New ESET training program begins this summer

Amber Ballie
Academy Spirit staff writer

Cadets will get a new take on survival, evasion and combat skills training this summer with a new Academy program that integrates previous training courses.

The program is called Expeditionary Survival and Evasion Training and will be carried out in June. It will be a graduation requirement starting with the 2015 class and will replace and encompass aspects from Combat Survival Training, Global Engagement and survival, escape, resistance, and evasion courses.

ESET will occur on Academy grounds, last for 20 days and be split into two tracks: Combat Skills and Personnel Recovery.

The CS track will focus on survival and evasion skills and take place in the Cadet Area and Jacks Valley. “During CS, we’ll teach them the skills to do convoy using the dirt road, the valley and teach them that if you’re attacked, here’s what you’re going to do,” said Lt. Col. Tony Valerio, the Academy’s Training Division chief. “Everything you would get in a pre-deployment training will be a part of the combat skills training.”

The PR track will focus on forward-deployed skills and include seven days of field training without fire, weapons or food.

See Training Page 6
Air Force leaders issue Memorial Day message

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz sent the following Memorial Day message to the Airmen of the U.S. Air Force and their families:

On May 30, 1868, the first official Memorial Day observance was held at Arlington National Cemetery to honor over 20,000 soldiers of the Civil War. Today, Memorial Day serves as an opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of more than one million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who have given their lives to secure our freedoms.

As we remember our fallen, captured, or missing service men and women, we also express our deep gratitude to those who are currently defending our nation. Today, more than 33,000 Airmen are deployed around the world, while over 134,000 provide global support from their home station. Among our all-volunteer force, 68 percent of Airmen joined the Air Force after 9/11, and have never known a peacetime military. The men and women who answered the call by saying, “Send me,” truly exemplify Service before Self.

In addition to recognizing the service of our fellow Airmen, we also pay tribute to the families of those who have fallen or who have been wounded while serving our country. For these families — the husbands and wives, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers — every day is Memorial Day. We will not forget those whom our fallen, captured, or missing service men and women left behind, and to whom our debt of gratitude can never be repaid.

On this day of remembrance, as we honor those who have given “their last full measure of devotion” in service to our nation, let us renew our commitment to military family survivors, as well as to our wounded warriors and their families To all Airmen, whether serving at home or abroad, please know your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. We are grateful for your service and are privileged to stand with you, by you, and for you.

We are grateful for your service ... privileged to stand with you.

— SEC AF & CSAF

Never forget

Staff Sgt. Bianca Meehan places flags on grave sites at the Academy Cemetery May 21 in honor of Memorial Day. Meehan, who works at the Academy’s Health and Wellness Center, and other Academy Airmen participated in the ceremony honoring the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Ludwig takes on new command role striving for excellence

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Ludwig’s story sounds like something one might see on the silver screen: A young man ventures forth from his hometown in search of something more than the small town can offer, and adventure ensues.

Ludwig, who became the Academy’s command chief in April, did just that when he joined the Air Force more than 28 years ago. “Ultimately, I joined to get a skill set, education and job skills,” said Ludwig, who lived in Hastings, Neb., when he entered the Delayed Enlistment Program in June of 1983. “I wanted to go into electronics, and the Air Force helped me do that.”

He entered Basic Military Training in January 1984 and discovered that military life suited him. “I found I loved it. It fit me personally: the values, the work ethic. It provided everything I needed in life,” he said. “It’s been 28 years, and I haven’t had very many bad days.”

Ludwig bounced from Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, twice, spending a total of 12 years at the two bases. He underwent technical training at Lowry and returned later as an instructor for the 3400th Technical Training Wing. At RAF Lakenheath, he worked as a technician and later as a logistics support NCO. Later assignments included tours at Kapaun Air Station, Germany, and Aviano Air Base, Italy — in total, the chief spent 19 years overseas.

“Every place has had its great moments,” he said. “I’ve always felt valued by the people I served with. Ludwig has worked with partner nations’ armed forces, and he said that experience has given him perspective into the importance of a strong enlisted corps. In Ukraine, Bulgaria and Hungary, he built relationships and helped the NATO partners create professional enlisted corps.

“The enlisted corps will make or break a mission,” he said. “Leadership is so critical.”

As the Academy’s command chief, Ludwig now oversees a complex mission: balancing the needs of the Academy’s small enlisted cadre with the installation’s mission to produce officers of character — and as part of the mission, to train cadets on what the enlisted corps has to offer.

“There are competing requirements, and you have to look at things in an objective way to make sure the people and the mission are both satisfied,” he said.

As Defense Department budgets shrink, both the Air Force and the Academy must find ways to continue striving for excellence, the chief added. He’s spent much of his first two months here learning just how he can help the Academy’s enlisted corps make that happen.

“May was a busy time. I’ve learned a lot,” he said. “My focus areas have been, how can I help them reach their personal goals, and how can we impact the attitudes and opinions of cadets. It’s so critical that we’re professional and represent our corps well.”
Academy grads selected for Language Enabled Airman Program

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Five members of the Air Force Academy Class of 2012 were recently selected for the Language Enabled Airman Program, which provides the Air Force with language-enabled Airmen from across Air Force specialties. A total of 53 Airmen were recently selected to participate in a career-long program to not only sustain, but enhance, track and use their language and cross-cultural skills, said officials from the Air Force Culture and Language Center.

