Building better leaders

Cadets spend spring break building homes
By John Van Winkle
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

SANTA FE, N.M. — Fifteen Academy cadets wielding pickaxes, shovels, hammers and saws received more than their fair share of firsthand experience building homes March 26-30 in Santa Fe, N.M., during their spring break.

The cadets are participating in the Center for Character and Leadership Development’s Alternative Spring Break Program, which pairs cadets with Habitat for Humanity chapters around the nation to build homes for needy Americans.

“It’s fun, it really is,” said Cadet 1st Class Iva Reece, co-cadet-in-charge for Santa Fe. “It gives you something to do besides hang around and do nothing for spring break.”

Cadets are paired with experienced construction managers to perform the labor for home construction and work side-by-side with the home-in-progress’s eventual owner.

Through the Habitat for Humanity’s program, the scheduled owner works on the home, putting “sweat equity” into the process by helping build a home they will eventually live in and own.

See Spring Break Page 11

Cadets 2nd Class Aseef Raihan and Drew Gauthier place scaffolding along a wall of a Habitat for Humanity worksite in Santa Fe, N.M. They and 13 other cadets spent their spring break building homes for less fortunate Americans in five different locations.

Academy grad, pilot laid to rest

Family, friends gather to pay tribute to life of Maj. Lucas ‘Gaza’ Gruenther
By Amber Baillie
Academy Spirit staff writer

An Academy graduate and pilot of an F-16 that crashed into the Adriatic Sea was buried at the Academy Cemetery March 22.

Maj. Lucas Gruenther, a 2003 graduate and pilot assigned to the 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy, went missing during a Jan. 28 nighttime training mission. His body was recovered by an Italian vessel three days later.

Friends, family, Academy graduates, the Honor Guard and Wings of Blue attended the service to pay their respects to the combat veteran and honor his character.

“Luke was and is an inspiration,” said Lt. Col. Karl Ingeman, an F-16 pilot stationed at Aviano Air Base. “His enthusiasm and love for the outdoors was infectious. His attention to detail and commitment to supporting ground forces was impressive. He was good at so many things that it made you reconsider what you were capable of.”

Friends described the California native as an adventurous spirit who had a passion for rock climbing, photography and eating healthy.

Ingeman said Gruenther loved capturing photos of his squadron and even attempted to improve the squadron’s snack bar with healthy food.

“He showed us a beautiful example of how to live,” Ingeman said. “The Air Force will greatly miss Gaza and is certainly better because of him.”

Gruenther was the chief of flight safety for the 31st Fighter Wing and completed more than 2,600 hours of flying time, including 400 combat hours from flying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was also a distinguished graduate and member of the Wings of Blue Air Force Academy Parachute Demonstration Team.

Upon completion of undergradate pilot training, Gruenther broke his first pair of pilot wings in half and gave one half to his mother in honor of the “Breaking of the Wings” tradition. It is only when a pilot dies the wings are to be placed back together as a good luck symbol for the pilot in the next life.

Gruenther’s wings were reunited at the service.

See Funeral Page 11
PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The social pressures of drinking are ever-present but should not in- fringe on your responsibility to yourself or the community at large. Unfortunately, driving and driving is extremely common in today’s society and has caused senseless injury and death.

The affects of alcohol on drivers has been studied and routinely displayed on TV shows and radio stations, yet the general public and members of the armed forces still continue to commit this serious offense. Here is how I made my mistake.

I had dinner with friends from Denver. We had a band and were playing at a music venue in September. I had not seen them in a long while and decided to see their show. My plan was to continue to commit this serious offense.

March was also Women’s History Month, a month during which we rec-ognized the numerous achievements of women with ties to the Academy. A graduate of the Academy’s Class of 1981, Maj. Gen. Michelle Johnson, became the first woman nominated to lead the Academy as its superinten- dent. Sarah Volz, who conducted bio- fuel research in partnership with the Academy, won a $100,000 prize for her work. Some of the Academy’s first female air training officers came back for a reunion.

What comes next? I have a few pre- dictions, which hopefully will turn out to be more accurate than my football picks.

You can expect to see more stories about how sequestration will affect the Academy as well as feature stories on people who’ve overcome adversity and done some great things. Finally, expect us to talk about sexual assault preven- tion and response as we enter sexual assault awareness month in April.

If you know something that would make a good story, give us a call at 333-7657. If you have feedback on one of the stories we’ve published, email us at pa.newspaper@usaaf.af.mil. Finally, if you want to download previous weeks’ issues of the Academy Spirit, you can find them at www.usafa.af.mil/news/academyspirit.asp.

By DoN Braunm
Academy Spirit staff writer

Exactly two months from today, the Class of 2013 will celebrate gradu- ation on the turf of Falcon Stadium: 60 days and a wake up, as deployed Air- men often say.

A number of events are behind the cadets: four National Character and Leadership Symposiums, the most re- cent of which took place in late Feb- ruary; an exciting Air Force basketball season that peaked with an upset over No. 12 New Mexico before a heart- breaking loss at UNLV in the Moun- tain West Championships; overseeing Recognition for the Class of 2016; and a tuition fee field season that saw rec- cords shattered.

While the seniors continue to push through these issues — doubt look- ing forward to the moment they can jump into the fountains to celebrate their last final exam — we’ve covered with interest how the Force Academy will look like in the coming months. One thing is clear: it won’t be business as usual.

The first part of the month saw se- qustration take effect, as Congress failed to pass a measure that would stop or postpone it. Col. Tim Gibson, commander of the 80th Air Base Wing, held a series of town hall meetings to discuss how furloughs would affect the Academy’s civilian workforce.

