Superintendent prepares cadets, staff for new academic year

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould held a series of superintendent’s calls Monday and Tuesday in the Arnold Hall Theater here to mentally prepare the Academy’s faculty, staff and cadets for the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Classes began Thursday after what Gould called an eventful summer, capped by the Class of 2016 Acceptance Parade on Tuesday.

“I want to take this opportunity to get us all going in the same direction,” Gould said. He showed staff members a diagram outlining the Academy’s mission, which is to produce highly trained and educated officers and inspired leaders of character.

Strategies listed on the diagram included recruiting quality people, developing a comprehensive curriculum and center of innovation, measuring its institutional competencies and assessing the outcomes of its efforts.

“We have a mission here, and we want to be the best at it,” Gould said. “That’s where metrics are important. We say we develop highly trained and educated officers, and in our gut we think we do, but metrics will help us prove it. They’ll help keep us focused on the reason we’re here.”

Underlying the Academy’s strategy for its mission are principles that will help it get there, including diversity, a culture of respect and inclusion, proper resource security management, a developed and motivated workforce and combat-ready Airmen ready to deploy, Gould said.


He also thanked 10th Air Base Wing Airmen for their efforts in containing the Waldo Canyon Fire, which burned more than 18,000 acres west of Colorado Springs before it was contained in early July.

“(Army) Maj. Gen. Joe Anderson, who commands the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson,
Help arrives in my darkest hour

By Master Sgt. Kevin Wallace
2020 Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England
(AFNS) — I want the nightmares to stop! That’s one thing I told Dr. Jefferson Peterson, a 48th Medical Operations Squadron clinical psychologist, when I went to see him last year. I admit the visit wasn’t voluntary.

Just before leaving Afghanistan in May 2011, I had to accomplish an online post-deployment health assessment and was flagged on many of my responses. I had to see Peterson my third day home.

I felt our encounter was routine, but optimistically routine.

While downrange, I was involved in several close-range firefight, as well as living in constant threat of the near-daily attacks we repelled.

I was notified that I had to do yet another PDHA last August. What followed absolutely blew my mind!

After submitting the PDHA, I stopped by a co-worker’s office to talk briefly and returned to a ringing phone. A member of the 48th Medical Group staff was calling me merely 21 minutes after pressing the final mouse click and submitting the PDHA. I was amazed at how fast they reached out to me.

I was flagged again and scheduled to see Peterson that same afternoon. I honestly dreaded having to go “talk about my problems” again but was truly impressed at how the medical system was working like a well-oiled machine.

The 48th MDG staff monitored my progress as if I were their only patient. Once more, Peterson was very positive and he seemed exceedingly concerned about complications in my Purple Heart medal approval. Since then, he saw my Purple Heart come to fruition and has been in routine contact with me. I also received comprehensive treatment from another 48th MDG psychiatrist and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

Despite my care moving from the family practice clinic to the mental health clinic, Peterson has kept in repeated contact with me. It’s more than obvious, he cares.

Top-care isn’t limited to Peterson either. Dr. Paul West, my psychiatrist, goes well above and beyond, whenever I need a listening ear or professional advice.

Furthermore, the Air Force assigned me to Tom Sason, a Wounded Warrior counselor at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Sason has been involved in all aspects of medical care, and has called me at home and at work dozens of times.

He’s an amazing counselor.

The truth is I never wanted to see Peterson, West, Sason or the other medical staff. I didn’t volunteer: the Air Force, ever the other medical staff. I didn’t volunteer: the Air Force Personnel Center.

I didn’t volunteer: the Air Force Personnel Center.

I honestly dreaded having to go ‘talk about my problems’ again but was truly impressed at how the medical system was working like a well-oiled machine.”

A Spanish soldier engages insurgents from an A5532 Super Puma, which flew a four-ship combat patrol over the hills of Badgos Province in northwestern Afghanistan Dec. 19, 2010.
The Class of 2012 added six new graduates to its ranks at the summer session’s graduation and commissioning ceremony Aug. 3.

The Air Force’s newest second lieutenants are:

Charles Gross of Slidell, La. Gross graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in systems engineering management, and his next assignment will be as a contracting officer at Moody AFB, Ga.

Wendy Lathrom of Wichita, Kansas. Lathrom graduates with a Bachelor of Science in political science, and her next assignment will be pilot training at Columbus AFB, Miss.