“LEAP’s end goal is to produce a language speaker who can perform their core job duties in their respective foreign language,” said Mr. Jay Warwick, director of the AFCLC. “Commanders have a need for cross-culturally competent Airmen - individuals with language, cultural and regional abilities - to help accomplish the Air Force mission. LEAP is one way we help provide that.”

The most recent selectees join a group of about 1,000 other LEAP Airmen. Selected candidates had proficiency in 21 different foreign languages, bringing the total number of languages represented in LEAP to 58. Among the languages represented were Spanish and French, as well as less common specialties such as Farsi, Burmese, Swahili and Urdu.

The spring 2012 board was the fourth LEAP selection board, and it differed from previous boards in a few aspects, said program officials. One important difference was that this board, made up of language experts from across the Air Force, was conducted virtually. “Although it may not be possible to have virtual boards in every instance,” said Mr. Zachary Hickman, AFCLC Language Branch chief, “the cost savings were significant compared to bringing all the board members together in person.”

Additionally, the target goal of selectees was smaller – only 50 – than in earlier boards. “We knew this board would need to be smaller than those in the past because of funding constraints, so we targeted a relatively small group of Air Force units and communities and invited them to field candidates,” Mr. Hickman said. Those Airmen invited to apply included members of the International Health Specialist and special operations communities, as well as others. “Due to the limited nature of the board, we wanted to target those communities who have a significant stake in building international partnerships and fulfilling other language requirements within the general purpose force.”

LEAP Airmen participate in four to six-week Language Intensive Training Events every three to four years, and receive weekly online instruction with a professional language instructor. In addition, LEAP participants can reasonably expect to have at least one duty assignment that fills a language-related billet during their Air Force careers. They can also expect other shorter-term assignments that require their skills. Hickman added.

The next LEAP selection board is scheduled for fall 2012. Eligibility requirements and application requirements are scheduled to be announced mid-summer on the AFCLC website at www.culture.af.mil/LEAP. General information on LEAP is also available via the website, or by calling the AFCLC at 334-953-7729. For the latest updates, follow the Center on Twitter @AFCLC, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/airforcecultureandlanguagecenter.

USAFA SELECTEES:

2nd Lt. Catherine Kiyota, Mandarin Chinese
2nd Lt. Michelle Kiyota Mandarin Chinese
2nd Lt. Paulina Rudolph French
2nd Lt. Robert Stephenson Modern Standard Arabic
2nd Lt. Mitchell Young German
Your commitment is to our country. Our commitment is to you.

Exclusive to Military Servicemembers and Veterans: CHASE MILITARY BANKING¹

Just show your qualifying Military ID and open a Chase Premier Plus Checking℠ account. Then, you are entitled to receive all of the benefits of this premier account designed especially for you, America’s best and bravest:

* No minimum balance requirement
* No monthly Service Fee
* No fees on four non-Chase ATM transactions per month²
* No fees on Money Orders, Travelers Checks, and Gift Cards³
* Discounts on other products and services⁴

Visit your nearest Chase branch or ChaseMilitary.com

¹ Chase Military banking benefits are available only on Chase Premier Plus Checking account. Deposit accounts subject to approval. We will notify you of changes to your account terms and fees.
² See on Chase ATM Fee Charging by Chase for using affiliated card at non-Chase ATMs. Usage fees may be charged by the institution that owns the ATM.
³ Gift cards not sold in CT or NJ. Gift card purchases online are $4.95 per card for standard shipping (ships in 5-7 business days).
⁴ All Home Lending products are subject to credit and property approval. Rates, program terms, and conditions are subject to change at any time without notice. Not all products are available in all states or for all loan amounts. Other restrictions and limitations apply.

Home lending and deposit products offered by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Member FDIC.

© 2012 JPMorgan Chase & Co.
“Cadet will be provided with at least one meal a day but will not carry any food to the site,” Valerio said. “We will provide them with food until we drop them off but don’t want them to carry wrappers because we don’t want to trash the Academy.”

For anyone who has concerns for the program or sees cadets egressing through the Academy can call the ESET-PR Line at 333-0633. As a part of the training, the intent is for cadets to leave no trace on the environment and should not be seen during the exercise.

The biggest change with ESET is that cadets will no longer travel to Saylor Park, as they did for CST, due to cost and relevancy.

“In Saylor Park we were teaching people to survive for weeks to months, Gilligan’s Island-style, waiting to be rescued,” Valerio said. “That doesn’t happen anymore and hopefully we’ll never go back to that. We want them to still have opportunities to learn about plants that don’t look good, how to get water out of natural water sources here and be able to get their first taste of nasty water. Once you get past your gag reflex, you’ll be able to deal with it the rest of your life and realize that it’s not great, but you can survive.”

Both tracks will begin with academic lessons, one of which will require cadets to travel to Fort Carson where the Humvee Egress Assistance Training will be conducted.

“They’ll have mock Humvees with gigantic electric motors on each end and operators who can rotate the vehicles 360 degrees in either direction,” said Master Sgt. Marcus Haralson, ESET Combat Skills superintendent. “Cadets will learn the tipping angles of each vehicle, what the rollover angles are and how quickly one could become disoriented in trying to egress one of those vehicles after an improvised explosive attack.”