Citing sequestration, the Air Force canceled all its fliers and aerial demonstrations, including the Thun- derbirds’ annual graduation perform- ance over Falcon Stadium.

In addition, the Academy canceled its Fourth of July celebration, the only show in town from 2009-2011. It wasn’t all sequestration news, though. The Academy received hon- ors from the White House recognizing cadets’ contributions to the Colorado Springs community. Airmen in the Air Force Academy Band demonstrated their premier quality, earning numer- ous Air Force Media Contest awards.

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Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Before questions to the Academy Spirit editor at 333-7657.

The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by e-mail at pa.newspaper@usaaf.af.mil.

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USAF CARES

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2013

Vol to view the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

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Lt. Col. John Bryan — Director of Public Affairs
1st Lt. Brandon Baccan — Equal Opportunity Officer
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CMSAF Cody testifies on Air Force quality of life

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody talks with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler as they prepare to testify before members of the House Appropriations Committee, March 19.

By Master Sgt. Jess D. Harvey
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs


The biggest challenge currently facing the Air Force is the nation’s fiscal situation, Cody said, citing the looming furlough of 180,000 civilian employees due to sequestration as a threat to the service’s readiness and the overall quality of life of Airmen and their families.

“There is no question our Airmen are nervous and concerned with the current fiscal environment that affects our nation and Air Force,” Cody said.

“The impacts of sequestration and the past six months of operating under a continuing resolution authority are significant and detrimental to our Air Force and for all those serving,” he said. “Our Airmen remain dedicated and committed to completing the mission around the world and ask for your leadership to ensure they’re able to do so.”

See Cody Page 10

DOD looks at funding’s effect on personnel, programs

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials are looking at the recently signed continuing resolution that funds the government for the rest of the fiscal year to discern how the legislation affects personnel and programs, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said March 27.

The legislation may mean fewer furlough days for defense civilian employees.

“The full range of options is on the table,” Little said. “Our current stand is that we are going to have to take a look still at the prospect of furloughs. I’m not prepared to say we are going to zero. I’m not going to say we are going to depart from our current plan, either.”

Before the funding measure, officials had planned for DOD’s civilian employees, with few exceptions, to have 22 unpaid furlough days by the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year.

Since the continuing resolution passed, Pentagon officials have been sorting through furloughs and “a whole range of other matters,” Little said.

“The CR doesn’t solve all of our problems to be sure,” he added, “but furloughs are a consideration.”

The department is looking at a range of options, Little said. When the funding measure seemed imminent, DOD officials delayed sending notification letters to employees so they could consider the continuing resolution’s implications. This also delayed the point at which the furloughs could begin.

Officials now say those letters will be distributed on or about April 5, with civilian employees poised to lose a day’s pay each week beginning May 5, instead of beginning April 26, as previously planned. This could reduce total furlough days for each employee to 20.

The continuing resolution that President Barack Obama signed yesterday may cut the number of furlough days even more, Little said, but it’s too soon to know.

“We’re looking at a number of options inside the additional money we received as a result of the continuing resolution,” he said. “I can’t say at this point that we are going to forego furloughs altogether, and I can’t say at this stage that we’re going to amend our expected policy to furlough civilian employees.

Pentagon officials have to look at a number of considerations with respect to this money, Little explained, as they must look at competing needs in the defense budget and “balance all those and see what makes sense.”
Academy Band tours La., stages recruiting events

By Airman 1st Class Kevin Cervenich
Academy Band Unit Public Affairs Representative

On tour in Louisiana, the Air Force Academy Forum and Academy Band, Wild Blue Country, teamed up for a mission that culminated in a recruiting seminar at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, March 9.

Coming together for the recruiting trip, which began earlier this month, the Academy Forum sent 2Lt. Ariel Waiters and Fallynne Henderson, both assigned to the Academy’s Diversity Recruiting Office, along with the band to speak to cadet candidates across Louisiana.

Participating in several TV interviews and musical performances, the Academy Band and the Academy Forum made a positive impression on potential Academy cadets.

Disaster-prep event planned

USAFA first responders to highlight awareness

Airman 1st Class Veronica Ward
Academy Spirit staff writer

All with base access are invited to the biannual Disaster Preparedness Event 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday at the BX.

The purpose of the event, hosted by the Exchange, Commissary, 10th Medical Group and 10th Civil Engineering Squadron, is to increase awareness of the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness. Said Karen Bowman, the 10th MDG medical director of pediatrics.

Lists of disaster preparedness supplies, organized by section of the BX for easy shopping, will be available to custom- ers during the weekend. Bowman. An Emergency First Aid Kit, or a list of important legal and financial documents that should be secured, will also be supplied.

The BX is offering a 10 percent discount on all items found on the list.

The event will feature demonstrations from the Fire Department, Security Forces, and a Fish and Wildlife expert. A CPR demo will also be performed by Airman 1st Class Jared Andrews, Wild Blue Country bassist.

“I would tell them that I have a guaranteed job after graduation; I don’t have to soul-search for what I’m going to do with my life,” Waiters said. “I already know where I’m going, what career field I’m going to enter and what impact I’ll have.”

For more Academy Band news, visit www.usafacademyband.af.mil.

Founders Day 2013 events

Please join Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, and the president and CEO of the Association of Graduates, William Thompson, for the annual Founders Day Dinner and presentation of the Distinguished Graduate Award to Lt. Gen. Marcus Anderson and Edward Legasiy, 6 p.m., April 5, at the Falcon Club.

Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is $65 per person. Attire is mess dress, black tie or business suit. RSVPs at this limited seating event are accepted until April 2.

To RSVP, or for more information, call 472-0300 or visit https://www.usafa.org/events.

All Academy members and the public are also invited to the Founders Day Parade, 10 a.m., Stillman Parade Field, April 6.

