Airfield increases summer flying

The Air Force Academy Airfield has increased its sortie rate during summer aviation activities, which started in late May and will continue through the first week of August to accommodate training requirements. The 306th Flying Training Group provides Airmanship Training during the summer to over 2,000 cadets in soaring, powered flight, and parachute operations at the Airfield Academy and within the local area. The Airmanship programs are a vital mission element supporting the Academy’s mission of “Developing Leaders of Character.”

Days and hours of increased flying activity during the summer began Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. These hours will be reduced in early August when the Academy’s academic year begins. Airfield aircraft include fixed-wing aircraft, gliders and parachute teams. “Our summer flying programs have been a significant part of the Academy’s academic year begins. Airfield aircraft include fixed-wing aircraft, gliders and parachute teams. “Our summer flying programs have been a significant part of the education we offer for more than 50 years,” said Public Affairs spokesman Meade Warthen. “We sincerely appreciate the continuing cooperation and support of our good neighbors in Colorado Springs and surrounding communities.”

Those with questions or concerns may call the Academy’s Public Affairs office at (719) 333-7475.

Cadet death

An Academy cadet died Tuesday while on summer leave in Las Vegas. Cadet 2nd Class Yung “Andrew” Chiu, Cadet Squadron 10, was a member of the Class of 2014 and a biology major.

“Our Air Force Academy family is in mourning,” said Academy Commandant of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Richard Clark. “We ask everyone to please keep Yung’s family, friends and wingmen in your thoughts and prayers.”

The cause of death is under investigation, and more information will be released as it becomes available.

Academy contributes $1 billion to local economy

By Don Braum
Academy Spirit staff writer

The Air Force Academy contributed just more than $1 billion, including $37.9 million in tourism dollars, to the El Paso County economy in Fiscal Year 2011, according to an economic impact analysis released this month by the Financial Management Directorate.

The figure marks an increase of nearly $150 million from Fiscal Year 2010 because it includes military construction. Service contracts and operations-and-maintenance funds made up for the difference. The Academy’s overall annual expenses-and-maintenance funds made up for the difference. The Academy’s overall annual expenditures on construction, services and procurement increased by about 4 percent, based on the Air Force model for predicting indirect job creation, which showed fewer indirect jobs created but a higher average salary.

Economic contributions through Parents’ Weekend and Graduation Week increased $8 million from FY10’s totals. “We love the strong partnership we have with the local community,” Beaumont said. “It’s hard to quantify the community’s support.”

The report was produced by 2nd Lt. Vincent Marzano, the budget analyst for the Financial Management Directorate.
Fitness is only one element of total health

By Dr. Todd Fore
Executive Director, Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — If asked about their health, many Airmen would point to their physical condition or recent fitness test as an indicator. Being healthy is about more than just passing a fitness test. Physical fitness is one component of total health, and contributes to mental and social health. Learning to balance all the components of a healthy life is what makes Airmen truly fit.

Be Mentally Fit
Physical fitness absolutely improves your mental well-being. Who couldn’t use a little less stress in their lives? Or more energy? Or better quality sleep? Studies show that regular physical activity increases energy, combats depression, helps relieve stress, increases cognitive abilities including concentration and memory, and improves overall quality of sleep and staves off bad health conditions and disease. Essentially exercise makes you strong - both in body and in mind.

Be Socially Fit
The benefits extend to our social health. Physical activity allows us to be involved in the community, by joining sports teams or running groups and supporting charity organizations. Fitness also allows us to engage with like-minded individuals.

As Airmen, we can extend the wingman concept to physical activity. Find a fit wingman who can help you increase accountability and motivation for fitness activities. Embracing a fit lifestyle yields results in all areas of our lives. Studies have shown that regular physical activity increases energy, combats depression, helps relieve stress, improves quality of sleep and staves off bad health conditions and disease. Essentially exercise makes you strong - both in body as well as in mind.

