

CADET COMMENTARYA take on diversity
Page 2**SEEING STARS**USAF firefighter receives Bronze Star
Medal Page 7**KEEPING SCORE**Notable Falcon athletes
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Academy SPIRIT



Opening new doors



COURTESY PHOTO

Academy cadets, Royal Military Cadets, and cadets from the École de l'air, are seen here with the École de l'air's commandant, Brig. Gen. Francis Pollet, on Veterans Day last year in Marseille, France. The École de l'air is France's Air Force officer training school.

Academy International Programs introduce cadets to different cultures

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

During their four years at the Academy, cadets are presented with many opportunities, whether it's a chance to jump out of an aircraft or apply for a Rhodes scholarship. Beginning their second year at the Academy, cadets have an opportunity to participate in a semester abroad at a foreign college, a semester exchange at a foreign service academy or a Cadet Summer Language Immersion

Program through the Office of International Programs here.

"I think being familiar with other cultures, especially Middle Eastern culture right now, is so important," said Cadet 1st Class Chloe Donoho, cadet in charge of the spring 2015 cadet outreach for international programs. "Learning how they live and how to communicate with them is such a great experience, and being able to break through the language barrier while still being respectful is so important. I think having the courage to explore is

important for officers."

Donoho spent three weeks in Morocco in 2013 through CSLIP.

Lt. Col. Paul Howe, director of International Programs, said positions for overseas exchanges and semesters abroad are highly competitive.

"In 2015, we had over 600 cadets apply," he said, explaining cadets must meet minimum requirements concerning their grade point average and athletic fitness to be eligible. "We

See International Page 14

Sexual assault rates decrease at military service academies

By **Claudette Roulo**
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Rates of unwanted sexual contact at the military service academies declined in 2014, according to a report released Wednesday by the Defense Department.

The annual report on sexual harassment and violence at the military service academies estimates overall rates decreased for men and women, indicating nearly 200 fewer sexual assaults occurred at the academies in 2014 than 2012.

"The academies have been working hard on prevention," said Dr.

Nate Galbreath, senior executive advisor for the DOD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program. "Indications are that academy leadership focus on this program is contributing to an overall safer climate."

The report is a congressionally mandated annual assessment of the military's service academies.

Methodology

In even-numbered years, cadets and midshipmen respond to a voluntary and anonymous survey, said Dr. Elizabeth Van Winkle.

“The academies have been working hard on prevention. Indications are that academy leadership focus on this program is contributing to an overall safer climate.”

Dr. Nate Galbreath,

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program

She is deputy branch chief in the survey division at the Defense Research, Surveys and Statistics Center and oversaw the service academy gender relations survey for 2014.

academies conduct self-assessments of their progress on eliminating sexual assault and sexual harassment, Galbreath said.

See Decrease Page 14

"We got about a 66 percent response rate for the three DOD academies, and that's about 82 percent of women and 63 percent for men for the response rates," she said.

Also, the

African-American History Month

Remembering the 1st African-American military aviator

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The Academy’s top NCO said Airmen would be hard-pressed to find a better source of inspiration than that of Eugene Jacques Bullard, the first African-American combat pilot and only African-American pilot in World War I.

“When you think about the experiences that made up his life, you can’t help but come away amazed,” said Chief Max Grindstaff, Academy command chief. “I know he inspires me and a lot of other Airmen, and he’s someone Hollywood should make a movie about.”

Bullard was born in Columbus, Ga., Oct. 9, 1895. The son of a former slave, he escaped the era’s racial tension by stowing away on a ship for Scotland. He eventually made his way to London, and later Paris where he became a professional boxer.

At the start of World War I in 1914, Bullard enlisted in the Foreign Legion and was assigned to its 170th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the “Swallows of Death.” He was wounded twice during the battle of Verdun and sent to a Parisian hospital, where he recovered for six months.

Bullard was promoted to the rank of corporal and awarded the Croix de Guerre and other decorations, for his bravery as an infantryman in combat. In 1916, during the Battle of Verdun, France suffered 460,000 casualties and Bullard was badly wounded. While recuperating, he accepted a bet to join the French air force.

When he reported to gunnery school, he obtained permission to attend pilot training, earning his pilot’s license and becoming the first African-American fighter pilot.