The Academy’s falcon mascot was selected by popular vote of the Academy Class of 1959, the first class to graduate from the Academy. The team mascot is “The Bird.”

Time for medical cabinet spring cleaning

10th Medical Group to host National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Academy employees are invited to get rid of their expired medications 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., April 27, at the South Gate Pass and Registration Center.

The disposal is part of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, an opportunity to dispose of accumulated unused or expired prescription drugs.

“Basically, it’s a spring cleaning of your medicine cabinet,” said Maj. Andre Mach, chief of pharmacy operations. “Many Americans may not know how to properly dispose of unused or expired medicine and often flushing it down the toilet or throwing it away has led to environmental concerns about medication concentrations entering in the water supply, which can pose a danger to humans and wildlife.”

Drug Take-Back Day provides a safe and convenient means of disposal while educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications, particularly among children.

“Kids can go into your cabinet and ingest expired medication,” Mach said. “If you make your medication available to them, whether expired or not, they have access to those meds.”

The event, part of the White House’s prescription drug abuse prevention strategy, was developed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, takes place across the U.S. every six months.

However, Academy cadets, staff and their family members may drop off their expired medication at the pharmacy any weekday during normal duty hours, Mach said.

“We have a drop box at the pharmacy for expired, unwanted or unneeded medication,” he said. “Customers can stop by and get rid of these medications with no questions asked.”

Customers may not drop off Coumadin (a blood thinner), syringes, chemotherapy agents such as Mitomycin or cyclophosphamide, or controlled medications such as Percocet, cocaine, morphine or valium.

For more information, visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

Academy Spirit
FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2013

HISTORICAL PHOTO

2nd Lt. Ariel Waiters of the Academy’s Diversity Recruiting Office, speaks to Lusher Charter School students between songs with Wild Blue Country at the school on March 6, in New Orleans.

I’m going to do with my life,” Waiters said. “I already know where I’m going, what career field I’m going to enter and what impact I’ll have.”

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Deputy civil engineer nominated for highest DOD civilian award

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Veronica Ward
Academy Spirit staff writer

An Academy civilian was nominated earlier this month to receive the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest civilian award given by the DOD.

Keith Butala, the Academy’s deputy civil engineer, has managed the upkeep of virtually all Academy facilities since December 2004. Since then, he’s directly influenced the Academy’s infrastructure investment programs, restoration, flash flood mitigation efforts relating to the Waldo Canyon Fire’s burn scar area and renewable energy efforts.

“From the day the cadets, cadet candidates and others enter the gates of (the Academy) and step on the footprints for in-processing, to eventually arriving at Falcon Stadium in May for graduation, the work I do or oversee every day directly touches their activities,” Butala said.

Butala is responsible for managing and directing a workforce of more than 600 personnel on Academy property to ensure cadets and Academy staff can perform their duties with minimal facility disruption.

“We want to allow them to focus on their true mission duties, which are jam-packed every day,” he said.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, employees who are nominated for and receive this award must significantly contribute to the efficiency, economy and improvement of DoD operations.

Perhaps part of what makes Butala stand out is that he’s spent most of his career looking for challenges at other levels within the DOD, he said.

“My hope is that some of the mentoring and cadet projects we support have an enduring impression as (the cadets) transition to their careers as officers of character and our future Air Force leaders.”

Keith Butala, deputy civil engineer
10th Civil Engineer Squadron

“We want to allow them to focus on their true mission duties, which are jam-packed every day,” said Butala.

Butala has 5-10 years left in his civil service career, but doesn’t plan to slow his efforts toward growing as a professional or continue working toward the betterment of the Academy.

“My hope is that some of the mentoring and cadet projects we support have an enduring impression as (the cadets) transition to their careers as officers of character and future Air Force leaders.”

The DOD Distinguished Civilian Service Award will be given later this year.

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here’s How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You complete the puzzle by working out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it is to solve the puzzle!

Additional puzzles appear on pages 9-10.
Cadet news briefs

Three Academy cadets recently returned from the 25th Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition, held in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, where they earned fifth place in the competition’s 16-team bracket.

Competing were Cadets 1st Class Ashleigh Hammer, Steven Strickland and Cadet 2nd Class Marshall Stout.

The competition is a week-long training event for law and political science students and allows evaluators to test teams’ theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of international and humanitarian law.

Forty-eight teams from five continents participated; the Academy was the only U.S. undergraduate team competing.

Cadets excel at law competition

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Cadets score high in cyber competition

Academy Cadets placed in the top-10 percent in the Forbidden BITS Capture the Flag cyber competition held March 15–16 at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

During the competition, cadets solved problems in cryptography, reverse engineering and finding web vulnerabilities.

The Academy continued its streak of staying in the top 10 percent of competitions involving graduate students and professional cyber teams from around the world.

Those competing were Cadets 1st Class Nathan Hart, Frank Adkins, Josh Christman and Rob Guiler; and Cadets 3rd Class Kevin Cooper, Bill Parks.

The team is coached by Dr. Martin Carlisle, the director of the Academy Center for Cyberspace Research.

Cadets’ volunteer work recognized by presidential committee

Cadet volunteers like these seen building a log berm in September, 2012 to reduce flood risk on Blodgett Peak, were recognized by a presidential committee for volunteering more than 38,000 hours during the 2011-2 academic year. The Academy was placed on the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in recognition of its community support.

By John Van Winkle
Academy Public Affairs

The Academy was placed on the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in recognition of its community support on March 4.

One of several institutions honored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Academy was cited for its achievements in general community service, or in one of two special focus areas that align with the president’s education and innovation priorities.

The Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a college can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. During the 2011-2 academic year, cadets collectively volunteered more than 38,000 hours of community service on hundreds of projects and events as part of the Cadet Service Learning Program, said Lt. Col. Chuck Rinkevich, assistant director of integration and outreach at the academy’s Center for Character and Leadership Development, which oversees the program.

“Community service and the concept of service learning are part of the academy’s efforts to offer cadet character development programs which emphasize one of the academy’s central core values, ‘Service before Self,’” Rinkevich said.

“The Cadet Service Learning Program attempts to take this core value from the theoretical concepts of the classroom to actual experiences with the goal of a lifelong internalized volunteer ethic and understanding of the value of serving others, particularly in the area of community service,” he said.

Some of those efforts were small, with just a few cadets helping out at an elementary school or public event. Some, however, were massive in scale, such as the academy’s first Community Outreach Day, in which 1,535 cadets took part in 28 projects throughout Colorado Springs, resulting in more than 6,000 hours of community service.

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First female military astronaut in space, Lt. Gen. Susan Helms

by Desiree N. Palacios
Air Force News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. (AFNS) — When Neil Armstrong made history with man’s first footsteps on the moon, Susan Helms needed little nudging from her mom to get excited, and get excited she did.

She realized there would never be another first step on the moon, and even as a young 11-year-old, knew the feat was something special.

Little did she know that a little more than two decades later, the then Maj. Helms would be the first woman military astronaut to fly in space.

“I would read books on science, the planets, the universe and nature,” Helms said. “I spent a lot of time with my nose in a book.”

That interest in science would lead to graduation from the Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Aeronautics in 1980, as a member of the first graduating class of women cadets.

Helms began her Air Force career as an F-15 and F-16 weapons separation engineer with the Air Force Armament Laboratory at Eglin AFB, Fla. After going back to school to obtain a Masters of Science in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University, she would head back to the Academy as an assistant professor of astronautics.

In 1988, she would spend the year attending test pilot school at Edwards AFB, Calif., where she would graduate as a distinguished graduate and earn the R.L. Jones award for outstanding flight test engineer. Helms would then spend more than two years as a flight test engineer with the CF-18 at Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada.

She would then get the assignment that would catapult her into the history books.

In January of 1990, Helms was selected by NASA to become an astronaut and, after rigorous training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, would officially become an astronaut in July of 1991.

Her first space shuttle flight was aboard the Endeavor in January of 1993, where she and her crew were responsible for deploying a $200 million tracking and data relay satellite. A diffuse X-ray spectrometer carried in the payload bay collected more than 80,000 seconds of X-ray data that would help answer questions about the origin of the Milky Way Galaxy.

Eighteen months later, Helms would serve aboard the Discovery as the flight engineer for orbiter operations, with the mission to validate the design and operations of the Lidar in Space Technology Experiment. Helms and her team gathered data about the Earth’s troposphere and stratosphere, and deployed and retrieved the SPAR-TAN-201, a free-flying satellite that investigated the physics of the solar corona and the testing of a new spacewalk maneuvering device.

First female Air Force four-star general, Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger

FORT MEADE, Md. (AFNS) — Young Janet Libby was definitely going places at Beavercreek High School near Dayton, Ohio. She was in the National Honor Society, on the German and Ski clubs and a soccer athlete.

But even those friends and well-wishers who would have signed her senior yearbook with “you’ll go far,” and “you’ll be a success in life,” could never have imagined that the young daughter of an Air Force pilot would go on to become the first woman in the Air Force to attain the rank of four-star general.

Today, Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger has come full circle from her Beavercreek roots as the commander of Air Force Materiel Command, at Wright-Patterson AFB, just a few miles from where she graduated high school.

She is responsible for more than 80,000 Airmen and civilians worldwide, a $60 billion annual budget, and leads an organization that supports war-fighting efforts through state-of-the-art technology, weapon systems management, systems development and evaluation, and a global supply chain management system.

It didn’t take long for Wolfenbarger to make her mark after leaving high school. After a suggestion from her father, she applied and was accepted in 1976 into the first class at the Academy to accept women.

“The Air Force Academy was an opportunity for me to be stretched more capable than I ever thought I would be. The experience gave me a belief in myself that I have relied upon ever since,” Wolfenbarger said.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1980, Wolfenbarger has spent most of her career in the acquisition field, leaving her imprint on the purchase, testing and implementation of the F-22 Raptor, the B-2 Spirit and the C-17 Globemaster III programs. She went on to earn a Masters of Science in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Academy Women's Tennis: Concentration on the court

By Amber Baillie • Academy Spirit staff writer

The Academy's women's tennis team has made a lot of racket lately, building a 12-5 record this season, winning eight straight matches and defeating the University of Colorado for the first time in 15 years.

Cadet 1st Class Hannah Duke can't tell you the number of hours she's spent on the tennis court perfecting a shot. Repetition after repetition, the Air Force women's tennis team captain positions her feet, angles her racquet and focuses on the ball to master a fierce and flawless stroke.

"Being a tennis player, like any sport takes dedication," Duke said. "The mental game of tennis is extremely challenging. Coaches say that tennis is 90 percent mental. When you're on the court, you don't have a coach out there telling you exactly what to do. You need to come up with a strategy yourself."

Duke is one of three seniors on the team who ranked in the top 25 recruiting class for tennis in Divisions I, II and III and in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics schools for women's tennis.

"I think we all work really hard individually which makes us work hard together in practice," said Cadet 2nd Class Christine Molina, who plays number one singles and number two doubles on the team. "We started out really strong this season, we had a lot of energy and won the matches we were supposed to. I think that has given us a lot of confidence going into our conference matches."

The young women are truly amazing, Dake said.

"Everyone brings out their best effort to the court," she said. "The team has great sportsmanship and has been complemented many times on our composedness and attitude. We feed off each other's energy and have a great time."