Tiffaney McKinney of Birmingham, Ala. McKinney graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in basic sciences, and her next assignment will be cyberspace operations officer training at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Christopher Pieper of Aurora, Colo. Pieper graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in behavioral sciences, and his next assignment will be as a contracting officer at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

Joseph Silverio of Binghamton, N.Y. Silverio graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics, and his next assignment will be pilot training at Vance AFB, Okla.

Matthew Toussain of San Antonio, Texas. Toussain graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in basic sciences, and his next assignment will be as a cyberspace operations officer training at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould was the guest speaker for the ceremony. He presented the diplomas to the new graduates, along with Brig. Gen. Dana Born, dean of the faculty.

After receiving their diplomas, the Academy’s newest graduates swore the oath of office, and family members pinned on their new ranks.

These six lieutenants bring the Air Force Academy’s total number of graduates to 45,014 since the first graduating Class of 1959.
DON BRANUM

Mentoring program aims to encourage diversity

By Amber Baillie
Academy Spirit staff writer

Twenty-six Academy employees at¬
tended a coach mentoring core course
on Monday as part of the 2012 Acad¬
emy Mentoring Program to achieve personal and professional growth,
network across the Academy and ex¬
change knowledge and expertise with others.

Lt. Col. Audis Vila, head of the program, “I believe that it is only through mentoring that people have an opportunity to succeed in or¬
ganizations and units.”

Vila said the 26 participants were hand-picked for the pilot program out of 4,000 permanent party mem¬
bers at the Academy.

“We will be measuring the program’s success to see if there is growth among the participants,” Vila said. “We may not have an opportunity to do this again. It will be up to the partici¬pants’ expertise, experience and what they get out of it that will be key to our ability to keep it going.”

Vila said one of the main reasons she wanted to institute a mentor¬ing program was due to the Military Leadership Diversity Commission report issued in March 2011.

“Researchers found that women were leaving the Air Force at a faster pace than men in the Air Force,” Vila said. “That doesn’t mean we aren’t losing good men also but I figured if we were going to have a professional development opportunity like this, I wanted it to be open to men as well as women and include civilians, officers and enlisted. It’s important for this program to be inclusive and my hope is that participants will learn how to work with people who may be differ¬ent than themselves.”

Tama Gauthier, a trainer and man¬agement analyst from the Depart¬ment of Veterans Affairs, facilitated the course.

“We had a mix of people that ranged from Airmen to colonels, to civilians and high-graded faculty,” said Gau¬thier. “You tend to get the formality and respect the rank, and automat¬ically there is a barrier. Our focus was getting people to talk, feel comfort¬able and eliminate that barrier.”

The training consisted of mentor and mentee sessions where partici¬pants practiced direct communica¬tion, created goals and scheduled a time to meet with one another.

Gauthier focused on the core com¬petencies of the GROW model, which includes good feedback, pow¬erful questions, active deep listening, direct communication, trust, presence and personal mastery.

“The GROW model is a blueprint for the mentoring process,” Gau¬thier said. “The model asks, ‘What is your goal?’ and ‘What is your cur¬rent reality?’ When you set a goal, you need to look at your circum¬stances, whether at work or at home and see if they allow you to pursue your goal.”

Laurie Carroll, a mentor in the program and chief of the Acad¬emy’s Manpower, Organization and Resources Division, said she used a similar approach as the model in previ¬ous mentoring situations and found it to be very effective.

“It’s an easy way to remember and focus on the four key parts of an ef¬fective mentoring conversation,” Carroll said. “It makes it easy to understand the model and find it helpful and use it in the future.”

Rachael Clark, a mentee in the pro¬gram and a civilian employee for the Academy’s Department of Eco¬nomics and Geosciences, said she looks forward to receiving professional wis¬dom from her mentor.

“I’m looking forward to getting to know my mentor more and learning about my career field,” Clark said. “I’m pretty junior in my career field, so it’s nice to get to learn from my mentor, who has been in the field for many years.”

Gauthier said compatibility between the mentor and mentee is essential.

“If it’s not working well or a men¬tor isn’t using their expertise, that’s where the mentee can network and go to someone else who may be an expert in that area,” Gauthier said. “As the training went on, it became really start to develop and others crossing over between areas of interest.”

The program will run Aug. 2012 to June 2013. Two mentors from the Center for Character and Leadership Development attended the training to observe and see if there were compo¬nents within the program they could take to the Cadet Wing.

“We don’t want a formal part of this program to be limited to just the training session,” Vila said. “A lot of activities will be designed for this group in mind because we want there to be actual opportunities for devel¬opment throughout the program.”

