

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

NOVEMBER 2007

CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 Oct 07)

	Men	Women	Cum
2008	843	188	1031
2009	898	181	1079
2010	912	214	1126
2011	963	242	1205
WING	3618	827	4445

MEDICAL ISSUES

There have many discussions about USAFA medical care and your cadets. Below are letters from several members of our medical staff.

THEIR RIGHTS, OUR GOALS

It was a good afternoon. Sick call was light and, as Chief of the Cadet Clinic, I had a little extra time in my schedule. Little did I realize, I was going to have one of the most rewarding patient encounters in a long time. In retrospect, I knew right away why this encounter was so special, and so different.

My patient was in my office to follow up with me after being discharged from the USAF Academy Hospital with a severe pneumonia. She was recovering gradually, but was still quite impaired by the illness. Considering the severity of her pneumonia, there was something unique, even enjoyable, about the course of her illness--her mother's presence.

Her mother had traveled from her home when she heard that her cadet was in the hospital. Spending as much time as possible at the cadet's bedside, it was no surprise to see her mother with her at the follow up appointment in my office. What a great family they were! This clearly benefited the interaction among the three of us-- an open environment helpful to the delivery of health care. Medical information, encouragement, and even laughter were shared. As one of our six board-certified family practice physicians (the others in our multi-disciplinary team have other specialties), this was about as ideal as it gets in terms of patient-provider interactions.

Sometimes, however, the patient does not choose to have parental involvement with their health care. More reasons exist for this than care givers (and parents) could ever dream. Sometimes, the cadet just wants to handle things on his or her own. Sometimes, the cadet does not want his family knowing his medical information.

Upon entrance into the Academy and the military, cadets enter a world of adulthood and independence, responsible for their actions and decisions and held to the highest character standards for which the Academy is well known. The transition into this role, and away from parental dependence, is not always easy. This does not change, of course, the health care provider's responsibility to comply with privacy act mandates.

The Clinic providers will continue to give Cadets excellent medical care while maintaining their privacy and confidentiality. This is where the United States Code, Title 10, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA, 1996) enter the scene. These laws have established national standards to protect the privacy of personal health information. They cover the cadet with pneumonia just like they cover the 70-year-old man who does not want his wife to know he is dying of cancer. They cover parents and presidents. They cover you and me. Because of these privacy mandates, health care providers *cannot* release medical information to cadets' parents without the permission of cadets.

It is important to know that under military instructions, there are conditions in which a medical provider *may* release patient information to a non-health care provider. Commanders, having "G-Series orders," are authorized to be given medical information regarding members they command. The Academy Air Officers Commanding (AOCs) are an example. An AOC may be given, in an appropriate fashion and for appropriate reasons, medical information about their cadets. This is not to say that they can then turn around and give that information out freely. AOCs are bound by the same mandates of HIPAA and Title 10 that providers are. AOCs, therefore, *cannot* subsequently release medical information to parents.

Parents are encouraged to respect the individuality, privacy and maturity of their cadet child's health care. Although, as exemplified in the pneumonia case above, it is often a real benefit to have the family involved. Therefore, if called to be more involved in their cadet's care, parents ought to encourage their cadets to ask their health care provider to discuss the child's condition(s) with the parents. This is possible if the cadet signs a release authorizing the provider to do so.

It is the sincerest wish of the Cadet Clinic staff to provide the best care to the cadets. The dedication of the providers, medical services directly available, and teamwork employed in caring for cadets is very impressive, if not better than any other service academy or civilian education system. Now is a particularly exciting time as even more changes are underway to improve cadet health care and customer satisfaction. The change to an appointments-based system to provide more flexible, longer appointments for cadets is on the horizon. This is just one of many changes intended to transform the Cadet Clinic.

Our goal is to promote in cadets, parents and USAFA staff a sense of confidence, trust and pride in the Cadet Clinic. Stay tuned for more Clinic updates and information.

Sincerely,
Dr. Thomas R. Piazza, MD
Lt Col, USAF, MC, SFS
Chief of Cadet/Flight Medicine Clinic
13 Nov 2007

CADET MEDICAL CLINIC

As the new commander of the Cadet Medical Clinic, I'd like to introduce myself and make myself available to those of you who have concerns or suggestions for the medical needs of your cadets. I am a graduate of the USAF Academy and Wayne State Medical School in Michigan. I completed a three-year family practice residency, and I am board certified in Family Medicine. I have had many great assignments in the Air Force as a flight surgeon and family practice physician, and I am excited to be back here at USAFA working with the dedicated providers at the Cadet Clinic in caring for our cadets.