To improve their combat skills, cadets will use mock weapons and participate in combat scenarios around Jacks Valley and the mobile operations in urban terrain training area.

“The idea revolves around the Polaris Warrior concept,” said Cadet 1st Class Riley Feeney, Cadet Squadron 28 Commander. “We’re in school nine months out of the year, busy with academics and we need an opportunity to work on our warrior skill set. It’s Combat 101 for when things get weird. It’s not going to happen to everyone, but you don’t want to be at fault when you get ambushed and you don’t have any experience. It’s not that this is necessarily going to save your life, but you need this training whenever things don’t go as planned.”

On May 17, Brig. Gen. Richard Clark, commandant of cadets, and Cadet Wing leaders toured the training sites and viewed demonstrations of ESET activities such as ambushes, nonconventional recovery mechanisms and evasion techniques.

Clark was briefed on a role that cadets will partake in, as a survivor and how to actively work through and into an unconventional assisted recovery mechanism camp. For that segment of training, cadets will stay at a ranch house and spend almost 24 hours there in the basement in hiding.

“In everything that we do, we’ll be conducting real world exercises,” said Master Sgt. Robert Graham, the Academy’s Survival, Evasion, Rescue and Escape functional manager. “We’re going to move them to an urban setting and they’ll have to break from that urban environment and move to a rural setting where they have the least possibility of combat with the enemy.”

Cadets will be scheduled for the training the summer after their freshman year.

“We’re showing cadets that all of these are examples of things that have been done recently or in the past and are still applicable and current today,” Graham said.
OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — The sounds of hammers and drills echoed through the air as Air Force Academy cadets gave Osan Air Base’s civil engineers an extra hand with construction May 24.

Approximately 15 cadets from the Academy worked side-by-side for two weeks with the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron’s Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force to learn about the tangible application of their studies. “We’re civil engineering majors and we’re coming out to different bases throughout the Air Force to see what civil engineers do,” said Cadet 1st Class Joseph Chapman, who graduates this year.

The engineers at Osan were building a pole barn to protect surplus items awaiting redistribution or destruction. CE received word about the cadets’ arrival and found they would mutually benefit.

The academy’s summer program allows junior and senior cadets first-hand experience on what the active-duty Air Force is like by traveling to bases to see what to expect, and to get a little bit of hands-on training that will help them become better leaders, he explained.

“This is my first base that I’ve really been to,” said Chapman. “I think it just gives us a broader idea of what we’re actually doing instead of worrying about just academics.” For 51st CES Airmen, having the cadets there to lend a helping hand proves not only beneficial for building projects, but it gives future leaders of the Air Force a perspective on their people. “I think it’s great for them to come out and get some hands-on experience, so when they’re planning jobs in the future, they understand what is actually going into it from the workers’ point of view,” said Staff Sgt. Brandon Alter, 51st Civil Engineer structures specialist. “Having somebody who has never had the hands-on at all and looking at a plan or a piece of paper, they can only picture so much. But when they’ve actually been hands-on and done the work, I think it helps them and the Air Force in the long run.”

“We had some of the cadets come out and help us frame up the walls,” Alter said. “They don’t have a layout. Myself and the other three CE guys here, we’re their layout.” According to Alter, the cadets picked up in the middle of the project with no prior experience of creating a barn of this type. “Basically it’s like, ‘here’s a hammer, here’s a nail, put this together — go!’ They don’t really know what the overall building is going to look like when it’s done so they’re just kind of shooting from the hip. But, having them really speeds up the process for us.” For Chapman, the on the job experience and travel to Korea made the trip worth it. “I think this is a pretty cool base to come to,” he said. “It’s one of the two overseas bases that we had an option to come to and I actually put it at the top of my list.”

Prime BEEF teams are rapidly deployable, specialized civil engineer units, which provide a wide variety of engineering support required to establish, operate and maintain garrison and contingency air bases.
President Barack Obama called the Air Force Academy’s Class of 2012 exceptional during his commencement address in Falcon Stadium May 23 for the spirit embodied in their class motto: “Numquam Hestitabimus, Numquam Deficiemus”—“Never Falter, Never Fail.”

The Class of 2012, the Academy’s 54th graduating class, set records for the largest number of graduates who will conduct post-graduate research after the ceremony and the largest number of female graduates in Academy history with 237.

“This is my second visit to the Academy,” Obama said at the beginning of his remarks. “I was here in the summer of 2008, and you were getting ready to head out to ... So I was proud to be here when you began this journey, and I thought I’d come back and help you celebrate at the end.”

Obama illustrated the significance of Air Force Academy graduates in supporting him as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, who said the death of a pilot headed for the Academy, was killed, is a 1984 graduate. Even the pilot of Air Force One, Col. Scott Turner, graduated from the Air Force Academy.

“I was going to tell you a joke about Scotti, but he’s my ride home, so I’ll keep that one to myself,” the president joked. On the same light-hearted note, he later added, “I only ask that you resist the temptation to rate my speech, ‘fast, neat, average, friendly, good, good.’