After completing flight training, Bullard joined approximately 200 other Americans in the Lafayette Flying Corps, and he flew combat missions from Aug.



Bullard, as a French army corporal, and in 1955.



WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

27- Nov. 11, 1917; he flew over 20 sorties in a Spad VII fighter biplane. After a disagreement with a French officer he was removed from the French air force and spent the rest of the war back with his infantry regiment.

Following the war, Bullard remained in France, married, had two daughters and purchased a bar in north Paris. When the Germans invaded France in May 1940, Bullard rejoined the French army but was wounded by an exploding shell.

Bullard escaped the Germans and made his way to the U.S.

For the rest of World War II, he worked as a long-shoreman in New York, living in relative obscurity, but remained a hero in France. In 1954, Bullard, along with two French veterans, were invited by French President Charles De Gaulle to light the flame of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. In 1959, Bullard was honored with the Knight of the Legion of Honor.

Bullard died Oct. 13, 1961 and was buried with full military honors in in Flushing, New York. Although he never became a pilot in the U.S. military, in 1994 he was appointed by the secretary of the Air Force as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Diversity: An Academy way of life

By Cadet 2nd Class Tarina Crook
Cadet Squadron 03

When high school seniors frantically start their search for colleges and universities, they look for schools that fit their personalities and make them feel comfortable. They consider the school’s distance from home, campus, history and ranking. Considering the diversity of a school is becoming increasingly important to the average student. Young people are naturally inquisitive; they want to get to know others from different backgrounds and make new connections. I know I did.

When I applied to the Academy, I did not know what the institution had to offer. A mentor told me I would like it and I needed to apply. While considering the Academy, I knew I wanted to attend Howard University, a historically black university in Washington, D.C. My brother went to Howard University, and I had a scholarship that would cover my tuition there. As a bonus, the students would look like me. What else could I ask for?

The Academy pamphlets I looked through were filled with white faces. It seemed diversity

was lacking and I was concerned. I had been the minority most of my academic life and wanted a different experience. Out of des-

The priority is to educate, and that is the best thing about the Academy. Diversity has a greater impact on cadets because most of us are willing to be educated about our diversity and educate others.

peration to discover what the Academy experience would be like, I decided to conduct some research. I found Academy graduates and asked what they thought of their alma mater. Overall, they gave the Academy great reviews and said I should apply.

After talking with many people and doing my research, I thought I would take the challenging route and attend the Academy. Following my time at the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School, I knew I would be ready for all the Academy had to offer. But I wasn’t. I had to learn many lessons, and the best ones stemmed from diversity. Diversity is more than just one’s race — it’s about everything. Everyone has a different story and a different way of life.

One of the first clubs I joined when I came to the Academy was the Way of Life Committee. To me, this club provides the perfect forum for cadets to learn about each other and become more diverse. I grew to appreciate the Academy more because the mentors I gained through this club taught me the importance of diversity and how to handle certain situations.

I will always reflect on a time during Cadet Basic Training when a fellow basic used an inappropriate term while referring to me. At the time, I knew and was convinced he did not have malicious intent; his demeanor implied he was trying to connect with me. While I knew this, a small part of me was upset. When I talked to an older cadet I admired from the committee, she wisely instructed me: “Don’t get mad. Educate.”

I never knew these easy instructions would impact my life so profoundly. No matter the situation or how offended I feel, I remember the priority is to educate, and that is the best thing about the Academy. Diversity has a greater impact on cadets because most of

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ACADEMY SPIRIT

To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

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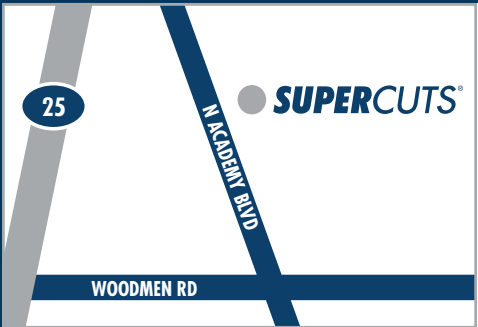
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Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James gives the opening remarks at the 10th annual Stars and Stripes Gala Friday, in Washington, D.C. Stars and Stripes is one of the nation's largest events honoring active and retired African-American admirals, generals and members of the Senior Executive Service.

