Classesmate of Cadet 3rd Class Hailey Lane have rallied together to support her as she recovers from a heart attack she suffered March 23.

Squadron patches, T-shirts, letters and a video featuring the entire Cadet Wing are just a few of the ways cadets here have shown their support, said Cadet 1st Class Taylor Bye, the cadet commander for Cadet Squadron 05.

Bye said she got a phone call on the 23rd from the squadron air officer commanding, Capt. Kathryn Jannazo, notifying her of Lane’s status. She notified some of the cadets in the squadron who would be affected.

“Ten people came by my room that day asking if there was something they could do,” she said.

Word started to spread, especially once cadets returned from spring break. Along with the word came support.

“I got emails from other cadet squadron commanders asking if there was anything they could do to support Hailey,” Bye said.

“It brought tears to my eyes. She’s a stranger to most of them.”

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations is conducting an ongoing death investigation, not a criminal investigation, and has not released any details regarding a cause of death.

Quiros, of Colorado Springs, was an astronautical engineering major and made the Dean’s List and Commandant’s List multiple times, most recently during the fall semester. He was scheduled to graduate in May, with graduate studies to follow at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.

Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, the Academy’s superintendent, ordered all installation flags to fly at half-staff Wednesday in Quiros’ honor.

“Our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of Cadet Quiros. We lost a member of our Air Force Academy family, and it’s a loss felt across our entire institution,” Johnson said. “Right now, our focus is on providing all possible support to the friends and loved ones of our fallen Airman.”

By Don Branum
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force and Cadet Honor Guards take part in the funeral service for Cadet 1st Class Alexandre Quiros Wednesday at the Cadet Chapel.

The funeral service for Air Force Academy Cadet 1st Class Alexandre Quiros took place at the Cadet Chapel here Wednesday. By request of the Quiros family, the service was not open to the public or media.

Quiros, 21, was assigned to Cadet Squadron 31 and several of his squadron mates spoke at the service about the cadet’s love for his family and the Air Force. Cadets also held a “Taps” vigil Tuesday night to honor Quiros who died here April 2. He was found with injuries in his dormitory and pronounced dead here at 3:43 p.m. by the El Paso County Coroner.

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Sexual assault: Moving beyond awareness

By Gen. Larry Spencer
Air Force vice chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Every April since 2001, the nation has focused its attention on sexual assault awareness and the impact this crime has on those who have experienced it. This year, the Defense Department deliberately renamed the annual effort Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. I want to take this opportunity to share with you how the Air Force is focusing on prevention of this crime — stopping it before it takes place.

This year, we kicked off the new year with a week-long prevention summit that brought together experts in the sexual assault prevention field with Airmen from across the force — active, Guard, Reserve, civilian, officer and enlisted. Our goals were to better understand sexual assault and determine how to put prevention into action in the Air Force.

So, what did we learn? Most importantly, we learned that sexual assault can be prevented. Effective sexual assault prevention strategies focus on preventing recidivism because that is the only guaranteed way to stop the violence. Raising awareness about sexual assault is an important first step toward prevention; but awareness alone will not create the individual or societal changes needed to stop sexual assault.

Based on decades of prevention science, we know prevention of sexual assault involves addressing factors that put individuals at risk for perpetrating sexual assault. Some prevention approaches teach skills to change attitudes or behaviors associated with assault. Other approaches equip bystanders with the skills to spot and intervene in high-risk situations or to speak out against language and practices that create a culture which tolerates or promotes sexual assault.

Strategies that simply raise awareness foster understanding of sexual assault without providing tools to take action. Tools for changing behaviors, relationships and our culture, are key to making every Airman a change agent and to creating a force free from assault.

The prevention summit culminated with Airmen’s recommendations to prevent sexual assault. We are working hard to build programs across the Air Force based on these recommendations. In the meantime, I challenge every Airman to move beyond mere awareness and equip yourselves, your co-workers, your subordinates, and everyone in your sphere of influence, with the tools we all need to prevent sexual assault.

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WASHINGTON (AFNS) — A U.S. reemphasis on the Asia-Pacific region makes sense regionally and globally, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said during a Monday stop at Arizona State University.

Carter spoke at the John McCain Institute in Tempe, Ariz., on the first leg of a trip scheduled to take the secretary to Japan, South Korea and Hawaii.

The secretary’s speech pushed for quick passage of the Trade Promotion Authority for President Barack Obama, “so that he can ensure America gets the best deal in a historic new trade agreement with 11 other Asia-Pacific countries: the Trans-Pacific Partnership.”