Taking a more somber tone, the president congratulated the cadets for excelling at one of the most demanding academic institutions in the United States.

“Graduates, this is the day you finally become officers in the finest Air Force in the world,” he said. “Like generations before you, you will be charged with the responsibility of leading those under your command. Like classes over the past 10 years, you graduate during a time of war, and you may find yourselves in harm’s way.”

The new lieutenants will also face an uncertain future, with more nebulous threats than those the U.S. has faced in the past, Obama said. However, he promised them that they would also be ready to meet those threats.

“When you came in four years ago, we had 180,000 troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said. “That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon.”

Obama cited several reasons why he sees the 21st century as another American century: because of the nation’s resilience; its alliances; its drive to lead global affairs; the American values of freedom and liberty; but perhaps most importantly because of the spirit of its people — people like 2nd Lt. Edward Machac, a Venezuela native whose pursuit for his dream to be a pilot led him to the Academy.

Edward ... said what we all know to be true: ‘I’m convinced that America is the land of opportunity.’ You’re right, Edward. That is who we are. That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon,” Obama said.

“It’s that simple yet revolutionary idea that was at our founding and in our hearts ever since: that we have it in our power to make the world anew, to make the future what we will,” he continued. “It’s that fundamental faith that American optimism, which sees that no challenge is too great, no mission too hard. It’s the spirit that guides your class: ‘Never Falter, Never Fail.’ ... With your proud service, I am absolutely confident that America will meet the challenges of our time.”

“... said what we all know to be true: ‘I’m convinced that America is the land of opportunity.’

You’re right, Edward. That is who we are. That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon,” Obama said.

“It’s that simple yet revolutionary idea that was at our founding and in our hearts ever since: that we have it in our power to make the world anew, to make the future what we will,” he continued. “It’s that fundamental faith that American optimism, which sees that no challenge is too great, no mission too hard. It’s the spirit that guides your class: ‘Never Falter, Never Fail.’ ... With your proud service, I am absolutely confident that America will meet the challenges of our time.”

Celebrating the class of 2012

President to Class of 2012: Your spirit is essence of America

By Don Branum

Academy Spirit staff writer

"I was going to tell you a joke about Scotti, but he’s my ride home, so I’ll keep that one to myself," the president joked. On the same light-hearted note, he later added, “I only ask that you resist the temptation to rate my speech, ‘fast, neat, average, friendly, good, good.’

Taking a more somber tone, the president congratulated the cadets for excelling at one of the most demanding academic institutions in the United States.

“Graduates, this is the day you finally become officers in the finest Air Force in the world,” he said. “Like generations before you, you will be charged with the responsibility of leading those under your command. Like classes over the past 10 years, you graduate during a time of war, and you may find yourselves in harm’s way.”

The new lieutenants will also face an uncertain future, with more nebulous threats than those the U.S. has faced in the past, Obama said. However, he promised them that they would also be ready to meet those threats.

“When you came in four years ago, we had 180,000 troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said. “That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon.”

Obama cited several reasons why he sees the 21st century as another American century: because of the nation’s resilience; its alliances; its drive to lead global affairs; the American values of freedom and liberty; but perhaps most importantly because of the spirit of its people — people like 2nd Lt. Edward Machac, a Venezuela native whose pursuit for his dream to be a pilot led him to the Academy.

Edward ... said what we all know to be true: ‘I’m convinced that America is the land of opportunity.’ You’re right, Edward. That is who we are. That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon,” Obama said.

“It’s that simple yet revolutionary idea that was at our founding and in our hearts ever since: that we have it in our power to make the world anew, to make the future what we will,” he continued. “It’s that fundamental faith that American optimism, which sees that no challenge is too great, no mission too hard. It’s the spirit that guides your class: ‘Never Falter, Never Fail.’ ... With your proud service, I am absolutely confident that America will meet the challenges of our time.”

Celebrating the class of 2012

By Don Branum

Academy Spirit staff writer

“I was going to tell you a joke about Scotti, but he’s my ride home, so I’ll keep that one to myself,” the president joked. On the same light-hearted note, he later added, “I only ask that you resist the temptation to rate my speech, ‘fast, neat, average, friendly, good, good.’

Taking a more somber tone, the president congratulated the cadets for excelling at one of the most demanding academic institutions in the United States.

“Graduates, this is the day you finally become officers in the finest Air Force in the world,” he said. “Like generations before you, you will be charged with the responsibility of leading those under your command. Like classes over the past 10 years, you graduate during a time of war, and you may find yourselves in harm’s way.”

The new lieutenants will also face an uncertain future, with more nebulous threats than those the U.S. has faced in the past, Obama said. However, he promised them that they would also be ready to meet those threats.

“When you came in four years ago, we had 180,000 troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said. “That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon.”

Obama cited several reasons why he sees the 21st century as another American century: because of the nation’s resilience; its alliances; its drive to lead global affairs; the American values of freedom and liberty; but perhaps most importantly because of the spirit of its people — people like 2nd Lt. Edward Machac, a Venezuela native whose pursuit for his dream to be a pilot led him to the Academy.

Edward ... said what we all know to be true: ‘I’m convinced that America is the land of opportunity.’ You’re right, Edward. That is who we are. That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon,” Obama said.