Edward E. Legasey, USAFA Class of ‘67, has been awarded the Acad¬emy’s 2012 Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes his out¬standing service and unflagging sup¬port to the Academy.

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, Academy Su¬perintendent, will present the award during the Parents’ Weekend Parade on Aug. 31.

The Academy established the Dis¬tinguished Service Award in Febru¬ary, 1999. Each year the award is presented to an individual or organi¬zation whose contributions have had a distinct impact on the morale of the Air Force Academy. The award recognizes those who contrib¬ute to the betterment of the Academy through their generosity and dedica¬tion to the institution.

Legasey’s personal commitment to excellence at the Air Force Academy has not stopped at the service academies and contin¬ues to be felt throughout the Acad¬emy and the graduate community.

“The selection is a true testament to your exemplary support throughout the years,” wrote Gould in his June 2012 congratulatory letter to Legasey announcing the selection.

Legasey expressed his gratitude to the Academy for his selection.

“I consider it a genuine privilege and pleasure to be able to provide service to the United States Air Force Acad¬emy,” he said. “The Academy played a pivotal role in my professional de¬velopment, and I hope my service will help ensure future generations of cadets will have the best possible experience as they walk the path to becoming leaders of character. To be honored with this award, when there are so many who do so much for our beloved Academy, is truly humbling. Thank you.”

Legasey excelled from his cadet days forward. He served as a cadet group commander and co-captain of the hockey team, and was a regular on the Superintendent’s List. Upon graduation as a distinguished gradu¬ate, he earned a Master of Science degree in Operations Research from the University of Pennsylvania. He served on active duty for nine years, during which time he worked as an operations research analyst on large, complex management information systems and directed software test and evaluation for the B-1 bomber.

Legasey worked as a civilian employee for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for two years, and then left government service to join with a partner to found SRA International, a global infor¬mation technology and professional services firm. He spent the next 26 years building the company into a major player in the information technology industry.

Legasey has spoken at several Na¬tional Character and Leadership Symposiums on Business Ethics. His company hired hundreds of Academy graduates, launching many to success¬ful careers. He is a founding member of the AFA Society of Washington, DC, an organization of graduates dedicated to business and art.

He served on the Association of Graduates Board for six years, with four years as the chairman. He and his wife, Patricia, established an end¬owment for Character and Leader¬ship with the AOG. William Thomp¬son, Class of ’73, AOG President and CEO, summarized the impact Legasey has had on the AOG and the Academy.

“Ted has not only been a steadfast supporter and generous donor but as Chairman of the Association of Graduates Board of Directors, he led the first Capital Campaign which raised more than $60 million for the Academy. He has and continues to be a strong supporter of the AOG and the graduate community.”

Among his many contributions, he and Patricia made the lead gift for the construction of the Memorial Pavil¬ion at the Academy Cemetery. Legasey is also a Founding Director for the Frederick A. Legasey Sr. (Retired) Stephen R. Lorenz, Class of ’73, USAFA Endowment president and chief executive officer, expressed his admiration for Mr. Legasey’s contributions.

“Ted, who is a member of the USAFA Development Board, made such a positive difference here at the Academy. His support of Cadets pro¬grams and of the graduate communi¬ty as a whole is truly selfless.”
Lege for temporarily hosting sum-
mer classes and the Discovery Can-
yon Campus School for offering its
facilities for Basic Cadet Training
should they be needed. Finally, he
thanked the 10th Security Forces Squadron for preventing any
incidents of looting or other crimi-
nal activity while the Douglass Valley
and Pine Valley housing areas were
evacuated. Gould also thanked Fort Carson
for setting up a staging area for
Academy evacuees, Colorado Col-
ed for 36 active-duty suicides. For the
total force, that number is 63. That’s up
from totals from this
time last year of 30
and 57. I don’t know
what’s happening — nobody does — but we
have to do something about it.”
— Academy Superintendent
Lt. Gen. Mike Gould

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LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Academy cadets develop leadership skills at BMT

By Mike Joseph
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) — U.S. Air Force Academy cadets learned first-hand over the past seven weeks how military training instructors develop the Air Force’s newest warrior Airmen in basic military training.

The 27 cadets in the Summer Leadership Program developed leadership skills by shadowing MTIs in seven BMT squadrons at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The cadets from the Academy’s incoming junior class, along with two supervising seniors, arrived on base May 24 and departed Saturday after participating in key positions in the July 13 BMT graduation parade.

