Soaring above the rest

Cadets break records while flying to 8th straight national sailplane championship

by Don Branum
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Air Force Academy cadets soared to their eighth straight national sailplane racing championship and their 14th in 18 years, the Soaring Society of America announced Dec. 5.

This year’s team posted more miles than any other in Academy history with more than 30,700 miles, nearly twice as many miles as they flew in 2011, said Lt. Col. Richard Roller, the 94th Flying Training Squadron commander.

“This is the best sailplane racing team in the history of (Air Force Academy) soaring,” Roller said.

Cadets flew some of the longest such flights in the team’s 43-year history, with four flights of 320 miles or more, Roller said. The overall distance places the team among the top 12 percent of all soaring clubs worldwide.

Cadets 1st Class Chris Olson and Ryan Moran posted the longest TG-10 flight in Academy history, flying southwest of Cañon City, Colo., and returning to the Academy. Cadet 1st Class Dave Dunkel flew to Gunnison, Colo., and back -- a round trip of nearly 340 miles.

The team also broke its record for the longest-duration flight, with one flight that lasted more than seven hours, Roller said.

“Cross-country flying is a difficult task to perform well,” Roller said. “It takes years of experience, but our cadets learn quickly and exceed expectations. These young officer candidates fly hundreds of miles after only a 2,000-foot aertow above the ground and fly for several hours on thermals and wave activity.”

The team earned six SSA collegiate scholarship awards and 17 youth distance records across four states, also the most in Academy history, Roller said.

In another first for the Academy, all six cadets on the sailplane racing team earned gold badges.

See Soaring Page 6
Volunteerism is ‘good for the soul’

By Chaplain (Maj.) Shawn Menchion
Air Force Academy Chapel

Many of us may have experienced at least one moment in life when we witnessed how a simple act of kindness brightened another’s day. I certainly know I did. When I was 12, a stranger approached my family’s home and asked for food and water. My dad immediately greeted the man and invited him in. Before we sat down for dinner, the man showered and shaved, and my dad gave him a set of clothing and shoes. After the meal, my dad took the man to a local shelter.

Volunteering to help others isn’t just good for the less fortunate; it’s good for the soul. Volunteering is the embodiment of our core value, Service Before Self.

For most, the holiday season will be a joy; for others, not so much. That’s where we as Airmen and Air Force family members can make a positive impact in Colorado Springs this holiday season.

For example, we can volunteer at one of the at least six food banks in the Colorado Springs area. It’s probably safe to say that the life of a homeless person is never easy, but it must be even more difficult during the frigid winter months. Visiting a nursing home is another option. Many elderly citizens who live in nursing homes would be overjoyed by an unexpected visit from Airmen and their families.

Volunteering to help others isn’t just good for the less fortunate in our community — it’s good for the soul. Volunteering is the embodiment of our core value, Service Before Self.

For information on local soup kitchens, pantries and food banks in the Colorado Springs area, visit www.homelessshelterdirectory.org.

Oh Christmas Tree
The evening sky above the Community Center Chapel is lit up by the colorful holiday lights decorating the base Christmas Tree. A special tree lighting ceremony was held Dec. 6 at the chapel.

‘I Care...’

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 800-273-8255
Mental Health - 719-333-5177
Active Duty Dependents - 719-333-4258

Peak Performance Center - 719-333-2107
Employee Assistance Program - 719-333-4364

Chaplains - Cadets 719-333-2636
Non-cadet 719-333-3300

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator - 719-377-7772
Military Family Life Consultant - 719-377-1990 (adult) or 719-651-3759 (youth)

“I Care...”

Cadet 3rd Class Ethan Biddy
Cadet Squadron 40

‘Airmen and Air Force family members can make a positive impact in Colorado Springs this holiday season.”

-Chaplain (Maj.) Shawn Menchion
Watch for slush, don’t rush

Winter weather patterns can affect local commute

By Amber Baillie
Academy Spirit staff writer

As the weather changes and snow and ice begin to dress the roads, drivers need to watch for slush and not rush while traveling to, from and on the Academy.

The Academy has personnel who live anywhere from south Colorado Springs, east near Powers Boulevard and north by Monument and Castle Rock, said Lt. Col. Steve Harmon, the Academy’s director of safety.

