Cadets work to decrease bird strikes

Capstone design class tests engine noises, lights to alter flight paths of birds

By Ray Bowden
Academy Spirit editor

A group of Academy cadets is working to put a dent in bird strikes, directly linked to the deaths of 250 people in 25 years and the cause of more than $700 million in damage to U.S. and military-owned aircraft annually.

“The impetus behind this capstone course is the devastating cost of damage to aircraft from bird strikes,” said systems engineering management major Cadet 1st Class Dan Gieck.

Specifically, the group of nine cadets is testing to see if aircraft noise, Canada goose distress calls and flashing landing lights will scare away a type of wild goose that can weigh as much as 18 pounds, effectively turning into a feathery cannonball when struck by an aircraft. The working name of the cadet’s system is the Airborne BirdStrike Countermeasure.

“A bird strike is when an aircraft and any type of avian species collide,” said Capstone Director Capt. Jeffrey Newcamp.

In particular, Canada geese pose a huge problem for pilots: anyone questioning this need only recall the story of Academy graduate and retired U.S. Airways Capt. Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, III., Newcamp said.

On Jan. 15, 2009, Sullenberger was piloting an Airbus 320 from New York’s LaGuardia Airport when his plane struck a large flock of Canada geese shortly after takeoff.

“She hit a flock of Canada geese and the bird strike dropped both engines off line,” Newcamp said.

Sullenberger landed his Airbus in the Hudson River after realizing it would be impossible to land at another airport and saved the lives of all passengers aboard.

Cadet 1st Class Alexa Gingras prepares a lysogeny broth during her biochemistry lab Feb. 13. The broth is used to grow bacteria, which Gingras uses to produce fluorescent proteins for her research, which involves getting proteins to react to illegal drugs.

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

A senior cadet’s summer research, which earned her recognition from Air Force Chief Scientist Dr. Mark Maybury at an awards ceremony Feb. 1, will help catch users of spice and similar products several weeks after they’ve ingested the substance.

“Her work is important for a couple of reasons,” Maybury said. “She had a good understanding of not only the basic science that was happening and the practical methods, but she also had a very insightful perspective on how she could improve existing practices.

That’s what’s really extraordinary.”

The Researcher
Gingras, the daughter of Academy graduates Jeffrey and Tina Gingras, almost didn’t attend the Academy.

“I actually wasn’t planning on applying here, but my mom, two days before the application was due, drastically shortened the sample preparation time.

“Her work is important for a couple of reasons,” Maybury said. “She had a good understanding of not only the basic science that was happening and the practical methods, but she also had a very insightful perspective on how she could improve existing practices. That’s what’s really extraordinary.”

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See Birds Page 10

See Research Page 8
Spirited Views
Academy members, civilians, cadet retirees and family members may submit letters or emails of 250 words or less to the Academy Spirit at Letters to the Editor HQ USAFA/PA 2304 Cadet Dr., Ste. 3100 USAFA, Colo., 80840-5016 Letters and emails must include the writer’s full name, work address if applicable, and a valid phone number where they can be reached during normal daylight hours. Letters without this information will not be published. The Academy Spirit reserves the right to edit submissions. Due to space limitations, Public Affairs won’t be able to print every letter received but will include as many current and topical letters as possible. Guest commentaries or editorials are invited from local subject-matter-experts as they relate to a current issue’s focus.

Opinions from you:

Seeing is believing

By 1st Lt Brandon Baccam
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Blink ... Blink ... Blink ...

The fuzzy amber light my right eye is staring at keeps flashing, and the nearby eximer laser a surgeon is using to reshape my left cornea emits a loud droning noise. With each passing second, the amber light becomes clearer until it’s perfect.

“OK, on to the left eye,” the surgeon says, flipping the cover to expose my left eye. When my optometrist drops go in, the surgeon makes a flap to the outer skin of my eye, and once again I find myself staring at another fuzzy amber light.

All this took place at the 10th Medical Group’s Refractive Surgery Center here. Whether one of a handful of centers across the Air Force providing surgery, since 2001, the Warfighter Refractive Surgery Center here has provided LASIK and photorefractive keratectomy vision correction to qualified cadets and active-duty service members as part of the Air Force Refractive Surgery Program.