“The cadets followed the same steps as a student training to be a military training instructor,” said Staff Sgt. Corey Norris, the 323rd Training Squadron NCO in charge, who oversaw the cadets during their stay in BMT.

“They shadowed MTIs to learn the leadership skills and the different leadership techniques it takes to mold future Airmen,” he said. “They experienced what BMT is like for both the MTIs and the trainees. Along with developing and enhancing their leadership skills, they also learned about character development.”

Cadets 1st Class Joshua Hall and Christina Beckett supervised their underclassmen counterparts. Both participated in the Summer Leadership Program last year as underclassmen and gained a greater understanding of the program’s future benefits.

“I’ve learned a lot more this year, especially about leadership and mentoring,” Hall said. “Here, you’re not worried about school or athletics. You’re only concerned about the military side. This summer has better prepared us for our first duty station.”

Beckett agreed with her classmate.

“This is totally different from last year,” she said. “We’re dealing with more people issues. We were in charge of 25 other people. This taught us how to work with them, how to handle their issues and be better mentors. It’s been enlightening.”

“The focus and primary benefit of the program is for the cadets who shadowed MTIs and NCOs to pass on their training knowledge at the academy. It also exposed them to the importance of working with members of the enlisted corps. I’ve learned more in this program about leadership and mentoring in seven weeks than the three years I’ve been at the academy because of the roles,” Hall said.

“We met with all the squadron commanders in an open forum, and had the opportunity to ask questions,” he added. “What we learned from them will help us become better officers.”

During their seven weeks at BMT, the cadets also worked on perfecting their military drill skills. The program’s culminating event was July 13 when the cadets filled the key positions in the weekly BMT graduation parade.

“I’ve learned more in this program about leadership and mentoring in seven weeks than the three years I’ve been at the academy because of the roles.”
- Cadet 1st Class Joshua Hall
Air Force plays role in the success of NASA’s Mars Rover

By Philip Lorenz III
Arnold Engineering Development Complex Public Affairs

ARNOLD AIR FORCE BASE, Tenn. (AFNS) — As news broke of NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory “Curiosity” rover’s successful landing on the “red planet” Aug. 6, Arnold Engineering Development Complex’s Hypervelocity Tunnel 9 Director Dan Marren was watching the live TV broadcast of the event.

“Last night, after eight months of high-speed flight, while you slept, NASA successfully landed the rover Curiosity on Mars,” Marren said. “What I find refreshing is that for our part, there is an interesting story. “Much of the success of the “7 Minutes of Terror” — that most challenging part NASA refers to from re-entry to touchdown — is directly related to sub-systems AEDC helped develop and validate. A solid heat shield and a proper deceleration parachute were crucial to putting the rover down safely. What is even more rewarding to me is that our capabilitie designs many years ago for the original space race and strategic systems were so useful today enabling discovery and the natural curiosity of the human race.”

Curiosity is the most highly advanced, mobile robot with the heavyest overall payload ever sent to another planet to investigate Mars’ ability, both past and present, to sustain microbial life. AEDC’s role in supporting the MSL program has included evaluating the aerothermal loading of the heat shield at the complex’s Hypervelocity Tunnel 9 facility in Silver Spring, Md., and assessing thermal protection system material candidates for the MSL’s heat shield at the complex’s central location in Tennessee.

In addition, NASA and AEDC’s engineers tested the MSL’s full-sized parachute in the world’s largest wind tunnel at National Full-Scale Aerodynamic Complex in California.

AF travel card transitions back to GTC

By Tech. Sgt. Shawn J. Jones
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The terms and conditions for the Air Force’s travel charge card are changing, but Airmen can hang on to their blue cards.

From Tuesday through the end of September, the Air Force Banking Office will email some 300,000 Airmen, informing them that their controlled spend account card will convert back to a government travel card, which will operate like a standard charge card.

For Airmen who received a CSA card and previously had a GTC or traveled using the CSA without going delinquent, the transition will be automatic. They must complete a training course found at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/passport and sign a statement of understanding.

However, some Airmen are being notified by their agency program coordinator that they must apply for the GTC because they never had a GTC in the past, but were issued a CSA card and either went delinquent or never used it. The application process involves a credit check that will only be performed with applicant’s consent.

The current blue CSA card will now operate just like the GTC that was used for many years prior to the CSA. GTCs have fixed credit limits like a regular charge card, and cardholders no longer need to request temporary spend limit increases. If a cardholder’s official travel estimate exceeds their credit limit, they need to discuss their options with their APC.