SCOTT ASH



Annual event honors military's African-American leaders

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Prominent African-Americans from all walks of life serve as a bridge between the past and the present, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said here Monday.

The Air Force hosted the 10th annual Stars and Stripes recognition dinner, an event recognizing top-performing African-American military and civilian leaders in the armed forces.

The dinner is held concurrently with the Black Engineer of the Year Award science, technology, engineering and mathematics conference, now in its 29th year.

Speaking before an audience of active and retired service members and members of the defense contracting community and college students, James quoted TV personality Oprah Winfrey, who once said her success has come from the stories of history-making African-American women she calls “bridges.”

Among those women are Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Madame C. J. Walker and Fannie Lou Hamer.

“Bridges tie us to the past, and they join us to the future,” James said. “Take William Cathay, for instance. Mr. Cathay enlisted in the U.S. regular Army during the Civil War. But it turns out that Mr. Cathay was actually Ms. Cathay Williams. She was the first African-American female to enlist, and she dressed as a man in order to do so.

“She is a bridge for today’s armed forces,” the secretary said. “And then there is Elizabeth ‘Bessie’ Coleman, the first female African-American

pilot, really the first African-American pilot, male or female, to hold an international pilot’s license. Bessie was another bridge.”

James said for her, Dr. Sheila Widnall is a “bridge.” Widnall was the secretary of the Air Force from August 1993 to October 1997, and the first woman to serve as a military service secretary.

For those at the BEYA conference and attending the Stars and Stripes award dinner, James said, the Tuskegee Airmen are a bridge. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American pilots in the U.S. military. They served as fighter and bomber pilots during World War II.

“This conference, BEYA, is really a bridge for all of us. To me, bridges transcend race, color and creed,” James said. “Our bridges speak to the innate courage, strength of conviction and perseverance in the face of adversity.”

As part of the Stars and Stripes event at the 2015 BEYA Conference, military leaders, officer and civilian, participated in mentoring sessions with youth from in and around the national Capitol area.

James said such interaction will serve as a bridge to the future for those youth. She asked those in the audience who were mentors to continue to build the connections linking those who are successful with those who have the promise to be.

“Keep on making those connections, and keep on building those bridges. America needs you,” James said. “And if you are still in school, America needs you to keep working hard. We need Americans in the future who are grounded

in science, technology, engineering and math, to continue building those bridges.

“For those of us who are more senior, America needs us too,” she said. “We need to be individuals who are part of organizations that continue to connect and to become bridges that lead others to follow that path to excellence.”

During the Stars and Stripes event, senior African-American leaders from each military service were recognized for outstanding performance. Those recognized include:

- Maj. Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., the director of operations, Strategic and Nuclear Integrations Headquarters, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
- Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Jacob P. Dunbar, the installations and mission support chief enlisted manager for Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
- Arthur G. Hatcher Jr., the director of communications for Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
- Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Bertram Providence, the command surgeon for U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.
- Marine Corps Lt. Col. Nick I. Brown, the commander of Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan
- Navy Capt. Cedric E. Pringle, the director of Senate liaison, U.S. Navy Office of Legislative Affairs
- Coast Guard Capt. Kenneth D. Ivery, the chief of the Surface Forces Logistics Center, Norfolk, Va.

VESD 2.0 goes Air Force wide

Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — A new version of the Virtual Enterprise Service Desk (version 2.0) is now available on unclassified computer desktops on the Air Force network.

The vESD is an application on the desktop that empowers computer users to resolve minor information technology issues on their own, no longer requiring users to call the Enterprise Service Desk. The application automatically generates a remedy ticket for any issues it can’t resolve, providing faster service to

users. vESD allows users to check the status of any trouble ticket and update personal information through MyGal, the Air Force’s global address list.

Similar to the previous version, vESD 2.0 assists users in resolving problems with Outlook email, Blackberry Smartphones and iPhones. Version 2.0 provides further support for network, hardware and software issues with a workstation.