The season will wrap up April 28 at the Mountain West Conference championships here. The team has so far achieved their goal this season of winning 11 or more non-conference matches and are now in the beginning of MWC play, with one more win required to play a match.

April is our 'March Madness' month," Gidley said. "When you're out on the court playing singles, you're on your own, you don't have to sub out if you're having a bad day because you're responsible for your match and it contributes to the team score. Your team is counting on you."

Tennis has made me realize that if you want to do something, you have to work for it, Molina said.

"When I was in high school my goal was to play college tennis," Molina said. "I didn't realize it took so much work, especially at the Academy, to be on the team and be able to compete with other schools. You have to be disciplined. Pretty much anything in life you want to achieve, you have to work for it."

Tennis is a great lifetime sport and a way to make connections, Duke said.

"I hope to join a U.S. Tennis Association league once I'm settled down," Duke said. "I will definitely miss the competitiveness of collegiate tennis."

The team's last two non-tournament home matches will be on April 12 and 14. The Academy will also host the Men's and Women's MWC championships April 25-28.

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WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The Department of Defense apartment possesses more real estate than it needs and is looking to close additional bases and installations in the U.S. and abroad, a senior DOD official told a House Representative panel earlier this month.

Air Force leaders agree, according to Kathleen Ferguson, acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics.

"While we have no recent excess infrastructure capacity analysis from which to draw, our capacity analysis from 2004 suggested 23 percent of Air Force basing infrastructure was excess to our mission needs," Ferguson said.

Based on this, another round of base realignments and closings should be an essential part of any overall strategy for reshaping the military, John Conger, the deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, told the House Armed Services Committee.

"Force structure is declining relative to that which existed in 2005, thereby continuing to add to aggregated excess capacity," Conger said, noting that the Army is reducing its active-duty end strength from 570,000 to 490,000 by 2020, and the Marine Corps from about 202,000 to 182,000.

"If we assume our bases were either appropriately loaded or were carrying excess capacity, these force reductions will increase that surplus," he said.

In last year’s budget request, the Pentagon asked Congress for mission to initiate two more rounds of base closings under BRAC. Conger said the last round of BRAC closings in 2005 produced $4 billion in annual recurring savings. By law, under the BRAC process, an independent commission submits to Congress a list of military installations it believes should be closed or realigned, with lawmakers and the president then required to approve or reject the recommendations without change. The DOD is examining further reductions in U.S. military bases in Europe, where Conger said more than 100 sites have already been returned to host governments since 2003, and where no authority from Congress is required for recommending additional closures.

"By the end of this year, we plan to conclude with a fully vetted list of options from which the secretary (of defense) can make strategic decisions for eliminating excess, preserving and even enhancing our ability to meet strategic and operational commitments," Conger said.

The Army already plans to close 33 sites in Europe associated with the decision to reduce combat and training teams based on the continent.

DOD looking at more base closings

**Cody**

From Page 3

During his testimony, Cody addressed other matters including Airmen including building resilience, education and caring for families.

"As we move forward and our force changes, we must adapt our programs and services to ensure we meet the needs of today’s Airmen and their families," Cody said. One of the first topics on Cody’s agenda was the building of the resilience. "We believe an Airmen’s personal and professional successes depend on this resilience, and feel it is our responsibility to provide the education and resources to help them and their families build it," Cody said. "To that end, we have created Comprehensive Airmen Fitness, a construct built on four pillars or core tenets."

The tenets he addressed are mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness, which most Airmen are introduced to early on and the Air Force aims to reinforce throughout their career. Inherent to the tenets and resilience is fostering a stronger culture of mutual respect and trust, Cody said.

"It is not enough for Airmen to be resilient; they must also treat one another with the dignity and respect each of us deserves," Cody said. "Every Airman must be respectful of those working with and around them, every Airmen must be alert and able to recognize signs of distress, and every Airman must intervene in situations that could turn negative."

With that, Cody addressed the issue of sexual assault within the force and efforts to eliminate it. "We understand the impact of this crime on the individual, their families, their friends, and other people in the units are tremendous and unacceptable," Cody said.

Air Force leaders have emboldened every supervisor and commander to be actively involved in eliminating the crime by highlighting the recent Air Force-wide health and wellness initiatives, the establishment of a Recruiting Education and Training Council set up to eliminate sexual assault, he said.

**Wolfenbarger**

From Page 7

Although Wolfenbarger is proud of her accomplishments and the direction women are headed in the Air Force, she said that she never wanted to be recognized for simply being a woman.

"I wanted to do well and be recognized because I worked hard," said Wolfenbarger. "I did the very best I could at every job I held."

During the early 1980s, when Wolfenbarger was in the early stages of her career, she told stories of women who could be discharged for getting pregnant or even adopting a child. There were also many more career fields closed to women at the time. She believes that over the past three decades, women have made tremendous strides.

"We are seeing the benefits of our matenity leave, but also paternity leave for our service members," she said. "Also, when I joined, there were only 10 percent closed to women, but we can now, as a service, proudly say that there is 95 percent of our career fields open to women."

Even though Wolfenbarger believes many women entering the Air Force today may take for granted their equal status, she said there are still areas of progress yet to be overcome.

"I think we have overcome challenges when we serve our country is that there is such a drive to support our nation in whatever mission we are assigned. I think there is a constant reminder that we all have to search for that work-life balance because, in the end, it is our families, our friends and our health that we have to rely on when our careers are over."

**Helms**

From Page 7

Her third shuttle flight took her aboard the Columbia, where in late June of 1996, Helms was the payload commander and flight engineer on the longest space shuttle mission at the time - a total of 16 days, 21 hours and 48 minutes. The mission included studies by 10 nations and five space agencies and was the first mission to become a full microgravity studies, as well as a comprehensive life science investigation.