Carter stressed while the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region has a military component, it is a whole-of-government approach. Since World War II, the U.S. has underwritten security in the region, allowing nations Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and China to develop.

Decades-old Alliances

Carter said the U.S. will continue engaging with nations in the Asia-Pacific region, and his visit to Japan and South Korea highlight the importance of America’s decades-old alliances with those nations.

The U.S. is doing more, he said, with the newest and most capable weapons systems going first to the region, and 60 percent of the U.S. fleet moving to the Pacific-Indian Ocean. Marines have a presence in Australia, and U.S. and Filipino authorities are working to strengthen military-to-military cooperation. Carter said more than half the Earth’s population will live in the region by 2050; over the next 15 years, there will be rapid middle-class growth across the Asia-Pacific, to the point that it will make up 60 percent of global middle-class consumption.

Democracies Increase in Asia-Pacific Region

The U.S. presence has helped shape the region, Carter said, noting the increase in the number of democracies in the region.

“Following our lead, countries across the Asia-Pacific have embraced free and open commerce, fidelity to the rule of law and a rules-based international order,” he said. “U.S. strengths in security, economy and diplomacy “are multiplied by America’s unrivaled network of allies and partners, nations both in the region and around the world who seek our friendship, not because of our power alone or through coercion, but because of the gravitational pull of our ideals, values, and goodwill. These ties, tended to with careful diplomacy, are what make America’s global strength so unique throughout history and today.”

The secretary wants to expand the reach of these alliances and for America’s allies in the Asia-Pacific region to do more together.

Carter said the U.S. is working with Japan and South Korea to build an information-sharing arrangement and with Australia and Japan to strengthen maritime security.

“...and China’s Influence in the Asia-Pacific Region

Many observers are concerned about the scope of China’s military modernization efforts, its cyberpower actions and its behavior in the East and South China seas, Carter said.

“These are concerns we raise with our Chinese counterparts on a regular basis,” he said. Carter also spoke on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

“As secretary of defense, I never forget that our military strength ultimately rests on the foundation of our vibrant, unmatched and growing economy,” he said. “[The Trans-Pacific Partnership] is so important because of its enormous promise for jobs and growth across our nation’s economy. It is expected to increase U.S. exports by $125 billion in the next decade, supporting high-quality jobs.”

While good for jobs, the partnership also makes strategic sense, the secretary said.

“In terms of our rebalance in the broadest sense, passing TPP is as important to me as another aircraft carrier,” Carter said. “TPP would deepen our alliances and partnerships abroad and underscore our lasting commitment to the Asia-Pacific. And it would help us promote a global order that reflects both our interests and our values.”
Academy Supt. speaks at Higher Education Forum

By Airman 1st Class Rachel Hammes
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs


The forum was attended by education leaders and college presidents from the surrounding area, including staff from Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado College and University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

Johnson focused on the national issue of sexual assault on college campuses and the steps the military academies are taking to prevent and respond to the crime.

“If we don’t get this right, it will make all the other great things we’re trying to achieve,” she said. “However, we know many assaults go unreported. So, we’re trying to close that gap. Ultimately, we want to bring both numbers down — we don’t want any incidents, and we don’t want them to have anything to report.”

Johnson said battling sexual assault on college campuses is of extreme importance.

“If we don’t get this right, it will make most all the other great things we’re trying to achieve,” she said.

Academy inspection station wins facility award

By Ray Bowden
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The Academy’s Large Vehicle Inspection Station was recognized by the Air Force and the U.S. Green Building Council for its design excellence during a small ceremony here April 3.

The station was selected by the Air Force’s 2014 Design Award Program, managed by the Headquaters Air Force Civil Engineer Program in Washington, D.C., for its cost control, energy efficiency, functionality and sustainability.

In a letter to the Academy, S. Richard Fedrizzi, president and CEO of the USGBC, said the facility’s design demonstrates “leadership in transforming the building industry.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed construction of the station near the Academy’s North Gate, used by 10th Security Forces Squadron Airmen to inspect contractor and commercial vehicles before they enter the Academy.

“The LVIS is the direct result of a strong partnership between the USACE and the Academy, and helps us maintain an open and secure installation,” said Maj. Gregory Hawkins, the 10th Air Base Wing commander. “This station and all those involved in its construction, upkeep and daily use, is an example of our continuing to maintain our Academy as an exemplary installation.”


“One terrific element of its design is that it operates in full accordance with our force protection guide-