Additional features of vESD 2.0 include assistance with mapping network drives, troubleshooting Common Access Card and CAC

reader issues, resolving website issues, and help with common peripherals (keyboard, monitor, printer, etc.). If vESD doesn’t resolve the issue, users can still create a trouble ticket so a network support technician can provide assistance. vESD also allows users to check the status of existing trouble tickets.

For account management, users will contact their local information assurance officer and work with their Information Assurance Officer for any account management issues, such as modifying security groups or access to

SharePoint or share drives. Any changes to the network will still require the user to contact their local base change sponsor and submit that request for change through Remedy.

“Using automated tools to resolve common issues follows industry best practices and provides superior service to our Air Force users,” said Lt. Col. Mark Reith, the 690th Network Support Squadron commander. “Our goal is to help ensure daily disruptions due to routine computing issues are limited to the maximum extent possible.”

Service honors cadet killed last month

Cadet 4th Class Jack Lindsey remembered for his excitement for life, focus and friendliness

By Amber Baillie
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

The Academy held a memorial service Feb. 5 at the Cadet Chapel for Cadet 4th Class Jack Lindsey, 18, who died in a skiing accident at Keystone Resort Jan. 24.

Friends and family gathered to honor Lindsey's legacy and celebrate his character.

"What I remember most about Jack was his half smile," said Maj. Carl Maymi, air officer commanding for Cadet Squadron 16, Lindsey's assigned squadron. "It was clear he had something behind that smile. What was behind that smile was a future leader full of passion, purpose and excitement. He wanted to be an Air Force officer and a pilot. He was excited to be chasing excellence every day, excited to be here as a cadet and excited to be living his dream."

Lindsey studied engineering here. He was an accomplished guitar player, passionate about football and part of the Academy's Catholic community.

"Jack Lindsey was one of my best friends," said Cadet 4th Class James Kiesewetter. "Six weeks of basic training turned strangers into siblings. He was



Cadet 4th Class John "Jack" Lindsey

one of my brothers."

Kiesewetter lived across the hall from Lindsey during Basic Cadet Training.

"A couple of times a week, Jack would come by my room and we would sit around talking about life for few hours and then get back to homework," he said. "Jack and I talked about doing

many things together that we never ended up doing, but I feel lucky to have become so close to such an amazing person."

Kiesewetter said Lindsey made him a better person simply by being in his presence.



LIZ COPAN

Cadet 3rd Class Heather Parcasio and Cadet 4th Class Colton Ervin perform a musical selection during a memorial service to honor Cadet 4th Class John "Jack" Lindsey Feb. 5.

Contractor dies in on-base accident

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

A vehicle accident claimed the life of an Air Force Academy contractor Saturday.

Charles "Chuck" Higley was killed in a single-vehicle rollover accident early Saturday morning on Academy Drive.

Higley was a contract stagehand with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 62 in Colorado Springs, and worked Academy concerts for the past 30 years.

The accident is under investigation by the 10th Security Forces Squadron.

"Jack taught me to give a 120 percent in everything I do, and that life is about the friendships you make with the people you truly care about," he said.

Gail Lindsey, Jack's mother, said her son cared deeply about his family, faith and friends.

"He also had a real focus," she said. "He was very driven. Jack had a very strong desire to get to the Air Force Academy since he was a young boy. He wanted to fly. He worked two jobs to pay for flying lessons to pursue a private pilot's license."

Lindsey's mother said the final word that came to mind when she thought of her son was "finish."

"I say this to cadets who may be struggling or wavering whether it's in their decisions or faith," she said. "I want you to finish and think of Jack in times of trial and struggle. I want you to finish in his honor or use him for inspiration. Be strong. It would be an honor for Jack looking down on us to know we had the resolve to finish what we started."

Lindsey had a lasting impact on everyone he touched, Maymi said.

"I'm honored to have known and served this great nation alongside him," he said. "He's changed the lives of many at this institution, an institution designed to change his life."

