Caring for Cadets

Editor’s note: This is the fourth article in a series focusing on how various units at the Academy ‘Care for Cadets.’ Subsequent articles will appear in upcoming editions of the Academy Spirit.

Academy grad, pilot left ‘legacy of achievement’

By 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs and Ray Beeden
Academy Spirit editor

AVIANO AIR BASE, ITALY—A memorial service was held Wednesday to honor a 2003 Academy graduate and pilot who died last week during a training exercise of the coast of Italy.

Capt. Lucas Gruenther, 32, was assigned to the 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base. Italy. He was on a nighttime training sortie when contact was lost with his F-16 Fighting Falcon Jan. 28. According to Italian news reports, Gruenther’s body was found around 2 p.m. Jan. 31, 15 miles off the coast of Pesaro.

“Luc leaves behind a family who loves him dearly and a legacy of achievement,” said the Gruenther family in a public statement. “We will never fully recover from our loss, but take heart in the knowledge that during his all-too-short time in this world, he made a significant difference in the lives of all he met.”

Gruenther’s wife, Cassy Gruenther, is weeks from delivering the couple’s first child, Serene. She described her husband as a “Self-reliant outdoorsmen who would sleep every night under the stars if he could.”

“He’s a skydiver, he’s a rock climber and he’s a certified scuba diver,” Cassy Gruenther said. “He is also a health nut and in great shape.”

Gruenther’s selection as a fighter pilot was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream, according to his family.

“Luc has wanted to be a pilot since he was a little boy and he did everything he had to do to get there,” said Romel Mathias, Gruenther’s mother. “That’s what he does with everything in his life. If he wants to do something, he finds a way to do it.”

The search effort for Gruenther included U.S. and Italian aircraft and ships.

According to the family, the U.S. military has confirmed finding debris from the aircraft, including Gruenther’s parachute and helmet.
National Prayer Luncheon celebrates religious diversity, camaraderie

By Lt. Col. Randy Erwin
10th Air Base Wing Chaplain

Where else will you witness a Muslim Imam, a Jewish Rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest and Protestant Christian ministers recite sacred texts, pray and listen to a world-class speaker? Indeed, it is the Academy’s upcoming National Prayer Luncheon.

The opportunities for this type of religious diversity may be few and far between in some places, but not at the Academy, or elsewhere in the Air Force, for that matter.

Throughout my career, I have hosted or organized annual prayer events for many Air Force bases. I get excited because it allows us to come together as a community and boldly celebrate our religious diversity and constitutional right to freedom of religion.

Our diverse faiths play an important role in helping us cope with our most pressing problems; they keep us optimistic in the face of adversity and make us more aware of the needs of those around us.

Congress organized prayer break groups in 1942. Senators and Representatives meet weekly to pray for individual needs and confirm America’s dependency on God. In 1953, members of the Senate and House prayer groups, with President Dwight Eisenhower, established the first Presidential Prayer Breakfast. Since then, the breakfast has taken place each year.

The Presidential Prayer Breakfast was changed to the National Prayer Breakfast in 1970 to emphasize the individuals attending and their purpose in gathering. Yearly, when Congress convenes, civilian and military leaders and other officials gather to pray.

The observance of National Prayer Breakfasts or Luncheons on military installations and in communities across the nation is an extension of the National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington. Though our upcoming observance here is a luncheon, the purpose remains what it was in 1942.

I hope you will join me 11:30 a.m. Feb. 20 at the Falcon Club when the 10th Air Base Wing Chaplain Corps gathers with men and women from across the Academy for the 2013 National Prayer Luncheon.

It is not a work service but rather an opportunity to take a break from our daily rush and routine and rejoice in our shared American religious liberty.

We have a great program planned, and I believe all who attend will be nourished and refreshed. This is an event for all Academy service members, civilians and their friends and families.

Guest speaker Dr. Robert Wicks will share an inspirational message: “Riding the Dragon: Strengthening Your Inner Life in Troubled Times.” The first 275 people to sign up will receive a free copy of Wicks’ book, “Bounce: Living the Resilient Life.”

A lunch buffet of roasted turkey breast and vegetarian pasta primavera is $5 a person which may be paid with credit or cash. To pay with cash, visit the Community Center Chapel; to pay by credit card, visit the Community Center Chapel at 719-333-3300. On behalf of the 10th ABW Chaplain Corps, I hope to see you there.

SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to: usafa.pi@usafa.af.mil. Deadline for free classified ads on a space-available basis is noon every Thursday for that week’s publication date. Paid classified publishing is accepted by the publisher at 719-444-7355. For display advertising, please contact Metro Rocky at 719-836-9081. Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the Academy Spirit editor at 719-333-7693. The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by email: pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil.

National Prayer Luncheon celebrates religious diversity, camaraderie

By Lt. Col. Randy Erwin
10th Air Base Wing Chaplain

Where else will you witness a Muslim Imam, a Jewish Rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest and Protestant Christian ministers recite sacred texts, pray and listen to a world-class speaker? Indeed, it is the Academy’s upcoming National Prayer Luncheon.

The opportunities for this type of religious diversity may be few and far between in some places, but not at the Academy, or elsewhere in the Air Force, for that matter.

Throughout my career, I have hosted or organized annual prayer events for many Air Force bases. I get excited because it allows us to come together as a community and boldly celebrate our religious diversity and constitutional right to freedom of religion.

Our diverse faiths play an important role in helping us cope with our most pressing problems; they keep us optimistic in the face of adversity and make us more aware of the needs of those around us.

Congress organized prayer break groups in 1942. Senators and Representatives meet weekly to pray for individual needs and confirm America’s dependency on God. In 1953, members of the Senate and House prayer groups, with President Dwight Eisenhower, established the first Presidential Prayer Breakfast. Since then, the breakfast has taken place each year.

The Presidential Prayer Breakfast was changed to the National Prayer Breakfast in 1970 to emphasize the individuals attending and their purpose in gathering. Yearly, when Congress convenes, civilian and military leaders and other officials gather to pray.

The observance of National Prayer Breakfasts or Luncheons on military installations and in communities across the nation is an extension of the National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington. Though our upcoming observance here is a luncheon, the purpose remains what it was in 1942.

I hope you will join me 11:30 a.m. Feb. 20 at the Falcon Club when the 10th Air Base Wing Chaplain Corps gathers with men and women from across the Academy for the 2013 National Prayer Luncheon.

It is not a work service but rather an opportunity to take a break from our daily rush and routine and rejoice in our shared American religious liberty.

We have a great program planned, and I believe all who attend will be nourished and refreshed. This is an event for all Academy service members, civilians and their friends and families.

Guest speaker Dr. Robert Wicks will share an inspirational message: “Riding the Dragon: Strengthening Your Inner Life in Troubled Times.” The first 275 people to sign up will receive a free copy of Wicks’ book, “Bounce: Living the Resilient Life.”

A lunch buffet of roasted turkey breast and vegetarian pasta primavera is $5 a person which may be paid with credit or cash. To pay with cash, visit the Community Center Chapel; to pay by credit card, visit the Community Center Chapel at 719-333-3300. On behalf of the 10th ABW Chaplain Corps, I hope to see you there.

SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to: usafa.pi@usafa.af.mil. Deadline for free classified ads on a space-available basis is noon every Thursday for that week’s publication date. Paid classified publishing is accepted by the publisher at 719-444-7355. For display advertising, please contact Metro Rocky at 719-836-9081. Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the Academy Spirit editor at 719-333-7693. The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by email: pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil.

National Prayer Luncheon celebrates religious diversity, camaraderie

By Lt. Col. Randy Erwin
10th Air Base Wing Chaplain

Where else will you witness a Muslim Imam, a Jewish Rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest and Protestant Christian ministers recite sacred texts, pray and listen to a world-class speaker? Indeed, it is the Academy’s upcoming National Prayer Luncheon.

The opportunities for this type of religious diversity may be few and far between in some places, but not at the Academy, or elsewhere in the Air Force, for that matter.

Throughout my career, I have hosted or organized annual prayer events for many Air Force bases. I get excited because it allows us to come together as a community and boldly celebrate our religious diversity and constitutional right to freedom of religion.