This CSA to GTC transition will bring about a few new features. New to the GTC program is the option for cardholders to request electronic balance refunds, receive automated e-mail reminders when an account is close to becoming delinquent, and a future enhancement to automatically split-disburse non-mileage expenses such as hotel taxes, excess baggage and rental fuel to the travel card when completing a Defense Travel System voucher.

These new features aren’t the only differences between the new GTC and the CSA card.

Requests for credit limit increases on the new card must be coordinated with the cardholder’s supervisor and APC who is responsible for managing the travel card program. Also, the terms of the GTC include a cash advance fee of 2.2 percent, which is considered a reimbursable travel expense when used for official purposes.

“It is critical for all Air Force travelers to know their travel card status — open or closed, restricted or standard — and their APC before departing for a temporary duty or a permanent change of station,” said Jim Sisson, Director, Air Force Banking Office.

The Air Force Banking Office will start converting approximately 300,000 controlled spend account cards into government travel cards Aug. 7. For most Airmen, the process will be automatic, and they can continue to use their blue cards. However, those Airmen who are identified as failing to meet creditworthiness requirements will need to make arrangements with their agency program coordinator.

An Orion heat shield material sample model undergoes aerothermal testing in H2 as part of a recent facility validation and calibration run. This and other heat shield material candidates will undergo aerothermal pre-production testing at AEDC in June.

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A GRUELING ASSESSMENT

Air liaison officer trials test mettle of would-be forward air controllers

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff

Airmen with the 93rd Air Ground Operations Wing at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., conducted a five-day air liaison officer assessment here, Aug. 5 through Monday, to determine how many of 35 ALO candidates had the leadership, followership and adaptability required to succeed in formal training and become career ALOs.

Conducting training at the Academy instead of on Georgia in August reduces attrition from heat-based injuries, said Maj. Andrea Hagen, the 93rd AGOW’s director of operations.

“When we conducted the assessment in August of last year, out of 35 candidates, 17 went to the hospital for heat injuries,” said Hagen, who has a background in battlefield weather. “So I said to my commander, how about we do this at the Air Force Academy, because we’d have fewer heat injuries. He said go ahead.”

In contrast, only two candidates succumbed to heat-related injuries during the assessments here, Hagen said. Another nine had withdrawn their candidacies during the course of the assessments — which, Hagen said, is part of the reason why the assessments are held.

Hagen also praised the Academy’s facilities.

“We have everything we need in one location, so we don’t have to travel much,” she said.

The ALO career field is fairly new: In the past, it consisted entirely of pilots who received two- to four-year ALO assignments, Hagen said.

“Rated ALOs bring their frame-specific experience to the fight, so we still need their experience,” she said. “But career ALOs will have a better bond with the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers. It promotes continuity. Having both rated ALOs and career ALOs is the best mix for the Air Force.”

Many of the candidates in the August course were ROTC cadets, but four cadets from the Academy took part. Hagen said the 93rd’s Airmen try to evaluate cadets before they graduate so they can go straight into the training pipeline after graduation.

The class also included several commissioned officers, including several captains and a major.

“The mix is good because they come from different backgrounds with different levels of experience,” Hagen said. “They draw on one another. The cadets don’t necessarily have the Air Force experience that the commissioned officers do, and they gain from going through the assessments together.”

One of the students, a lieutenant, said on Sunday that he’s had a good time during the assessments. He added, though, that he looked forward to the end of training Monday.

“Tomorrow’s going to be a very good day,” he said.

Officers wishing to become ALOs must be non-rated in the grades of O-1 through O-4 and have less than 11 years total active federal commissioned service by the time they begin their assessment. Only males can apply for the career field, they must volunteer for hazardous duty, and they must meet tactical air control party physical and medical standards. Academy cadets must receive endorsements from their squadron and group air officers commanding.
The first Air Force Academy graduate to attain general officer rank spoke about his experiences at Lowry Air Force Base, which was the home of the Academy before the campus was finished in 1958, to some of 2nd Lt. Francis Lowry’s descendants here Aug. 3.

“I walked through the gates of Lowry AFB on July 11, 1955, marched in by a bunch of NCOs,” recalled retired Maj. Gen. Harold Todd during a history presentation. “An officer came up to me, and he didn’t like a thing about me. There were all sorts of things he was personally going to fix.”