Here’s how it works: a cadet or active-duty service member sets up an appointment and gets an application package from their local optometry clinic. Should they meet the qualifications, a follow-up appointment can be made for a complete refractive surgery exam.

If the patient is determined to be a good candidate for surgery, they are placed in a priority category depending on their Air Force Specialty Code and Warfighter Program Management guidelines. Surgery scheduling is based on priority – some categories have longer “wait lines” than others – but clinic staff will notify patients with available surgery dates.

When I first looked into LASIK, or “Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis,” I was skeptical. I was eyes very sensitive; wearing contact lenses is bothersome but the thought of an actual operation made me nervous.

Thankfully, the medical staff was very thorough with their explanations. The objective of LASIK is to reshape the cornea so that it can properly focus light that travels through it to the retina by using an excimer laser to perform the operation, they said. These experts can also perform LASIK surgery using all-laser technology – different from past procedures, where a thin razor was used. This gave me additional comfort as I headed into surgery, but as soon as I arrived, I became nervous again. Millions of thoughts ran through my mind as I lay in the operating chair, wondering if this surgery was really going to improve my vision.

Blink ... Blink ...

The loud drone starts up again, and a few seconds later, the fuzzy light became a crisp dot.

“And that’s it! All done,” the surgeon says as he finishes the operation.

I return to the waiting area wearing sunglasses and carrying my post-op medicine and contact lenses. The moment I walk out of the operating room, I can see more clearly than I ever have before without glasses or contacts, and my vision continues to improve each day.

- 1st Lt Brandon Baccam

Vietnam POWs mark 40 years of freedom

Newly freed prisoners of war celebrate as their C-141 aircraft lifts off from Hanoi, North Vietnam, on Feb. 12, 1973, during Operation Homecoming. The mission included 54 C-41 flights between Feb. 12 and April 4, 1973, returning 59 POWs to American soil.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

Corrections:

The “STEM awards honor researchers” article, published on page 5 of the Feb. 8 edition of the Academy Spirit, incorrectly listed the names of some research awards and the individuals receiving them. The overall USAFA Research Awards honors top research from the Academy including Social Science and Humanities research. The overall 2013 Moore Award winner was Cadet 1st Class Zachary Adams. The Moore Award winner for Basic Science Cadet Research was Cadet 1st Class Alexia Gingras, and the Moore Award winner for Social Science research was Cadet 1st Class Christopher Kirk. The Frank J. Seiler Award for Research Excellence was awarded to Dr. Michael Holmes for engineering research and to Dr. Scott Iacono for basic sciences research. The winners of the Robert F. McDermott Awards for Research Excellence in the Humanities and in the Social Sciences are Dr. George Mastrofani for social sciences research and Dr. Jean LeLoup for humanities.
Academy nurse wins Air Force Medical Service Award

By Amber Baillie
Academy Spirit staff writer

An Academy nurse has just won the 2012 Clinical Excellence in Nursing Award in the Field Grade Officer category for the Air Force Medical Service.

For Lt. Col. Lisa Cole, the 10th Medical Group’s Perioperative Services flight commander, this Air Force-level award comes in the wake of a long list of achievements.

“Of all the field grade officers in our facility, she is number one,” said Col. Judy Gavin, 10 MDG chief nurse executive. “She is number one among all majors and lieutenant colonels who are nurses and doctors. She competed across the Air Force, as there is only one recipient each year. We are so proud of her.”

The annual Air Force award recognizes one outstanding clinical nurse and their accomplishments while assigned to any inpatient/outpatient clinic throughout the service. Requirements for the award include demonstrating exceptional duty performance and professionalism.

Cole manages five operating rooms and leads a 50-member staff in preoperative patient education, ambulatory surgery and operating room and anesthesia. She competed against 850 field grade officers for the high honor. Cole said the award is significant to the Academy because it proves that even at a smaller facility you can stay clinically active, make improvements and strive for excellence.

“I’ve worked in various clinical backgrounds such as medical, surgical, the emergency room, same day surgery and the operating room,” Cole said. “No matter where I’ve been, I’m always looking for ways to improve it and make things better for the mission and for the people.”

Cole has served in the Air Force for 23 years and has been a nurse for 22. Last year, she was the recipient of the Colorado Springs Florence Nightingale Award for nursing excellence and was also recognized as one of 10 MDG’s outstanding performers for the Health Services Inspection and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care. “Cole’s leadership set the highest group record for the number of cases that we’ve ever done here, said Col. Annette Gablehouse, 10th Medical Surgical Operations squadron commander.

