Prep school enriches Long Blue line despite shoestring budget

Despite sequestration, Prep School continues to produce qualified cadets

By Ben Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

The Air Force Academy Preparatory School is no stranger to making do with little. That tradition started in a meeting between Gen. William Stone, the Air Force Academy’s third superintendent, and Col. Lee Black, the Prep School’s first commander. During the meeting, Black asked about the Prep School’s budget and whether he could have an outdoor sound system installed to sound Reveille, Retreat and Taps each day.

Stone reportedly answered, “Get a bugle.”

The federal government’s recent budgetary woes have hit the school hard, driving the amount of money spent per Prep School student down 20 percent since 2005, said Prep School Commander Col. Kabrena Rodda. But the Prep School continues to produce cadets who are more likely to graduate than direct-entry cadets with the same academic composite scores, which combine students’ high school class rank, GPA and college admissions test scores.

Data provided by the Prep School compares cadet candidates’ graduation rate with direct-entry cadets’ graduation rate between 2006 and 2012. Cadet candidates whose academic composites ranged from 2,500 to 2,699 — less than 7 percent of the cadet candidates sampled — graduated at a lower rate than their direct-entry counterparts. Among the remaining 93 percent of cadet candidates, graduation rates varied from roughly 70 percent to nearly 90 percent.

What’s more, without the Prep School, many of the students who go on to excel at the Academy would never have the chance, Rodda said.

“Last year, we had a young man whose mother was on drugs and whose dad was involved in crime,” the colonel recalled. “He voluntarily became homeless so he could make something of himself and meantime was the president of the robotics club at his school and was pulling a 3.6 GPA. There’s a young lady who was the top female graduate from the Navajo nation last year. I hear over and over again, when I talk to Prep School graduates, that the year at the Prep School was the best year they experienced their whole time at the Academy.”

— Prep School Commander Col. Kabrena Rodda
In the near future, the Defense Department will release an annual report on sexual harassment and violence in the military service academies. The Air Force’s Academy will use this feedback to continue to refine and improve our processes regarding sexual harassment and assault, to include prevention, investigation, accountability, and victim assistance and advocacy.

We are absolutely committed to preventing and deterring sexual assault in our ranks and in prosecuting those who commit this crime. Sexual assault is a crime that is contradictory to our core values. Its impact is incredibly damaging to our family of Airmen, civilian Airmen and cadets, and it greatly detracts from our ability to perform our core mission: producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our nation.

In my view, prevention is the first line of effort to eliminate sexual assault. Prevention begins with each and every one of our team members working to foster a culture of mutual respect and trust and maintaining a climate of dignity and respect. Our ability to do this rests upon our commitment to see all those who work with, study with, and live with as people with their own hopes, dreams and boundaries.

When we respect others as people, we value their objectives, their hopes, and honor their boundaries as much as we do our own. And seeing others this way, we could never use them for our own selfish purposes. Every act of sexual assault is a trampling of human dignity. People who do it, and those who let it be done, are violating the most foundational obligation we have one to another—the obligation to see each other as fellow human beings who have the same value as our own.

More importantly, we must watch out for one another and be the type of Wingmen who intervene in situations which can lead to sexual assault. This harkens to our obligation to live honorably and not to tolerate anything less from others. We must hold each other accountable. We all must also focus on our professional values and make the individual commitment to create and reinforce an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated, condoned or ignored.

Our truly outstanding SARC team, steered by our Vice Commandant for Culture and Climate, Col. Stella Renner and our SARC Coordinator, Teresa Beasley, continues to guide us in this effort. Additionally, the Commandant of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, has led us as we employ a renewed focus on leadership development and commitment to our high standards.

In our efforts to better support victims, we continue to improve upon the Cadet Bystanding Intervention Training and have added a team of Special Victims Counsel attorneys. SVC attorneys have an attorney-client relationship with victims, something prosecuting attorneys do not have. SVC attorneys advocate for the protection of their clients’ rights in the military justice system, advise them on the impact of the military justice process, and empower their clients by removing barriers to their full participation in the military justice process. The SVC program creates an opportunity for victims to be heard, to be held accountable and to take advantage of their rights, and enhance the military justice system while neither causing unreasonable delay, nor infringing upon the rights of the accused.