Our diverse faiths play an important role in helping us cope with our most pressing problems; they keep us optimistic in the face of adversity and make us more aware of the needs of those around us.

Congress organized prayer break groups in 1942. Senators and Representatives meet weekly to pray for individual needs and confirm America’s dependency on God. In 1953, members of the Senate and House prayer groups, with President Dwight Eisenhower, established the first Presidential Prayer Breakfast. Since then, the breakfast has taken place each year.

The Presidential Prayer Breakfast was changed to the National Prayer Breakfast in 1970 to emphasize the individuals attending and their purpose in gathering. Yearly, when Congress convenes, civilian and military leaders and other officials gather to pray.

The observance of National Prayer Breakfasts or Luncheons on military installations and in communities across the nation is an extension of the National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington. Though our upcoming observance here is a luncheon, the purpose remains what it was in 1942.

I hope you will join me 11:30 a.m. Feb. 20 at the Falcon Club when the 10th Air Base Wing Chaplain Corps gathers with men and women from across the Academy for the 2013 National Prayer Luncheon.

It is not a work service but rather an opportunity to take a break from our daily rush and routine and rejoice in our shared American religious liberty.

We have a great program planned, and I believe all who attend will be nourished and refreshed. This is an event for all Academy service members, civilians and their friends and families.

Guest speaker Dr. Robert Wicks will share an inspirational message: “Riding the Dragon: Strengthening Your Inner Life in Troubled Times.” The first 275 people to sign up will receive a free copy of Wicks’ book, “Bounce: Living the Resilient Life.”

A lunch buffet of roasted turkey breast and vegetarian pasta primavera is $5 a person which may be paid with credit or cash. To pay with cash, visit the Community Center Chapel; to pay by credit card, visit the Community Center Chapel at 719-333-3300. On behalf of the 10th ABW Chaplain Corps, I hope to see you there.
A colorful pictorial display highlighting cadet life at the Academy was unveiled at the Colorado Springs Airport in a Tuesday afternoon ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by military and city officials.

The display is located near the airport’s only public second-floor terminal exit, ensuring millions of yearly commuters will see it as they leave the airport, said Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould.

“This display is a priceless opportunity for the Academy,” the general said. “(More than) two million annually will walk by and get better insight as to what the 4,000 amazing young men and women — our cadets — are doing at the Air Force Academy to prepare to serve their country.”

The exhibit consists of eight panels, each containing a photo collage showcasing leadership, character development and Academy athletics, among other highlights of cadet life.

“‘The panels will go far in educating the public on the Air Force Academy’s mission: to develop leaders of character motivated to serve our Air Force and our nation,’” Gould said.

Colorado Springs Mayor Steve Bach also spoke at the event, calling it a “special day” in the city’s history.

“We’re very proud to be home to the Air Force Academy,” the mayor said. “It’s amazing the number of people in Colorado Springs who are associated with the Academy and it’s amazing the long list of distinguished Academy graduates who have gone on to lead our country.”

The display reminds airport commuters that Colorado Springs is home to the nation’s only Air Force Academy, said Doug Price, president and CEO of the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“It’s all about first impressions.” Price said at the ceremony. “We want our residents and visitors to be reminded that Colorado Springs is the home of the Air Force Academy. It will be a conversation piece and visitors will ask about it,” he said. “It’s great for the city and it’s great for the Academy.”

The panels will go far in educating the public on the Air Force Academy’s mission: to develop leaders of character motivated to serve our Air Force and our nation.”

— Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould

Looking for a rewarding career you can be proud of?

CCU WANTS TO HELP YOU EARN YOUR DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Certificate, Associates, and Bachelors programs available
- Complete your CCAF with class one night a week at the Academy using CCU’s tuition discount for Active Duty and their adult dependents or take your courses online. Either way, you can complete each course in weeks, not months.
- Accelerate your path to completion with credit for CCAF transcripts, other college courses, and life learning experiences

Colorado Christian University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

JOHN HARR | JHOAA@CCU.EDU | 719-867-5802 | WWW.CCU.EDU/MILITARY
Preparations to widen Interstate 25 from a four-lane to six-lane highway are underway and will affect Academy traffic next month when official construction begins.

Colorado Department of Transportation crews began core drilling Feb. 3, collecting samples of soil and concrete to prepare for construction from Woodmen Road to Monument March 1.

Travel times will increase during work on the $60-million to $66-million project, which will add two additional lanes from Woodmen Road to Interquest Parkway, and one additional lane from Interquest Parkway to State Highway 105.

"Be patient, anticipate additional commute time, and be cognizant of people working on road edges," said Fred Williams, chief of contract management. "Two full lanes will be left open in each direction during the project with occasional nighttime single lane closures occurring."

The posted speed limits will be reduced by 10 mph in the work zones, Williams said.

"Be patient, as construction will last about 18 months," said Toby Boland, 10th Security Forces Squadron assistant operations officer. "Leave earlier for work."

There will be additional traffic congestion, especially during Academy events, Williams said.

"The good news is that CDOT and their contractor are pursuing a very aggressive timeframe to minimize disruption," Williams said. "Work is anticipated to be completed in construction segments."

The five segments will occur from Woodmen Road to Academy Boulevard, Academy Boulevard to Interquest Parkway, Interquest Parkway to Black Squirrel Creek, Black Squirrel Creek to a mile south of Baptist Road and Baptist Road to Highway 105.

"We will not have any lane closures during events such as Academy football games and graduations," CDOT Project Manager Dan Hunt said during a planning meeting for the project. "We’re doing anything we can to notify the public of any impact issues or concerns."

Construction will extend approximately 11 miles north to Highway 105 and is expected to wrap up at the end of 2013. Work will primarily occur behind concrete barriers, said Bob Wilson, CDOT public relations manager.

Most affecting the Academy will be work on the North Gate interchange at Exit 156, Wilson said.

"The ramp will be completely refigured into a diamond interchange," he said. "Be prepared for slowdowns in the project area."

Approximately 100,000 motorists travel the I-25 corridor along the Academy each day, Williams said.

"Be cognizant of worker safety in the construction areas," he said. "Best case, we’ll see the project completed this year."

---

Work began Monday on the new $37-million Center for Character and Leadership Development.

The construction is already paid for and will continue even if cuts imposed by sequestration take effect, said Carlos Cruz-Gonzalez, the Academy’s director of installations.

The military construction funding, which totaled $25.7 million, was approved and appropriated in Fiscal Year 2011, Cruz-Gonzalez said. The Academy received an additional $12 million through the USAFA Endowment.

“With appropriated funds to build the facility like any other (military construction) project,” said Duane Boyle, the deputy A7 director. “Anything that’s an enhancement, such as the glass tower and interior furnishings above and beyond what normal milcon would cover, will come from donations.”

Environmental Chemical Corporation is the project’s primary contractor. ECC was founded in 1985 and has offices around the U.S., with its headquarters in Burlingame, Calif.

Construction is scheduled to be finished in September 2014. The blocked area on the Honor Court is scheduled to reopen in May.

Foot traffic to Harmon Hall and Arnold Hall will be diverted around the construction corridor, which includes a large portion of the Honor Court and a hallway between Arnold Hall and the Harmon Hall loading dock. The walkway on the east side of Arnold Hall connecting to the Terrazzo is off-limits.

Those walking from the north side of Vandenberg Hall should descend to the ground floor and walk up the ramp behind Arnold Hall to enter. Cruz-Gonzalez said. Those walking from the Terrazzo should exit the Cadet Area south of the Cadet Chapel, walk around Harmon Hall and enter through the doors on the west side of Arnold Hall.
10th ABW Airmen recognized for outstanding work

Seven of the eight 10th Air Base Wing Annual Award winners take the stage at the annual 10th ABW Awards Ceremony Feb. 1 at the Falcon Club. The ceremony recognizes the efforts of commissioned and enlisted Airmen and civilians.

By Academy Public Affairs

Eight Academy members were recognized at the 10th Air Base Wing Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 1 at the Falcon Club. The ceremony recognized the efforts of commissioned and enlisted Airmen and civilians for their outstanding performance.