“There are so many processes that have to happen to get a patient to surgery including scheduling, all of the equipment, staff and recovery of those patients,” Gablehouse said. “She perseveres and demonstrates clinical expertise. That’s who Lisa is to make sure our surgical mission happens here every day.”

In 2012, Cole represented 12 hospitals as a voting member of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, the Air Force Medical Support Agency and the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center for three Defense Department-level medical information systems. She was also chosen as one of five nurses for the operating room board of directors from a pool of 330 surgical nurses, according to Gavin. “She has been instrumental in implementing the integration of the Air Force and Army OR scheduling,” Gavin said.

Cole is also a clinical nurse specialist who received a Master’s of Science in Nursing from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. “My belief is that if you’re too comfortable, you can become complacent,” Cole said. “You always have to have some kind of challenge for yourself to keep growing, moving and learning and I try and push that on my people too.”

Gavin said Cole is the first Academy nurse to win this particular award. She said the award has become more competitive throughout the years due to AFMS award categories being eliminated or grouped together.

“Lisa won because she exemplifies clinical excellence,” Gavin said. “She has been phenomenal in optimizing the surgical operation’s side since we downsized from an inpatient facility to an outpatient. Her clinical leadership has been key.”
Archbishop Timothy Broglio, fourth archbishop of the military services, speaks to cadets Monday evening in Arnold Hall. Broglio met with parishioners, cadets and Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould during his two-day visit.

PHOTOS BY SARAH CHAMBERS

ABOVE: From left to right, Cadet 4th Class Tarina Crooks, Cadet 4th Class Robert Goodno and Cadet 4th Class Thomas Salisbury take part in a skit on interracial dating at the African-American Celebration Dinner Saturday at the Falcon Club. The event consisted of dinner and theatrical performances. For a list of upcoming African-American History Month events, see Page 14 in this edition of the Academy Spirit.

RIGHT: Cadet 4th Class Mormon Redd plays the piano at The Carlton House as Paula Gould, wife of Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, looks on. The Goulds hosted the annual 4-Degree Reception on Saturday to allow cadet freshmen to meet their superintendent and mission partners.

PHOTOS BY SARAH CHAMBERS
Academy Ladies pay honors to families at memorial services

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Call them the Academy Ladies ... plus one.
A group of women — and one gentleman — began in October 2011 to represent Air Force families at funeral and memorial services held here, much as the Arlington Ladies have done at Arlington National Cemetery since the 1940s.

“General Gould and his wife saw that the concept for Arlington Ladies was a good one,” said Nicole Harrison Inabinet, the Academy Ladies’ chairwoman, referring to Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould and Paula Gould. “They brought it here and introduced it to us.”

The group mirrors the Arlington Ladies in both genesis and purpose. Set up through the Academy Spouses’ Club, the Academy Ladies’ mission is to ensure no service member or family member is ever buried alone, said Inabinet, who is married to Master Sgt. Troy Inabinet, the 19th Medical Group’s section chief for cadet physical therapy.

“Anyone who’s eligible to be buried in the Academy Cemetery, we go to represent,” she explained. “We try to have at least two representatives at each funeral. After Taps is rendered and the 21-gun salute, and after the flag is presented to the next of kin, we go forward and present a condolence card with personalized words.”

The Ladies agreed they would start the program Nov. 1, 2011. Three funerals were scheduled for Nov. 4.

“They attended all three,” said Janet Edwards, the Academy’s Mortuary Affairs officer.

The Ladies receive notices of funerals from Edwards, who sends a funeral itinerary along with instructions on how to address the condolence card.

“It’s actually been a pleasure to watch the Ladies grow, because voluntarily attending funerals for strangers is not something everyone would sign up for,” she said. “Each of them has grown so much.”

The Academy Ladies don’t always know the person whose funeral they attend, Inabinet said.

“For us, it’s just an honor to represent (military) families, to be there,” she said. “It doesn’t even matter whether they’re Air Force or not; they’re family.”

Originally, membership in the Academy Ladies was open only to members of the Academy Spouses’ Club, Edwards said.