We will hold ourselves and our cadets accountable for misuse of alcohol, unacceptable dormitory behavior, and failure to commit to, and comply with, standards to help mitigate some of the high risk circumstances that are often connected to sexual assault. We will reverse the interdependence of our disciplinary system with incentives for this commitment to do the right thing.

We continue to reach out to cadets through SAPR training and programs like our Sexual Assault Awareness Month. But this is not just about cadets, this affects all of us on Team USAFA—Airmen, civilian Airmen, cadets and cadet candidates. There is still more work to do.

Prevention does not originate from compute-r-based training, sitting through a lecture or participating in Sexual Assault Awareness Month events. It happens when we all work to nurture a culture of mutual respect and trust. It is incumbent on all Team USAFA members to do their part in building and sustaining a climate of dignity where sexual assault is not tolerated, condoned, or ignored. And, it happens through holding each other accountable for our behavior and actions.

It is our collective responsibility to do all we can to prevent sexual assault before it happens. I’m asking you not merely to act differently, but I’m asking you to see and regard others differently. When a member of our team is vulnerable, we all have an obligation to make sure that teammate finds safety rather than predation. We all need to be on the lookout for unacceptable and risky behaviors and stop sexual assault before it has the chance to happen. In short, we need to be the type of Wingmen that intervene in situations which can lead to sexual assault. We all must work together to be the first line of defense.

I challenge all members of Team USAFA to ensure we take care of each other and to use the results of this report and any recommendations it may contain to help us to refine and improve our processes for preventing sexual harassment and assault.
Thunderbirds return for ‘14 graduation

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds released their 2014 demonstration schedule Monday and it includes a graduation flyover for the Academy’s Class of 2014.

“Community and public outreach is a crucial Departmental activity that reinforces trust and confidence in the U.S. Military and in its most important asset — people,” Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel wrote in an October memo to the military service chiefs. “It is our obligation to sustain that trust well into the future.

Due to the ongoing government sequestration, the Class of 2013 was not treated to a flyover.

“This is great news for the Academy, our soon-to-be graduates, and the thousands of family members and loved ones attending the ceremony in support of their graduates,” said Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson. “After an amazing WWII heritage flyover last May, we resume the traditional sendoff of our Academy cadets celebrate at a graduation ceremony at Falcon Stadium as the Air Force Thunderbirds fly overhead. The Thunderbirds just announced their 2014 flying schedule, which includes a 2014 graduation flyover.

A Thunderbirds’ aerial demonstration consists of about 40 maneuvers, varying between formation flying and solo routines. A typical air show travel season extends from March to November. For more information, visit www.afthunderbirds.com.

DOD orders disability board review

By Janis El Shabazz
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) — Some Airmen who met a medical or physical disability evaluation board between Sept. 11, 2001 and April 30, 2012, prior to separating from the Air Force, may be eligible for re-evaluation, Air Force Personnel Center officials said last week.

When Defense Department officials learned some diagnoses had been changed during board processing between 2001 and 2012, the secretary of defense called for a department-wide review of mental health diagnoses for Airmen who met evaluation boards between the affected dates.

The Air Force review identified 250 eligible Airmen whose mental health diagnoses changed during the disability evaluation process. A mass mail-out effort to ensure those Airmen were aware of the opportunity to be re-evaluated elicited 31 responses.

To ensure all eligible Airmen receive and respond to the notification letter, the under secretary of defense has requested a second mailing by Dec. 31, with a required media engagement to precede the mail-out.

Airmen who have received a notification letter are encouraged to respond.

For information concerning the DOD Physical Disability Board of Review, visit www.health.mil/pdbr or email pdbrpa@afncr.af.mil.
When Lt. Col. Howard Gentry deployed to Afghanistan in May 2012, he knew he’d be stepping out of his comfort zone — living and working in a different country, absorbing its culture, learning a new language, and working for the next 12 months, watching his one-year-old daughter grow up and say her first sentences via Skype.

Gentry, a 1992 Air Force Academy graduate and region director in Admissions here, volunteered for the deployment during which he served as deputy group commander for the 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Wing in Kabul, Afghanistan, teamed with five NATO countries, took care of 341 coalition troops and advised Afghan Airmen.

He knew there would be pressure. He knew he’d miss his family — but he chose to deploy for the first time in his career because he believes in the Air Force mission and wanted to make a difference.