Individuals recognized at the ceremony were: Kenneth Helgerson, fire chief, 10th Civil Engineer Squadron, who received the Manager-Supervisor Award; Michelle Winter, plans and programs manager, 10th Security Forces Squadron, who received the Senior Civilian Award; Joseph Martin, operating room nursing assistant, 10th Surgical Operations Squadron, who won the Civilian Award; Capt. Richard Bottinelli, community services flight commander, 10th Force Support Squadron, who won the Company Grade Officer Award; Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Shaw, first sergeant, 10th Medical Group, who won the First Sergeant Award; Master Sgt. Amber Wortman, section chief, 10th SOS, who won the Senior NCO Award; Master Sgt. Amber Wortman, section chief, 10th Aeromedical Squadron, who won the NCO Award; and Senior Airman Hendrick Martinez, investigator, 10th SFS, who won the Airman Award.

STEM awards honor researchers

Air Force Academy cadets and researchers collected more than a dozen awards recognizing their science, technology and basic research accomplishments at the Academy’s annual research awards ceremony Feb. 1.

Air Force Chief Scientist Dr. Mark Maybury was this year’s guest speaker.

Receiving awards in this year’s ceremony were:

- Cadet 1st Class Zach Adams - Thomas D. Moore Award; Cadet 1st Class Alexa Gringas - Basic science research; Cadet 1st Class Christopher Kirk - Social sciences research; Maj. Timothy Frank - Martin Scholarship; Dr. Randall Knize - Air Force Outstanding Senior Civilian Scientist; Biology Department and Engineering Mechanics Department - Air Force Cadet Research Team; Dr. George Mastromani, Dr. Jean LeLoup and Frank Seiler - McDermott Awards for Research Excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences; Drs. Michael Holmes and Scott Iacono - Award for Research Excellence; and Col. Rusty Shughart and Maj. John Zielinski - Institute for National Strategic Studies Outstanding Researcher.

Cadet 1st Class Zach Adams works on a project in the Air Force Academy’s water tunnel Dec. 6, 2012.

RAYMOND MCCOY
I just remember how active he was," Reed said. "He was always on the go." Gruenther was the student body president while attending Summerville High, Reed said.

"If you want to talk about leadership, that’s probably where it all started," she said. "He was just an inspiration to everyone because he followed his dreams. All he ever said he wanted to do was go to the Academy and just fly."

More information will be released as it becomes available. A board of officers will investigate the incident.

Note: For the family’s request all media inquiries should be directed through the 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at 31FW.PA@us.af.mil or (+39) 0434 20 7555.

Huntsman speaks at Academy Assembly

Former Utah Governor and U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman Jr. visited the Academy Tuesday as a keynote speaker for the 54th Academy Assembly in Arnold Hall and addressed an audience of cadets, Academy staff and senior leaders about policymaking issues.

This year’s topic, “U.S.-China Relations: Conflict or Cooperation in the 21st Century,” focuses on the implications of China’s ascension in terms of the U.S. foreign, economic and military policy.


The Academy Assembly was founded in 1959 by Gen. Robert McDermott. The undergraduate student conference is co-sponsored with Columbia University’s American Assembly. The cadet-planned and executed conference provides a unique opportunity for qualified undergraduates to discuss a topic of contemporary significance, according to the Academy Assembly Web page at http://bit.ly/10Ul3r2.

Topics discussed at the 2013 Assembly include the implications of China’s ascension on the geopolitical outlook for the Asia-Pacific region and whether American and Chinese interests will converge or diverge.
53% OFF

$69

EMENAYE CATERING

ONLY $69 for a Romantic Dinner for 2 Catered in Your Home from Emenaye Catering ($145 value)

This is not a coupon. You must purchase this deal online at gazette.com/deal.

59% OFF

$99

ERIN HILL ART

ONLY $99 for a Wine and Painting Party Hosted in Your Own Home for up to 4 People from Erin Hill Art ($240 value)

This is not a coupon. You must purchase this deal online at gazette.com/deal.

50% OFF

$11

EMENAYE CATERING

ONLY $11 for 12 Chocolate Covered Strawberries Accented with Fresh Flowers from Emenaye Catering ($22 value)

This is not a coupon. You must purchase this deal online at gazette.com/deal.

50% OFF

$20

NVISION DANCE

ONLY $20 for Two Introductory Private Dance Lessons for Singles or for Couples from Nvision Dance ($40 value)

This is not a coupon. You must purchase this deal online at gazette.com/deal.

74% OFF

$89.95

ASPEN AUTO CLINIC

ONLY $89.95 for a Punch Card Including (Oil Changes, Tire Rotations & Towing) from Aspen Auto Clinic ($340 value)

This is not a coupon. You must purchase this deal online at gazette.com/deal.

55% OFF

$80

BELLA CAPELLI SALON

ONLY $80 for a Cut, Style, Color, Deep Conditioning Treatment Plus Eyebrow and Lip Wax from Bella Capelli Salon ($175 Value)

This is not a coupon. You must purchase this deal online at gazette.com/deal.

Follow us on Facebook for even more specials, contests and giveaways! facebook.com/csdealoftheday.com and twitter @csdealoftheday

Go to www.gazette.com/deal to get find these savings. Register to receive great deals like these every morning.
National Geographic series to feature combat rescue Airmen

By Don Traun
Academy Spirit staff writer

Airmen featured in National Geographic Channel’s “Inside Combat Rescue” TV series, along with the series’ producer, visited the Air Force Academy Feb. 1 to talk about the program and the combat rescue career field.

The presentation, held in Fairchild Hall, included a question-and-answer session with Airmen in the series as well as a preview of an episode from the series, featuring a mix of mundane moments and a dramatic rescue in which Airmen rescue and stabilize an Army Green Beret hit by a roadside bomb.

“You’ve got this moment in your life where you can’t express how you feel,” a pararescueman explains to a camera crew after the rescue mission. “Could I talk to someone about it? Sure, but would they understand what I’m trying to say to them?”

National Geographic TV first approached the Air Force in January 2012 with an idea to do a show about combat rescue. Lt. Col. Francisco Hamm, director of the Air Force Entertainment Liaison Office in Hollywood, worked with the company to find an Air Force unit the film crew could embed with.

“As far as I know, we’ve never really had a production crew for a documentary embed with an Air Force unit in Iraq or Afghanistan,” Hamm said. “Certainly this was historic for the pararescue mission because we’ve never done that.”

Hamm looked at both Air Combat Command and Air Force Special Operations Command units.

The right fit looked to be ACC because we could embed with an entire squadron, whereas with AFSOC you have multiple services involved, so it starts to become more complicated,” Hamm said.

Hamm complimented the “Inside Combat Rescue” crew for their collaboration and communication efforts.

“The way that we set this up, we (embedded) the NatGeo team with this particular group of Airmen and really got unfettered access to this mission and to these Airmen,” he said. “Because of that, the storytelling is stronger and encompasses not just the operations but also the personalities of these guys.”

The film crew headed to Afghanistan almost immediately after getting the green light, said series producer Jared McGillard. Cameramen focused on following the pararescue Airmen’s lead and quickly got up to speed.

“They were very receptive,” said Capt. Shila Davis, a combat rescue officer with the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. “They didn’t get in our way too much.”

Jokingly, he added, “Plus, I always had the power to say, ‘You can’t use anything I just said.’”

Staff Sgt. Brett Taylor, a pararescueman with the 38 RS, also joked about how the crew “made us wear miles every single day.”

More seriously, he added, “They learned to give us some time after missions.”

And aircraft crew was also positive, Ryan said.

“This is my eighth deployment, and it’s the best working relationship I’ve ever been a part of,” he said. “We lived right next to each other, and we had meetings every day.”

The PJ-pilot relationship is always personality-driven,” Davis said. “We’re all low-key guys. The relationship we had with the crews was great.”

Operations in Kandahar involved 14-hour days, though the mission tempo varied. Davis recalled a stretch of 22 days with no rescue missions during the four-month deployment.

“It’s really hit-or-miss,” he said. “As operations draw down, fewer people are getting hurt.”

But while the tempo may slow down in Afghanistan, it’s picking up in other parts of the world, Davis said.