During May of 2000, Helms performed a mission on Atlantis dedicated to the delivery and repair of hardware for the International Space Station. She also had the responsibility of maintaining and repairing the onboard computer network, and served as a mission specialist for the rendezvous with the station.

During her final mission in March of 2001, Helms lived and worked aboard the International Space Station. She was the first American and one Russian team with the mission of conducting tests on the Canadian-built Space Station Remote Manipulator System, conducting maintenance, and medical and science experiments. On March 11, she set a world record space walk of 8 hours and 21 minutes. She would spend a total of 163 days aboard the space station.

After a 12-year NASA career that included 211 days in space, Helms returned to the Air Force in July 2002 as the chief of the air superiority division at the Air Force Association’s Combat Command Headquarters, Peterson AFB, Colo.

In June of 2006, she was appointed a brigadier general and became commander of the 45th Space Wing and Director, Eastern Range, Patrick AFB, Fla.

Today, Lt. Gen., USAF, Susan Helms, is a brigadier general, assigned as the commander of the 14th Air Force and the Joint Functional Component Command for Space at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
worksite, goals and safety, and then immediately put to work leveling the ground near one house to put scaffolding. But, the dry and rocky Santa Fe soil required pick-axes, shovels and sweat to make the excavation happen.

“The cadets are hard workers. They’re always willing to work hard for us,” said Bruce Beers-Green, construction director.

Santa Fe is a repeat location for Alternative Spring Break, and this year’s work is on three adobe-style homes in the El Nido subdivision, on the city’s southwest side. Cadets started work on Tuesday and will wrap up their work on Saturday.

The work was more extensive than leveling rock-strewn ground. Next came the building of scaffolding to work on a home’s exterior, and then the cadets divided into smaller groups to tackle framing, walls and the numerous other tasks necessary to turn a wooden frame into a future family home.

“It is satisfying. You don’t get bored with this type of work, but it’s not stressful,” Reece said.

Her co-cadet-in-charge is on his first Alternate Spring Break.

“I had no idea what to expect coming into this,” said Cadet 1st Class Julian Rojas. “So far, I’ve had a really good time, seeing downtown Santa Fe and now learning a lot about construction.”

According to Santa Fe Habitat officials, more than 100 people made initial inquiries about participating in Habitat’s program that would build a home for families in need, and more than 60 local families applied.

Santa Fe was just one of five locations cadets were hard at work in; a total of 60 cadets are out this week volunteering time to build homes with Habitat for Humanity in Des Moines, Iowa; Oklahoma City; Phoenix, Houston and Santa Fe.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, cadets collectively volunteered more than 38,000 hours of community service at hundreds of different projects and events, as part of CCLD’s Cadet Service Learning Program.

“Upon completion of undergraduate pilot training, Gruenther broke his first pair of pilot wings in half and gave one half to his mother in honor of the “Breaking of the Wings” tradition. It is only when a pilot dies the wings are to be placed back together as a good luck symbol for the pilot in the next life. Gruenther’s wings were reunited at the service.

“To some of you he might have been Gaza or Major Gruenther but to us he will always be Lucas,” said Max Solomon, Gruenther’s cousin.

“I miss him more than words can express. He was the greatest man I’ve ever known. He taught me how to fish but most importantly, how to be a better person.”

Chaplain (Capt.) Zebulon Beck said Gruenther served his country admirably.

“The men and women rested here made an impact on the world and are people Luke would have called his friends,” Beck said. “They all loved the Academy and honored their country through great service. In a way, Luke is home.”

Gruenther is survived by his wife, Cassy, his daughter, Serene, who was born February 28. He’s also survived by his mother, Romel Mathias, and his brothers, Alex and Chance.

ABOVE: Cadet 1st Class Julian Rojas gets the proper angle while hammering a nail at a Habitat for Humanity worksite in Santa Fe.

LEFT: Cadets 1st Class Cameron Harris (left), and Iva Reece, help others move lumber at a Habitat for Humanity worksite Tuesday in Santa Fe, N.M.
Five Falcons named to Atlantic Hockey 10th anniversary team

By Academy Athletics

Five former Air Force players were named to the Atlantic Hockey Association 10th Anniversary Team on March 22 by the league office.

Four Falcons, forwards Jacques Lamoureux and Eric Ehn, defenseman Tim Kirby and goaltender Andrew Volkening were named to the first team. Defenseman Greg Flynn was named to the third team.

Ehn, class of 2008, was Air Force’s first ever All-American, earning the honor in 2007. That season, Ehn was named to the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) East All-American second team. Ehn also earned first-team All-American honors by Inside College Hockey.com and U.S. College Hockey Online. Ehn was second in the nation in scoring with 24 goals, 40 assists and 64 points (1.60 per game) in 40 games.

Lamoureux, class of 2011, earned All-America honors in 2009. A first-team All-American by Inside College Hockey.com, he was named to the AHCA East All-American second team. Kirby was the AHA Player of the Year, Defenseman of the Year and a first-team all-league and all-tournament team in 2012 as well. He tied for third in the nation in goals by a defenseman with 12 and was 19th in the nation in points by a defenseman with 28 (0.72 per game, 12-16-28). Kirby led Atlantic Hockey in points by a defenseman in all games (0.72 per game). He played in every game in his career, breaking the Air Force Academy record with 255 consecutive games played.