“It’s that simple yet revolutionary idea that was at our founding and in our hearts ever since: that we have it in our power to make the world anew, to make the future what we will,” he continued. “It’s that fundamental faith that American optimism, which sees that no challenge is too great, no mission too hard. It’s the spirit that guides your class: ‘Never Falter, Never Fail.’ ... With your proud service, I am absolutely confident that America will meet the challenges of our time.”

Celebrating the class of 2012

By Don Branum

Academy Spirit staff writer

“I was going to tell you a joke about Scotti, but he’s my ride home, so I’ll keep that one to myself,” the president joked. On the same light-hearted note, he later added, “I only ask that you resist the temptation to rate my speech, ‘fast, neat, average, friendly, good, good.’

Taking a more somber tone, the president congratulated the cadets for excelling at one of the most demanding academic institutions in the United States.

“Graduates, this is the day you finally become officers in the finest Air Force in the world,” he said. “Like generations before you, you will be charged with the responsibility of leading those under your command. Like classes over the past 10 years, you graduate during a time of war, and you may find yourselves in harm’s way.”

The new lieutenants will also face an uncertain future, with more nebulous threats than those the U.S. has faced in the past, Obama said. However, he promised them that they would also be ready to meet those threats.

“When you came in four years ago, we had 180,000 troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said. “That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon.”

Obama cited several reasons why he sees the 21st century as another American century: because of the nation’s resilience; its alliances; its drive to lead global affairs; the American values of freedom and liberty; but perhaps most importantly because of the spirit of its people — people like 2nd Lt. Edward Machac, a Venezuela native whose pursuit for his dream to be a pilot led him to the Academy.

Edward ... said what we all know to be true: ‘I’m convinced that America is the land of opportunity.’ You’re right, Edward. That is who we are. That’s the America we love; always young, always looking ahead to that light of a new day on the horizon,” Obama said.

“It’s that simple yet revolutionary idea that was at our founding and in our hearts ever since: that we have it in our power to make the world anew, to make the future what we will,” he continued. “It’s that fundamental faith that American optimism, which sees that no challenge is too great, no mission too hard. It’s the spirit that guides your class: ‘Never Falter, Never Fail.’ ... With your proud service, I am absolutely confident that America will meet the challenges of our time.”
Here comes ... Air Force life
Academy hosts third fiancé reception at Otis House

By Amber Baillie
Academy Spirit staff writer

If you’ve had five different jobs in four years, five different addresses in four years or happen to show your military ID to the greeter at Wal-mart, you might realize you’re a military spouse, said Brig. Gen. Richard Clark, the commandant of cadets, at the Academy’s third-annual Fiancé and Fiancée Reception.

Clark read to senior cadets and their fiancées a humorous list on military life, as Clark and his wife Amy hosted the event to allow engaged couples the opportunity to socialize with present and future military spouses.

Couples thumbed through wedding photos of Academy leaders, enjoyed refreshments and conversed with other military couples to gain insight into Air Force life.

“I think it’s important because the soon-to-be Air Force wives get the opportunity to get together and meet people,” said Patsy Anderson, wife of Col. Richard Anderson, the Academy’s vice commandant of cadets.

“Some of them might end up stationed at the same place and they’ll know somebody. I also think it’s a nice appreciation for us existing spouses to say thank you and welcome to the military.”

Thirty-seven couples and 28 distinguished guests attended the event.

Clark spoke about the journey that’s in store for those engaged.

“You’re going to be on a team that will have some great adventures and do all kinds of amazing things,” Clark said. “I cannot tell you how awesome it is to do this Air Force life with somebody else, and I think you will talk to a whole lot of people here who agree with me.”

Cadet 1st Class Justin Merrick of Cadet Squadron 20 and his fiancée, Meghan Mclean, plan to tie the knot on June 15. Mclean said she is eager for Merrick to pursue his dream as an aerospace engineer.

“I’m looking forward to the opportunities that the Air Force will provide us,” Mclean said. “I’m excited for Justin to have a neat opportunity to design stuff and dive into what he wants to do. I’m just along for the ride.”

Cadet 1st Class Dakota Rimer of CS 19 and his fiancée, Kristin Lemaitre, will exchange vows next summer.

“We’ve been together for two years and want to wait until I finish school and he completes his training at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas,” Lemaitre said. “I think I’m most excited about moving around because I don’t like to stay in one place for too long, and I’m eager to meet different people.”

Anderson, a military wife for 15 years, said she feels fortunate in today’s economy to be able to be a stay-at-home mom.

“I think it’s an honor and privilege that I’ve had the ability to stay at home and spend the time with my two daughters. I feel like I’m with them every day, and we’re very active in their lives.”

Anderson’s advice to military couples when the going gets rough: keep communication open, keep your relationships close and always look at something as a new adventure.

“This may not be where you really thought you wanted to go, but don’t worry because it’s only temporary, and there will always be another assignment,” Anderson said. “When you love a place and have to leave, always know that there will be a new place you’ll feel the same way about. By keeping a positive attitude, those experiences may end up being some of the best moments in your life.”