“There are so many requests that if we pull entirely out of (Afghanistan), we’re just going to go somewhere else,” he added.

Once the Airmen return from deployments, they work for two weeks before going on leave, Davis said.

“That lets us keep our eyes on the guys, make sure they’re good and get them back on the routine again,” he said. “It’s really important just to let guys know there are folks they can talk to.”

Davis and Ryan both praised the Academy for its role in preparing future officers for combat-related careers.

“At graduation, I didn’t really see how anything would prepare me for what’s going on in the operational Air Force, Ryan said. “But dealing with different people and coming to understand your point of view isn’t necessarily the best one is probably the most important experience.”

Davis added that the Academy’s military and physical training do a lot to prepare cadets for the pararescue training pipeline, but he warned that it’s not enough.

“Where we wash out a lot of guys is in the water, so make sure you can swim,” he said.

Taylor, who’s deployed six times, added some words of advice for the future officers.

“Be professional. Be a leader. Understand what’s going on, and have the confidence to lead your guys,” he said.

ABOVE INSET: HH-60 Pave Hawk pilot Maj. Devin Ryan, a 2001 Academy graduate, chats with cadets in Fairchild Hall Feb. 1 about his participation in “Inside Combat Rescue,” a National Geographic Channel TV series featuring Air Force pararescuemen deployed to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

LEFT: Cadet 3rd Class Peter Cieklowski watches a 10-minute preview of “Inside Combat Rescue” during a special presentation at the Academy, Feb. 1.
Visitor Center employee receives Vietnam Service Medal

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Retired Capt. Jimmie Fox poses with his wife, Ann Doolan-Fox, and their son, Ryan, Feb. 4. Fox received a Vietnam Service Medal from Academy Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born, for his role in supporting U.S. evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam, April 29-30, 1975.

A Visitor Center greeter received a Vietnam Service Medal in a ceremony at the Visitor Center Thursday. Ann Doolan-Fox, serving at Korat Royal Air Base, Thailand, in support of the U.S. evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam.

Shawn Fox, a native of Dublin, Calif., enlisted in the Air Force in January 1973. After graduating from the Aircraft Weapons School at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., he was assigned to the 49th Munitions Maintenance Squadron at Holloman AFB, N.M. He served at Korat Air Base from March to December 1975.

Operation Frequent Wind, the Pentagon’s name for Operation Frequent Thunder, began April 29. Fox was assigned to the 388th MMS. His team leader had fallen ill, leaving Fox and two other Airmen to reload A-7Ds as they landed in flights of four. "I was there at a very critical point," Born said during the ceremony. "The number of things he had to take care of in a short period was enormous.

The U.S. began a helicopter evacuation after North Vietnamese artillery and airstrikes made a fixed-wing evacuation impossible, according to an Air Force report written by Daniel Haulman. A total of 131 HH-53 and HH-53 helicopters flew 662 sorties April 29-30, extracting more than 7,800 evacuees from the Defense Attache Office at Tan Son Nhut Airport and the U.S. embassy in downtown Saigon while F-4 Phantoms, A-7Ds and A-10 gunships provided air cover.

Fox’s team worked much like a NASCAR pit crew, Born said, making sure the A-7Ds that landed at Korat got back into the air as quickly as possible.

Operation Frequent Wind was the final leg of the largest aerial evacuation in history: more than 50,000 people were carried out of South Vietnam in April 1975, including 7,800 evacuees in the final two days.

Fox stayed in the Air Force for five more years after the Vietnam tour, returning to the 49th MMS before moving to the 57th MMS at Nellis AFB, Nev., in 1977. He left service in January 1981 to attend ROTC at the University of New Mexico. "It was a two-year program," Fox recalled. "You had to have two years of college and four or more years of active duty." Fox’s first duty station after he earned his commission in 1983 was at the Academy. He worked as the assistant director of services and base mor- tuary affairs officer; he later became the Academy billeting officer.

Fox’s later assignments included postings in Greece and Germany and a deployment to South- west Asia during Operation Desert Shield. He was assigned to Los Angeles AFB, Calif., in 1993 and retired two years later to Colorado Springs.

When Fox came back from Europe, he had com- pleted his tour in Maastricht, The Netherlands. The two married not long afterward.

Ann Doolan-Fox gave birth to their son, Ryan, at the Academy’s hospital after Fox retired.

Until 2003, Fox and other Airmen who were stationed at Korat Air Base during Operation Frequent Wind were eligible only for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. The 2003 National Defense Authorization Act changed the eligibility requirements, designating Frequent Wind as the 18th Vietnam campaign.

Fox had received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal after his re- turn from Vietnam, opening the door for him to receive his medal. "We never really talked about eligibility until a few years ago," said Doolan-Fox, a Dublin native. "It’s been almost four decades, so the honor to present him with that medal now ... is really special, especially to one of our own Air Force Academy family members." Born said. "It was a chance for us to say thank you.

Preventing teen violence

By Kristin Larkey
Air Force Academy Family Advocacy Program

In 2006, Congress declared the first week of February “National Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Week”, a program to raise awareness and promote preven- tion of abuse in teen and 20-some- thing relationships. In 2010, Congress dedicated the entire month to teen dating violence awareness and prevention.

According to the Center for Dis- ease Control and Prevention, one in fourteen teenagers suffers verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse or violence annually. Most teens don’t know if they could end up in a violent relationship and are often unaware of warning signs that indi- cate an Air Force officer and as a nation to thank him," said Academy Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born, who presided over the ceremony. Fox, a native of Dunleith, Miss., enlisted in the Air Force in January 1973. After graduating from the 

mood — it’s a pattern of violent behavior that causes pain. Dating violence runs across all race, gender and socioeconomic lines. Both men and women can be victims, but are abusive in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slash, scratch, or kick. Boys injure girls more severely and frequently. Some victims experience violence occasionally while others are abused daily. "It’s been almost four decades, so the honor to present him with that medal now ... is really special, especially to one of our own Air Force Academy family members," Born said. "It was a chance for us to say thank you.

They decided to file a case with the Air Force Board of Correction for Military Records to get an upgrade to Fox’s Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

“…I’m not an easy process. It took him the better part of two or three years. He dutifully kept me up-to-date with where it was going, and when he got word in July that it was inbound, I looked forward to being there to witness.”

The board responded in August, just days from Fox’s birthday, to say that his military record had been corrected.

The Academy’s senior leadership worked out a time and place to recognize Fox.

“It’s a small ceremony, but the significance of it is huge," Born said. “This is one of our Airmen, who had grace under fire, leadership, a sense of duty, attention to detail, a sense of urgency, a sense of care for the people on his crew and the care and safety of the pilots.”

Born said it was special that the family not only witnessed Fox receiving the medal but that his fam- ily helped him attain it.

“It’s been almost four decades, so the honor to present him with that medal now ... is really special, especially to one of our own Air Force Academy family members,” Born said. “It was a chance for us to say thank you.

Signs of a healthy relationship include mutual respect, feeling safe, feeling free to voice your thoughts or feelings and opinions, making decisions together, being free to spend time with friends, family and yourself, give and take, good com- 

Technology has become a tool of dating violence as abusers can eas- ily monitor their dating partners by frequent texting, an abuser can exert almost constant control.

Teens in violent relationships often don’t report abuse and may use a va- riety of excuses to justify the harm done to them or their own harmful behavior. Teens and adults should be familiar with warning signs and recognize that perpetrators often demonstrate abusive behavior only in private. More warning signs indi- cate a greater chance that the relationship is or could become abusive.

If you are involved in an abusive relationship or know someone who is, talk to a trusted adult or locate a shelter or agency serving victims of domestic abuse. Together, you can make a plan to end the relationship and remain safe. The following re- sources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

• National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline, 866-331-9474.
• Colorado Coalition Against Dom- estic Violence 24-hour hotline: 800-778-7091.
• TESSA Crisis line, a local agen- cy that offers confidential services: 633-3819.