Volkening, a 2010 graduate, was a two-time all-AHA selection, earning first-team honors in 2009 and second-team in 2010. He was named to the AHA all-tournament team in 2007, 2008 and 2009, leading the Falcons to the AHA tournament title each season. Volkening is also the only Falcon to be named to an NCAA all-tournament team twice, earning the honor in 2008 and 2009. In 2009, he led Air Force to a 2-0 win over third-ranked Michigan in the NCAA Tournament as the Falcons advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight. Volkening is only the second player in school history to earn the team MVP award three straight years. He holds nearly every goaltending record at the Air Force Academy, class of 2009, was a third-team InsideCollegeHockey.com All-American, a first-team all-AHA selection, all-tournament team and was named the league’s best defensemen as a senior. The top scoring defensemen in the nation in 2009 with 1.02 points per game (7-35-42 in 41 games), he was the only defensemen in the nation to average more than a point per game.

Wallander sets Academy record with MPSF win

By Valerine Perkin

SEATTLE — With an Academy-record score of 9.925, Air Force sophomore Jessica Wallander won the vault title at the 2013 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships Monday in Seattle and paced the Falcons to a third-place finish in the team standings.

Wallander became the Falcons’ second conference champion on the vault (Jenna Dudley, 2010) and the program’s first on any apparatus since 2011. With her winning score of 9.925, Wallander also became the first Air Force gymnast to impact the Academy’s all-time scores since 2004, as she added 0.025 points to the vault record that had stood since that year. She is just the third Academy vaulter to record a 9.900 or higher, joining Jessa Leigl (2004) and Kelly Roxburgh (1996), who shared the previous record at 9.875.

Four Falcons finished within the top half of the 24-gymnast field on the vault, as the program combined for an event score of 48.875. In addition to Wallander’s win, junior Linnea Hance finished fourth (career-best 9.825), while classmates Jen Larsen and Katie Hawthorne finished sixth (9.775) and 11th (9.725), respectively, with scores matching their career highs.

Wallander also paced the Falcons on the uneven bars, as she scored a 9.725 to take fourth. Hance, who also earned a finish among the top-12 on the uneven bars (9.650, 11th) and took third in the all-around (38.825), was the only Falcon to score within the first half of the field on the balance beam, as she scored a 9.730 to finish third. Sophomore Alexandra Stych and Katie Hawthorne finished sixth (9.775), while Larsen finished within the top-12, following a 10th-place finish of 9.675.

UC Davis won its fourth straight MPSF title with a score of 194.950, while host Seattle Pacific placed second with a total of 193.200. Air Force collected a score of 191.925 to narrowly edge Alaska-Anchorage (191.850) for third in the final team standings.

The Falcons will compete in the NCAA Regional Championships April 6 in Columbus, Ohio.

UPCOMING FALCON SPORTS EVENTS

- BASEBALL: 3 p.m. (PT) today, for a three-game series against UNLV
- GOLF: April 8 for the Cowboy Classic in Scottsdale, Ariz.
- MENS TENNIS: 9 a.m. (MT) Sunday to host UC Santa Barbara at Lifetime Fitness Center in Colorado Springs
- WOMEN’S TENNIS: 1:30 p.m. (PT) April 5 to take on Fresno State.
- BOXING: Thursday for the 2013 National Collegiate Boxing Association National Championship matches at Mauhantucket, Conn.
- WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL: April 6 to take on Northern Colorado.
Academy fencers finish championship in top 20

By Madeline McGuire
Academy Athletics

Falcon freshmen James Salem and Mary McElwee competed in the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Fencing Championships March 21 - 24, in San Antonio, with Salem finishing 19th in women’s foil. McElwee finished 15th in women’s foil.

The Air Force squad finished 20th with 20 points. On March 21, after the first four rounds of the epee tournament, Salem was in 22nd place with six bouts won. Salem scored 57 touches and received 80 (-23 Indicator). On March 22, Salem moved up to 19th place with nine of his 23 bouts won (3.91) 74 TS, 94 TR and a -20 Indicator.

The individual women’s foil championships took place March 25 - 24. Following all 23 bouts, McElwee finished 15th overall with 11 of 23 bouts won (478). She had 75 TS, 81 TR and a -6 Indicator.

“My first participation in the NCAA’s and it is a very competitive competition,” said head coach Abdel Salem. “They will improve over the years and I expect that they will return and move up in the placement.”

“Academy Athletics is very proud of our athletes for their accomplishments in the competition,” said head coach Abdel Salem. “It is a very competitive competition.”

Air Force boxers capture 33rd NCBA regional title

By Valerie Perkin
Academy Athletics

RENO, Nev. — The Air Force boxing team took home its 33rd regional title in the last 34 years during the final day of competition at the National Collegiate Boxing Association Western Regional Championships Saturday.

Junior Denis Vorobyov and sophomore Roy Taylor captured victories for the Falcons in the championship bouts at the Eldorado Hotel, with Vorobyov taking a decision from Nebras’ Zach Barbara at 165 pounds, while Taylor decisioned Cal’s Evan Kamai in the 198-pound weight class for the 125-pound weight class.

Three other Falcons sophomore Michael Magtalas (119 pounds versus Vihn Thai, UNLV), freshman Jacob Berggren (132 pounds versus Jarred Santos, Nevada) and junior James Monk (156 pounds versus Colin Schmidt, UC Davis) - advanced to the championship round, but lost decisions in their respective weight classes to finish second in the regional field.

Despite winning just two of five contested championship bouts, the Falcons claimed an additional five regional champions due to walkovers. Senior Glenn Miltenberg (147 pounds) and freshman Phil Mays (185) collected victories during the semifinal round last night, but found themselves without opponents during the finals. In addition, senior Drew Pineda (112), freshman Gytenis Bosiuk (155) and senior Olawale Lawal (heavyweight) earned walkovers throughout the weekend’s competition to claim uncontested titles.