“All of these areas could be experiencing vastly different weather,” Harmon said. “When we think about safety, we think about personnel driving to work or performing a job duty on the Academy.

“Drivers should be most careful on bridges and overpasses because they tend to accumulate ice quicker than normal road surfaces, said Staff Sgt. Jacob Heine, the 10th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of police services.

“The bridge on Stadium Drive and the Tri Bridge on Academy Drive, near the Thunderbird overlook, are two examples,” Heine said. “Try to avoid sudden braking, turning or acceleration on those areas. Also, try to avoid back roads because these roads see less traffic and are more likely to have a larger accumulation of snow.”

Low car fluid and tire pressure are two of the most common, avoidable issues that leave people stranded, Heine said.

“Most people don’t know that once the temperature drops below 45 degrees, the average tire’s rubber compound will become hard and lose its ability to maintain proper traction,” Heine said. “To prevent this issue, I recommend purchasing all-weather or snow tires.”

If you have a rear-wheel-drive vehicle, weight the back end of your vehicle with sandbags to increase the downward pressure on your tires, Heine said.

“This will create better traction,” Heine said. “If you have an all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive vehicle, you may be able to accelerate faster than most, but your ability to turn and stop is the same as everyone else. You still need to drive with extreme caution.”

Harmon said black ice is often a treacherous, unpredictable risk for drivers during the cold months.

“Roads may appear to be clear and dry but in fact, they have patches of clear ice,” Harmon said. “The key to managing this threat is understanding conditions where it may be present, such as in the shade or on a bridge, since cool air circulates under them. As these conditions present themselves, adjust your driving habits accordingly and this, coupled with high quality winter tires is your best defense.”

Harmon said to always keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. The kit should include a blanket, warm clothes, first aid kit, ice scraper, shovel, tool kit, tire chains, jumper cables, a spare tire and flashlight with new batteries.

“Most people don’t carry one, and the possibility of getting stranded in the winter increases,” Harmon said. “Also, have some traction material in case you get stuck such as kitty litter, it works great.”

The Academy typically receives more precipitation than areas such as downtown Colorado Springs due to higher elevation, Harmon said.

“The winds and visibility right up against the mountains are often much worse,” Harmon said. “Give yourself a lot more room and don’t try to accelerate or brake fast.”

Breakdowns happen year-around, but it makes for a more dangerous situation in freezing temperatures and snowfall, Heine said.

“During snowfall, traffic slows and accidents increase,” Heine said. “Take your time and ensure you are giving yourself an adequate amount of time for travel. I suggest leaving 15-20 minutes earlier.”

To report an on-base accident or emergency, call Security Forces at 333-2000 or 911. For information on the weather, roads and other conditions, call 333-6249.

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CSAF directs Air Force-wide inspection

Emphasis is on professionalism, respect says Air Force leader

Commanders across the Air Force began conducting health and welfare inspections earlier this month to emphasize an environment of respect, trust and professionalism in the work place.

The health and welfare inspection is a tool routinely used by unit commanders, command chiefs and first sergeants.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III tasked commanders during a Nov. 28 Wing Commanders Call to examine their work settings and ensure Airmen at all levels consistently apply standards of professionalism and respect across the service.

“Over the past months, I’ve discussed with our commanders, leaders and supervisors about the importance of pride and performance,” said Welsh. “When Airmen work in a setting that is consistent with our Core Values of integrity, service and excellence, they perform with honor and distinction — they deserve nothing less. Anything short detracts from that pride and cripples mission effectiveness.”

The purpose of this inspection is to reinforce expectations for the workplace environment, correct deficiencies, and deter conditions that may be detrimental to good order and discipline. During the inspection, commanders looked for and removed unprofessional or inappropriate items that hindered a professional working environment.

“This is about commanders being commanders,” Welsh said. “The underlying principle for the inspection is our core values and the bottom line is that it’s the right thing to do.”

Commanders, chiefs and first sergeants conducted health and welfare inspections at the Academy Dec. 12. The inspections started across the Air Force on Dec. 5.

Academy ranked among top 10 US schools

The Air Force Academy was ranked among the 10 best schools in the nation by The Best Schools according to a list released this week.