My top priorities in leading this clinic are quality healthcare and patient satisfaction. Satisfaction may not mean that we can fix everything, but satisfaction does mean patients understand their options and no one leaves with unanswered questions. We strive to give everyone the best medical care, and I can assure you, we have some of the best providers and resources in the Air Force, the DoD, and, I firmly believe, in the nation. Last year, the 10th Medical Group, of which the Cadet Clinic is part, won an award for being the #1 medium-sized facility in all of the Dept of Defense for patient satisfaction!

But we can't rest on past laurels. I believe the root cause of patient dissatisfaction can usually be found in either patients not understanding treatment options, or the provider not understanding the patient's desires. In the case of the Academy, this is compounded by the reluctance of cadets to speak up and be their own advocate (I know, I was a cadet, too). However, I have yet to encounter such a situation that was un-fixable if all parties came together and talked it out. Ideally, this will take place during the patient encounter, and I firmly believe it does, 99% of the time. The onus is on us as providers to make sure questions and uncertainties are addressed, but we can't do it 100% of the time without the help of the patient, your cadet.

We have had a large turnover of staff this summer and, currently, I have almost 10 squadron members deployed, including physicians and nurses. However, I have a group of talented, hard-working providers who are excited to be here, and over the next few weeks, we will roll out several new programs, including a Cadet Clinic web-site where cadets can get clinic information, and email comments and concerns to clinic representatives. A new appointment template will streamline access to the clinic, and provide more flexibility for cadets to get an appointment. Please give us your feedback and bear with us as we make changes.

As you know, USAFA is a dynamic place. Cadets have busy schedules and providers are fully booked. Bringing the two together with the best outcome 100% of the time can be a challenge, but one that is workable with good communication. Based on our patient volume, if 99% of cadets are satisfied with their care, this makes for one unsatisfied cadet every day. To reach and assist this one cadet will take a team effort by all of us. I urge all our patients, and those who care about them, to contact us if there are unsettled issues. After all, the medical providers in the Cadet Clinic, as well those in the 10th Medical Group, share the same goal as their beneficiaries: good health and welfare for all, and continued success.

GO FALCONS!!

Timothy P. Greydanus, MD, Col (s)

Patient Advocate Number: 719-333-5283

FLU VACCINE

The Air Force is highly committed to prevention of disease and our flu vaccination program is no exception. It is one of the largest programs in the United States. Unfortunately, the delivery of the vaccine was delayed to the Air Force Academy this year. This has largely been due to our war efforts, and a desire to protect our men and women who are in deployed or war-sustaining positions with the first available vaccine.

The Flumist vaccine was delivered to the Air Force Academy the week of 12 Nov and 4,000 cadets have now been vaccinated. Some of the athletic teams will be vaccinated after the Thanksgiving break. The cadet candidates (Prep School) were vaccinated the week of 5 Nov.

Of note, over a 22 year period of surveillance in the United States, February (41%) has been shown to be the month with the greatest flu activity. This was followed by January (23%), December (18%), and March (18%). The Centers for Disease Control does report that flu can occur as early as October, but it is much more common in late December. As of October 13th, the CDC reports Colorado as having no activity in regards to flu. Although flu vaccination season has already started, we are still in a good position to have our force fully vaccinated prior to the onset of the disease spread.

I hope this information will allay any concerns and I would be happy to discuss this with parents and cadets.

Lt Col Charles N. Webb, MD
Allergy/Immunization Clinic
Charles.webb@usafa.af.mil
719-333-5080

MICE IN THE DORMS

There have been on-going concerns about reports of mice in the dorms. Below is a response from the Deputy Chief of our Civil Engineers.

If the cadets see or find evidence of mice, they are requested to generate a work order request so our system can respond. They will be invited to also discuss it with the dorm management staff, if desired, to be sure my folks have the "big picture" (i.e., know how prevalent infestations may be).

We need to remind the cadets of the necessity of smart food storage in their rooms and common areas to reduce the "draw" it presents. We're checking, but believe this is covered in the Cadet Sight Picture and if so, will reference that.