“I jumped into the unknown, learning how to deal with a different group of people who didn’t look like me and didn’t necessarily think like me,” Gentry said. “I learned how to use an interpreter. I learned Dari (a Persian language spoken in Afghanistan) and the biggest thing I took away was being able to make a decision, even if it’s not the best or most popular one. As a leader, it’s important to make a decision and follow through on it.”

Keeping his fellow service member’s morale and motivation up was an everyday challenge down range, Gentry said. “They missed their families,” he said. “I was regularly making sure they were being taken care of, especially around the holidays. They were working long hours, seven days a week. Some would head back to their room after a 12-hour day, make a phone call home and not like what they heard and have a bad day. We’d check on them two- to three-times a day to make sure they were really good.”

Gentry said he helped revamp the relationship between the operations and maintenance squadrons in Kabul.

“When I arrived, the operations crew seemed to do whatever they wanted and the maintenance crew didn’t want to do anything,” he said. “That doesn’t work — they had to work together. We scheduled daily meetings for the crews, and they began sharing more information and reaping the benefits from it. They began working closely together and it improved their system.”

A year prior to Gentry’s deployment, eight U.S. Air Force airmen and a U.S. contractor from the 438th AEW were tragically killed in Kabul during a random attack, leaving the operations center at a standstill.

“There was no standing for nine months,” he said. “We were there every day, determined to bring it back up. We restored the system so if Air Force headquarters said ‘I need a mission done,’ operations would be informed and maintained so the aircraft ready. It wasn’t perfect when I left but it was in much better shape.

Even the Afghans could see the difference the team made, Gentry said.

“They realized they could launch more aircraft, complete more missions and do things more efficiently,” he said. “We weren’t scrambling every day to make things happen because we’d planned things out and knew what was going to happen.”

Gentry said his six-week training at Advisory School was beneficial before deploying. “It allowed me to get a realistic feel for what my first deployment would be like,” he said. “Most of the apprehension I had was that I’d be embedded in another culture and responsible for advising Afghans on how their Air Force should work. I had questions like, ‘How do I do that? How does that work? How are they going to perceive me? Air Advisory training helped answer most of them.’

Military families need support while their loved ones are deployed, Gentry said. “It’s not only difficult for the service member who goes away, but also for their family left behind,” he said. “Deployed Airmen have camaraderie with the people they’re overseas with. It’s just as vital that their family members are supported.”

A triumph for the team included getting Afghan Airmen to plow their own airfield, Gentry said. “The year prior we did all the snow plowing but we didn’t have the manpower, we weren’t equipped and able to do that again,” he said. “We held meetings and trained them on the procedure. The fact that we didn’t have to do any snow plowing that winter, transitioning the entire program over to them, made me really happy. Something that simple was a big achievement.”

Gentry was presented with an Air Medal Nov. 20 by Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson for his deployment service, training Afghan pilots on the Mi-17 Russian Helicopter.

“I’ve been a helicopter pilot throughout my 22 years in the Air Force,” Gentry said. “We learned how to fly the Russian helicopters and had 17 in the wing in Kabul. We taught pilots fresh out of flight school, basic flying skills and advanced training for some of their senior pilots. Gentry was also presented the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious achievements.

“It was a team effort,” he said. “We were there helping each other and working together. Things were accomplished because of our bond and efforts.”

Without any hesitation, Gentry said he’d volunteer for another deployment.

“The work is challenging but it’s rewarding,” he said. “There were days you thought you weren’t making any progress and then something would happen and you’d jump 20 steps forward. There were also days you’d take 10 steps back but you could still see the progress over time.”

Lt. Col. Chad Clementz, Academy Liaison Officer and Outreach Division Chief and Gentry’s supervisor here, said Gentry quickly adapted to the Academy environment after his deployment. He said Gentry stepped into a dynamic leadership role that demands focus and creativity, leading three Academy company grade officer candidates and more than 250 Admissions Liaison Officers throughout the Southwest region.

“The result of his leadership has led to a more focused and precise outreach program which has significantly improved the exposure of the Academy to areas previously untargeted by the institution,” Clementz said. “His charisma and passion for developing the future officer corps has made waves throughout the organization and has inspired others to not be afraid of changing the way we do business, in an effort to tackle our workload more efficiently.”
Look for red flags to avoid scams

By Don Branum, Academy Spirit staff writer

If you’re looking to hook someone with a phishing scam, you have to be nefarious, one of a dozen cadets in the U.S. Air Force Academy’s cyber operations course explained not too long ago. But if you’re looking to avoid becoming a victim, all you have to do is keep an eye out for things that don’t look right.