Todd said he didn’t realize at the time that the dressing down was part of “the welcome-home game.” But for him, it didn’t matter.

“If I didn’t make it here, there wasn’t a safety net,” Todd said. “I’d be back in the ghetto.”

He and 206 other young men made it, however, thanks to what he called a transformation.

“It came from the people who had chosen to train us,” he said. “These guys really weren’t the bottom of the barrel. They came up with the most innovative ideas. They presented me with the capability to control forces for a limited time under any circumstances,” Todd said. “That was the finest thing we’d ever done. These guys didn’t just feel better about themselves — they had earned the right to feel better about themselves. This bunch of ‘losers’ had done this for their country after being told they had nothing more to offer.”

Todd’s final assignment was at Maxwell AFB, Ala., where he was commandant of the Air War College and vice commander of Air University.

“Our students included officers from India and Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Israel, Turkey and Greece,” he said, listing countries with a history of conflict. “But they were always professional. The things that divided their countries’ attention didn’t really get to them.”

Christine Willson organized her family’s visit. When she asked the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center officials about a historic tour of the Academy, they recommended she talk to Jack Anthony, an Astronautics Department instructor and history aficionado. Anthony arranged to use the Visitor Center’s meeting room, presented a brief 1950s-era video of Academy life and arranged for Todd to attend.

“We thought it would be a neat idea for people to come out here,” Willson said. “We’ve learned more about the Lowry side of the family. It’s important to my grandmother and father that we establish that connection.”

Willson’s family is related to Lowry through her grandfather, Davena Mackay Carson, who is Lowry’s second cousin. Lowry, an aerial observer during World War I, was killed by German antiaircraft fire Sept. 26, 1918. Lowry Field opened in 1938, became Lowry AFB on June 24, 1948, and was closed Sept. 30, 1994.

Todd told the younger members of the family in attendance to define their own success.

“For some of you, a military career would really be a good thing. It’s much more participatory now: There’s more for your country after being told they had nothing more to offer.”

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Falcon football launches again

By John Van Winkle
Academy Public Affairs

New faces in new places marked the start of Falcon football season as practices got underway Aug. 3.

With only three returning starters on offense and two on defense, the battle for starting jobs is underway and will introduce Falcon fans to a lot of new names and changes this season.

With that comes some uncertainty in the fans’ minds of who is starting where, but the coaches are well at home with that competition and the eternal question of selecting new starters that comes with each new season.

“Sometimes that’s what makes for a really, really good August. The key is, as we go further along, on the field where is that ends up getting separated,” said Falcons head football coach Tom Holbrook.

Senior Wes Cobb is one of the more well-known Falcons switching roles. He gained 425 yards on 100 rushes at fullback last season, and makes the switch to tackleback this year. Sharing the backfield with him at fullback is fellow firstie Mike DeWitt, who finished the last season with 117 carries for 567 yards and a team-high 12 rushing touchdowns.

Complementing the Cobb-DeWitt rushing attack at tackleback are seniors Cody Getz and Scott Day, along with sophomore Jon Lee. Getz has seen the most playing time of the trio, racking up a decent level of rushing and returning yards last year.

The quarterback race boils down to returning senior Connor Dietz, and sophomores Mitch Griebel and Kale Pearson. Dietz’s experience makes him the front-runner going into fall practices. He’s the only current quarterback for the Falcons on Sept. 1, don’t look for the Falcons to pass so much that it creates a hazard to a low-flying aircraft.

Regardless of what plays the Falcons’ brain trust calls, the players are ready to execute.

“I’ll do whatever it takes to win,” Dietz said. “That’s my mentality every single game. It doesn’t matter to me if I have the worst game of my life, if we have a win. That’s the cold truth. I think that’s the great thing about this team.”

“We are an option offense and we have a lot of options,” he added. “I don’t have to carry the ball. We got great stellar fullbacks, running backs, X and Z-receivers. We got a lot of great guys who can touch the ball and make plays at any given time.”

“I’ve been in this program for four years, so I know it pretty well. I’ve worked on my passing ever since I got here,” he added. “Every day, we’re down here throwing – me, the receivers, the backs. We’re all down here working on our timing and our routes.”

Protecting and plowing a path for Dietz and the backs will be an offensive line led on the right side by returning senior starters Jason Kons at left tackle Jason Kons and Jordan Eason at left guard. Kons and Eason will be joined by a host of experienced key reserves from last season, so the offensive line is not a position of concern going into fall practices.