Schools were evaluated based on record of achievement among graduates, diversity of study, freedom of inquiry and expression, academic rigor, low cost and minimal debt.

The website’s rankings place the Air Force Academy in a three-way tie with the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

The Colorado School of Mines, in Golden, Colo., was the only other school in the state to make the list (at No. 19). Deep Springs College in Deep Springs, Calif., topped the list.

A U.S. News and World Report survey of best colleges also placed the Academy among the best schools in the nation, ranking it No. 2 in aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical engineering for the 12th-straight year. No. 5 in civil engineering and computer engineering, No. 6 in electrical engineering and No. 8 in mechanical engineering.

A U.S. News survey of high school counselors ranked the Academy in a tie for second-best liberal arts college in the nation, tied with West Point and Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, Calif.

Notable graduates of the Academy include U.S. Airways pilot Chelsey “Sully” Sullenberger, current Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III, four previous chiefs of staff and nearly 40 astronauts.

The full list of rankings by The Best Schools is available at http://bit.ly/Vy6zKh.
ADAPT’s ‘drunk goggles’ help Airmen see clearly

By Airman 1st Class Veronica Cruz
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Christmas might be a time for celebrating, but should Airmen decide to mix their holidays with alcohol, its best they keep their “Drunk Goggles” from behind the wheel.

To highlight National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month and familiarize Airmen with the dangers of drinking and driving, local Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program experts held a special event Tuesday at the 10th Medical Group lobby.

At the event, Airmen were invited to try negotiating a driving simulation and obstacle course while wearing special goggles designed to simulate the effects of alcohol impairment.

“They had various level of goggles to represent different blood alcohol contents and at one point I was trying on the worst,” said Senior Airman Brandon Caves, a medical logistics technician with the 10th Medical Support Squadron.

Caves’s goggles simulated a blood alcohol content of 0.10, two percentage points above Colorado’s legal blood alcohol content limit of 0.08.

“Wearing those goggles produces probably the most surreal dizziness you could ever imagine,” Caves said. “The goggles throw off your equilibrium and make it completely impossible to focus on one thing at a time because you’re seeing three images at once.”

The “Drunk Goggles” had drastically hampered Caves’ ability to successfully navigate through the short obstacle course, consisting of a straight-line walking test and turns. Caves said, “I wasn’t falling down, but there is no way a person could have run the course with those goggles on,” said Caves.

Caves likened the driving simulation to a “fast paced video game.”

“I couldn’t even see,” he said. “I was crashing every five seconds.”

Caves wasn’t the only driver who should have checked his keys in at the door.

“There were points where people were crashing into walls and racing the wrong way,” he said. “They couldn’t even tell what they were doing.”

The main purpose of the event was to convince Airmen that it’s never acceptable to drink and drive, said Brian Petrovich, a clinical psychologist and the academy’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program manager.

“People often think that they’re OK to drive after they’ve been drinking but they aren’t aware of what drunken or even tipsy driving does to their performance,” said Mr. Petrovich. “Many times the drinker is unaware of a problem until they cross the line which can result in a DUI, disruptive conduct or various other illegal activities.”

Along with taking two hours for one drink to clear a person’s system, alcohol can cloud a person’s judgment and cause them to act impulsively, said Mr. Petrovich.

Some of this behavior has led to more than 120 ADAPT referrals here between January and September.

The price for Airmen caught driving under the influence of alcohol is steep. If charged, they face losing their base driving privileges for a year, reduction in pay and rank, the likelihood of receiving an Article 15 and even separation from the Air Force.

“Commanders have very little choice in these cases because they must take action to ensure that the mission is not affected again” Mr. Petrovich said.

Goggles or no goggles, Airman Caves said the experience was an eye-opener.

“It really showed you the effect of alcohol,” he said. “You might not think it can get that bad, but it can.”

For more information on ADAPT, call 333-5177 or visit the Mental Health clinic in the Community Center.
FORT MEADE, Md. (AFNS) — “It was the first time I had ever seen a plunging dive bomber and it was an awesome sight. Nothing in warfare is more frightening,” said Pvt. Wilfred D. Burke, 72d Pursuit Squadron, Wheeler Field, whose experience in the attacks on Pearl Harbor are recorded in “7 December 1941: The Air Force Story” compiled by the Pacific Air Forces Office of History.