Signs of an unhealthy relationship include feeling unsafe, frightening temper, extreme jealousy giving or- ders, isolating you from friends and family, controlling behavior, con- 

By Kristin Larkey
Air Force Academy Family Advocacy Program

Preventing teen violence

By Kristin Larkey
Air Force Academy Family Advocacy Program

In 2006, Congress declared the first week of February “National Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Week”, a program to raise awareness and promote preven- tion of abuse in teen and 20-some- thing relationships. In 2010, Congress dedicated the entire month to teen dating violence awareness and prevention.

According to the Center for Dis- ease Control and Prevention, one in fourteen teenagers suffers verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse or violence annually. Most teens don’t know if they could end up in a violent relationship and are often unaware of warning signs that indi- cate an Air Force officer and as a nation to thank him," said Academy Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Dana Born, who presided over the ceremony. Fox, a native of Dunleith, Miss., enlisted in the Air Force in January 1973. After graduating from the 

mood — it’s a pattern of violent behavior that causes pain. Dating violence runs across all race, gender and socioeconomic lines. Both men and women can be victims, but are abusive in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slash, scratch, or kick. Boys injure girls more severely and frequently. Some victims experience violence occasionally while others are abused daily. "It’s been almost four decades, so the honor to present him with that medal now ... is really special, especially to one of our own Air Force Academy family members," Born said. “It was a chance for us to say thank you.

They decided to file a case with the Air Force Board of Correction for Military Records to get an upgrade to Fox’s Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

“…I’m not an easy process. It took him the better part of two or three years. He dutifully kept me up-to-date with where it was going, and when he got word in July that it was inbound, I looked forward to being there to witness.”

The board responded in August, just days from Fox’s birthday, to say that his military record had been corrected.

The Academy’s senior leadership worked out a time and place to recognize Fox.

“It’s a small ceremony, but the significance of it is huge," Born said. “This is one of our Airmen, who had grace under fire, leadership, a sense of duty, attention to detail, a sense of urgency, a sense of care for the people on his crew and the care and safety of the pilots.”

Born said it was special that the family not only witnessed Fox receiving the medal but that his fam- ily helped him attain it.

“It’s been almost four decades, so the honor to present him with that medal now ... is really special, especially to one of our own Air Force Academy family members,” Born said. “It was a chance for us to say thank you.

Signs of a healthy relationship include mutual respect, feeling safe, feeling free to voice your thoughts or feelings and opinions, making decisions together, being free to spend time with friends, family and yourself, give and take, good com-
Sijan, ‘Flash’ Wiley shared special bond

By Lt. Col. Patrick Clowney
Deputy Chief, Air Force Global Diversity Division

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — From day one at the Air Force Academy, every new cadet quickly learns about Capt. Lance Sijan, the only Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor and the name sake for one of two cadet dormitories.

Cadets are encouraged to read his biography, “Into the Mouth of the Cat,” which details how — after ejecting from his disabled aircraft over North Vietnam — Sijan evaded capture for more than six weeks despite severe injuries and near starvation, after which he continued to resist harsh interrogation by his captors until his death.

Academy graduates know this story by heart, as well as legends about Sijan’s escapes as a cadet and an officer that establish him as an Airman worth of emulation. His status as a role model is formalized in one of the Air Force’s most prestigious awards, the Lance P. Sijan Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in their jobs and lives.

But long before Sijan was awarded the Medal of Honor, he demonstrated the leadership, character, and integrity expected of all Airmen in a way relevant to those of us who may never face the terrible ordeal of his final weeks.

In the summer of 1960, Cadet Candidate Lance Sijan and Cadet Candidate Fletcher Wiley arrived at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for basic training at the Academy Preparatory School.

Wiley was the only African American at the Prep School. On the first day, the drill instructor told the candidates to gather together to determine room assignments. Wiley was a group of one until Capt. Martin Luther King, Jr., proclaimed that Americans should not be judged by the color of their skin but by content of their character. Lance accepted Flash on his own terms.

This acceptance was based in part on what the young men shared: an aspiration to be Air Force officers and their love of football and family.

After their introduction at the Prep School, the two players roomed together on every football trip they took during their cadet careers, a testament to their enduring friendship. Starting from their common experiences, each man took the time to learn more about the other.

During a recent interview, Flash said he came to see Lance as a “warm, thinking, caring, and emotional individual who was as comfortable singing in the choir, painting pictures and sculpting as he was troubleshooting football opponents.”

Wiley said that when he met Sijan’s family, he really understood the man.

“They exuded the brilliance of character,” he said.

“Through them, I came to understand that Lance’s exemplary character was part of a greater whole.”

Caring From Page 1
Bruce also sees his role as an opportunity to include the enlisted perspective into cadet life.

“As future Air Force leaders, today’s cadets will interact with the enlisted corps in one way or another, and very well end up commanding Airmen,” Bruce said. “If I can provide a small glimpse at how professional the enlisted corps is, then I believe our cadets will lead at a more effective level from the start.”

Lt. Col. Richard Buckley, assistant professor in engineering mechanics and Center for Aircraft Structural Life Extension — or CASTLE — Applied Mechanics Lab director, said the department offers more than 30 courses, has nine design teams, and sees 2,600 cadets in the lab each year. Within the lab, the $35 million CASTLE — the largest research center on the Academy — supports cadet research projects.

“Chad interacts with cadets every day and deals with different levels of involvement in the research center,” Buckley said. “He is professional, straight to the point and probably works at least 50 hours a week in the lab.”

For a second year in a row, Bruce received the Academy’s “Safety Individual of the Year” award this month and the lab won the “Safety Team of the Year” award.

“Working with a senior NCO is a great learning experience,” said Cadet 1st Class Jacob Deckelever. “I think the most beneficial part about working with Master Sergeant Bruce is his perspective on what a second lieutenant should be and how they should act. He also allows me to pick his brain on certain issues to see how the enlisted ranks view certain subjects, which is great because we’re fairly isolated from enlisted personnel as cadets.”

The lab is open 24 hours, seven days a week. Bruce said cadets participate in projects that include automatic control, robot design and design reviews.

Deckelever is on a robotics team.

“I find the applied mechanics lab extremely helpful and useful,” Deckelever said. “The number one thing I appreciate about it are the people who work there. Not only are they very knowledgeable, but they’re always willing to teach or show me how to build or fix something.”

In the Academy’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, Lt. Col. Troy Twesme said Master Sgt. Patrick Start, superintendent of the Field Engineering and Readiness Lab and Tech Sgt. Heidi Hunter, FERL laboratory superintendent have a huge impact on cadets.

Every summer, Start introduces cadets to hands-on engineering and construction and teaches them how to place concrete, build houses and filter water. He also mentors the cadet cadre on FERL operations.

The program is truly one of a kind, Start said.

“My main goal is to give cadets the best learning environment possible,” he said. “There is no other course like FERL available in any other branch of service, which is why we also offer it to the Navy midshipmen. Army cadets, Coast Guard, and ROTC.”

They are stellar examples of professional NCOs, Twesme said.

In the Academy’s Meteorology Department, Lt. Col. Matt Tracy said Master Sgt. Nate Taylor, superintendent of the meteorology lab, provides tremendous technical expertise and significant operational weather experience to the department and cadets.

Taylor assumed the role in May 2011. He said he’s fortunate to be able to interact with cadets in four different disciplines: economics, geoscience, meteorology and physics.

“As enlisted Airmen, we are the ones who do the lion’s share of forecasting for the Weather for the Air Force and it’s important to have the cadets understand how, as an enlisted force, we do business in the weather career field,” Taylor said. “This a great position for an enlisted person to shape the future officer corps.”

The lab consists of 14 computers with specific software loaded to allow the cadets to model atmospheric situations, Taylor said.

“It’s a good resource for the cadets because it allows them to use tools that forecasters in the Air Force use to predict the weather,” Taylor said.

Cadet 1st Class Kinder McCullough uses the applied mechanics lab regularly and said he’s going miss having so many tools, machines and technicians available at his disposal.

“We are provided with so many capabilities in house that most people probably don’t realize how much they are going to miss, having things like the mill or the lathe available to use whenever,” McCullough said.

Academy Spirit FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013
American International College senior Richard Leitner scored 18 seconds into overtime to lift the Yellow Jackets over Air Force, 2-1, in an Atlantic Hockey Association game Saturday at the Academy's Cadet Ice Arena. Air Force's seven-game unbeaten streak, the second-longest in the nation, ended as the Falcons fell to 11-10-6 overall and 9-6-4 in the AHA. AIC improved to 6-14-5 overall and 16-1-5 in the league. Air Force remains in second place in the AHA while AIC is in 11th.