Cadets in the cyberwarfare fundamentals course, aka Computer Science 438, study both offensive and defensive techniques. Much of the course emphasizes theory, but cadets also get to practice application in a controlled environment, said Maj. Michael Chiaramonte, who directs the course.

“We had a section of the course devoted to social engineering this year, and the cadets had a spear phishing lab,” Chiaramonte said. “It was a good, eye-opening exercise.”

In a spear phishing attack, a perpetrator searches his target and crafts a message that’s likely to get the recipient to click a link to a website. That site, in turn, may carry a virus designed to infect the target’s computer system, exposing the user to additional vulnerabilities. Often the originator’s email address is forged; in spear phishing attacks, the sender’s email address may be forged to resemble someone the victim knows.

“The premise was using information available to anyone to fool someone into trusting you,” said Cadet 1st Class Jared Peterson, a computer science major in Cadet Squadron 12. “We searched the ‘Net for any and all information — anything that could be useful. Once we had that, we worked on crafting an email to hopefully fool the target. We might pose as a high school coach or a company they’d be familiar with from back home.”

The cadets’ emails had no malicious payloads; just a “gotcha” letting the cadet who crafted the email know that he or she had succeeded.

“You had to be very nefarious,” Peterson said. “You had to look at everything that could possibly make them trust that email, find anyone on their contact list who would be more trustworthy. Who do I need to become?”

Fortunately, Airmen can defend against spear phishing attacks by double checking anything that seems out of the ordinary, Peterson said.

“The email may not ‘sound’ genuine,” he said. “Find a way to contact the person and ask, is this email genuine?” And while a digital signature on an email isn’t a 100-percent guarantee of authenticity, a non-digitally signed email coming from a military email address is a potential red flag.

“While extremely preventable, a well-crafted spear phishing email can fool even the best of us,” he said. “It’s important to be vigilant even with something that may be digitally signed. It’s all about finding discrepancies, anything that doesn’t seem quite normal. 
On finals and the holidays:

Cadets talk about staying motivated at the end of the semester

By Amber Baillie
Photos by Carol Lawrence

“I’m looking forward to having two weeks off in Florida with my family. My goal is to achieve a 3.5 GPA this semester, which has (also) kept me motivated to do well on my exams. I think the key is to study throughout the week and not cram everything in last minute. The library is a great place to study because it’s quiet and there’s room to spread out your books and notes.”

Finals: Chemistry and Math

— Cadet 4th Class Patrick Mayo

“I’ve stayed motivated by aiming for a good GPA this semester and working hard to earn my time off. I’m looking forward to spending time with family and enjoying my mom’s homecooked meals. The library has been a good place to study, as well as the study room in my squadron when the weather is bad and I don’t want to walk across the terrazzo.”

Finals: Electrical Engineering, Chinese and Management

— Cadet 2nd Class Crystal Staszak

“I’m looking forward to spending Christmas with my fiancé and family in Louisiana. During break, I’ll be planning for my wedding July 19. During finals week I think it’s important to prioritize for each class, take study breaks, review your notes and create flash cards. Figuring out my primary focus for each class has helped me with studying.”

Finals: Electrical Engineering, Statistics and Geopolitics

— Cadet 1st Class Nick Young

“I’ll be spending Christmas break with my family in the Bahamas. I haven’t seen my parents since Parents Weekend and haven’t been home to California since February. My strategy for finals week is to get good rest and break up my study schedule. Having a disciplined sleep schedule is underrated here. I make sure to go to bed by 10 p.m. every night so I’m able to focus on my classes the next day and manage my time well.”

Finals: Calculus, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Japanese

— Cadet 4th Class Brandon Bylina

“I’m looking forward to spending Christmas in Georgia and hanging out with my dogs. I’ve been studying for finals primarily in my room because I’m the only one living there. My best advice to cadets during finals is to stay focused, prepare the best you can for your exams but don’t stress. All you can do is try your best.”

Finals: Chinese, Statistics, Econometrics and Aeronautical Engineering

— Cadet 2nd Class Leah Smith

“It’ll be the first holiday my brother will be home since being stationed in Hawaii. It’ll be nice to have the entire family together. I’m also looking forward to attending a military ball with my boyfriend. Neuropsychology will probably be my hardest final. I’ve found the class very interesting because it focuses on structures within the brain and how they relate to the human experience. I like studying near the coffee shop and café in Fairchild Hall because the background noise increases my productivity.”