Special teams also remains one of the strong points going into the 2012 season, returning starting placekicker Patrick Herrington and punter David Baska.

Defensively, familiar faces will be few and far between. Linebacker Alex Means and defensive back Brian Lindsay are seniors and the only returning starters. Joining them are a number of key returning lettermen, including defensive lineman Nick Fitzgerald and defensive back Chris Miller. Joining Miller and Lindsay in the defensive backfield are several lettermen who played offense and special teams last year: running back Anthony LaCoste and punter David Baska.

Quarterback Tucker Tipton also tested the waters at cornerback for the first few days of practice, but moved back to the offensive side of the ball on Wednesday.

“LaCoste has been really, really effective as a special teams player,” said Calhoun. “Because of that, we think he’s got to be on the field more. For him, safety can be a good position, although there’s an awful lot that has to happen there. He needs his crash course at safety to end in a hurry so he’s able to respond and play.”

Baska is another player joining the defensive backfield, adding corner to his special teams roles. He started the entire 2011 season at punter and holding for kickoffs, and showed his athleticism during fake kicks last year, gaining 57 yards rushing and one touchdown.

This year, coaches are looking for him to contribute at cornerback.

“He has very good feet, very good acceleration and he’s been dying to get involved in a variety of ways. So here’s an opportunity, but he’s got to be the one to make the plays,” said Calhoun.

“We’re going to see what the guy can do at corner. He was an excellent athlete in high school and for him it’s a chance to be on the field more frequently, rather than six or seven times a game punting and holding.”

The freshman class will also start to make their presence felt this week, as it usually takes a few practices for the incoming freshmen to begin contributing.

There will also be new faces in the conference this year and next. With the start of the 2012-2013 academic year on July 1, the latest round of college football conference rotations officially took place. TCU departed the Mountain West, while Fresno State and the University of Nevada-Reno joined the conference as full members and the University of Hawai’i became a football-only member of the Mountain West.

Next year, the Mountain West will lose San Diego State and Boise State, and gain San Jose State and Utah State as full members, effective July 1, 2013.

“We are pleased to announce the addition of San Jose State University and Utah State University to the ranks of the Mountain West,” said Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson. “As we have developed the strategy for the future of the Conference, the long-standing rivalries with our current members and the fit within our geographic footprint made these two institutions the optimal choices to strengthen our membership and position ourselves for the next steps.”

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Academy Spirit
Friday, August 10, 2012

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Puzzle solutions for 08-10-2012

Puzzle Solutions for 08-10-2012

Puzzle solutions for 08-10-2012

Puzzle solutions for 08-10-2012
Academy hosts 10k, 1/2 marathon

Elizabeth Doe was the overall female winner in the 10k, completing the run in 32:42.

RESULTS

10k WOMENS
UNDER 17
1. Cameron Lee 2. Salynda Roseberry
18-29
1. Elizabeth Doe 2. Bern Schmitt
30-39
1. Kimberly Lee 2. Louise Gardner
40-49
50-59
60+

HALF MARATHON WOMENS
18-29
1. Balsam Perez 2. Samantha McPherson

10K MEN'S
UNDER 17
1. Matt Carley 2. Thomas Lee
18-29
1. Mike Stephens 2. Kyle Thomas
30-39
40-49
1. Bruce Shuda 2. John Silig
50-59
60+
1. Andrew Osprey

1. Cameron Lee 2. Salynda Roseberry

Approximately 200 runners competed in the Fitness Center’s sixth annual 10k and 1/2 marathon races on the Santa Fe Trail Saturday. Participants received a t-shirt and gift cards were given as door prizes.

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? 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, 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 gets to solve the puzzle!

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Smooth move
The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers a smooth move seminar for relocating Air Force members and civilians from 2-3 p.m. Tuesday and from 3-4 p.m. Aug. 30 at the AFRC in Bldg. 6248. The seminar will include specific information about destination bases, finance and allowances, and household goods movement. For more information or to register, call the AFRC at 333-3444.

Health Service Day
The Academy Civilian Personnel Office will host a Health Service Day for civilian employees from 9-10 a.m. Aug. 21 in the Civilian Personnel office conference room in Bldg. 5136. Healthcare insurance providers will be available to answer questions about their products and services. For more information call civilian personnel at 333-4363.

Whitewater rafting
The Outdoor Recreation Center offers rafting trips to Browns Canyon, the Royal Gorge and Big Horn Sheep Canyon through August. The trips depart from the Outdoor 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 range from $55-$85 per person. For more information visit the Academy Support website at http://usafasupport.com/the-great-outdoors/outdoor-adventure.