Ultimately it is every Airman’s responsibility to balance the components of health to ensure complete well-being. Make fitness a priority in your life. Make conscious decisions everyday to balance the components of total health - physical, mental and social. Only then can you be the best Airman who is fit to lead the fight.
By Airman 1st Class Katrina M. Brisbin
22nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — Eleven United States Air Force Academy cadets participated in a three-week tour of McConnell June 4 to 21, as part of the Operation Air Force program.

Every summer, cadets visit bases worldwide to learn about the various wing’s overall mission. This opportunity to experience Air Force operations is available to cadets between their sophomore and junior year.

“The whole point of our visit is to experience all the jobs out there to see where you fit, and to experience all the departments to understand what goes on and how they contribute in their own unique way,” said Cadet 2nd Class Eric Smith.

During their time at McConnell, the cadets visited the maintenance, mission support, medical and operations groups where they witnessed Airmen performing their jobs.

Along with visiting the specific groups, they attended a survival evasion resistance and escape briefing, watched a security forces working dogs demonstration, worked the gate, rode along with McConnell’s military police, visited the law center, toured the tower, met with a retired brigadier general and attended a live-fire demonstration at a Kansas National Guard firing range.

To show how important air refueling is to the Air Force, the cadets also participated in five KC-135 Stratotanker flights.

“It was really cool to get to see all the different air frames being refueled,” said Cadet 2nd Class Ford Carty. “You don’t realize how big the scope of the Air Force is until you can see all the planes you can refuel with the KC-135.”

The cadets spent time with McConnell’s senior leaders for personal mentoring and discussions.

Meeting with the commanders provided exposure to each of the groups and respective missions. Mentoring sessions allowed cadets to ask questions about leadership and hear experiences from leadership that have led to their successes.

This glimpse of what cadets refer to as the “real” Air Force is meant to develop the future officers and help them determine which career fields to select on their preference sheets.

“I would hope that the cadets now have a clearer understanding of the responsibilities that each career path has,” said Maj. Greg Johnson, 22 Air Refueling Wing combat plans chief and McConnell’s Operation Air Force program coordinator.

A second group of cadets will visit June 26 through July 12.

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KATRINA BRISBIN

The Markets at Mesa Ridge, 6916 Mesa Ridge Parkway, Fountain, CO
1199 Space Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO

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USAF Academy grad helps lead Estonia air force

AMARI AIR BASE, Estonia — Lessons learned in the foothills of Colorado are taking flight in the Baltic Sea nation of Estonia.

“I’m not a dreamer who thinks that Estonia will have a big strike air force. That is not something that 1.3 million taxpayers can sustain,” said Lt. Col. Jaak Tarien, chief of staff of the Estonian air force and a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. “But we are in NATO for a reason and we are a true partner in NATO.”

Tarien made the comments in an interview with a U.S. Air Force public affairs specialist as about 150 U.S. airmen were staying and operating at his country’s Amari Air Base, an air readiness center that had its first test as a fully-operational tactical air base during the exercise in June.

Asked what he learned at USAFA that has been most helpful to him in his military career, Tarien does not pause: “I learned that we have good allies.”

As the chief of staff of the Estonian air force, Tarien is the second in command of the 300-person force. The word around Estonia is that he is in the Air Force Academy grad helps lead Estonia air force line to become the commanding general of the Air Force later this summer. Not bad for a former law student and then was in the Dirty Dozen of chemistry and math and history. “The first days I was there, many of my classmates were under a lot of stress with the yelling and the push-ups. Perhaps being away from home for the first time. I felt like I was in a movie. I was constantly excited. The first three months or so I was at the Academy. I could not believe that I was actually living that life, it seemed just like an exciting movie,” said Tarien, who spent two years as a Black Panther in Cadet Squadron 29 and then was in the Dirty Dozen of Cadet Squadron 12.

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After graduating from USAFA, Tarien returned home to Estonia and was assigned to a major’s billet, working in air surveillance. At the time, there were only 90 people in the entire Air Force and the country was only a half dozen years removed from being part of the Soviet Union. Estonia gained independence in 1991. Since then, Tarien has worked in several positions as his country’s military has grown. Joining NATO in 2004 was a key moment, he said. “No one wants a war with NATO. We do not anticipate a war. We are concerned, however, about a strategic miscalculation by some country,” Tarien said. “We work closely with NATO and want no one to make a doubt that we are a partner with NATO, in case there is a strategic miscalculation.”