Finals: Political Science, Astronautics and Neuropsychology

— Cadet 1st Class Danielle Danish

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10th Security Forces Squadron

Traffic Responses
- Nine minor vehicle accidents
- Six responses on Interstate-25
- Three in-flight emergencies
- Two medical emergencies
- One response to a report of a fire
- Nine minor vehicle accidents
- One report of shoplifting
- Six responses on Interstate-25
- Nine minor vehicle accidents

Traffic Citations
- None

Final Thoughts
- Safety is a year-round concern but it’s more of a topic of concern during winter months that bring snow and icy road conditions.

Non-Emergency Responses
- One response to a report of damage to private property
- One response to damage to government property
- One vehicle repossession

Traffic Citations
- Citations were issued for 47 moving and four non-moving violations.

Tip of the Month: Plan your trip

Sudoku

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? You’ll love Sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you start off, so sharpen your pencil and put your su- doku 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 puzzle, numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the process of elimination, which is already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Academy Spirit Friday, December 13, 2013

News Briefs
Airman missing from Vietnam war accounted for

The Defense Department POW/Missing Personnel Office announced Dec. 9 that the remains of an Airman, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Col. Francis J. McGouldrick Jr. of New Haven, Conn., will be buried today at Arlington National Cemetery.

Dec. 13, 1968, McGouldrick was on a night strike mission when his B-57E Canberra aircraft collided with another aircraft over Savannakhet Province, Laos.

McGouldrick was never seen again and was listed as missing in action.

VA warns of marketing scam

The Veterans Affairs Department recently posted an alert on its FaceBook page warning of a market- ing scam targeting veterans.

A marketing company has purchased telephone numbers differing by one digit from the VA’s national call center and the GI Bill call center. Callers who misjudged and reach the fraudulent numbers are offered a gift card in exchange for personal and financial information.

SUDOKU SOLUTION FOR DECEMBER 13, 2013

Functioning as a bent puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you start the puzzle, so sharpen your pencil and put your Sudoku savvy to the test!

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In the spirit of the holidays

The U.S. Air Force Academy celebrates the holiday season with a variety of ongoing events, including recent performances by the Catholic Cadet Choir, the a capella group “In the Stairwell,” the Cadet Orchestra and the Jazz Staff. Academy families were also treated to a Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting.

For future U.S. Air Force Academy Band performances, see page 15 in this week’s Academy Spirit.

Catholic Cadet Choir and Cadet Orchestra

**ABOVE:** The Catholic Cadet Choir and Cadet Orchestra perform their annual Christmas Concert at the Cadet Chapel Dec. 8. The event also featured performances by “In the Stairwell,” the Academy cadet a capella group, and the “Jazz Staff,” a quartet featuring three retired Air Force musicians and one retired Air Force chaplain.

The Messiah

**BELOW:** The Catholic Cadet Choir performs George Frideric Handel’s “The Messiah” at the Cadet Chapel in front of a full house Friday at the Cadet Chapel.

A Visit with Santa

**ABOVE:** Sonia Budhu, daughter of 10th Air Base Wing Chaplain administrator Leena Budhu, tells Santa what she would like for Christmas after the U.S. Air Force Academy Christmas Tree and Hanukkah Menorah Lighting Ceremony at the Community Center Chapel Dec. 5. Attendees were also treated to a performance by base children and food.

Menorah Lighting

**LEFT:** Chaplain (Capt.) Sara Scheckler (right), an Academy chaplain, sings a traditional Hanukkah song while cadets assist with lighting the Menorah during the U.S. Air Force Academy Christmas Tree and Hanukkah Menorah Lighting Ceremony at the Community Center Chapel Dec. 5.

In the Stairwell

**ABOVE:** “In the Stairwell” performs at the Academy’s annual Christmas concert at the Cadet Chapel Dec. 8. The group sang “O Holy Night” and “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”
WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The Air Force will reduce the size of its civilian workforce by about 900 positions in addition to maintaining approximately 7,000 vacancies across the force to meet mandatory furloughs due to the constrained fiscal 2014 budget, officials announced. Specific reductions by location have not been determined.