At the end of the evening, representatives from the Association of Graduates presented each couple with a decorative plate painted with the words, “Home is where the Air Force sends you.” The plate is for couples to treasure throughout their travel and write the names of military bases they’re stationed at on it.
Academy fencer is recipient of the Hal Rothman Sportsmanship Award

Air Force fencer Dalton Boatright was named the sixth recipient of the Mountain West Hal Rothman Sportsmanship Award Wednesday.

Established in 2005-06 and renamed in honor of the late UNLV faculty athletics representative, the award is presented to a student-athlete in a NCAA-sponsored sport who has distinguished him or herself through sportsmanship and ethical behavior. The student-athlete must demonstrate good citizenship outside of the sports-competition setting and be in good academic standing.

Boatright, a junior during the 2011-12 campaign, has competed as a member of the Falcons’ fencing team for three years. During a match against then-No. 2 Penn State this past season, Boatright and his opponent were tied at 4-4 when the Nittany Lions’ fencer forced Boatright’s blade very close to the floor in an attempt to limit his action. The indication light went off, signifying what would be the winning point for the Penn State fencer.

From the referee’s perspective, however, the opponent’s blade had missed Boatright and hit the floor instead. The referee disregarded the touch, keeping the score tied at 4-4. Before the order to continue play could be given, Boatright approached the referee and stated that the blade did, in fact, touch him and a point should be awarded to his opponent. The referee reversed his call, giving the Penn State fencer a 5-4 win en route to the Nittany Lions’ 16-11 team victory.

“This is another outstanding accomplishment for our program here at the Academy,” Director of Athletics Dr. Hans Mueh said. “Dalton is a great example of the kind of leadership and character we have in our programs. Abdel Salem coaches his team with class and honor and is helping develop more than just great fencing skills at the Academy.”

A systems engineering management major from Amarillo, Texas, Boatright is the third Air Force student-athlete to earn the MW Hal Rothman Sportsmanship Award, joining former fencers Daniel Trapani and Peter French. Other previous honorees include TCU’s Erin Lorenzen (rifle), Wyoming’s Kevin Bretting (men’s diving) and Utah’s Katie Battazzo (women’s soccer).

In April, 2007, the MW Joint Council voted to re-name the award in honor of Hal Rothman, a noted historian, author and longtime UNLV professor who served as the institution’s faculty athletics representative on the MW Joint Council from 2001-06. Rothman lost a courageous battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, on February 24, 2007.

Boatright wins Mountain West sportsmanship award

Five ways you can prevent deadly skin cancer

By Shari Lopatin
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Yes, it’s true—skin cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S.
That means more people get skin cancer than breast cancer, lung cancer and colon cancer. And while not all forms of skin cancer are deadly, they can disfigure your skin and cause much discomfort.

Melanoma: Watch out for it!
Melanoma is the most deadly form of skin cancer. That’s because it affects skin cells called melanocytes, which add color to your skin and hair. Melanoma can spread very quickly to other tissues in your body, which is why it’s deadly.

A government study published recently showed that while most common cancers are declining, cases of melanoma are increasing. Experts attribute this rise to the use of tanning beds, which is very dangerous to the skin.

For best results, you need to detect and treat melanoma as early as possible—and avoid tanning beds altogether.

Prevent cancer with these five tips:

Everyone knows to wear sunscreen. But beyond that, leave it to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to offer the best tips for preventing skin cancer!

Skin Cancer Prevention Beyond Sunscreen

For more healthy living tips, follow TriWest on Facebook or Twitter: Facebook.com/TriWest and Twitter.com/TriWest.
Jim Walmsley has the fourth-fasted time in Academy history for the 3000-meter steeplechase. He will compete in the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Walmsley advances to NCAA Championships in steeplechase**

Walmsley’s time, a seven-second PR, is the fourth-fastest in Academy history.

**Austin, Texas — Backed by the fourth-fastest time in Academy history, Air Force senior Jim Walmsley punched his ticket to next month’s NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the 3000-meter steeplechase during the second day of action at the West Preliminary Meet May 25, in Austin, Texas.**

Crossing the finish line in a career-best time of 8:51.65, Walmsley placed fifth in the opening heat of the steeplechase’s national quarterfinal. The top three finishers from each heat earned an automatic berth to the next round, as well as the next three fastest runners (regardless of heat). Despite competing in the first heat, Walmsley’s time remained one of the fastest in the 48-runner field, as he placed seventh overall, with a time that bettered four of the automatic qualifiers in the two latter races.

Walmsley, who improved his time by seven seconds during tonight’s race, moved into fourth on the program’s all-time list. With his finish, Walmsley advanced to the NCAA Championships next month in Des Moines, Iowa. The 12 finalists from tonight’s quarterfinal will join their counterparts from the East Preliminary Meet at Drake Stadium for the national semifinals on Thursday, June 7.

Four Air Force seniors closed out impressive collegiate careers at Mike A. Myers Stadium today, as they competed in the national semifinals of their respective field events.

Rob Drye finished 14th in the hammer throw with a distance of 199’6”, matching his finish from last year’s NCAA semifinals and missing a spot in the finals by just two places. After fouling on his first two attempts, Drye recorded the toss of 199’6” to advance to the second round as one of the field’s top 16 throwers. He added a throw of 194’7”, before finishing the meet ranked 14th. Drye was one of two Falcons to compete in the hammer throw, as Sean Herbst recorded a distance of 189’0” to place 32nd.