“Hurtling down on us was a dive bomber being followed by another, while six or seven more in echelon awaited their turn. The leader pulled out right over us in a spectacular climbing bank. We could clearly see the rising sun of Japan on his wings and fuselage,” Burke said.

Burke’s first-hand account of that fateful day 71 years ago provides a glimpse of how U.S. air forces were affected by the surprise attack by the Japanese during the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941. The attack propelled the U.S. into World War II and hindsight confirms that the Empire of Japan executed a bold plan, achieved perfect tactical surprise and found U.S. forces on the island of Oahu easy, unprepared targets.

Burke gives us a personal look at what Airmen experienced on what started out to be a quiet, lazy Sunday morning in paradise.

“My boss, Sgt. Forest Wills woke me up around 7 a.m. This was the one morning of the week I could sleep late and I wanted to stay in bed, but I did tell Wills that I would go to church with him.

Wills had become a good friend of mine and was concerned with my spiritual welfare, having observed that I was a worthless fellow given to drinking beer.

“We ate breakfast in an unusually empty mess hall, then, since we had time before church started, joined a group of men in the middle of the tent area to shoot the bull for a while.

“We watched a flight of planes pass to the west of Wheeler heading towards Pearl Harbor. Someone said that it was the Navy, but then we were surprised as black puffs of anti-aircraft fire filled the sky.

“Our surprise turned into terror when a Japanese aircraft from over head began diving directly towards us. The diving planes released their bombs from one end of the hangar line to the other. No one was in sight at first except weary guards who had maintained an all-night vigil against possible sabotage, but others quickly began arriving.

“Officers and enlisted alike were being impressed with their skill. We got a clear view of the enemy planes again. I ran to the housing area and got a clear view of the enemy planes firing their machine guns at aircraft on the ramp. I couldn’t help from being impressed with their skill. They had been portraying as little near-sighted men wearing glasses and this arrogance led to this debacle. The enemy was not to be considered lightly.

“The attack that crippled the U.S. Pacific Naval Fleet also left approximately 700 U.S. Airmen killed or wounded and 66 percent of U.S. air forces assets in Hawaii decimated. The Japanese lost only 29 pilots from more than 350 planes launched from aircraft carriers north of Hawaii.

“The Japanese knew their attack on the Pacific Fleet would be imperiled if they didn’t cripple the air forces. Historical records describe the U.S. response as mostly uncoordinated and stunned by the surprise.

“What Airmen saw on the ground that day is recorded in greater detail by Tom Budzyna, author of “7 December 1941 - The Air Force Story” which reveals these lesser known accounts.

A report entitled “7 December 1941: The Air Force Story” compiled by the Pacific Air Forces Office of History obtained this photo of Wheeler Air Field taken by a Japanese Empire pilot to record the battle damage to the U.S. Air Forces Dec. 7, 1941.

Army Air Forces
Private First Class Raymond Perry (left, with binoculars) and AAF Cpl. Howard Marquardt man another gun emplacement, hastily constructed shortly after the Japanese raid on Oahu.

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The Japanese knew their attack on the Pacific Fleet would be imperiled if they didn’t cripple the air forces. Historical records describe the U.S. response as mostly uncoordinated and stunned by the surprise.

What Airmen saw on the ground didn’t match what the newspapers said 71 years ago, either.

“All the publicity is ‘Remember Pearl Harbor.’ They should take a look at Hickam Field or what was Hickam Field,” said Army Air Force Maj. Charles P. Eckhert, on Dec. 10, 1941. “They dropped about 100 bombs on Hickam, practically all hits. The papers say they are poor bombers! They were perfect on nearly all their releases.”

But the accounts of aircraft destroyed and numbers of Airmen killed tell only a small part of the Pearl Harbor story. It’s the individual heroism of countless and sometimes forgotten Airmen that paint the true picture of the attack, and “7 December 1941 - The Air Force Story” reveals these lesser known accounts.
Air Force, Bentley skate to 2-2 overtime tie

Falcons shut out all 3 opponents

AFA takes 3 points in series, unbeaten in last 3 games

WATERTOWN, Mass. — Air Force and Bentley skated to a 2-2 overtime tie in an Atlantic Hockey Association game Saturday, Dec. 8 at the John A. Ryan Arena in Watertown, Mass.