DENTAL CARE

EXTRACTING THE MYTHS OF WISDOM TEETH (PART 2 OF 2)

This is the 2nd part to a two-part article regarding wisdom teeth.

Third molars, or “wisdom teeth” as they are often called, are the subject of great debate and discussion in the lay community, particularly among young adults and their families. There is probably more misinformation floating around than actual scientific fact, which often leads to unnecessary fears. This article is designed to answer some of the commonly asked questions and, hopefully, correct some misconceptions. Below are some common myths regarding wisdom teeth.

MYTH: My wisdom teeth have to come out if I want to be Pilot Qualified (PQ)

FACT: All cadets need an evaluation by a USAFA oral surgeon if they still have wisdom teeth. If the teeth are fully functional and healthy, they do not need to be removed and a cadet can be dentally cleared for PQ status. However, only a small percentage of people have enough room for the wisdom teeth, so in many cases, they must be removed prior to starting pilot training. Each patient will receive an individualized consultation, and recommendations are made based on the position of the teeth in his/her mouth and the likelihood of future problems.

MYTH: Wisdom teeth removal is an experimental thing done to cadets

FACT: Cadets fall in the age range where wisdom teeth are developing and may create problems. 17-23 years old is the most common age for wisdom teeth to be removed to prevent a future problem, or to correct a developing problem. USAFA is staffed by two board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and all wisdom teeth extractions are performed under their direction. The Air Force Academy has one of the busiest oral surgery clinics in the entire Air Force, removing several thousand teeth per year on cadets, active duty members and eligible family members. While we recommend having this procedure accomplished prior to starting at the Academy, the service is provided here free of charge, with options for sedation--just like in civilian offices--if the patient desires.

MYTH: If my teeth don't hurt, there is nothing wrong with them. My wisdom teeth have never bothered me, they don't need removal, so they are fine.

FACT: Just as high blood pressure is the silent killer, asymptomatic wisdom teeth can be problems just waiting to erupt. Multiple scientific studies have shown that impacted wisdom teeth that aren't causing "problems" are actually breeding grounds for oral disease such as cavities and gum disease, both of which don't bother patients until their more severe stages. Problems such as shifting teeth, cavities, gum disease, or jaw pathology are likely to develop the longer a tooth stays impacted. Severe wisdom teeth problems can even lead to prolonged hospitalizations and dangerous infections. Our goal is to address the wisdom teeth before they become a problem, as those problems can often lead to significant missed work/class time, poor healing, and additional complications.

MYTH: I'll just wait until they become a problem to have them removed.

FACT: The scientific literature has proven that the ideal time for wisdom teeth removal is prior to the age of 25. As we get older, risks associated with wisdom teeth removal increase and the complications tend to be more severe. When wisdom teeth are removed before age 25, the procedure, recovery and healing are much more predictable. There are even some newer studies that suggest the ideal time for removal may be in the early teenage years to optimize healing and lessen future complications.

One of our two oral and maxillofacial surgeons, Col. Mark Slabbekoorn is a board-certified, dual-degree oral surgeon, having both a medical (MD) as well as a dental (DDS) degree. Our second oral surgeon, Maj. Brent Kincaid, is also board certified and was recently chosen to present a lecture at the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons meeting. Together, they have more than 30 years of experience in the dental field.

For questions regarding this article, please contact TSgt Sanya Pospischil or Maj. Peggy Dickson (general dentist) at 719-333-5590; or email the dental clinic at USAFA.SGD@usafa.af.mil.

CADET AWARDS PROGRAM

The Cadet Awards Program offers incentives to cadets for higher achievements in academic, athletic, leadership, military training and related activities by public recognition at the Individual Awards Ceremony which takes place on Memorial Day prior to graduation. The awards foster unit and individual competition and enhance morale. There are a few cadet awards available for sponsorship. Please contact Ms. Cathy Wedo, Chief of Cadet Awards, at (719) 333-4410, if your club is interested in sponsoring one.

CADET BARBER/BEAUTY SHOP & SIJAN DAY SPA

The Cadet Barber and Beauty Shop would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase "Looking Good" coupons for your cadet to use in the USAF Academy Cadet Beauty Shop and the Sijan Day Spa. Coupons are available for hair, skin and nail services. This would be a great present for a birthday or any special occasion. Give your cadet the opportunity to feel catered to and well taken care of.