Tarien said Estonia’s goal is to continue to work actively with Latvia and Lithuania in an air surveillance partnership and to be able to provide an air field and the logistical support that can allow other NATO partner countries to project air power from Estonia, if such a contingency is needed. “That is the power of the NATO partnership,” Tarien said. “Many allies working together”.

That’s a lesson Tarien first learned in Colorado Springs in the 1990s. “There I learned that the American military is people who are willing to stand up for what they believe in, to stand up for what is right.”

LT. COL. JAACK TARIEEN, chief of staff of the Estonian air force, on what he learned at the Air Force Academy

“[There I was in Colorado] And my English was, um...” he shrugs and pauses, “so and so...” he says with a smile.

Tarien said that in Colorado Springs – along with a lot of chemistry and math and history. “It was a well-rounded education that we did not always appreciate as cadets, that we made many comments about it,” he said. “But all of it has helped me to understand the world, to see the big picture, to gain understanding, to be a better officer in my Air Force.”

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35 Academy majors selected for promotion

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Thirty five Air Force Academy majors were selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel during the 2012 Air Force and LAF-judge advocate central selection boards, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

The boards considered 124 lieutenant colonels and 6,639 majors for promotion. Selection statistics include the following:

- In-the-promotion zone for LAF: 1,096 selected from 1,453 considered for 75.4 percent select rate
- Above-the-promotion zone for LAF: 17 selected from 1,405 considered for 1.2 percent select rate
- Below-the-promotion zone for LAF: 123 selected from 3,604 considered for 3.4 percent select rate
- In-the-promotion zone for LAF-J: 30 selected from 38 considered for 78.9 percent select rate
- Above-the-promotion zone for LAF-J: 1 selected from 108 considered for 9 percent select rate

Lieutenant colonel selects:

David Armitage, Air Officer Commanding for Cadet Squadron 13
Aaron Bell, AOC for CS 39
Anthony Bell, Law Department
Christel Bergin, AOC for CS 27
Brian Collins, AOC for CS 02
Robert Evert, Management Department
Leslie Forrester, Commandant of Cadets staff
Kara Greene, Aeronautics Department
Kevin Harnsberg, AOC for CS 38
Jeffrey Jackson, Political Science Department
Henry Jeffress, AOC for CS 26
Nidal Jodeh, Aeronautics Department
Kelly Kafeyan, Foreign Language Department
Paul Kaster, AOC for CS 15
John Mah, Aeronautics Department
Sharon Nickleberry, AOC for CS 10
Lisa Rauk, AOC for CS 16
Jason Ranger, AOC for CS 18
Meghan Rippin, AOC for CS 32
Leann Roberts, Academy Preparatory School
Joseph Scholtes, Plans and Requirements Directorate
David Talafuse, AOC for CS 33
Matthew Yachtter, AOC for CS 09
Melissa Youderian, AOC for CS 05
Justin Hill, Mathematical Sciences Department
Justin Jeffries, Economics and Geosciences Department
Andrew Lofthouse
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Melissa Youde...
Character Camp:
‘There is a leader in all of us’

By Amber Baillie
Academy Staff Writer

The Center for Character and Leadership Development hosted the first Character Camp June 10-15 to allow high school athletes the opportunity to exercise character development and leadership virtues with cadets, through difficult outdoor activities and group exercises.

Eleven high school students from the Classical Academy, Pinnacle Charter School and Hayden High School participated in whitewater rafting, mountain biking, hiking, paintballing, intramural sports and a ropes course to build character and practice teamwork.

“By putting those cadets in that role, it really elevates their understanding of what it takes to develop a leader of character,” Huntley said. “That was really important in this camp and to get them to a place where they were demonstrating humility and being great role models.”

Huntley said the students’ coaches will meet with the students every week for a month on their targeted virtue, “We felt it was important that it wasn’t just a great five-day experience and that they could expand well beyond what happened here this week.”

