School commander Col. Bart Weiss said. “Your sons and daughters’ education experience was interwoven in athletics, academics, military training, peer leadership and development and character building, honed under the honor code and dedicated towards service, integrity and excellence.”

Retired Lt. Col. Bud Kelly, member of the Academy’s first Preparatory School graduation class of 1962 and a 1966 Academy graduate, spoke to graduates on the foundation the school has provided them.

“I was an enlisted Airman when the idea of a Prep School first occurred, and I had to be pushed into applying,” Kelly said. “From there, it snowballed into a life that, as an Airman, I had never dreamed of. Fifty years ago I stood where you stand and crossed the same finish line you crossed only to find out it was a starting line.”

The Academy’s Prep School was created in May 1961. It allows civilian and active-duty applicants not accepted into the Academy, an opportunity to prepare for the Academy and increase, not guarantee, their chance for admission into the Academy.

“It’s not a guaranteed school of anything, it’s an opportunity school,” Kelly said. “The only thing men and women of the Prep School are given is a chance to be tested, to excel and given the opportunity to prove that they’re up to the challenge. I believe that преппі are given the finest staff in any military institution in the country.”

Kelly said graduation from the school will bring about next opportunities. “I don’t know who you will become or where success will take you, but I know for fact that the foundation of this experience has prepared you to go to places, meet people and do things that you can’t even imagine right now,” Kelly said.

Kelly said his experience at the Prep School has forever connected him to his 1962 classmates and made each one of them brighter and more courageous.

“Each of us is formidable, but together we are magnificent,” Kelly said. “It is time for the class of 2012 to join your brothers and sisters in this formation.”


Like the Academy, admission into the Prep School is competitive. Approximately 240 cadet candidates are accepted into the program each summer.
Spring fling

Left to Right: Brenda Padilla, Tech. Sgt. Phil Palacios and Maj. Teresa King participate in the Spring fling fun run May 11. All three are assigned to the Academy Protocol office.

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH ANDREWS

DF wins intramural soccer title

The Dean of Faculty Soccer team squared off against the Fire Department in the final game of the intramural soccer season Tuesday. The firefighters needed to win the game in order to secure the base championship title, while DF could clinch the title with a tie or a win. Although DF dominated most of the game and had some really good chances on goal, the firefighters shut them down. Fire had their best scoring opportunity in the second half as one of their forward's attempt to score hit the crossbar.

"We focused most of our effort on playing strong defense," said DF Team coach Jeremiah Kirschman. Despite the best efforts of both teams, both teams were scoreless at the end of regulation time and the game ended in a tie. Team DF ended up winning the season title with a one-point advantage over the firefighters on the season.

Under Kirschman's direction, DF has now won the Base Soccer Intramural Championship three times in the past four years. Kirschman is a former cadet soccer star who also played on the all Air Force team that won the gold medal in the 2011 Armed Forces Championship.

“This soccer league was the most competitive I have seen in a long while,” said Dave Castilla, intramural sports director. “All the teams had to play hard to win. There were no easy victories.”

Dean of the Faculty’s Jeremiah Kirschman attacks the ball during the intramural soccer championship game Tuesday.

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PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH ANDREWS

Fire Department’s Sulaiman Burns takes a headshot over DF’s Katie Stinton during the intramural soccer finals Tuesday.
Former Falcons safety Thomas selected to Hall of Fame

Scott Thomas, a 1986 graduate of the Air Force Academy and former All-American safety, has been elected to the College Football Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2012. Thomas is the fourth former Falcon to be elected to the HOF, players Brock Strom (1985) and Chad Hennings (2006) and former coach Fisher DeBerry (2011).

Thomas earned consensus All-American honors in 1985 as a senior while leading Air Force to a school-best 12-1 record, a No. 5 national ranking and victory over Texas in the Bluebonnet Bowl. He led the team in interceptions with six that season and became just the seventh player in NCAA history at the time to have a kickoff, punt and interception return for a touchdown in the same season.

Affectionately known as Spike, Thomas is one of just five consensus All-Americans in Air Force history, joining Strom (1958), Ernie Jennings (1970), Hennings (1987) and Carlton McDonald (1992). He ranks sixth in school history with 10 career interceptions. A special teams standout, McDonald (1992). He ranks sixth in school history with 10 career interceptions. A special teams standout, Thomas was elected into the Air Force Hall of Fame in 2011.

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Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudokus. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your suduko savvy to the test!

Here’s How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoko, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier to get to solve the puzzle!
Cadet Fitness Center offers space, new gear

By Amber Baillie
Academy Spirit staff writer

Academy cadets now have a state-of-the-art facility to work out with the grand opening of the new Cadet Fitness Center Wednesday.

The 50,000-square-foot center is an addition to the Cadet Gymnasium and is located on the west side of the building.

Academy leadership attended the grand opening and ribbon cutting and praised the new facility.