Lindsey was from Ruston, La. He is survived by his mother, Gail; his father, Erskine; and his brother, Dan.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fashion dandy
- 4. Cycles per second
- 7. Strikebreaker
- 11. Aquatic reptile (informal)
- 13. Express pleasure
- 14. Swiss river
- 15. Contains cerium
- 17. Ribonucleic acid
- 18. On top
- 19. Taxis
- 21. Banking machine
- 22. Small salamander
- 23. Voltage
- 25. Pointed summit

- 27. DWTS host
- 33. In a way, smoked
- 34. Peat moss source
- 35. W. African nation
- 36. Cocoa plum tree

- 41. Holiday (informal)
- 44. Venezuelan capital
- 46. DWTS hostess
- 48. Hideouts
- 50. Actress Lupino
- 51. The content of

- cognition
- 53. Point one point N of due E
- 55. Plunder a town
- 59. No. Albanian dialect
- 60. No (Scottish)
- 61. Blatted
- 64. X2 = a Pacific tourist commune
- 65. AKA option key
- 66. Angelina's spouse
- 67. "Wedding Crashers" Wilson
- 68. Grassland, meadow
- 69. Laughing to self (texting)

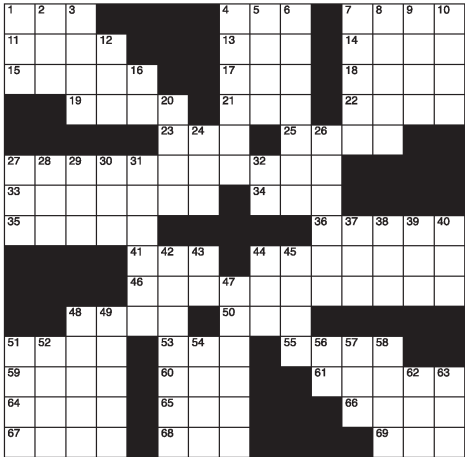
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Licenses TV stations
- 2. Metal-bearing mineral
- 3. Meat from a pig (alt. sp.)
- 4. A bottle with a stopper
- 5. Short labored breath
- 6. Hair washing soap
- 7. Steam bath
- 8. "R.U.R." playwright Karel
- 9. Beside one another in lines
- 10. Not straight
- 12. Former OSS
- 16. Truck driver's radio

- 20. Dried-up
- 24. Million gallons per day (abbr.)
- 26. Encircle (archaic)
- 27. '___ death do us part
- 28. A single unit
- 29. A siemens
- 30. Prohibition
- 31. V. William's clothing

- line
- 32. Scotland's poet's initials
- 37. Auto
- 38. Single spot card in a deck
- 39. Crow sound
- 40. Former CIA
- 42. Factory where arms

- are made
- 43. Radioactive unit
- 44. Scoundrel
- 45. Freshwater duck genus
- 47. 9 decades
- 48. Makes tractors
- 49. 55120
- 51. Southeast Nigeria people
- 52. Arab sailing vessel
- 54. Hay bundle
- 56. Blood type
- 57. Driver compartment
- 58. "Das Kapital" author Marx
- 62. Consume food
- 63. Dental degree



SUDOKU

	3		4		2			
	6							
		5				8	1	
9								2
	8						3	7
	7	3	9				8	5
				7	1	3	2	
			8	9		7		
				2				

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Solution on page 11

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Gone but not forgotten: Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, 'the father of USAFA'

By Amber Baillie
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

(This is the first in a series highlighting specific Academy leaders and influencers laid to rest at the U.S. Air Force Academy Cemetery)

Hubert Reilly Harmon, the Academy's first superintendent, was the first to be laid to rest here in 1958. Harmon was instrumental in the establishment of the Academy and its long-standing traditions.

Harmon worked with Congress to draft legislation establishing the Academy. He devised the Academy's original mission statement, leaving a lasting impact on the Air Force and nearly 50,000 Academy graduates.

Born April 3, 1892 in Chester, Pa., Harmon attended Polytechnic Preparatory School in Brooklyn, N.Y., before entering the U.S. Military Academy and earning a commission as a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps June 12, 1915.

His first assignment was at Fort Monroe, Va., where he served until December 1915, when he was transferred to Fort Andrews, Mass.

In 1917, while assigned to Kelly Field, Texas, Harmon served as commandant of the Ground Officer's Training School and then as an aeronautical officer for the Southern Department.