Cadet 1st Class Lindsey Byrd, a pool leader for the camp, said the camp was a great opportunity to serve the community.

“People tend to think the whole reason you go to the Academy is to be an officer and it’s not,” Rengan said. “It’s about developing leaders of character ... to the community too, to develop the civilian side and citizenship outside of the Academy as well as the inside.”

Cadet 1st Class Christian Rengan, another pool leader for the camp, said the camp was a great opportunity to serve the community.

“The real benefit is that the coaches will meet with the students every week for a month on their targeted virtue,” Huntley said. “We felt it was important that it wasn’t just a great five-day experience and that they could expand well beyond what happened here this week.”

“Originally this was something we started talking about a couple of years ago because we wanted community involvement at the high school level,” Huntley said. “I think we have a unique role here that requires us to have a deep understanding of how we develop character and keeping that to ourselves isn’t good for the greater community.”

Byrd said each cadet pool leader was assigned to three or four campers, expected to participate in activities with the students and act as a role model to them.

“This was something that we started talking about a couple of years ago because we wanted community involvement at the high school level,” Huntley said. “I think we have a unique role here that requires us to have a deep understanding of how we develop character and keeping that to ourselves isn’t good for the greater community.”

Byrd said cadet pool leader was assigned to three or four campers, expected to participate in activities with the students and act as a role model to them.

“It was really cool to learn about what the cadets have done because it’s really inspiring,” Williams said. “I learned how to be a better leader and a better person and that you have to be a better person before you can be a better leader.”

Byrd said she saw a transformation in the students from the camp.

“It’s great to see how they went from being more introverted and shy and then through these events, have become more extroverted. It’s been fantastic seeing the camaraderie here.”

Huntley said the camp was also an important lesson for cadets.

“By putting those cadets in that role, it really elevates their understanding of what it takes to develop a leader of character,” Huntley said. “That was really important in this camp and to get them to a place where they were demonstrating humility and being great role models.”

Huntley said the students’ coaches will combine the lessons learned from Character Camp.

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“People tend to think the whole reason you go to the Academy is to be an officer and it’s not,” Rengan said. “It’s about developing leaders of character ... to the community too, to develop the civilian side and citizenship outside of the Academy as well as the inside.”

Rengan said he would volunteer for the camp again in a heartbeat.

“I love the idea of this and it doesn’t have to be sports-related,” Rengan said. “It can expand everywhere else, in any area because there is a leader in all of us.”

SARAH CHAMBERS

TOP LEFT: Camp participant Carlos Diaz maneuvers through the ropes course to practice leadership virtues.

TOP: High school junior Heather Neroni (left) and senior Ryan Domson (right) play ultimate frisbee with high school and cadet participants at Character Camp 2012.

ABOVE: High school students participate in whitewater raftting, mountain biking, hiking, paintballing, intramural sports and a ropes course to exercise character development.


SARAH CHAMBERS
In competitive league softball action the Fire Dept put up 12 runs in the first inning to defeat DRU/FFS 30-10. A grand slam by Ken Kother and a three-run shot from Ryan Moriarity was all they needed. Scott Koenig hit two homers and drove in five runs in the loss for DRU/FFS.

The Fire Department continued with a doubleheader sweep defeating Radiology 20-6. They started quickly in the first inning again as they scored six runs. Later CES’s Ken Kother hit two more homers and had 5 RBIs for the night. Leading the medics was Tom Ziegler who had three doubles scored three times, and drove in a run.

In the recreational league the Golf Course team beat the Pharmacy 25-5. Golf Course scored 10 in the first inning as a Mar- cco Chavez single and Shane Malmquist triple both drove in two runs apiece. Pharmacy scored four runs in the third and had 5 RBIs from Brian Bisson, Nick Miller and Bryce Cook.

In the final game of the night, Pharmacy came back in the last inning and defeated Comm. 9-7. Comm. led 4-3 headed into the 6th inning when Pharmacy scored six runs. Comm. scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth, but Pharm- acy’s Michael LaCroix drove in two runs and Hillary Castillo drove in the other to clinch the win.