Air Force took three points in the series and is now unbeaten in the last three games.

Air Force enters the holiday break with a 5-7-4 overall record, 4-4-2 in the league. Bentley is 6-8-1 overall and 5-5-1 in the AHA.

In a fast-paced first period, Air Force struck first as Stephen Carew scored his team-leading eighth goal of the season. Gensler skated into the zone on the left side and sent the puck across to Carew in the right circle. His shot was originally stopped by goalie Blake Dougherty, but Dougherty dropped to the ice and fired a slap shot for his 10th goal of the season. Gensler leads the nation in scoring with 25 points in 15 games.

Air Force regained the lead midway through the second period. Chad Demers made a faceoff in the offensive zone and senior defenseman Mike Walsh pounced with a slap shot through traffic for his first goal of the season at the 9:02 mark. Bentley again answered five minutes later in a four-on-four situation. Andrew Fitzstephens kept the puck in the zone and sent it down low. Gensler touched the puck over to Jared Rickord on the weak side who netted his fourth of the season.

Neither team scored in the third period and the game went into overtime. With 24 seconds left in the third, a penalty was called on Air Force forward Chad Demers. Bentley started the power play and took three shots on goal. The Falcons killed the penalty and then AFA had a flurry in front of the Bentley goal as Carew and Demers were down low. Bentley had five shots on goal in overtime while Air Force had one.

Bentley outshot Air Force, 36-30, in the game. AFA was 0-for-3 on the power play while Bentley was 0-for-4. Jensen Torf made 34 saves for Air Force while Blake Dougherty made 28 for Bentley.

“We played with great energy and spirit all weekend, I’ll take three of four points anytime on the road and I’m satisfied with that.” — Frank Serratore, Falcons head coach

Serratore said, “I’ll take three of four points anytime on the road and I’m satisfied with that. We played hard, but were careless with the puck at times late in the game and you just can’t do that.”

Air Force is now idle until Dec. 29-30 when the Falcons travel to the Mariucci Classic in Minneapolis. Air Force will face fourth-ranked Minnesota Dec. 29 at 7:05 p.m. CST. AFA will then play Alabama-Huntsville, Dec. 30 at 4:05 p.m. CST in the second game of the Mariucci Classic.

Air Force wrestling dominates at Battle for the Planes

JACKSON, Minn. — Shutting out all three of its dual opponents, the Air Force wrestling team opened its 2012-13 dual slate Dec. 7 at the Battle for the Planes, held at Jackson County Central High School.

The Falcons posted a 46-0 decision over Dakota Wesleyan, followed by a 53-0 victory over Northwestern College and a 36-0 win over Augustana (S.D.).

Leading the way for the Falcons on Friday were senior captain Cole VonOhlen and sophomore Carter McElhany, the only two Air Force wrestlers to compete in all three duals. Meanwhile, sophomore Bentley Alsup also notch ed a 3-0 mark on Friday, winning a decision and a pair of forfeits at heavyweight.

Against Northwestern College, Air Force recorded four falls, with Dylan Hyder, VonOhlen, Josh Kreimer and Konner Witt, all earning pins. McElhany and Jack Carda each scored tech falls, while Tyler Mergen and Dan Barringer each won major decisions. The Falcons were also awarded forfeits at 125 pounds and heavyweight.

Air Force closed out the evening with a dual versus Augustana, ranked 14th in Division II. Leading the way for the Falcons against the Vikings were Josh Martinez, VonOhlen and Kreimer, wrestling at 125, 140 and 165 pounds, respectively. Hyder, McElhany, Gabe Martinez, Baker, Witt and Mohr all added decisions, while Alsup won by forfeit in the heavyweight match.

Friday’s event marked a special homecoming for VonOhlen, a Jackson County Central High School graduate who was honored before the Falcons’ final dual of the evening. A three-time NCAA qualifier for the Falcons currently ranked eighth in the nation, VonOhlen was a two-time state champion and three time state finalist for the Huskies.

The Falcons have the rest of December off before returning to action Jan. 1-2 at the Southern Scuffle, hosted by Chattanooga.
By Amber Baillie
Academy Staff Writer

From dusk to dawn you can guarantee cadets will be cruising the sky in distinct Academy aircraft. Through the Academy’s Airmanship program, future officers, pilots and navigators are able to fly fixed-wing aircraft and gliders, clearly marked with an Air Force logo, 12-13 hours a day to experience their first aviation opportunity.