With a clearance of 12’10¼”, Kimber Shealy finished within the top half of the field in the pole vault. Placing 26th overall, Shealy’s clearance was tied for the third-best height of the day. Paige Blackburn, competing in her second event in as many days, finished within the top half of the discus throw field, as she tossed a 163'10” to finish 23rd.

Also wrapping up an impressive collegiate career was Bryce Bergman, who participated in the first round of competition for the 110-meter hurdles. Bergman, who competed in the first round of the 400-meter hurdles yesterday, placed 41st in the 110-meter event with a time of 14.43.

## Simmons qualifies to NCAA Championships

Ties for seventh with a clearance of 17’8”

Cale Simmons earned a spot to next month’s NCAAOutdoor Track and Field Championships in the pole vault after placing seventh in that event during the West Preliminary Meet Saturday in Austin, Texas.

Simmons, who earned All-America honors at the national indoor meet, cleared 17’6½” to advance to his first NCAA Outdoor Championship. After passing on the opening three heights, the junior entered the competition at the 17’6½”, clearing the bar on his first attempt to earn a spot among the top 12. With the top six finishers clearing 17’8”½, Simmons finished the semifinal meet tied for seventh.

Joey Uhle matched Simmons’ height of 17’6½” to finish 14th in the 48-vaulter semifinal. That mark, a personal improvement for Uhle by nearly four inches, is the sixth-best clearance in program history.

Also wrapping up an impressive collegiate career was Bryce Bergman, who participated in the first round of competition for the 110-meter hurdles. Bergman, who competed in the first round of the 400-meter hurdles yesterday, placed 26th overall, based on tie-breakers, as that height was tied for the fourth-best clearance of the day.

Senior Jim Walmsley finished 16th in the national semifinal of the 5000-meter run with a time of 14:29.54, while classmate James Cole used a throw of 194’1”, before finishing the meet ranked 14th. Drye was one of two Falcons to compete in the hammer throw, as Sean Herbst recorded a distance of 189’0” to place 32nd.

With a clearance of 12’10¼”, Kimber Shealy finished within the top half of the field in the pole vault. Placing 26th overall, Shealy’s clearance was tied for the third-best height of the day. Paige Blackburn, competing in her second event in as many days, finished within the top half of the discus throw field, as she tossed a 163'10” to finish 23rd.

Also wrapping up an impressive collegiate career was Bryce Bergman, who participated in the first round of competition for the 110-meter hurdles. Bergman, who competed in the first round of the 400-meter hurdles yesterday, placed 41st in the 110-meter event with a time of 14.43.

Cale Simmons has earned a spot in the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the pole vault. He placed seventh in Saturday’s West Preliminary Meet Saturday in Austin, Texas.

**Cale Simmons qualifies to NCAA Championships in steeplechase**

That clearance is also a new Freshman Class Record for the Academy, as Uhle bettered the previous mark of 17’5½” that Paul Genisc had held since 2002.

However, despite tying for the second-best height of the day, Uhle missed the national finals by just two places, based on the tie-breaking procedures. Junior Chase Cooper also competed in the semifinals of the pole vault, clearing 16’8½” to finish 32nd overall, based on tie-breakers, as that height was tied for the fourth-best clearance of the day.

Senior Jim Walmsley finished 16th in the national semifinal of the 5000-meter run with a time of 14:29.54, while classmate James Cole used a throw of 194’1”, before finishing the meet ranked 14th. Drye was one of two Falcons to compete in the hammer throw, as Sean Herbst recorded a distance of 189’0” to place 32nd.

With a clearance of 12’10¼”, Kimber Shealy finished within the top half of the field in the pole vault. Placing 26th overall, Shealy’s clearance was tied for the third-best height of the day. Paige Blackburn, competing in her second event in as many days, finished within the top half of the discus throw field, as she tossed a 163'10” to finish 23rd.

Also wrapping up an impressive collegiate career was Bryce Bergman, who participated in the first round of competition for the 110-meter hurdles. Bergman, who competed in the first round of the 400-meter hurdles yesterday, placed 41st in the 110-meter event with a time of 14.43.

Simmons and Walmsley, who advanced to the semifinals of the 3000-meter steeplechase last night, return to action June 6-9 at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Des Moines, Iowa.
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.
Lombeida fund-raiser
A golf tournament will be held at the Eisenhower Golf Course today 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.
Got an IDEA?
The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, or IDEA, Program is designed to recognize and reward individuals whose suggestions improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of Air Force, Department of Defense, and federal government operations. Anyone can submit an idea, but only Air Force military members, Air Force federal civilian employee and Air Force Academy cadets who are paid from appropriated funds are eligible for cash awards.
Monetary awards can be as high as $10,000 for each approved idea that results in validated tangible savings, and $200 for approved ideas resulting in intangible benefits.
To submit an idea go to: https://ipds.randolph.af.mil/ipids/ (Common Access Card login required) or contact the IDEA office at 333-4332.
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.
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 dorm information for unaccompanied Airmen.
The Academy’s housing office is located at 6556 West Columbine Drive and can be reached at 333-2247.
Sports physicals available
The 10th Medical Group’s Pediатrics 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).
Family Advocacy classes
The 10th Medical Group will offer new classes in May and June on healthy family relationships.
Dads 101: Teaches on how to be a dad and key role as a father. A two-session class Tuesday and June 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 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
For questions or more information, call 333-5270.
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.
‘Leading Consciously’
The Academy Diversity Office will hold a Leading Consciously awareness course July 18-20 and 19-21.
The course introduces participants to skills that include testing assumptions, clearing emotions, building effective relationships and bridging differences.
For more information, call the Diversity Office at 333-1309.
Library lawn concerts
The Manitou Springs Library Lawn concert series begins Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 701 Manitou Avenue.
For more information, visit the library’s website, www.manitouspringslibrary.org.
Acacia Park Summer Concerts
Acacia Park will kick off its summer concert series Saturday evenings through June and in early August from 6-8 p.m.
Free concerts include indie rock, folk, country and jazz performance.
For the full schedule, visit the Downtown Colorado Springs website at http://bit.ly/ftwX3V.
**BAMBOO COURT RESTAURANT**