Inabinet said: “I opened it up because I figured anyone who has any affiliation (to the Academy) ought to be able to do it, too.” She said, Now, anyone who’s affiliated at the Academy, including retirees, civilian employees and service members’ family members who are 18 or older may join the Academy Ladies.

The program has made a real difference for service members’ families, Edwards said.

“They like to add a heart to the funeral and a bit more of a personal connection than we can offer, and they really do,” she said. “It’s just such a good program for the Academy and our families, and I’m thankful to General and Mrs. Gould for implementing the program.”

Anyone interested in joining the Academy Ladies may contact Inabinet at academyladies@live.com or visit the Academy Spouses’ Club website at www.usafasc.org.
Cadets celebrate 100s Night, marking 100 days until graduation, Tuesday. They received their first assignments during a ceremony in Mitchell Hall.

"My first base is MacDill in Tampa Bay. I'm also applying for the law school slot. If I end up going to law school I'll be a Judge Advocate. Once I got here, it inspired me even more to get involved with the legal field."

Cadet 1st Class Riley Widener
Aircraft Maintenance Officer
Next assignment: MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

"It's in California and what I'm looking forward to is optimizing and making things more efficient in the Air Force."

Cadet 1st Class Steven Chon
Operations Analyst
Next assignment: Edwards AFB, Calif.

"The Air Force is centered around aircraft and pilots, so the closer you can get to that type of work, I think the better off you are. As soon as you get to your base you have between 100-130 people under you, which I think is great experience for the future."

Cadet 1st Class Rachel Roberts
Aircraft Maintenance Officer
Next assignment: Minot AFB, N.D.

"I think it'll be a really good time. The Study Skills department gave a lot to me as a cadet so I want to give a little back before I move on... I like the Academy because of the people. I made a lot of friends here and hopefully we can keep in touch when we go our separate ways."

Cadet 1st Class Anthony Gray
Study Skills Instructor
Next assignment: U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

"I want to learn more about physics and see how it's actually applied in real life. I'm looking forward to getting a basic understanding of the field and I think it will be exciting. I'm looking forward to new opportunities and new paths for growth."

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Physicist
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Memorial service set

A memorial service for Cadet 4th Class James L. Walsh has been scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Cadet Protestant Chapel.

Walsh died Saturday night in the cadet area.

“The Academy is deeply saddened by the tragic loss we suffered Saturday,” said Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, the Academy superintendent. “As we grieve the passing of James, we ask that everyone keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers.”

Academy personnel found Walsh, contacted emergency services and attempted to revive him using life-saving measures without success.

Brig. Gen. Greg Lengyel, the commandant of cadets, informed the Cadet Wing of the death Monday. The cause of death is under investigation.

Walsh, a prior-enlisted Airman, was one of three selected from Joint Base Andrews to attend the Academy Preparatory School in 2011. He was previously assigned to the 744th Communications Squadron as a cyber transport systems appren- tice. He said he decided to attend the Academy in 2006 after visiting the campus for his cousin’s graduation.

Academy personnel are coordinating funeral ar- rangements with the cadet’s family.

Library program strives to educate, socialize toddlers

Tiny Talons Story Time, a free early literacy pro-gram for children three and under, is held here twice a month to encour- age lifelong learning, a love for reading and op-portunity for children and their parents to socialize within the com-munity.

The event occurs the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Academy’s base library. It is open to any family with a Defense Department identification card and access to our facility, said Melanie East, a program coordinator at the library.

“Not only is this program a tool for parents to keep their children on target for milestones, but it’s also a great so- cial outlet for parents who may be uncomfort- able in a larger setting or even a setting off of the military installations,” East said. “There is comfort knowing that your adult peers will un- derstand the military side of life and how par-enting is unique within the community.”

East said the library also offers regular story time on Fridays at 10 a.m., geared toward 3-5 year olds with ages of attendees varying from birth to age 10.

“We have homeschooled children who partici-pate as a family, as well as younger siblings who attend on a regular basis with two books being read and a craft activity to follow,” East said.

“We also have night time events in the upcom-ing months suitable for families such as a library camp out on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. for 5-12 year olds,” East said.

Not only is this program a tool for parents to keep their children on target for milestones, but it’s also a great so-cial outlet for parents who may be uncomfort- able in a larger setting or even a setting off of the military installations,” - Melanie East, library program coordinator

Reading aloud has been recognized as one of the most important activities in literacy, as well as the interaction and experiences with adults and older chil-dren, East said.