“It’s necessary to fly during all available opportunities to provide training to as many cadets as possible,” said Capt. Jocelyn Smith, 306th Operations Support Powered Flight Program Manager. “The goal is for every cadet who graduates from the Academy to have the opportunity to participate in an aviation program.”

Lt. Col. Sean Gallagher, 306th Operations Support Squadron Commander, said aviation activities occur during the hours of daylight, typically between 6:45 a.m.-8 p.m. He said August-May flight operations are also conducted on Saturday.

“We will fly in any airspace that is authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration,” Gallagher said. “If there are any restricted areas or temporary flight restrictions issued by the FAA, we won’t fly there.”

The program offers powered flight, jumping and soaring opportunities for cadets with designated planes for each mission.

One of the Academy’s newest models is the Cirrus Aircraft T-53A, a small, single engine aircraft that replaced the fleet of Diamond DA-40 T-52s in the spring of 2012.

“If you see an unmarked aircraft, it doesn’t belong to the Academy,” Gallagher said. “Our aircraft are typically white and noticeable with its Air Force markings.”

Gallagher said cadets are able to fly throughout most of Colorado Springs because much of the airspace is uncontrolled or public use. He said the Academy conducts practice landings at the Academy’s airfield as well as at Fort Carson, Meadow Lake and Centennial airport.

“We will fly in any airspace that is authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration,” Gallagher said. “We fly in any airspace that is authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration.”

The 150-horsepower Cessna 150 T-51A is flown by the Academy Flying team to compete in regional and national college competitions.

“Cadets fly approximately 75 to 100 hours per year,” said Maj. Scott Inmon, 306th Operations Support Powered Flight Program Manager. “They compete in nine ground and precision flying events, such as aircraft identification, flight computer accuracy, short field landings and cross-country navigation.”

The German TG-16A glider replaced the TG-10 glider in July, and is used for the Academy’s Soaring Program. The trainer is non-powered and must be towed up to altitude by a yellow DOSS aviation Super Cub tow plane.

“T-53 is slightly larger than the T-52, and has a slightly higher horsepower engine,” Smith said. “The first T-53 arrived at station in June 2011, and the last two of 25 arrived in May of 2012.”

The powered flight mission provides more than 600 cadets per year an introduction to flight and an opportunity for a solo flight, Gallagher said.

“We estimate that currently two-thirds of the cadets who graduate have taken part in an airmanship program,” Smith said.

The 150-horsepower Cessna 150 T-51A is flown by the Academy Flying team to compete in regional and national college competitions.

The goal of the Academy’s Airmanship Program is to provide an aviation experience and to inspire cadets toward a career in the Air Force, Airmanship for All, Smith said.

The Academy’s Twin Otter UV-18B is an airlift support plane for cadet parachuting and the Air Force Academy parachute team. The Air Force owns three. They can carry a pilot, copilot and up to 10 jumpers.

Left: The Cirrus Aircraft T-53A is a small, single engine aircraft at the Academy that replaced the fleet of Diamond DA-40 T-52s in the spring of 2012. It is slightly larger than the T-52 and has a slightly higher horsepower engine. It provides exposure to powered flight and gives cadets the opportunity to solo.

Below: The 150-horsepower Cessna 150 T-51A is flown by the Academy Flying team, a select group of 16-18 cadets who hold a Federal Aviation Administration pilot certificate or higher. Cadets use the plane to compete against 144 colleges nationwide in regional and national competitions.
DOD considers sequestration cuts

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The Office of Management and Budget has instructed the Department of Defense to pursue internal planning to make the required budget cuts if sequestration goes into effect Jan. 3.

"We are at the very start of this process," said Dr. George Little, acting assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, during a Pentagon press availability here, Dec. 5. "We don't have all the details firm yet. Naturally, we hope very much that sequestration will be avoided and we don't enter that phase."

Sequestration is a mechanism enacted by Congress that will initiate severe across-the-board government budget cuts if Congress and the president are unable to pass a budget that meets the requirements of the Budget Control Act of 2011.