The Air Force will implement civilian workforce shaping initiatives, along with continued targeted hiring to comply with mandatory funding targets and to rebalance the civilian workforce to meet skill demands for 2014 and beyond.

The Defense Department used administrative furloughs to meet civilian pay budget demands in the compressed time frame between sequestration and the end of the FY 13. They will meet a similar budgetary challenge in Fiscal Year 2014 through a reduced workforce,” said Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso, the director of force management policy for the Air Force. The general said the service’s strategy to meet civilian pay budget targets does not include a furlough.

To reduce the number of employees assigned against previously and newly abolished positions, the Air Force plans to maximize the use of Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay to entice employees who are eligible to leave federal service to do so voluntarily. These programs offer early retirement for employees who are considering life outside of federal service and up to $25,000 for employees whose voluntary separation would save another employee from being involuntarily separated.

“Over the last couple of years the Air Force has gone through significant civilian pay budget challenges,” Grosso said. “By implementing voluntary programs now we hope to mitigate future involuntary losses to the civilian workforce.”
Josh Martinez named WWC Wrestler of the Week

By Melissa McKeown
Athletic Communications

Air Force sophomore Josh Martinez has been named the Western Wrestling Conference wrestler of the week, the league Tuesday.

This marks the first conference honor of the season for a Falcon, and the second in Martinez’s career.

Martinez, a native of Colorado Springs, led the Falcons’ contingent at the prestigious Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational, placing third at 125 pounds for the second-straight season.

He entered the tournament seeded fifth and ranked eighth nationally and posted a 7-1 record on the weekend, with four major decisions and three decisions.

Among Martinez’s victories were three wins against nationally-ranked opponents, including a 14-1 major decision over 10th-ranked Tim Lambert of Nebraska, a 10-7 decision over Northern Iowa’s seventh-ranked Dylan Peters and a 4-1 decision over No. 20 David Terao of American in the third-place match.

With his performance at the CKLV Invitational, Martinez moves to 13-1 on the season and is currently ranked sixth in the nation by InterMat.

Along with earning WWC Wrestler of the Week accolades, Martinez also shared Air Force Athlete of the Week honors for his performance.

Air Force sophomore Josh Martinez (right) wrestles in a match against Stanford Tuesday at the Academy.

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- Weekly site visits to successful companies and panels with prominent speakers

Room to grow.
Athletic communications

Marek Oleinski scored 16 points and Justin Hammonds posted his first career double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead five Falcons in double figures as Air Force defeated Western State 94-53, Monday night at Clune Arena.

The Falcons used a 20-5 run early in the second half to race to a 66-33 lead with 9:11 remaining. Air Force pushed the lead to as many as 44 points in the final minutes while cruising to its largest victory margin of the season. Air Force shot 55.9 percent from the field, including 41.9 percent from three-point range as the Falcons took control of the game for good. Western State never got closer than 15 points after halftime.

Air Force junior kicker Michael Husar, Jr. earned the silver and bronze medals in the men's open championships with a total of 1,810.6 points. His match scores were 609.9, 608.2 and 612.1, tallying 1,830.2 points. He finished in sixth place.

Conant, Husar, Jr. earn all-conference honors

By Athletic Communications

Air Force junior kicker Will Conant and junior offensive lineman Michael Husar, Jr., were each named honorable mention all-conference, according to an announcement Tuesday by the Mountain West Conference.

Conant hit 32-of-33 PATs and 11-of-13 field goal attempts this season. He ranked third in the conference in field goal percentage with an 84.6 mark. His 84.6 field goal percentage mark is the highest in school history and best since Joey Ashcroft hit 88.8 percent (16-18) in 2002. Conant is one of two kickers in Air Force history to hit three times from 50-plus yards in a season. He hit three 52-yard kicks this season (Colgate, San Diego State, New Mexico), matching Ryan Harrison's three 50-plus field goals in 2007. Conant's three 50-plus field goals this season already ranks him third in school history in career 50-yard field goals.

Michael Husar, Jr., returned from a season-ending knee injury last year to anchor the offensive line this season. He led the team in knockdown blocks with 70 - the first center in the Calhoun era (2007-present) to do so. Husar Jr. worked with four different starting quarterbacks this season and helped lead an offensive line that had allowed just nine quarterback sacks which is second in the MW and seventh in the nation.