In the first 12 minutes of the first period, Air Force outshot AIC, 7-0. However, AIC went on the power play and scored on its second shot on goal. Richard Leitner and Chris Porter cycled the puck along the boards on the right side and sent the puck out to Alexander MacMillan in the circle. His wrister went high, glove side, for a 1-0 lead at the 11:32 mark.

Falcon junior Ryan Timar tied the game at 8:12 of the second period. Defenseman Eric Artman created a turnover in the neutral zone and chipped the puck off the wall. Timar skated down the right side and took a shot that hit the far post. The puck then bounced off the back of goalie Ben Meisner and slid over the goal line for Timar's sixth of the season.

Neither team scored in the third period as the game went into overtime tied 1-1. Early in overtime, Air Force won a faceoff in the defensive zone, but turned the puck over behind the net. Adam Pleskach sent the puck up the boards to Jeff Cecacci at the left point. His shot was saved by Jason Torf, but Leitner cleaned up the rebound for his eighth goal of the season.

Air Force outshot AIC, 39-26, in the game. Meisner made 38 saves for the Yellow Jackets and had 88 saves in the series. Torf made 24 stops for the Falcons. AIC was 1-for-3 on the power play while AFA was 0-for-4.

"Give AIC credit, they had a game plan and executed it very well," head coach Frank Serratore said. "They punched us in the mouth. In games like this, you have to get the lead and you have to get something from your power play. We didn't score a power-play goal all weekend. We only scored three goals in the series. This is a giant slice of humble pie for us. They beat us. No excuses."

DENVER — The Air Force women's gymnastics team posted its second-highest score of the season (192.675) to finish fourth at the Burnley Invitational on Saturday in Denver. The Falcons, who surpassed the 192-point mark for the second straight week, recorded the fourth-highest combined score in seven years with a mark of 9.725. Junior Jessica Hanner paced the Falcons with a third-place finish on the balance beam, as she scored a season-high 9.800 to tie for third. The Falcons team captain paced Air Force to four of the top 12 finishes. Classmates Katie Hawthorne and Limnaea Hance tied for ninth with matching scores of 9.750, while freshman Ali Ables placed 12th with a mark of 9.725. Hawthorne and Ables both accounted for career-best scores, while Hance's mark was a season best.

Sophomore Jessica Wallander paced the Falcons on the vault, as she tied for eighth with a season-best score of 9.800. Hanner and Hawthorne finished within the top half of the field on the uneven bars, to lead the squad with matching scores of 9.600. Hawthorne also earned a share of the team lead on the floor exercise, as she scored a 9.675 to tie for 13th with sophomore Alexandra Styhch, who made her season debut on that event.

Hanner and Hawthorne paced a quartet of Air Force all-arounders, as the pair tallied matching career-best scores of 38.550 to tie for fifth.

Denver, ranked 12th in the GymInfo national rankings, won its home invitational, while 24th-ranked NC State finished second with a score of 194.925. San Jose State finished third with a total of 193.425, while Air Force rounded out the four-team meet with a score of 192.675.
Prep School dominated the 10th Medical Group 54-39 in intramural basketball action Monday. The win places the Prep School in command of the intramural basketball conference.

Intramural basketball roundup

By Dave Castilla
10th Force Support Squadron intramural sports director

Four teams met for Monday afternoon’s Intramural Basketball Challenge at the Fitness and Sports Center, with Prep School defeating the 10th Medical Group 54-39 and the 306th Flying Training Group defeating Direct Reporting Unit/Force Support Squadron 40-34.

Prep School took an early 10-4 lead with Ron Addicott and Pete Nielsen’s three pointers while the medics’ missed shots and errant passing throughout out the game allowed Prep School to cruise to a 30-19 halftime lead.

Prep School got its biggest lead of the game in the second half when Nielsen hit another three, taking the score to 38-23, while medics Pat Cording made two baskets and George Harmon made a bucket and extra point for a 42-34 score, the closest the medics would get.


The win took Prep School to first place in the regular season.

The 306th FTG kept their playoff hopes alive by defeating DRU/FSS 40-34, a situation aided by DRU/FSS inability to find the basket in the first half. By halftime, the flightline led 23-9.

Flightline kept a double-digit lead in the second half but, headquarters’ Ernie Reyes hit back-to-back three pointers as DRU/FSS scored 25 points in the closing minutes of the game, holding the flightline to 17 second-half points.

Flightline’s Charles Frost and Bill Welsh scored 10 points apiece while DRU/FSS’ Reyes nabbed 13 and Charlie Paul with 10.

Wrestling

At 174 pounds, junior Dan Barringer placed second at 157 pounds. He earned a 19-2 technical fall and a 6-4 decision before winning the third-place match with a fall and a decision over The Citadel’s Josh Tuck in the semifinals. He then fell to 12th-ranked Matt Miller of Navy in the title match.

Sophomore Jesse Stafford captured third place after defeating third-seed Aaron Hansen (The Citadel), 6-5, in the third-place contest.

The win took Prep School to first place in the regular season.

Four other Air Force wrestlers placed third in their respective weight classes, beginning with sophomore Dylan Hyder at 133 pounds. Seedled fourth in the tournament, Hyder dropped a narrow 1-0 decision to top-seeded Jordan Thome of Army in the semifinals. However, he scored a first-period fall in the consolation bracket before defeating third-seed Aaron Hansen (The Citadel), 6-5, in the third-place contest.

Sophomore Jesse Stafford captured third place at 165 pounds, finishing the day with a 3-1 record. After falling in his first match, Stafford rebounded in the consolation bracket, earning a fall and a decision before winning the third-place match with a 17-0 tech fall over Nc Watton of the Merchant Marine Academy.

Women’s Tennis

The Air Force women’s tennis team dropped its second-straight match in Eugene, Ore., falling 7-0 Sunday to the University of Oregon, dropping the Falcons to 4-2.

The Ducks won the doubles point with wins at the No. 2 and 3 matches. Julia Metzger and Pascale Neubert defeated seniors Christine Molina and Natasha Rizvi, 8-4, at No. 2 while Sofia Hager and Brooke Hughes won the No. 3 match 8-2 over junior Anastasia Huefner and freshman Mary Meyers.

By Tuesday (MST).

In singles play, the Ducks won all six matches in straight sets. Rizvi put up the best fight for Air Force before losing 7-5, 6-4 to Lana Buttner at the at the No. 5 position. The Falcons are idle until Feb. 16 when they face SMU in Dallas, beginning at noon.

The Falcons fell to Oregon, 7-0

West Point, N.Y. — Led by an individual title from freshman Josh Martinez, the Air Force wrestling team captured second place at the 19th-annual All-Academy Championships, hosted by Army. The Falcons finished with 92.5 points to place behind Navy (128.5 pts.), which captured its fifth-straight team title.

Navy (128.5 pts.), which captured its fifth-straight All-Academy Championships, hosted by Army. The Falcons finished with 92.5 points to place behind Navy (128.5 pts.), which captured its fifth-straight team title.

The Citadel (72.0 pts.) edged out host Army (71.0 pts.) for third place, while Merchant Marine Academy (68.0 pts.) was fourth. Army’s three second-place finishers. Senior captain Cole VonOhlen, ranked third in the nation at 149 pounds, posted a 19-2 technical fall and a 6-4 decision over The Citadel’s Josh Tuck in the semifinals. He then fell to 12th-ranked Matt Miller of Navy in the title match.

By Monday afternoon.

The win took Prep School to first place in the regular season.

The 306th FTG kept their playoff hopes alive by defeating DRU/FSS 40-34, a situation aided by DRU/FSS inability to find the basket in the first half. By halftime, the flightline led 23-9.

Flightline kept a double-digit lead in the second half but, headquarters’ Ernie Reyes hit back-to-back three pointers as DRU/FSS scored 25 points in the closing minutes of the game, holding the flightline to 17 second-half points.