For the DOD, sequestration would cut the defense budget by $500 billion over the next 10 years. These cuts would be in addition to the nearly $500 billion in cuts, during the same time frame, already directed by the 2011 BCA.

DOD officials have already been considering possible effects of sequestration, including communicating impacts to the DOD work force.

"Our focus has been on examining the potential impacts of sequestration," Little said. "We know what the potential impacts might be, and that helps us create a baseline for what we need to plan against."

He explained that although the core of the effort this month is planning against the possible cuts, officials still hold hope that Congress and the administration can come to a resolution avoiding sequestration.

If the cuts do go into effect Jan. 3, Little said the DOD should still have the required budget cuts if sequestration goes into effect Jan. 3.

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Cadet 4th Class Becky Murphy chats with one of several Junior Girl Scouts at the Bungee Barbie competition held Dec. 8 at the Academy’s Chemistry Lab. Murphy and other cadet volunteers helped the Girl Scouts build bungee cords out of rubber bands before making their dolls take the leap from the top of a 15-foot stairwell. The competition is designed to inspire the Girls Scouts to take an interest in math and engineering. More than fifty scouts worked with ten cadets at the event.

Composer John Tesh performs a holiday show at Arnold Hall Dec. 7. Tesh, a previous Entertainment Tonight host, has won six music Emmy Awards, two Grammy Award nominations and has released four gold albums, among his other accomplishments.

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould receives the Seven Seals Award from retired Rear Adm. Dick Young, the Colorado state chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) Wednesday. ESGR was established in 1972 under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. It promotes cooperation between Reserve component members and their civilian employers. The Seven Seals Award is one of the few awards a state ESGR committee can present.

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U.S. Olympic Committee announces 2013 Warrior Games

Service members, veterans with physical disabilities to compete at Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs

The 2013 Warrior Games will be held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and the Air Force Academy May 11-17, the U.S. Olympic Committee announced Monday.

More than 200 wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans are expected to participate in 2013, comprising five U.S. teams representing the Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard, Marine Corps and special operations forces, as well as one team from the United Kingdom.

The Games are designed to introduce injured service members and veterans to Paralympic sport competition and encourage them to stay physically active when they return to their local communities following the event.

Teams will compete in archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball, swimming and track and field.

Charlie Huebner, the USOC’s chief of Paralympics, said the committee is proud to again host the Warrior Games in Colorado Springs.

“Paralympic sport has a tremendously positive impact on individuals with physical disabilities, and the Warrior Games allows us to salute these fine young men and women who have served their countries honorably,” Huebner said.

The opening ceremony will be held at the Olympic Training Center May 11.

The ceremony, as well as the Warrior Games competitions, will be free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.usparalympics.org or the Warrior Games Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WarriorGames.

The event is scheduled to occur during finals and cadet study days.

Sponsors include the Defense Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs, USO and other for-profit and non-profit organizations.

STAFF Sgt. CHRISTOPHER BOITZ
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

USAF Endowment launches year-end campaign

The USAF Endowment has launched its year-end drive to boost graduate support to the Academy, before Dec. 31.

The Endowment has a historic year for support to the Academy, with its most notable success being the recent Center for Character and Leadership Development groundbreaking, a project funded by the annual military construction budget and $12.5 million from private donors.

Tickets are available at the Youth Center, Airmen and Family Readiness Center, Child Development Center and CDC Annex.

The event will include photos with a live reindeer, Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as crafts and prizes.

Tickets for seating are required. For more information call Center at 333-4169.

Pottery studio available

The Arts Center at Crafts center’s pottery studio is available 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.

A&FRC events

Resume Writing Workshop: Dec. 19, 9 a.m.-noon. Attendees will learn how to write an effective resume, different resume formats, how to best highlight their qualifications and how to target their resume to specific jobs.

Starting Your Own Business: Jan. 10, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The workshop is the first of the SCORE SmartSTART 6-part series. The Start Up Basics workshop is free and 5 Advanced Workshops will follow.

Bundles for Babies: Jan. 23, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The workshop is open to active-duty personnel and spouses. Attendees will learn budgeting for baby, nutrition, developmental parenting and basic parenting skills. Attendees will also receive a bundle of goodies from the Air Force Aid Society.