“Our mission is to keep children on target for milestones and help them understand our house rules,” East said.

Academy personnel are coordinating funeral ar- rangements with the cadet’s family.

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Base Library

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Open Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday - Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

On-Base Housing Now Open To:

Active Duty Service Members
Federal Civilian Service & Civilian National Guard & Reserve
Military Members/Families
FEDERAL CIVILIAN SERVICE & NAF EMPLOYEES
RETIRED MILITARY & FEDERAL CIVILIAN FAMILIES
DOD CONTRACTORS

Rents starting at $995

Utilities & trash included.

No Security Deposit for Military
$300 Security Deposit for Non-Military

*Restriction apply. $750 deposit per household.

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6556 W. COLUMBINE DRIVE · USAF ACADEMY · COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80840
Cadet 1st Class Alexa Gingras has drawn interest from Air Force Chief Scientist Dr. Mark Maybury and from the Drug Enforcement Agency for her summer research project, which helped improve both drug test sensitivity and sample processing times for synthetic cannabinoids such as spice. Gingras is a biochemistry major and a native of Tucson, Ariz.‘Oh, you should put in an application,’ she said. ‘I came and visited once I got my acceptance, and I really liked it. I’ve always wanted to go to medical school, and this was a great opportunity to do that.’

Her senior cadet summer research program project originally involved biofuel research at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., but budget cuts meant the Academy could no longer send her there on temporary duty. So her research adviser, who had connections to the Air Force Drug Testing Lab, arranged for Gingras to spend her three weeks in San Antonio.

“It was kind of funny. They didn’t know exactly what to do with me at first, so it was kind of a scramble ... to figure out what I would be doing,” she said.

She teamed up with two researchers who were conducting research on how to improve the sensitivity of drug tests for synthetic cannabinoids, which include substances like spice and K2. The Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 made possession of these substances illegal, though commanders had acted as early as 2010 to place spice off-limits to Airmen.

But in 2014, the Drug Abuse Warning Network noted an increase in hospital visits due to synthetic cannabinoïds. Among those quenching agents are some of the active ingredients in many illegal drugs.

“This is just guesstimation, but we determined that increased our window of detection from one to two weeks to six to eight weeks, which is so significant,” she said.

Gingras wasn’t done. The scientists also brought her up to speed on the process of preparing samples.

“A lot of people think you take this urine and just put it in a melting pot and add some chemicals, and if it turns green, it’s popped positive,” she joked. “But it’s a really complicated process to prepare the urine for testing. You’re trying to remove all the other stuff that might interfere with testing.”

At the time, the process took three to five hours — “and that’s with someone who’s been doing it for five or six years, doing it as fast as they can,” she said.

She and the researchers looked at an extraction method called salting-out assisted liquid-liquid extraction, which uses organic and water-based solutions to pull analytes out of the urine.

Once I got good at pipetting, that took me 10 minutes,” she said.

Down the Road

Gingras hasn’t slowed down. Her capstone research project involves using fluorescent proteins as sensors to detect the presence of illegal drugs in a person’s system. ‘The mechanism they use to fluoresce can be inhibited,’ she explained. ‘You can ‘quench’ it, basically. So, in the presence of some molecule, the fluorescence is quenched, so you know a substance is there because the protein isn’t fluorescing anymore.

“Among those quenching agents are the protein’s fluorescence. Gingras held containers of fluorescent protein used in her capstone research project. Gingras’ research involves developing proteins whose fluorescence will diminish as they are “quenched” by controlled substances, thereby offering an easy method to conduct drug tests.

Below: Research conducted by Cadet 1st Class Alexa Gingras shows fluorescence intensity of a mixture of fluorescent protein and a controlled substance. The peaks indicate where the controlled substance has quenched the protein’s fluorescence. Gingras’ summer research into refining the Air Force drug testing process helped improve both test sensitivity and the time required to process samples.
Bird strike scenario tests mass-accident response

By Don Bramum
Academy Spirit staff writer

A mass-accident response exercise Feb. 7-8 tested the Air Force Academy’s ability to react quickly to emergencies involving numerous casualties.