405 N. Tejon
481-6888
3628 Citadel Dr N Colorado Springs, CO 80909 / 719-596-9516

Diamond Billiards
CO 80909 / 719-597-9809 or 1-800-232-FLYW

May 25 - September 29
Chuckwagon Suppers:
Flying W Ranch
4935 Centennial Blvd., Suite G
719-599-7383

Chuckwagon Suppers: $5.50 kids, $11.00 adults. In partnership with the Friends of the Pioneers, we present our Pioneers 08/15 and The Chuckwagon Jamboree Sept. 25, 26 & 27. 8-9pm, 7 nights a week.  Reserve online at flyingw.com!  SPECIAL: Sons of the Pioneers & experience our outstanding western stage show.  Western Town opens at 4:30; Chuckwagon Supper served at 7pm and Western Show from 8-9pm.

**Fun By The Numbers**

Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku 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 sudoku, you fill in each row, column, and box with the numbers 1 through 9, with no repetitions. The more numbers you can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

**FUN WITH TECHNOLOGY**

**Sudoku**

**How to Play:**
Sudoku is a number puzzle that's all about filling in a 9x9 grid with numbers. The goal is to fill in each row, column, and box with the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any number in the same row, column, or box. The grid is divided into 9 smaller 3x3 boxes, and each box must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

**Solution on page 12**

**06-01-12**
16

**Albertsons**
It means a great deal.™

**LOW PRICES ON THE ITEMS YOU BUY MOST EVERY DAY...**

**Split Breast, Drumsticks, Thighs or Leg Quarters**
Bone-in Jumbo Packs or Whole Body Fryers

**99¢ lb.**

Split Breast, Drumsticks, Thighs or Leg Quarters
Bone-in Jumbo Packs or Whole Body Fryers

**99¢ lb.**

**Fresh**

**NEW CROP Red or Green Seedless Grapes**

**99¢ lb.**

**Albertsons Gallon Milk**
Select Varieties Limit 2

**197c**

**CHECK OUR WEEKLY AD FOR MORE GREAT COUPONS AND 10 FOR $10 SAVINGS**

**Homemade Helper**
Helper 4-6.75 oz. or
Smucker’s Pots or
Betty Crocker Pots or
Zatarain’s Rice Mix 5.7-8 oz. Select Varieties

**$1**

**Cheese**
American Beauty Pasta 12 oz. or
Select Varieties

**$1**

**7-Up, Lipton, Powerade, Snapple, Arizona Tea, Glaceau, Vitaminwater, 20 oz. or Smartwater 23.6 oz. Select Varieties**

**$1**

**Banquet Value Meals**
4.64-10.25 oz. or
Fat Pies 7 oz. Select Varieties

**$1**

**Pepsi or Tropicana**
12 oz. Select Varieties

**$1**

**Fritos or Cheetos**
5-10.5 oz. Select Varieties

**149c**

**Breyers**
Products 40 oz. or
Breyers Ice Cream 16 oz. or
Breyers Ice Cream 18-26 oz. Select Varieties

**249c**

**Soft Choice Bath Tissue**
Soft Choice Bath Tissue 12 Double Rolls or
Soft Choice Bath Tissue 4 Rolls Select Varieties

**3.88 ea.**

**With Coupon**
Limit 4. Additional $1.99

**Fritos or Cheetos**
5-10.5 oz. Select Varieties

**149c**

**with Coupon**
Limit 4. Additional $1.99

---

**This Saturday, June 2nd is MILITARY DISCOUNT DAY**

**All Active Reserve or Retired Military Personnel**

**Receive an Additional 10% Off your Entire Purchase**

Visit www.albertsonsmarket.com

Prices Effective 6/1-6/5/12

---

**NO PROOF, NO SERVICE** We reserve the right to limit the number of individuals admitted to this sale at the Albertsons store as same or similar available. Savings may vary. Check price tag for details. We reserve the right to limit quantities of specific items purchased. We reserve the right to restrict admittance to military personnel in the discretion of the store manager. All Albertsons stores are owned and operated by Albertsons, LLC. Available, item availability, hours may vary by store. Please check participating stores in the area. Participating stores only. No offers may be combined or reproduced. All offers expire 6/5/12.