NCBA RESULTS


The 2013 National Collegiate Boxing Association Championships will be held in Mashantucket, Conn, April 4-6.
HAW Events

Tobacco Cessation: The HAWC is available for tobacco cessation counseling.

Those wishing to quit using tobacco are encouraged to call 333-3773 to schedule a personal session where HAWC staff will guide them through behavioral, casual and supportive training to end their tobacco habit.

Walk-in appointments are available 1-4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Patients interested in using medication to help break their tobacco habit need to visit their PCP prior to visiting the HAWC.

Once customers receive a briefing by HAWC staff, they will be given a certificate to get their prescription filled.

Women’s Equality Day

The Women’s Equality Day Luncheon committee is seeking seven-to-10 volunteers to help plan this year’s luncheon, scheduled for August. For more information, call 333-5503.

Relationship Workshop

The Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership will sponsor a Cadet Marriage Prep and Relationship Workshop April 5-6 at Arnold Hall Ballroom. Food will be provided at this full-day session and attendees may wear civilian clothing.

For more information, visit the Academy Staff Judge Advocate Office’s website at https://eis.usafa.edu (Common Access Card required).

Easter events

Bunch at Falcon Club: The Falcon Club will hold three Easter brunch specials. 11 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m., Sunday.

The cost to attend is $29.95 for adults, $10 for children ages 5-10, and $1 for children ages 4 and under.

Falcon Club members receive a $5 discount. To reserve a seat, contact the Falcon Club at 333-4233.

Easter Egg Scramble: 10 a.m.-noon, Sunday, at the Academy Preparatory School Parade Field.

Activities for children begin 10 a.m. The Egg Scramble begins at 11 a.m. Prizes for children 0-4, 5-8, and 9-12 will be given.

For more information, call 333-6796.

DEA drug-take-back day

Academy personnel are invited to get rid of their expired medication 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 27 at the South Gate Medical Group’s registration center.

The event is part of the Drug Enforcement Agency’s National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day to give customers a chance to properly dispose of unneeded, unused or expired medication.

Academy customers may also drop off unneeded medication at a drop box located in the 10th Medical Group’s pharmacy during normal duty hours on weekdays. For more information, visit www.deadversion.usdoj.gov.

Warrior Games needs your help

Volunteers are needed to assist the U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic committee, with the 2013 Warrior Games, May 11-17, at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and the Air Force Academy.

The Warrior Games are a sport competition for sick and injured service members and veterans. About 250 athletes and a team from the U.K. are expected to participate. The competition supports the rehabilitation of ill and injured service members and veterans.

For more information or to apply, visit http://bit.ly/WExML2.

AFSA meetings at Falcon Club

The Academy chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association meets 3:30 p.m. at the Falcon Club on the third Wednesday of each month.

For more information, call 333-8075.

Library seeks volunteers

The Community Center Library seeks volunteers to read for children. Both adults and children may apply.

Stop by the library to pick up a volunteer form.

Air Force Cycling seeks bikers

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

Initial qualifications include a current passing fitness score for Airman, the ability to lift 50 pounds and a clean driving record.

Cyclists are eligible for permissive temporary duty status.

To apply, or for more information, call 567-4038 or visit www.afcycling.com.

Safe Surf Initiative: Proper Netiquette for Children

The Internet has dramatically enhanced our ability to communicate but it’s also made all of us, particularly our children, vulnerable to criminal activity.

According to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children statistics, approximately one in five children ages 10-17 have been sexually solicited online, so it’s important that we discuss the dangers of the Internet with our children.

To minimize the risk to children while they’re online, encourage them to never trade personal information, especially by photo, address, phone numbers or the name of their school without parental permission.

Should your child receive or send information online that makes them uncomfortable, encourage them to tell you or someone else in a position of authority, such as a teacher.

Children should never respond to any uncomfortable messages or agree to meet anyone they meet online without parents’ knowledge or consent.

Also, keep the computer in a central room so you can monitor your child’s online activity. Parents may decide to use parental controls or software to block access to inappropriate sites.

Depending on your child’s age and maturation, make sure your child regularly checks their email. Given the anonymity of the Internet, email is an easy way for predators to track down victims.

Many websites ask for personal data, online predators often use profiles to find your child, so you can help your children avoid completing these online personal information forms.

Finally, report any inappropriate online activity to your service provider and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 800-843-5678.

For more information, visit www.missingkids.com or contact the Academy Staff Judge Advocate Office at 333-9940.

Falcon Heritage Forum

The Falcon Heritage Forum will be held here April 10-12. The semi-annual, thematic event is designed to link cadets with the wealth of experience and heritage embodied in the nation’s distinguished veterans.

The three-day event allows cadets to engage in discussions with more than 40 veterans who have and continue to live out the core values in service to their country.

The Falcon Heritage Forum includes cadet squadron-hosted dinners and interactive mentoring exercises where each veteran has the opportunity to share experiential learning in a more informal setting.

For more information, call 333-4904.

Air Force Assistance Fund

The 2013 Air Force Assistance Fund is underway through May 3. The campaign raises annual funds for affiliated charities supporting Air Force families, dependents and sur- viving spouses who face emergencies or other forms of financial need.

The Air Force goal is $6.55 million, and the Academy hopes to contribute $78,992.

For more information, visit www.afassistancefund.org.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is May 27. Class will not be held on this date and many on-base services will be closed for the holiday.

Graduation Week

Graduation Week is May 23-May 29 and ends with a graduation ceremony at Falcon Stadium.

For more information, visit www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation.
Academy Spirit
Friday, March 29, 2013

Classifieds

FREE ADS FOR ACTIVE DUTY OR RETIRED AIR FORCE ACADEMY PERSONNEL!

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