Harmon had a distinguished combat career

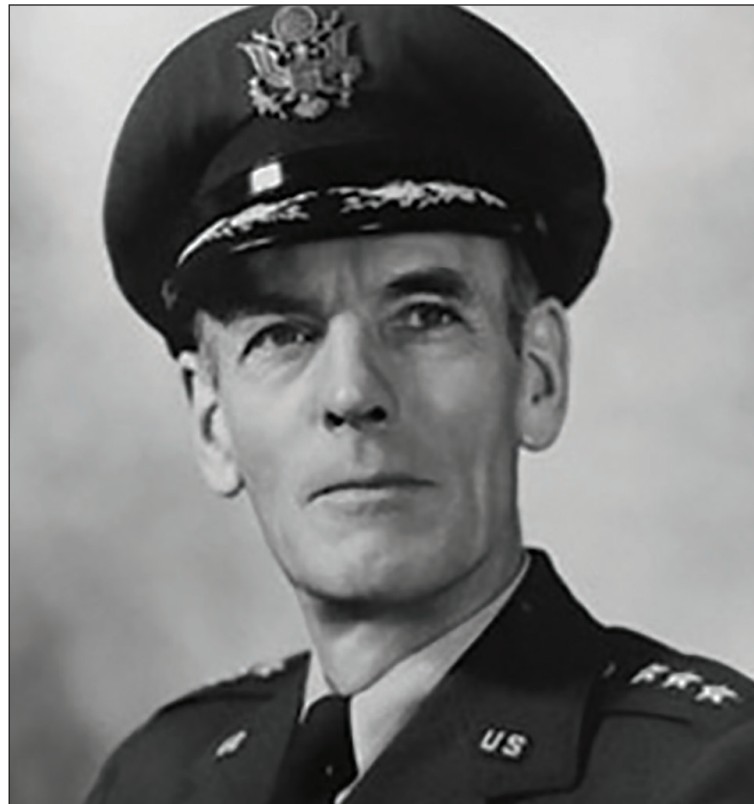
in World War II and ended his career at the rank of lieutenant general. He retired from active duty in 1953, but was called back in 1953 at the request of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to serve as special assistant to the chief of staff for air academy matters.

He and a small staff worked with Congress to draft legislation establishing the U.S. Air Force Academy April 1, 1954. Harmon became the first superintendent of the Academy at its temporary home at Lowry Air Force Base, Aug. 14, 1954.

Harmon officially retired from the Air Force July 27, 1956. He died Feb. 22, 1957 of lung cancer at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, before the first Academy class graduated.

Harmon's ashes were interned at the Academy Cemetery in September 1958. His was the first funeral service held here.

In 1959, the Academy's administration building was officially named Harmon Hall and during an April 1, 2004, celebration of the Academy's 50th Anniversary, Harmon was officially named "The Father of



Hubert Reilly Harmon was the Academy's first superintendent.

the U.S. Air Force Academy."

In 2009, the General Hubert R. Harmon Memorial was dedicated here during the Class of '59's 50 year reunion.

Airmen Powered by Innovation: USAFA civilian saves Air Force \$33,000, gets reward

By Amber Baillie
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

An Academy civilian won nearly \$2,000 for her idea to lower the cost of food service operations here.

Luana Kennedy, an Academy Human Resources assistant, submitted an idea expected to save the Academy \$33,000 annually through the Airmen Powered by Innovation program.

The program launched across the Air Force in April to make every dollar count and allow Airmen to share innovative ideas to improve the Air Force.

Kennedy, who has worked here for 11 years, recently received an Airmen Powered by Innovation pin, a \$ 375 monetary award from the Academy and \$1,620 from the program for her contribution.

"I'm very appreciative," she said. "Airmen have valuable ideas and I think it's fiscally responsible for them to share to help the Air Force better their processes, save money and stay afloat."

In May, Kennedy submitted a suggestion to adjust the pay grade and qualifications for food service workers as part of the Academy's summer hire program. The changes not only allow more students to apply for the position, but decrease the manpower and money used during the process.

"Her idea saved the Academy in labor expenses by reducing the grade of our summer hire food workers," said Dale Hogue, the Academy manpower, organization and resources chief. "It also lowered the experience needed,



AMBER BAILLIE

Luana Kennedy received an Airmen Powered by Innovation award for her cost cutting efforts in food service operations.

expanding the applicant pool for potential hires by 150 percent and reducing Air Force Personnel Center processing time by 50 percent. Ms. Kennedy is a dedicated civilian employee who looked for ways to continually improve her processes while increasing customer service, in spite of a 30 percent manpower reduction in the civilian personnel office here."