“I encourage you to take advantage of this new facility,” said Brig. Gen. Richard Clark, commandant of cadets. “Athletics is fully engrained within the academic and military culture at the Academy. Now cadets will have room to spread out and enjoy modern fitness equipment to maintain their physical fitness.”

The $9.5 million center was constructed due to the lack of workout space for the cadet population. The addition offers a large amount of space and includes a cybex room, climbing walls, cardio equipment, physical fitness testing room, weight room and a fencing center.

Clark said the gym was originally designed in the late 1950’s for 2,200 male cadets.

“Many gym functions were operating in converted squash courts and modern training machines were squeezed into already constrained and poorly configured spaces.”

Other improvements include upgraded locker rooms and a renovated swimming area.

“Construction for the center started one year and seven days ago,” said Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould. “Good fitness is a fundamental requirement for Air Force warriors. We want to promote a lifestyle change for cadets and opportunity to live healthy habits beyond the Air Force standards.”

Summer hours for cadets and faculty/staff with cadet area access badges are Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

Department of Defense identification card holders can use the facility from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cadet 2nd Class Jen Bremser of Cadet Squadron 17 tries out the new exercise equipment.

The new Cadet Fitness Center includes state-of-the-art fitness equipment and a weight room. The center is designed for energy efficiency and even includes cardio equipment powered by user-generated energy.

PHOTOS BY MIKE KAPLAN

Brig. Gen. Dana Born scales the new climbing wall during the grand opening Wednesday. Born is the Academy’s dean of the faculty.

The new center includes a dedicated area for fencing.
Academy takes over-30 basketball title

By Dave Castilla
Intramural sports director

The Academy won a tension-filled 70-69 victory against Peterson in the Rocky Mountain Over-30 basketball championship Saturday. This is the second straight week that Academy took a Rocky Mountain victory. The under-30 team won the previous week, beating Schriever and Peterson Air Force Base teams. This is the second time in three years the Academy team has captured the over 30 crown.

Peterson got off to a quick start with Mark Evanger hitting from outside and Drew Smith from the inside to give Peterson an early 11-point lead. From that point, the Academy cut the lead to six, thanks to 13 points from Ty Wright, a former Air Force Falcon. Peterson finished the half with a 37-31 lead.

Peterson started strong again in the second half as Evander hit a long three-pointer, putting Peterson up by nine, 40-31. But former Falcons Tom Bellairs and Ty Wright scored the Academy team’s next eight points, to bring Peterson’s lead down to seven, 48-41.

After a Peterson timeout, the Academy went on a 10-4 run, closing the lead to one, 52-51. Then with 6:52 left on the clock, the Academy finally tied the score at 54 apiece with another bucket from Wright.

After a brief one-point Academy lead, Peterson came right back with two fast-break buckets off of steals from Kenny Lewter and Tommy Johnson to push Peterson’s lead to three, 60-57.

The Academy’s Nate Allen followed up with a three pointer to tie the game at 60. The turning point of the game was when Tom Bellairs made one of two free throws with the Academy down, 62-61. Ty Wright got the missed free throw, put it in, was fouled, and made two more free throws to put the Academy up 64-62. Wright made three more free throws to increase the lead to five, 67-62.

Through it all, Peterson never gave up. Two free throws from Tommy Johnson and a bucket off another steal by Robert Johnson put Peterson back in the game at 67-66.

The Academy’s Aaron Dawkins got ahead of the field and scored on a fast-break putting his team up by three. Both Evanger and Wright made one of two free throws to give the Academy a slight lead at 70-67. However, a quick bucket from Peterson’s Tommy Johnson cut the lead to one, 70-69. But with 12 seconds on the clock the Academy’s Chad Holland was fouled and missed both free throws. Holland redeemed himself by stealing the ball with 4.3 seconds left on the clock, however, the ball went out of bounds off an Academy player and Peterson still had a chance with 0.2 seconds.

After a Peterson timeout, the ball was thrown in but no players could control the ball to take a shot and time expired to give the Academy a 70-69 win.

Academy Player coach Tom Bellairs was proud of his team’s efforts.

“My game was off but Ty Wright was the man who kept us in the game,” Bellairs said. “This is about as even as two teams can get and we feel great about getting the victory.”

Wright finished with 34 points, and Bellairs was next with 12 points. Peterson was led in scoring by Mark Evanger with 17 points and Drew Smith with 12 points.

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Social Media

“Social media is another tool in a public affairs toolkit,” said Tanya Schusler, the chief of social media at AFPA. “The new guide will help any Air Force public affairs office start or improve their social media program. The two most important things to remember are to have a communication plan and to engage with followers. Social media is supposed to be fun but that doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be a deliberate process.”