We will mail the coupons back to you. If you're planning this as a Christmas or Hanukkah

present, orders need to be in by 14 December 2007. E-mail Connie Graff at connie.graff@usafa.af.mil to gain access to an order form or call her at (719) 333-4563. Once you get the order form, you may mail your order to: P.O. Box 6027, USAF Academy CO 80840.

ATHLETICS

Falcon Fans, on behalf of Coach Calhoun and the entire Falcon football family, thank you for your tremendous support over the course of the season. The Falcons finished the 2007 regular season campaign with an impressive 9-3 record and truly appreciate all of your support. As the Falcons prepare for their first post-season bowl game since 2002, please make plans to be with them at that bowl game this December.

Visit www.GoAirForceFalcons.com for the latest information on the bowl game and tickets as it becomes available. Please help spread the word and thanks to all those who have already committed to being there, and to those who have volunteered to purchase tickets for young airmen in the area. Thanks for your continued support and Happy Thanksgiving!

GO FALCONS!!!

AIR FORCE FOOTBALL RECOGNIZED FOR PERFORMANCE IN CLASSROOM

NCAA recognizes Air Force football, BYU men's basketball and New Mexico women's tennis in top 10 percentile nationally for APR in their respective sports.

Three Mountain West Conference athletic teams - Air Force football, BYU men's basketball and New Mexico women's tennis - have earned a Public Recognition Award from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) for earning high scores in the latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) compilation.

The award is provided to those teams that have an NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sport.

Air Force football, which is currently under the helm of [Troy Calhoun](#), earned a multiyear APR of 975, 20 points above football programs at private institutions, and more than 40 points above all programs in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

According to a release issued by the NCAA, Public Recognition Award recipients have "demonstrated their commitment in the classroom and in their sport and are setting a great example for all students."

Dekker one of 11 finalist for Wuerffel Trophy

Air Force junior tight end [Travis Dekker](#) has been named one of 11 finalist for the Wuerffel Trophy, presented annually to the college football player that stands out in academics, athletics

and community service. Dekker is the first Falcon to earn the honor and the winner will be announced on Dec. 4 as part of the College Football Awards show in Orlando, Fla. The winner will also be honored at a banquet Feb. 13-15, 2008, in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Shaun Carney Selected To Davey O'Brien Quarterback Award® Semifinalist List

FORT WORTH, Texas - Air Force senior [Shaun Carney](#) was one of 15 quarterbacks selected to the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award® (The O'Brien) 2007 Semifinalist List, which features top quarterback talent from across the country.

When voting, the Selection Committee for The O'Brien is asked to evaluate each candidate on quarterback skills, athletic ability, academics, reputation as a team player, character, leadership and sportsmanship. The combination of votes from the Selection Committee and fan vote will determine the Finalists as well as the Winner this season, with 5% of the total vote coming from dedicated fans.

Fans are able to vote for Semifinalist candidates once daily on The O'Brien's Web site, www.DaveyOBrien.com. The voting will continue throughout the Semifinalist and Finalist rounds until The O'Brien winner is announced, with 5% of the final tally coming directly from the Fan Vote.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2007-08 SEASON SCHEDULE

2007-2008 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time / Result
11/03/07	vs. Regis Univ. - Exhibition	USAFA	W, 89-52
11/09/07	at Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	6:00 p.m. CT
11/11/07	at UMKC	Kansas City, Mo.	2:00 p.m. CT
11/16/07	vs. Denver	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
11/21/07	at St. Francis (NY)	Brooklyn, N.Y.	2:00 p.m. ET
11/23/07	at Army	West Point, N.Y.	7:00 p.m. ET
11/30/07	vs. Hampton University - Air Force Classic	USAFA	5:00 p.m. MT
12/01/07	TBA - Air Force Classic	USAFA	TBA
12/05/07	at Northern Colorado	Greeley, Colo.	7:00 p.m. MT
12/08/07	at Wisconsin	Madison, Wisc.	TBA
12/11/07	vs. Cal State Stanislaus	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
12/21/07	vs. Adams St	USAFA	1:00 p.m. MT
12/29/07	at Navy	Annapolis, Md.	1:00 p.m. ET
01/09/08	vs. Utah *	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
01/12/08	at UNLV *	Las Vegas, Nev.	7:00 p.m. PT
01/16/08	vs. Wyoming *	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
01/19/08	vs. New Mexico *	USAFA	2:00 p.m. MT
01/23/08	at Colorado State *	Fort Collins, Colo.	7:00 p.m. MT
01/30/08	at BYU	Provo, Utah	7:00 p.m. MT
02/02/08	vs. TCU *	USAFA	2:00 p.m. MT
02/06/08	vs. San Diego State *	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
02/09/08	at Utah *	Salt Lake City, Utah	3:00 p.m. MT
02/13/08	vs. UNLV *	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
02/16/08	at Wyoming *	Laramie, Wyo.	2:00 p.m. MT
02/20/08	at New Mexico *	Albuquerque, N.M.	7:00 p.m. MT
02/24/08	vs. Colorado State * 	USAFA	2:00 p.m. MT
03/01/08	vs. BYU	USAFA	2:00 p.m. MT
03/05/08	at TCU *	Fort Worth, Texas	6:30 p.m. CT
03/08/08	at San Diego State *	San Diego, Calif.	2:00 p.m. PT