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Rodeo volunteers needed

Thirty-five volunteers are needed for the 72nd Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo July 14. Volunteers must be 18 years or older and will help with duties such as gate security and ticket-taking. Each volunteer will receive two vouchers to attend a performance of his or her choice.

Call Master Sgt. Romney Scheirer at 333-0841 before July 4 if you are interested.

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 Pe- diatrics and Family Practice clinics. Because physicals are valid for 12 months, parents who require physi- cals 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 appoint- ment line at 524-CARE (2275).

Summer bowling leagues

The Academy Lanes Bowling Cen- ter’s summer bowling leagues are now in session. 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 Acad- emy Lanes at 333-4709.

‘Leading Consciously’

The Academy Diversity Office will hold a two-day ‘Leading Consciously’ awareness courses. July 16-17, July 18-19 and July 20-21. The course introduces participi- pants to skills that include testing assumptions, clearing emotions, building effective relationships and bridging differences. For more information, call the Di- versity Office at 333-7795.

Summer basketball league

The Fitness Center’s summer bask- etball league begins Monday. The league is open to service mem- bers, civilian employees, contractors and family members 16 years old or older. For more information, contact Dan Kendall at 333-4522.

Softball tournament

The fitness center will host a co- ed softball tournament June 29-30. To register, call the fitness center at 333-4522 or 333-3531. For more information call Dave Castilla at 333-4078.

Whitewater rafting

The Outdoor Recreation Cen- ter offers rafting trips to Browns Canyon, the Royal Gorge and Big Horn Sheep Canyon through August.

The trips depart from he Out- door Recreation Center at 7 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Trips include transportation, a wet suit, personal flotation device, helmet, splash jacket and lunch.

Trips are a Class 3-5, in- clude certified white-water rafting guides and range from $55-$85 per person. For more information visit the Academy Support website at http://usafasupport.com/the-great-outdoors/outdoor-adventure.

July 4 at the Academy

The Air Force Academy will hold an Independence Day celebration at Falcon Stadium July 4. The event is open to the public and free. The gates will open at 4 p.m.

The schedule will feature bouncy houses and ultimate frisbee demon- strations from 4-8 p.m., music by the Colorado Springs Philharmonic at 7 p.m., the Air Academy Band at 8 p.m. and fireworks show at 9:30 p.m.

Food and beverage vendors will be on site with tailgating allowed. Items prohibited inside the stadium include coolers, barbecue grills, pets, backpacks and fireworks.

Got an IDEA?

The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, or IDEA, Program is designed to recognize and reward individuals whose suggestions improve the ef- ficiency, economy, and effective- ness 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 ben- efits.

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

USA Pro Cycling Challenge

Colorado Springs will host the final leg of the USA Pro Cycling Challenge Race Aug. 24 where cyclists will travel from Brecken- ridge to Colorado Springs. Also referred to “America’s Race,” the world’s top athletes will race through the Colorado Rock- ies Aug. 20-26 through 12 host cities from Durango to Denver. This is the second year of the race. It consists of a 683-mile course that includes 42,000 feet of vertical climbing.

Gum and mineral show

The Western Museum of Mining and History will hold its annual Pikes Peak Gem and Mineral Show today through Sunday. The museum is located east of Interstate 25 outside the north gate. Call 488-0880 for more infor- mation.

Girls of the West

Caitlin Kern, the Girl of the West, left, and Amanda Summers, Aide to the Girl of the West, visited the Academy Monday to promote the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo July 14 at the Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs. Revenue generated by the rodeo supports local military charities. Go to www.coloradospringsrodeo.com for more information.

Town Activities

Acacia Park summer concerts

Acacia Park is in full swing with its summer concert series Saturday evenings June 16, 23, 30, and Aug- ust 4, 11, 18 from 6-8 p.m.

Free concerts include indie rock, folk, country and jazz music.

For more information visit the Downtown Colorado Springs web- site at http://bit.ly/lvwXdY.

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