The first day of the exercise focused on response, recovery and mitigation, while the second day focused on the Interim Safety Board’s investigation process, said Master Sgt. Jason Holland, superintendent of the 10th Air Base Wing’s Base Exercise Program.

The exercise scenario involved a U/V-18 Twin Otter carrying eight Wings of Blue jumpers and two crew. In the scenario, the Twin Otter hit a bird shortly after takeoff. Seven jumpers made it off the plane with minor injuries, but the crew and one jumper did not.

All the mission partners at the Academy were involved in planning the exercise, a process that took four weeks, Holland said. The 21st Space Wing Plans and Programs Office and the 21st Force Support Squadron at Peterson Air Force Base also assisted with the planning process.

A total of 25 actors from various base agencies played roles in the exercise, Holland said.
The Sullenberger saga serves as the cadet’s case study and as the inspiration for the project, Newcamp said.

The test is part of a two-semester capstone design course scheduled to run through April. The testing will take place in two locations on the Academy and in Monument.

“The testing will include a sound element that simulates Airbus 320 (passenger jet) engine noise, and another sound that simulates Canada goose distress calls,” Gieck said. “The other element included in the testing is landing lights from an Airbus 320. The Airbus 320 sound and landing lights simulate an actual approaching aircraft.

Along with the Airbus noise, the cadets use a flashing light and a six-second Canada goose distress call, Newcamp said.

“We hypothesize that the combination of the flashing light and distress call will cause the geese to alter their flight path, thus preventing bird strikes,” he said.

Using the results from the testing, the cadets’ system may be implemented on an aircraft in the future to decrease the number of bird strike-related accidents, Gieck said.

“We finish testing at the end of this semester, publish a report and take the report to the Bird Strike Committee USA annual conference in Milwaukee in August,” Newcamp said.

The cadets hope to partner with the Federal Aviation Administration in 2014, when they plan to fix their system to a light aircraft for further testing.

“They know how many of their classmates have gone off to pilot training,” Newcamp said. “They are working on a project that directly impacts the safety of themselves and the people they know.”

Col. Bill Thornton, former 46th Operations Group commander, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., takes a look at the damage a bird did to the F-16 Falcon aircraft he was flying during his final flight as commander. Wildlife biologists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services are tasked with implementing the Bird and Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard program.

The test is part of a two-semester capstone design course scheduled to run through April. The testing will take place in two locations on the Academy and in Monument.

“The testing will include a sound element that simulates Airbus 320 (passenger jet) engine noise, and another sound that simulates Canada goose distress calls,” Gieck said. “The other element included in the testing is landing lights from an Airbus 320. The Airbus 320 sound and landing lights simulate an actual approaching aircraft.

Along with the Airbus noise, the cadets use a flashing light and a six-second Canada goose distress call, Newcamp said.

“We hypothesize that the combination of the flashing light and distress call will cause the geese to alter their flight path, thus preventing bird strikes,” he said.

Using the results from the testing, the cadets’ system may be implemented on an aircraft in the future to decrease the number of bird strike-related accidents, Gieck said.

“We finish testing at the end of this semester, publish a report and take the report to the Bird Strike Committee USA annual conference in Milwaukee in August,” Newcamp said.

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Air Force defeats Nevada, 63-56

Shooting nearly 57 percent from the field in the second half, the Air Force women's basketball team picked up a 63-56 victory over Nevada Saturday afternoon in Clune Arena.

Senior Maria Leipprandt led the Falcons with a game-high 21 points, while team captain Dymond James notched her consecutive-double-double, finishing with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Meanwhile, juniorCherae Medina added 11 points for Air Force.

For Nevada, Danika Sharp scored a team-high 16 points. Emily Burns added 13 points and 10 rebounds, while Arielle Wiseman tossed in 11 points.

After entering the second half with a five-point deficit, the Falcons quickly tied the game with a basket from James and a three-pointer by Medina. Although the teams went back and forth over the next few minutes, a putback by Leipprandt at the 16-minute mark gave Air Force a 31-29 lead and the Falcons never trailed again.

In the first half, Air Force held a 14-6 advantage with 7:23 remaining, but the Wolf Pack went on a 15-2 run over the next four minutes to earn a five-point lead. While the Falcons were able close the margin to one with 47 seconds on the clock, Nevada (6-16, 1-8) scored the last four points of the half to go into the locker room with a 25-20 advantage.