Flightline’s Charles Frost and Bill Welsh scored 10 points apiece while DRU/FSS’ Reyes nabbed 13 and Charlie Paul with 10.

UPCOMING FALCON SPORTS EVENTS

Women’s Basketball: Nevada at Air Force, Clune Arena, 2 p.m. Saturday (MST)

Rifle: Air Force hosts final home match against UTEP, 8 a.m. Saturday (MST)

Rockey: Falcons take on Mercyhurst in Erie, Pa., for a two-game series, 5 p.m. (MST) today and Saturday

Women’s Tennis: Next match is Feb. 16 at SMU

Men’s Basketball: Saturday in Reno, Nev., at 4 p.m. (MST) live on 740 KVOR; Wednesday vs. UNLV at Clune Arena, 7 p.m. (MST).
Academy Spirit


For officers, voluntary measures will be offered in certain years groups and over career fields to allow for time-in-grade waivers for eligible lieutenant colonels and colonels, limited active-duty service commitment waivers, Palace Chace transfers to the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve and the 10-8 Commissioned Years of Service Waiver program.

For enlisted Airmen, voluntary programs open to Airmen who are not in critical specialties include limited active-duty service contract, time-in-grade waivers, waivers to enlistment commitments, and Palace Chace transfers to the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve.

All applications must be submitted, via virtual Military Personnel and Finance, by Aug. 1. Approved separations must be complete by Sept. 29 and those approved to retire must do so by Sept. 1.

Voluntary force management program applicants may be required to repay the Air Force for monetary value of an active duty service commitment incurring event, depending on the program.

For example, Airmen approved for Palace Chace transfers to the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve will not have to repay the service for such benefits as tuition assistance or transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits under most circumstances, said Maj. Michael Meek, Air Force Personnel Center Retirements and Separations Branch chief.

“But Airmen need to carefully read the information to each program to understand which active duty service commitment waivers result,” Meek added.

Some active-duty service commitment waivers will be declined, including those incurred for undergraduated and advanced pilot training, Meek said.

DOD leaders: Budget deadlock could spark readiness crisis

WASHINGTON — Issuing perhaps their strongest warnings yet, Pentagon leaders on Monday said that the budget impasse threatens to create a readiness crisis.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, joined in interviews, televised Sunday, with CNN’s Candy Crowley on “State of the Nation” and NBC’s Chuck Todd on “Meet the Press.”

The budget provision known as “sequester,” which is set to take effect March 1 unless Congress acts, would trigger more than $500 billion in defense spending cuts over 10 years, beyond major spending cuts already in place over that period. Defense Department staffs are preparing for the worst, Panetta said.

“If sequester goes into effect, and we have to do the kind of cuts that will go right at readiness, right at maintenance, right at training, we are going to weaken the United States and make it much more difficult for us to respond to the crises in the world,” Panetta said.

“We’ve got to plan for that possibility. Now I have to tell you, it is irresponsible for (sequester) to happen,” the secretary added. “I mean, why — why in God’s name — would members of Congress elected by the American people take a step that would badly damage our national defense, but more importantly, undermine the support for our men and women in uniform? Why would you do that?”

Dempsey noted sequester is the only part of the sequester resolution that is a direct cut to readiness.

“The combined effects of sequester and the continuing resolution could have a magnitude of cuts in the last half of the year,” Dempsey explained. “We have to absorb $52 billion when you count the effects of both sequester and the continuing resolution in the last half of the year.”

Panetta and Dempsey both have stated repeatedly that defense spending priorities will always support troops in combat and training those next to deploy. The chairman detailed what civilian employees can expect if sequester happens and they are furloughed.

“They will lose two days per pay period, 20 percent less pay for the rest of the year,” he said.

Dempsey noted that despite public perception, less than a quarter of defense employees work in the Washington area.

By Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service


March 1 unless Congress acts, would trigger more than $500 billion in defense spending cuts over 10 years, beyond major spending cuts already in place over that period. Defense Department staffs are preparing for the worst, Panetta said.

“If sequester goes into effect, and we have to do the kind of cuts that will go right at readiness, right at maintenance, right at training, we are going to weaken the United States and make it much more difficult for us to respond to the crises in the world,” Panetta said.

“We’ve got to plan for that possibility. Now I have to tell you, it is irresponsible for (sequester) to happen,” the secretary added. “I mean, why — why in God’s name — would members of Congress elected by the American people take a step that would badly damage our national defense, but more importantly, undermine the support for our men and women in uniform? Why would you do that?”

Dempsey noted sequester is the only part of the sequester resolution that is a direct cut to readiness.

“The combined effects of sequester and the continuing resolution could have a magnitude of cuts in the last half of the year,” Dempsey explained. “We have to absorb $52 billion when you count the effects of both sequester and the continuing resolution in the last half of the year.”

Panetta and Dempsey both have stated repeatedly that defense spending priorities will always support troops in combat and training those next to deploy. The chairman detailed what civilian employees can expect if sequester happens and they are furloughed.

“They will lose two days per pay period, 20 percent less pay for the rest of the year,” he said.

Dempsey noted that despite public perception, less than a quarter of defense employees work in the Washington area.

DOD leaders: Budget deadlock could spark readiness crisis

WASHINGTON — Issuing perhaps their strongest warnings yet, Pentagon leaders on Monday said that the budget impasse threatens to create a readiness crisis.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, joined in interviews, televised Sunday, with CNN’s Candy Crowley on “State of the Nation” and NBC’s Chuck Todd on “Meet the Press.”

The budget provision known as “sequester,” which is set to take effect March 1 unless Congress acts, would trigger more than $500 billion in defense spending cuts over 10 years, beyond major spending cuts already in place over that period. Defense Department staffs are preparing for the worst, Panetta said.

“If sequester goes into effect, and we have to do the kind of cuts that will go right at readiness, right at maintenance, right at training, we are going to weaken the United States and make it much more difficult for us to respond to the crises in the world,” Panetta said.

“We’ve got to plan for that possibility. Now I have to tell you, it is irresponsible for (sequester) to happen,” the secretary added. “I mean, why — why in God’s name — would members of Congress elected by the American people take a step that would badly damage our national defense, but more importantly, undermine the support for our men and women in uniform? Why would you do that?”

Dempsey noted sequester is the only part of the sequester resolution that is a direct cut to readiness.

“The combined effects of sequester and the continuing resolution could have a magnitude of cuts in the last half of the year,” Dempsey explained. “We have to absorb $52 billion when you count the effects of both sequester and the continuing resolution in the last half of the year.”

Panetta and Dempsey both have stated repeatedly that defense spending priorities will always support troops in combat and training those next to deploy. The chairman detailed what civilian employees can expect if sequester happens and they are furloughed.

“They will lose two days per pay period, 20 percent less pay for the rest of the year,” he said.

Dempsey noted that despite public perception, less than a quarter of defense employees work in the Washington area.
The Colorado Springs NAACP will host the 2013 Freedom Fund Gala Saturday at the Colorado Springs Crowne Plaza. The reception begins at 6 p.m. followed by a dinner at 7 p.m. The keynote speaker is Academy graduate retired Col. Will Gunn, general counsel to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The cost is $75 per person or $750 for a table of 10. For more information, email naacpscs@aol.com.

National Prayer Luncheon The National Prayer Luncheon is 11:30 a.m., Feb. 20 at the Falcon Club. Tickets are $5. The first 275 people to register will receive a free copy of guest speaker Robert Wick’s book. For information, call 333-8557.

Air Force Cycling Team The Air Force Cycling Team is comprised of regional and base cycling teams who participate in annual riding and recruitment events. Team Colorado is accepting applications from active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired Air Force members. Initial qualifications include a current passing fitness score (for Airmen), the ability to lift 50 pounds and a government-issued license. Cyclists are eligible for permissive TDY status. To apply or for more information, call 567-4038 or visit www.afcycling.com.

Health Service Day, Feb. 19 Health Service Day is a one-hour event hosted at the Academy by the Medical Activity Office, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Feb. 19 at the CPO. Employees interested in visiting with health care insurance providers are welcome to attend.