Falcon Basketball player Curtis Neely drives through a block by a Western State player in Clune Arena Monday night. Air Force beat Western State 94-53.
Prep School

From Page 1

She’s very, very smart, very resilient, but the school she went to, the coursework that she had available, was not sufficient for her to be successful on the hill, so she was a great candidate for here.”

“A lot of these students are first-generation. They are changing their family trees by coming here,” Rodda added. “For some of them, this is maybe the first experience of a constructive family environment that they have. I hear over and over again, when I talk to Prep School graduates, that the year at the Prep School was the best year they experienced their whole time at the Academy, and not just in terms of the amount of fun they had but in the relationships they developed and the bonds that they formed. When they start to experience difficult times (at the Academy), they’ve already got a support network up there.”

The regimen

The Prep School's curriculum, like the Academy's, encompasses academic, military and athletic coursework. Rodda explained. Each cadet candidate takes math, science and English courses during their 10 months at the school. Each course is offered in multiple tracks to accommodate students’ diversity of academic needs. Cadet candidates who score highly on placement tests may also take higher-level courses in calculus in the Prep School's second semester.

The Prep School's military training program teaches cadet candidates to comport themselves as Airmen, Rodda said. During basic training, they learn how to wear a uniform and how to observe customs and courtesies.

“Our military training is carefully calibrated because we don’t want to repeat the fourth-class experience... up in the hanger,” Rodda said. “Throughout the year, the focus is on cementing those customs and courtesies and also motivating them toward a career in our Air Force and continuing on toward the Air Force Academy.”

That process also includes the Honor Code — “We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.” Because the Prep School doesn’t have upperclassmen, the school’s staff enforces the Honor Code. Cadet candidates make their own Honor Board at the Academy in those cases that are open to cadets. Rodda said.

Instructors also teach classes on the Honor Code’s individual facets, pairing each piece with a corresponding virtue, Rodda said.

“Not only do we want not want you to lie, but we want you to be true to your word and live with integrity,” she said.

“Not only do we want you to not cheat, but we want you to learn to help others. It’s trying to inculcate not just the bare minimum standards but the ideal to shoot for. It’s not a ‘Don’t do this,’ it’s a ‘Hey, please do this.’ ”

Faculty and AMTs don’t stop at classroom education, however.

“If you tell somebody, ‘Put your math book away, now pull your honor book out,’ that communicates that you can compartmentalize,” she said.

“Initially, you capitalize on teachable moments as they happen, it’s more effective.”

The Prep School conducts a military training weekend once a quarter, Rodda said. Sometimes that includes open-ranks inspections, but it can also include more fun events.

One weekend last year included a military working dog demonstration; other past events have resembled field days.

The Prep School’s athletic training consists of recruiting cadet candidates for the Academy’s rigorous aerobic and physical fitness tests. Rodda said candidates must retake the test until they score a 250 or higher on both tests. Cadet candidates who score below 200 on either test are placed in a reconditioning course.

“One time they pass, they have an opportunity to do self-paced workouts,” Rodda said, “but we also have a number of clubs they’ve initiated.

For example, for the second year in a row, we have a cross-country running club. One of the young ladies and a few of the men in the class competed in the Falcon 50 (a 50-mile race).

On the academic side, it’s more about preparing them for a lifetime of fitness. And then on top of that, the recruited athletes have team practices in the cadet candidates, that sort of thing,” she said.

The wide scope of training prepares Prep School graduates to succeed, Benysekhe said.

“The Prep School helped to fill in my academic gaps and got me to a level where I could succeed at the Academy,” said Benysekhe, who was field trainers, were initially exempted for safety reasons.

“There were times when the military staff who were left to keep the mission running came up to the front office just to see another person and interact with somebody,” she said. “We had two science instructors, three math instructors and four English instructors to teach six sections of six courses.

The Prep School is a great investment for the Air Force Academy for those who might otherwise not have a shot. The Prep School exists gives an awful lot of opportunity for those who would otherwise not have a shot at the Academy, and that success rate for Prep School graduates compared to their direct-entry counterparts is why I say it’s a great investment.”

Academy Spirit

FRIDAY, December 13, 2013

LIZ COPAN

An Academy military trainer (right) encourages a Prep School cadet to move along during Prep School inprocessing this summer. Each cadet candidate takes math, science and English courses during their 10 months at the school.

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Cadets brief FalconSat progress to stakeholders

Cadets in their senior capstone engineering program briefed Academy leaders on the progress of the FalconSAT-6 and FalconSAT-7 spacecraft as well as ongoing operations involving FalconSAT-3 Thursday.