Air Force (3-19, 2-7) shot 56.7 percent from the field in the second half, including 3-of-3 from long range, shooting just over 27 percent in the first 20 minutes. The Falcons also outrebounded the Wolf Pack, 44-34, for the game, but continued to struggle at the foul line, converting just 9-of-16 free throws.

Highlighted by two Academy records and 12 additions to the program’s all-time standings, the Air Force track and field team completed a successful day of competition at the Air Force Team Challenge on Saturday.

Senior Cale Simmons broke his own Academy record in the pole vault, while junior William Kent improved the program standard in the weight throw. Simmons a personal-best bar of 18’2” to tie for the top clearance of the day in the pole vault and finish second overall based on attempts. The clearance, which bettered the previous standard of 18’1¼” that he set last year, also improved the program’s Senior Class Record by one-and-a-half feet. Kent, who debuted on the program’s top-10 list just eight days ago, added another two feet to his personal distance in the weight throw to set the new Academy record at 62’10”. Finishing second in the meet, Kent bettered the previous record and Junior Class mark by seven inches.

The pole vault’s top-10 list received an additional update, as freshman Dylan Bell added an inch to his personal-best mark (17’5½”) to improve his sixth-place ranking on the program’s all-time list, while finishing third in today’s event.

Two other Falcons matched their personal-best marks that they had previously established on the Academy’s all-time list. Sophomore Jake Spuller won the 200-meter dash with a career-best matching time of 21.80 (ninth all-time), while senior Zach Wood equaled his personal-best clearance in the high jump (6’10¼”, eighth) to finish second. Junior David Pateck won the 400-meter dash with a time of 49.23, while freshmen Patrick Corona and Kevin Mihalik won the 800-meter run (career-best 1:58.85) and mile run (career-best 4:24.29), respectively. Spuller and Pateck also teamed with senior Anthony Delgado and junior Machad Craig to win the men’s mile relay in a season-best time of 3:19.57.


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Six Academy graduates will be inducted into the Academy’s Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony scheduled to occur at 6 p.m. May 11 at the Colorado Springs Marriott. Karen Burton (Reeder), a 1984 graduate, is a 16-time NCAA Division II All-American in swimming. She set a world record for swimming the Catalina (Calif.) Channel in 1994 and was the 1996 and 1997 World Series marathon swimming champion. She also won the 1984 NCAA championship in the 400 IM and was a two-time team most-valuable player. Burton also completed the English Channel solo swim in 1993 and was a silver medalist in the 1991 World Championships.

Fisher DeBerry, a 1984 graduate, has the most wins of any coach in Academy history, with a 169-109-1 overall record in his 23-year career as head coach. A 2011 College Footballintramural sports director

The Intramural Basketball League’s top four teams finished their first night of play-off action at the Fitness and Sports Center Tuesday night with the 10th Medical Group defeating the Prep School 60-37 and Direct Reporting Medical Group defeating the Prep School 60-37 and Direct Reporting Medical Group defeating the Prep School 60-37.

Patty Martinez (Gillette), a 1983 graduate, was a six-time individual NCAA Division II national champion, winning the 400 IM from 1980-83, the 200 free in 1980 and the 1,650 freestyle in 1981. She owns more national individual titles than any other Academy female athlete. A 23-time All-American honoree, the three-time team MVP still ranks in the top four at the Academy in four sports.

Carleton McDonald, a 1993 graduate, is one of five consensus football All-Americans in school history, earning the honor in 1992. A finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation’s top defensive back, he finished second which is the highest finish ever for an Air Force All-American. He ranks in the top four in school history in career interceptions with 16 and is still the school’s record holder in the long jump.

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WASHINGTON (AFPS) — Military members and retirees with same-sex partners will qualify for up to 24 new benefits under policy changes, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced Monday.

In a memo to the service chiefs outlining the new policy, Panetta noted the department has “essentially completed” repeal of the so-called “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law, which barred gay and lesbian military members from serving openly.

Now it’s time to change the policies, military leaders’ work must “expand to changing our policies and practices to ensure fairness and equal treatment and to taking care of all of our service members and their families, to the extent allowable under law.”