Weight Loss Challenge Teams of three to five are invited to join the Health and Wellness Center’s Fifth-annual Weight Loss Challenge beginning Feb. 19 and lasting through May 14. A team captain meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Feb. 13 and 2 p.m., Feb. 14 at the HAWC. For more information and to register for the challenge, call 719-333-3733.

Military Family Night As part of Military Family Night servicemen can purchase $5 tickets Feb. 15-16, Feb. 19, and Feb. 20 at Falcon’s men’s basketball game at Clune Arena. The offer is good for all accompanying family members and guests. To take advantage of this discount, visit goairforcefaicons.com. For more information, call 472-1895.

Black History Month Events The following events have been scheduled to pay tribute and celebrate the achievements of African-Americans for Black History Month.

- Feb. 15, 2-3 p.m.: Douglass Valley Elementary Black History Outreach with Tuskegee Airmen, Buffalo Soldiers and Civil War enactors and educational materials, Douglass Valley Elementary School.
- Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.: A Tribute to African-Americans in Jazz and Poetry featuring jazz and poetry from cadets and Preparatory School cadets at the Base Exchange.
- Feb. 20-22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: “Dis-eases Affecting African Americans and Others,” education, information, simple testing, bone marrow registry and more, 10th Medical Group lobby.
- Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.: African-American Heritage Luncheon Soul Food Buffet. Prices range from $12-$20. Menus and guest speakers will be announced. The event will feature jazz, displays, and Civil War reenactors, Falcon Club.
- Feb. 28, 9-4:30 p.m.: Falcon Youth Center Black History Outreach with Tuskegee Airmen, Buffalo Soldiers and Civil War reenactors and educational materials. This event is for Youth Center families only. For more information, call Master Sgt. Ian Bernard at 333-1736.

2013 Air Force Ball The 2013 Air Force Ball is scheduled to occur at Broadmoor Hall in the Broadmoor Hotel, 1 Lake Ave., Colorado Springs, Feb. 15. The price is $25 for E-1 - E-3 and GS-01 - GS-03; $35 for E-4 and GS-04 - GS-06; $45 for E-7 - O3 and GS-07 - GS-11; $55 for O4 - O5 and GS-12 - GS-14; and $65 for O6 and above and GS-15 and above. Tickets will be sold beginning Feb. 6, and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. For more information, call Capt. Uriah Tobey at 333-2607.

Harmon Memorial Lectures The Dean of Faculty is hosting the Harmon Memorial Lectures at 7:50 p.m., March 5.

- The guest speaker will be Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize winning author, military historian and journalist.
- The Harmon Memorial Lectures are collectively known as the “Harmon Memorial Lectures in Military History,” in memory of the accomplishments of the late Lt. Gen. hubert Harmon, the first Academy superintendent. For more information, call 719-333-0473.

2013 Distinguished SVS Award Nominations are being sought for the 2013 Air Force Academy Distinguished Service Award.

The DSA is presented annually to a service member, civilian or group whose contributions have improved the Academy’s well-being. Nominations may be submitted through April 1 to 10th Communications Squadron.

HQ USAF/ACMA 2304 Cadet Drive Suite 3200 USAF Academy CO 80840-5002 For more information, call Steve Si mon at 333-8827.

Construction Update Construction is underway on Honor Hall near Harman Hall. A temporary road runs from the south end of Honor Hall north to the Education Center area, go to the southwest end of Arnold Hall. The temporary road area is marked by signs and barrier tape and is off-limits to Academy personnel.

To enter Harman Hall from the cadet area, go to the southwest end of Honor Court and northwest to Harman or Arnold Hall. Heavy equipment and construction traffic will regularly enter and exit this area.

Additionally, Blondgett Drive will be closed through March 8 as part of an ongoing project to replace the road base, asphalt and curbs near the Base Exchange and Commissary.

During the winter months, the available window of History Month to replace asphalt and concrete is weather dependent, so delays may occur.

Shootout, Slam Dunk Contest, A 3-Point Shoot Out & Slam Dunk Contest is scheduled for March 20 at the Colorado College Sports and Fitness Center, Fort Carson.

The contest is free for all Defense Department personnel. Signup deadlines are Wednesday, March 13.

To sign up, or for more information, call 526-3972.

Dining facility adjusts policy The High Country Inn will no longer offer dining to retirees due to limited funding.

The Falcon Club, Ten Pin Grill and Ike’s Grill, will remain open to all DOD ID cardholders.

AAFRC events Support for information on Airman and Family Readiness Center events, contact the AAFRC at 333-3444.

Career Tracks: Wednesdays and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Peterson Air Force Base. This two-day class for spouses will provide information and guidance on various aspects of job search preparation: resume writing, interviewing, assessing and evaluating skills, values and interests, building a job tool-kit, career planning, education and volunteerism.

Thrift Savings Plan: Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Spend your lunch learning how the Thrift Savings Plan works and strategies for how to draw out your savings after retirement.

Franchising Information Session: Feb. 27, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Learn about the possibilities of franchising and how to best select the opportunity. Learn about franchise opportunities available to veterans in more than 75 industries.

Falcon Stadium lost and found Items lost at Falcon Stadium during the 2012 home football season or during the Academy’s graduation ceremony may be claimed at the stadium office.

All items not claimed by March 31 will be disposed of in accordance with Air Force regulations.

For information, call 719-333-1151.

Dental Health Month Events All Academy employees are invited to attend Dental Health Month Events in February designed to raise awareness specifically in children concerning oral health and hygiene. Today, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Douglas Hall Elementary School, Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon, at the 10th Medical Group and Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Falcon Booth.

NCLS to start Feb. 20 The 20th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium will occur Feb. 20-22 with the theme “The Silver Lining: Courage Through Adversity.”

NCLS is a premier leadership development symposium and brings together scholars to explore a character-related theme.

For more information, visit http://bit.ly/TY1vHt.

AF Aid scholarships available College students who are dependents of Airmen may apply for grants or scholarships through the Air Force Aid Society through March 8 by visiting at http://www.afas.org/education-grants.

10th CS services reduced The 10th Communications Squadron has reduced their services due to Fiscal Year 2013 constraints. New telephone, cable TV and network installations must be approved by a group-level commander and paid for by the requesting organization.

Support for new information technology projects will be based on mission need, support requirements and funding availability.

For more information, call the Comm Fiscal Point at 333-4357.
**FREE ADS FOR ACTIVE DUTY OR RETIRED AIR FORCE ACADEMY PERSONNEL!**

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: ____________
Phone: __________________________ Grade: ______________ Unit: ______________
Signature: ____________________________________________

My signature certifies that this advertisement is for the purpose of selling my personal property as a convenience to me or my dependents. It is not part of a business enterprise, nor does it benefit anyone involved in a business enterprise. My real estate advertisement is made available without regard to race, color, religion or sex of any individual.

---

**Finance**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Place your ad today!

Call: 444-SELL
Fax: 719-636-0122
Email: Mheifner@gazette.com
Mail: Classifieds, 30 S. Prospect St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Deadline: Tuesdays at 5 p.m. Rates vary contact us for details.

---

**Merchandise**

**GREAT DEALS!**

**USE APPLIANCES**

Discover Special Offers, Save Money, and Fun for Everyone!

**FREE, £189**

Almost 200 pounds of weight loss in 60 days. Raccoon River. 260-5406.

**CALL FOR DETAILS**

---

**Employment**

**ACCOUNTING**

Colorado Springs accounting firm is currently seeking for all it interest in our auditing department. We offer a variety of or CPA with 3-5 years of audit or public accounting experience. apply today at Denver Career Services. Denver Career Services.

---

**Services & Announcements**

30% MILITARY DISCOUNT Active duty, Retired, Special Service, Military Family. All services. 1-800-333-2000.

**Services & Announcements**

20% military discount. Active duty, Retired, Special Service, Military Family. All services. 1-800-333-2000.

---

**Transportation**

**PACIFIC TOURS 2045, Suite 885, F-15E 365, APO AE 35023.**

**Rental Car**

**REAL ESTATE & RENTALS**

**FREE ADS**

**FOR ACTIVE DUTY OR RETIRED AIR FORCE ACADEMY PERSONNEL!**

---

**Ent®**

Discover special deals and discounts from military friendly business