The summer hire program was originally under the Student Training Employment program. Civilian personnel employees would filter through resumes, set up interviews and coordinate job offers. In 2013, the AFPC took over these tasks and converted the employment program's employees to the Pathways program, requiring them to submit applications through USAJobs.

"The new process dramatically cut our candidate pool, resulting in only 18 qualified applicants for the 23 available positions in 2013," Kennedy said. "I expressed my concern to AFPC that, for the first time, we would not be able to fill all food service worker positions under the summer hire program, (which are) mission critical to the Academy's annual cadet summer operations."

The summer workers provide extra support in Mitchell Hall during in-processing and Basic Cadet Training. Kennedy said most employees are local high school and college students.

"The WG-03 position required applicants to have at least six months of food service experience," she said. "That eliminated a

lot of students. By reclassifying the job to a WG-01 position, the candidate pool grew from 18 to 53."

Through the help of CPO management, the manpower and personnel office here and AFPC staff, Kennedy's suggestions were implemented and the API approved her submission.

"Just this summer alone, reclassifying the position from a WG-03 to a WG-01 saved the Academy over \$30,000," she said. "It was needed and is a good improvement for everyone. I'd been thinking about it for a while, how to make the process more seamless."

The API program is extremely important as it provides Airmen, civilians and cadets an avenue to identify ways to save time and resources, Hogue said.

"Our resources are extremely limited in this fiscal environment, yet our mission at the Academy continues to be as important, dynamic and demanding as ever," he said. "We hope Ms. Kennedy's example inspires more good ideas to be submitted to help the Academy find better ways of executing our mission."

The API program allows Airmen to submit a specific and clearly stated idea to improve Air Force processes, situations or methods.

Kennedy said she plans to spend her award money on new cabinets for her kitchen.

"I think the Air Force should advertise the program any way they can so Airmen are aware that they'll be rewarded for their ideas and want to participate," she said. "It's a good motivator."

Academy senior NCO receives Bronze Star



U.S. AIR FORCE
Master Sgt. Jeff Hackworth, an Academy firefighter, received a Bronze Star Medal here Feb. 3 for his actions while deployed to the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan. Hackworth was the 438th AEW's Joint Engineering and Fire-Emergency Response Programs superintendent from July 2013-2014.

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

An Academy firefighter received a Bronze Star Medal here Feb. 3 for his actions while deployed to the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan.

The medal is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces for meritorious service in a combat zone.

Master Sgt. Jeff Hackworth was the 438th AEW's Joint Engineering and Fire-Emergency Response Programs superintendent from July 2013 to July 2014. He managed all Afghan Ministry of Defense fire departments; took part in more than 30 convoy missions in hostile areas to train Afghan firefighters; managed more than \$23 million in resources and 86 firefighters; developed training curriculum, and played a direct role in the capture of terrorists.

"Being able to work with such a great team to create (training programs) for the firefighters of Afghanistan, and to change the mindset that being a firefighter is a truly noble profession instead of just a job, is something I'm really proud of," he said.

Hackworth said witnessing the improvements of the Afghan firefighters was a remarkable experience.

"When our NATO partners and sister services requested our team advisors by name to help train their firefighters, we knew the program was a success," he said.

Lt. Col. Jose Rivera-Hernandez, the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, presented Hackworth with the Bronze Star Medal.

"I was honored to give that medal to Master Sergeant Hackworth," he said. "For a firefighter to do everything he did while deployed is a very significant achievement. He's a role model for Airmen and an example of everything they can accomplish throughout their Air Force careers."

Hackworth, a native of Jackson, Mich., is assigned to the 10th CES Emergency Services Flight. Specifically, he's the Academy's assistant fire chief and the 10th CES superintendent.

"To say 'being a firefighter is great career' is an understatement," he said. "I've had opportunities to do things I never could have imagined."