Two of the new benefits are available at the service member’s election: hospital visitation and treatment and to taking care of all of our service leaders’ work must “expand to changing our policies and practices to ensure fairness and equal treatment and to taking care of all of our service members and their families, to the extent allowable under law.”

A senior Pentagon official emphasized in a briefing that the official added, would be negligible. For example, if officers wait to make changes after the March MilPDS upgrade and transfer to the Defense Information Computing Center is expected to take 23 days. During that time MilPDS upgrade will not be available.

Some officers eligible for promotion consideration may be affected, including those eligible for the calendar year 2013A colonel line of the Air Force-Judge Advocate and lieutenant colonel boards that convene March 18. Additionally, the Air Reserve Component first lieutenant and lieu-tenant colonel promotion process that convenes April 1 and the Air National Guard line and non-line major and lieutenant colonel boards that convene April 8 may also be af- fected.

“Officers need to verify their record is up-to-date and accurate. They should review both their se-lection record in the Personnel Re-cord is up-to-date and accurate. They should review both their se-lection record in the Personnel Re-cords Data Application and their personnel pre-selection brief to make neces-sary changes prior to the Mil-PDS upgrade,” said Lt. Col. Shelley Strong, AFPC operations division chief. “Updating an officer’s record prior to the MilPDS upgrade will help avoid delays.”

If officers want to make changes during the MilPDS upgrade lasting March 4 through 27, they will need to request personnel records cor-rections through their local military personnel sections. After receiving the corrections, the MPS will notify the Air Force Personnel Center or the Air Reserve Personnel Center of the corrections. The March MilPDS upgrade and transfer to the Defense Information Systems Agency Defense Enterprise Computing Center is expected to take 23 days. During that time Mil-PDS will not be available.
Catholic Mass: Sundays, 10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 6:20–6:40 a.m.; Wednesdays, 6:30–7 p.m.; Thursdays, 6:15–6:45 a.m.

Japanese relief seeks supporters
The Consul-General of Japan in Denver is looking for Colorado Springs service members who participate in the Operation Tomodachi disaster relief during the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan. This includes those stationed in Japan or who supported the mission from afar.

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

2013 Distinguished SVS Award
Nominations are being accepted 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:

The 2013 Distinguished Service Award

Awards volunteers needed
Volunteers are needed for the Academy’s Annual Awards Banquet March 6.

Community Center Chapel

Catholic Mass: Sundays, 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 3:30 p.m.

Catholic worship Formation Classes: For students in grades K-8: Sundays, 10:15-10:30 a.m.

Protestant Worship
Evangelical: Sunday, 10:15 a.m.

Protestant Religious Education
Saturdays, 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Capt. Uriah Tobey at 333-2607.

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 333-3303.

Air Force Cycling Team
The Air Force Cycling Team is comprised of regional and base cycling teams who participate in riding and recruitment events. Team Colorado accepts applications from active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired Air Force members.

Initial qualifications include a current passport, paid annual fees, and insurance. The team provides a pack, rides, and a training plan.

Cyclists are eligible for permissive travel at Falcon High School.

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 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the CPO.

Every student in the Academy is invited to participate in visiting with health care insurance providers who are welcome to attend.

All persons, firms and corporations indebted to this estate should make immediate payment in care of the legal representative of this estate.

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

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 professionals seeking to explore a character-related theme.

For more information, visit http://bit.ly/FY1yc.

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 31.

For more information, contact the Conn Focal Point at 333-4357.

10th CS services reduced
The 10th Communications Squadron has reduced its services due to Fiscal Year 2013 constraints.

New telephone, cable TV and network systems must be approved by a group-level commander and paid for by the requesting organization.

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

For more information, call the Conn Focal Point at 333-4357.

Inclusion Program Seeks Cadets
The Academy Diversity Office is seeking two new members to join the Academy Diversity Program by submitting an application by noon Feb 19.

For more information, contact your AOC or AMT or visit http://bit.ly/1usa.gov/NF/GntC.
Free ad in accordance with military regulations must be non-commercial and for personal property offered by active-duty and retired military personnel and their families seeking, living or relocating to the Air Force Academy without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex or religious origin. FREE ADS are limited to one ad per household at 30 words max. The editor and publisher reserve the right to edit ads, and/or not publish ads. NO DUTY PHONE NUMBERS WILL BE PRINTED.

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