Troops for Teachers: Jan. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The workshop will provide information for military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher.

Resume Writing Workshop: Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-noon. Attendees will learn how to write an effective resume, different resume formats, how to best highlight their qualifications and how to target their resume to specific jobs.

Federal Resume Writing Class: Jan. 29, 2-4 p.m. Attendees will learn how to create a federal resume formatted to USAJOBS guidelines.

Transition Assistance Program: Jan. 14-18, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. This workshop provides information for those who are preparing to retire or separate. The workshop is open to active-duty, Reserve and Guard service members as well as Defense Department civilians and their spouses. Attendees are eligible to attend two years their year from retirement date or 12 months from their separation date.

Retirement Planning: Jan. 30, 8 a.m.-noon. Attendees will receive information on Federal Employees Retirement System benefits and financially planning for retirement. Spouse may sign up with a member.

Health Club memberships

The Academy legal office advises military members who have contracts may cancel membership after one month’s notice when moving out of the local area. To file a consumer complaint, call the Colorado attorney general at 800-222-4444. For more information, call 333-3940.

Winter Sale

The Academy's Athletic Association Visitor Center Gift Shop will continue their annual winter clearance sale throughout Dec. 30.

All items are discounted at least 20 percent and some are discounted as much as 50 percent.

The shop is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 472-0102 for Falcon Shop hours.

Tops in Blue holding auditions

The Air Force all-volunteer band Tops in Blue is accepting applications through Dec. 14 to audition for its 60th-anniversary tour in 2013.

For more information, visit www.topsinblue.com/application.html or call 210-623-0509.

Applications can be sent directly to the Air Force Services Directorate, Entertainment Branch.

Auditions will begin in February at Joint Base San Antonio.

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, civilians, 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://ipds.randolph. af.mil/idea_webpage.html (CAC login required) or contact the IDEA office at 333-4352.

Pooch Plunge

The Academy will hold a Pooch Plunge Dec. 21 from 3-7 p.m. at the Academy’s Fitness Center pool.

The cost for dogs and families to attend is $5. All dogs must have a current rabies tag, be up-to-date on all vaccinations and may not be in heat or a threat to other dogs.

The event will include races, open swim and special lighting treats for pups. The dog with the best swim suit will receive a prize.

For more information, call 333-4522.

Holiday brunch

The Academy will hold a holiday champagne brunch Dec. 16 to 10 a.m. at the Falcon Club.

Children under the age of 4 receive free admission, adults pay $23.95, children ages 5-10 pay $9.95.

Club members will receive a 50 discount.

Menu items will include prime rib, smoked salmon and snow crab.

To make a reservation call 333-4253.
RESTAURANT
Bamboo Court Restaurant
823 N. Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80909 / 719-596-9516
3780 E Boulder St Colorado Springs,
Diamond Billiards
rastapastacs.com
405 N. Tejon
481-6888
Bamboo Court Restaurant
Wooglin’s Deli & Cafe

SODUOKU

CLUES ACROSS

1. Afraid
2. Scottish game pole
3. Atomic # 18
4. Timid
5. Tokyo
6. Force from office
7. California
8. Dynasty actresses
9. Force from office
10. Force from office
11.-small mongrel
12. Opposite of good
13. King of Camelot
14. A jewel
15. Rate of walking
16. A ceremonial building
17. Germs
18. American capital
19. Symphony orchestra
20. More pretentious
21. U.S. state capital
22. Woolens
23. Himalayan wild goats
24. 100’s - 10’s
25. Japanese writing
26. __ party: family of birds
27. Luteinizing hormone
28. ___ Residences
29. British Air-Aces
30. Being a single unit
31. Opposite of good
32. National Guard
33. Astronoms
34. A string of necklaces
35. ___ Residences
36. Cornell tennis center
37. Cornwall tennis center
38. ___ Residences
39. Fractional monetary units
40. Scoring in a play
41. Officiating properties
42. ACA playfields
43. 2007’s Planning
44. ___ Residences
45. ___ Residences
46. Free from deceit
47. Ireland
48. ___ Residences
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53. ___ Residences
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CLUES DOWN

1. Jane’s “Fifty --”, " fifty"
2. Scottish game pole
3. Atomic # 18
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Solution on page 7