As units share their Airmen’s stories locally, they might also consider sending stories, photographs and videos with wider Air Force appeal to AFPAA so they can be featured on the main official United States Air Force social media properties. The section in the guide discussing social media and AFPAA outlines how to submit those products and also touches on a growing area in Air Force emerging technology use - the development of mobile applications.

“We understand how mobile applications can help Airmen and families in the Air Force, and we encourage folks to leverage technology in accomplishing their jobs more efficiently,” said Clavette.

“What we ask everyone to do is be smart about developing applications for official use. There are many things to consider from impact on mission completion and potential risks to a variety of costs in development and maintenance of an app. AFPAA is the focal point for mobile applications development, so we need folks to contact us for guidance before jumping into this area.”

Airmen can download a copy of the guide from the social media tab at www.af.mil, the official website of the U.S. Air Force or by selecting the link. Questions and comments about the guide can be directed to the AFPAA Social Media Division via the contact information on the guide’s back cover.

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Military Spouse Job Fair

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will host a hiring fair for the region’s military spouses May 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Club on Peterson Air Force Base.

More than 49 employers are expectd to participate with jobs available for military spouses of all levels of experience.

For more information call 202-463-5961.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held June 4-8 from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Community Center Chapel.

Children ages pre-school through fifth grade will participate in Bible-learning activities, songs, teamwork-building games and other learning activities.

To register people can stop by the Community Center Chapel or call at 333-3300.

Got an IDEA?

The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, or IDEA, Program is designed to recognize and reward individuals whose ideas result in validated tangible savings, and $200 for approved ideas resulting in intangible benefits.

To submit an idea go to: https://ipds.randolph.af.mil/ipds/ (Common Access Card login required) or contact the IDEA office at 333-4332.

New housing website

To help make the transition easier for Airmen and their families moving to their next duty station, the Air Force’s A7C Housing Division recently launched a new public website that provides housing information for Air Force installations worldwide.

The website, www.housing.af.mil, provides information on housing options and support services available at Air Force installations as well as details on the local communities, school district information, local weather and other useful resources that will help Airmen and their families become familiar with their new homes.

It also provides dорм information for unaccompanied Airmen.

The Academy’s housing office is located at 6556 West Columbine Drive and can be reached at 333-2247.

Family Advocacy classes

The 10th Medical Group will offer new classes in May and June on healthy family relationships.

Love and Logic: Teaches practical tools and techniques that help parents achieve respectful and healthy relationships with their children.

A six-session class on May 23, 30 and June 13, 20 and 27 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dads 101: Teaches on how to be a dad and key role as a father. A two-session class on June 5 and 12 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Couples Enrichment Workshop: A workshop for married, dating or engaged couples on how to talk to each other more effectively and solve problems as a team. On June 8 from 12:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For questions or more information, call 333-5270.

Lombeida fund-raiser

A golf tournament will be held at the Eisenhower Golf Course June 1 to raise money for the Lombeida Foundation, which provides free medical care in Equador.

For more information or to register, contact Mark Backlin at 556-0117.

Sports physicals available

The 10th Medical Group’s Pediatrics Clinic will offer evening appointments for sports physicals on Tuesdays and Thursdays for children enrolled in the Academy’s Pediatrics and Family Practice clinics.

Because physicals are valid for 12 months, parents who require physicals for school sports programs may simply drop off the forms for their providers to sign.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the appointment line at 524-CARE (2273).

Free baseball tickets

The Colorado Rockies are offering free tickets to military personnel and veterans for their first game against the Houston Astros on Memorial Day, May 28.

Tickets for friends and family members are available for $15 and may be picked up at the Coors Field ticket window.

Contact the Rockies at militarytickets@coloradorockies.com or by phone at 303-312-2470 or 303-312-2426 for more information.

Summer bowling leagues

The Academy Lanes Bowling Center will offer summer bowling leagues starting May 29.

Available leagues include a parent and youth league Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for $14 per team, three-person youth leagues Thursdays at 10 a.m. for $7 per person and four-person adult mixed leagues Thursdays at 7 p.m. for $10 per person.

Children may receive free bowling lessons during youth league play on Thursdays.

For more information, call Academy Lanes at 333-4709.

Junior golf program

The Eisenhower Golf Course will offer junior golf programs in two sessions, June 4-8 and June 25-29, for $125 per beginner or intermediate child.

An advanced program is also available June 4-8 for $150 for children ages 14-17.

Children must have parents on active duty and assigned to the Air Force Academy to be eligible.
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Cedar Springs Behavioral Health System, Inc.

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Cedar Springs Behavioral Health System, Inc.

**SALES**

SALES MANAGER

Cedar Springs Behavioral Health System, Inc. is seeking a Sales Manager to join our team in Cedar Springs, Michigan. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and implementing sales strategies to increase revenue and achieve sales goals. This is a full-time, permanent position with a competitive salary and benefits package. Please apply online at our website or contact us directly for more information.

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