Transition assistance
The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host a Transition Assistance Program seminar from 7:30 to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 20-24 at the AFRC in Bldg. 6248. The seminar is suggested for both military and civilians preparing for retirement or separating. For more information or to register, call the AFRC at 333-3444.

Yellow Ribbon Event
The Colorado Yellow Ribbon Event is Saturday from 9-10 a.m. at the Colorado Veterans Monument to welcome home troops and honor those still serving. A parade will follow at 10 a.m. at Civic Center Park. The event is a grassroots effort promoted by Colorado residents in order to support our state Veterans and service members. For more information visit www.coloradoyellowribbon.org.

Pharmacy hours
The Academy Community Center Pharmacy will no longer be open on Saturdays beginning Aug. 26. The last Saturday the pharmacy will provide services will be August 19. The pharmacy will continue with its regular hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Child support services
The El Paso County Child Support Services will now be at the Academy the last Thursday of every month from 1-3 p.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. They will help establish, modify and assist child support orders, establish paternity, assist with visitation issues, provide a connection to other community resources and assist family member(s) of active duty members stationed at another base. There is a one-time $20 fee. To make an appointment call 719-457-6331.

Horsemanship classes
The Academy Equestrian Center offers horsemanship classes, which include a one-hour trail riding lesson plus instruction in grooming, saddling and etiquette, for $30 per lesson. For information, contact the Equestrian Center at 333-4607.

Summer bowling leagues
The Academy Lanes Bowling Center’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 Academy Lanes at 333-4709.

Sergeants Association Meeting
The Air Force Sergeants Association Falcon Chapter 1180 meets every third Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in the Casual Lounge at the Falcon Club.

Pottery studio available
The Arts and Crafts center offers a pottery studio available for use when a class is not in session. The studio includes nine pottery wheels, glazes and five kilns. Clay is available for purchase. For more information call 333-4579.

Got an IDEA?
The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, or IDEA Program is designed reward individuals whose suggestions improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of Air Force, Department of Defense, and government operations. Anyone can submit an idea, but only Air Force military members, civilian employees, cadets, Preparatory School candidates, and contract personnel who are paid from appropriated funds are eligible for cash awards. Monetary awards can be as high as $10,000 for each idea that results in validated tangible savings, and $200 for ideas resulting in intangible benefits.

To submit an idea, go to https://ideaoffice.colorado.edu or contact the IDEA office at 333-4332. Monetary awards can be as high as $10,000 for each idea that results in validated tangible savings, and $200 for ideas resulting in intangible benefits.

VA Stand Down Day
The local Veterans Administration office is requesting active-duty assistance for its VA Stand Down Day Oct. 19. Volunteers are primarily needed to escort veterans around the stations on the day of the stand down. Volunteers are also needed to assist in prep work a few days leading up to the event, for set-up/take-down, and also food and beverage serving on the day of the event. To volunteer or for more information contact 1st Lt. James Franciere at 367-2162.

Veterans rally
Cripple Creek, Colo., will host a “Salute to American Veterans” rally and festival Aug. 17-19. Motorcycle enthusiasts are also invited to participate in the 25th annual POW/MIA Recognition Ride Aug. 18. For more information visit www.thевeteransrally.org.

STEM event
The Rocky Mountain Company Grade Officer Council is hosting the Challenger Learning Center and Radio Disney for a day that will promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug 18 in Patriot Park at Peterson AFB. The program is aimed at military youth in the local area. The day will emphasize STEM and will include live Phineas and Ferb themed shows by Radio Disney. There will also be booths promoting STEM, to include a tie-dye booth, massive bubble making, and a planetarium. This is a free, picnic style event. Bring your lunch and enjoy the entertainment.

Schedule

Worship
Cadet Chapel
BUDDHIST
Sundays, 10 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP
Combined Worship Service:
Sundays, 9 a.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP
Mass:
Sundays, 10 a.m.

JEWISH WORSHIP
Normal schedule:
Fridays, 7 p.m.

Community Center Chapel

CATHOLIC WORSHIP
Mass:
Saturdays, 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.
Reconciliation:
Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m.
Formation Classes:
For students in grades K-8. Sundays, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP
Evangelical:
Sundays, 10:15 a.m.
Gospel:
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Live:
For ages 3 to adult. Begins with a meal. Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
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