The event, hosted by the Astronautical Engineering Department and Physics Department, served as the Fall 2013 End-of-Semester Review for the program. Students highlighted the program progress for Academy faculty and staff as well as representatives from sponsoring organizations including the Air Force Research Lab, the Space Test Program, U.S. Air Force Space Command, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and several supporting commercial space companies providing payloads, subsystems and other support operations.

One recent highlight of the FalconSAT-6 program was the completion of a major testing milestone Nov. 14 at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. where the FalconSat-6 was proven to be able to withstand vibrations that occur during a launch.

FalconSat-3 is currently in operation six years after launch and FalconSAT-6 and FalconSat-7 satellites are scheduled for launch on the STP-2 mission aboard a Falcon Heavy launch. After the briefing, the guests were treated to lunch in the Space Systems Research Center and a tour of the facility.

Members of the FalconSAT-6 program pose for a group photograph. The Academy’s Astronautical Engineering Department and Physics Department hosted the Fall 2013 End-of-Semester Review Thursday to brief progress on the program’s spacecraft to Academy staff and faculty.

2013 Annual Safety Award winners announced

By Senior Airman Veronica Ward

Academy Public Affairs

Four Academy safety awards winners were recognized for their achievements by Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson Wednesday. The Academy’s Annual Safety Awards recognize individuals, units and groups for their contributions to the installation’s safety program.

The Unit Safety Representative of the Year Award was given to Master Sgt. Chad Bruce, applied mechanics lab superintendent, for excelling as the industrial safety manager, leading an eight-member cadet team to first place in a competition against other engineering schools and for guiding self-inspections and 550 core compliance items.

Martin Johnson, a Dean of Faculty electronics engineer, was named Safety Individual of the Year for his development of a training program for laser, lab, and classroom laser safety procedures, among his other accomplishments.

The 10th Security Forces Squadron, represented by Maj. Jose Lebron, was named Safety Unit of the Year for providing protective services to the Academy’s 11,900 residents and more than 1.8 million annual visitors, among other criteria.

The Safety Team of the Year Award was given to the Cadet Wing Training division, which led the first cadet security graduation detail and contributed to the Academy’s lowest Basic Cadet Training attrition rate in its history.

Reach 8,000 Diners Every Friday!

Call Marie at 719-476-4818 for Details
Commissary holiday hours
- Dec. 23: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Dec. 25: Closed
- Dec. 26: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Jan. 1: Closed

Cadet Chapel Holiday hours
- Daily and Sunday Catholic Mass - Today: Dec. 22
- Christmas Vigil Mass: Dec. 24
Call 333-2633 for more information.

Community Center Chapel Events
- Third Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass: Saturday, 4 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m.
- Fourth Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass: Dec. 21, 4 p.m. and Dec. 22, 9 a.m.
- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
- Protestant Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Caroling, 4 p.m.
- Vigil of the Holy Family Mass: Dec. 28, 4 p.m.
- Holy Family Mass: Dec. 29, 9 a.m.
- Vigil of Mary, Mother of God Mass: Dec. 31, 4 p.m.
- Call 333-3300 for more information.

Cadet Area utility installation
Beginning Monday, Colorado Springs Utilities will install a new electrical distribution system in the Cadet Area.

The 10th Air Base Wing needs volunteers to chair special ethnic observances including:
- Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday
- Feb.: African-American/Black History Month
- March: Women’s History Month
- April 24-May 4: Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance
- May: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- June: Pride Month
- Aug. 15-Sept. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
- Aug. 26: Women’s Equality Day

Behavior Health
The Behavioral Health Optimization Program will offer a stress management class Monday, 1 p.m.

The class will provide an overview of the top-

ic, recommended management strategies and time for self-assessment and goal-setting.
Call 333-5526 for more information.

Observe volunteers needed
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I-25 expansion progress
Expansion roadway on Interstate 25 is still ongoing. Academy commuters are asked to allow extra driving time and slow down in construction zones.

Workers expect to complete construction of an additional lane in each direction by Dec. 31.
Call 247-8339 or visit www.southi25expansion.com for more information.

The I-25 Expansion Project is an 11-mile project in northern El Paso County adding one lane in each direction of I-25 between Woodmen Road and State Highway 105 in Monument to improve mobility and safety of traffic.