AF MEN'S BASKETBALL 2007-08 SEASON SCHEDULE

2007-2008 SCHEDULE			
Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time / Result
Air Force Classic			
11/09/07	Northern Colorado vs. VMI	USAFA	5:30 p.m. MT
	vs. Dartmouth	USAFA	8:00 p.m. MT
11/10/07	Third-Place Game	USAFA	5:30 p.m. MT
	Championship Game	USAFA	8:00 p.m. MT
11/14/07	vs. Western State (Colo.)	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
11/19/07	vs. Radford ^{TU}	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
Cougar Hispanic College Fund Classic			
11/23/07	vs. Mississippi Valley State	Spokane, WA	6:00 p.m. MT
11/25/07	vs. Washington State	Spokane, WA	3:30 p.m. MT
11/24/07	vs. Montana	Spokane, WA	TBA
11/29/07	vs. Colorado ^{TU}	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
12/04/07	at Northern Illinois	DeKalb, IL	6:00 p.m. MT
12/08/07	vs. Prairie View A&M	USAFA	4:00 p.m. MT
12/13/07	vs. Norfolk State ^{TU}	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
12/22/07	vs. Colorado Christian	USAFA	2:00 p.m. MT
12/30/07	at Wake Forest ^{TU}	Winston-Salem, NC	12:00 p.m. MT
01/05/08	at Utah * ^{TU}	Salt Lake City, UT	12:00 p.m. MT
01/12/08	vs. UNLV *	USAFA	4:00 p.m. MT
01/16/08	at Wyoming * ^{TU}	Laramie, WY	6:30 p.m. MT
01/19/08	at New Mexico * ^{TU}	Albuquerque, NM	4:00 p.m. MT
01/22/08	vs. Colorado State * ^{TU}	USAFA	8:00 p.m. MT
01/30/08	vs. BYU	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
02/02/08	at TCU * ^{TU}	Fort Worth, TX	4:30 p.m. MT
02/06/08	at San Diego State * ^{TU}	San Diego, CA	9:00 p.m. MT
02/09/08	vs. Utah * ^{TU}	USAFA	4:00 p.m. MT
02/12/08	at UNLV * ^{TU}	Las Vegas, NV	8:00 p.m. MT
02/16/08	vs. Wyoming * ^{TU}	USAFA	4:00 p.m. MT
02/20/08	vs. New Mexico *	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
02/23/08	at Colorado State * ^{TU}	Fort Collins, CO	7:00 p.m. MT
03/01/08	at BYU	Provo, UT	7:00 p.m. MT
03/05/08	vs. TCU *	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
03/08/08	vs. San Diego State * ^{TU}	USAFA	1:00 p.m. MT

Air Force Golfers Set Records at Agua Caliente AFA Collegiate Invitational

Palm Springs, Calif. - Setting records for the lowest team and individual tournament scores in school history, the Air Force golf team finished in eighth place at its own Agua Caliente AFA Collegiate Invitational, being held at the 6,582-yard, par-72 Indian Canyons Golf Resort.

The Falcons turned in a three-round score of 840, beating the previous record of 851 set in 1998. Meanwhile, sophomore [Tom Whitney](#) (La Quinta, Calif.), who finished tied for 11th, fired a school-record tying round of 65 on Sunday, bringing his 54-hole total to 202. Whitney's three-round score set a new Academy record, besting the former record of 205 set in 2004.