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Falcons soar in challenge



LIZ COPAN



JASON GUTIERREZ

Far right: Sophomore Zoe Casteel finished first in the women's pole vault, clearing 12'3½" leading Air Force to four of the top-seven finishes in that event.

Right: Kobi Rex jumps to second place finish in the high jump with a season-best height of 6-8.75.

Below: Kyle Eller finishes third in the mile, the first time he ran the event this season.



JASON GUTIERREZ

Track and Field team reaches new heights at Air Force Team Challenge

By Valerie Perkin
Athletic Communications

Seven first-place finishes and three additions to the Academy's top-10 list highlighted the night, as the Air Force track and field team wrapped up competition at the annual Air Force Team Challenge Friday at the Academy's Cadet Field House.

Sophomore Darby Maier tossed a career-best mark of 57'2¼" to win the shot put and improve his number 7 placement on the Academy's all-time list, while freshman Carina Gillespie clocked the fifth-fastest 800-meter time in program history (2:13.60, 2:12.05 adjusted for altitude) to finish as the runner-up in that race. In addition, junior Naomi Alston debuted in seventh on the Academy's all-time 200-meter list behind a personal-best time of 25.71 (fifth-place finish).

The men captured the top four spots in the pole vault and the top two in the high jump. Senior Joey Uhle cleared 17'6½" to win the pole vault, while junior Dylan Bell took second with a height of 17'0¾". Sophomore Kyle Pater added nearly a foot to his personal-best clearance with a third-place jump of 17'0¾", and classmate Tyler Pater rounded out the top four with a mark of 15'7".

On the high jump, sophomore Taylor Smith and senior Kobi Bell finished first and second, respectively, with matching marks of 6'8¾" (season-high for Rex). Senior multi-event athlete Evan McDowell finished eighth in the pole vault with a career-best clearance of 14'1¼". Freshman John Reynolds added a top-six finish in the high jump, after finishing sixth with a mark of 6'6¾".

On the women's side, junior Katelyn Holland (46'1½") and senior Danielle Tabb (45'10¾") paced the Falcons to a one-two finish in the shot put, while sophomore Zoe Casteel picked up a first-place finish in the pole vault (12'3½"). Casteel led Air Force to four of the top-seven finishes in that event, as junior Riley

Vann cleared 11'5¾" to finish third, freshman Hannah Durbin matched her personal-best of 10'11¾" to place sixth and sophomore Emily Smithwick used the same height (matching a career high) to finish seventh. The women picked up one additional first-place finish, as junior Angelea Ross won the triple jump behind a distance of 38'7½". Freshman Funmi Akinlosotu also accounted for a scoring finish in the triple jump after placing sixth with a mark of 34'9½".

On the track, the men's mile relay of freshman Jamiel Trimble, classmate Tyler Koss, junior Jordan McCool and sophomore Garrett Newman clocked a season-best time of 3:18.90 to win the final event of the night. Koss also scored for the Falcons in a pair of individual races, finishing second in the 400-meter dash (career-best 49.10) and third in the 200-meter dash (career-best 22.14). Newman joined Koss in the scoring places of the 400-meter dash after taking eighth in 50.05, while Trimble added a fourth-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles following a personal-best time of 8.20.

The men claimed two of the top-three finishes in the mile, as senior Riley Coates finished second (4:22.10) in his 2015 indoor debut and sophomore Kyle Eller placed third with a time of 4:23.59. Air Force also earned multiple top-eight finishes in the 800-meter run, 3000-meter run and weight throw. Sophomore Grant Garst and freshman Colin Chehanske finished fifth (1:56.73) and eighth (1:58.88), respectively, in the 800-meter run, while freshmen Jimmy Shipley (third, 9:09.96) and Andrew Milliron (sixth, 9:22.25) earned top-six marks at 3000 meters. Another pair of freshmen scored in the weight throw, as Brooks Hardy and Reed McGuire used career-best marks to finish fifth (53'8 ½") and seventh (47'5"), respectively.

Senior Kyle Gartrell picked up a pair of top-five finishes from the horizontal jumps, as he

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For the love of flying

Dr. Steven Brandt leads the Aeronautical Department's design class here. Cadets rely on a variety of computer technology to improve aircraft design.

AMY GILLENTINE



By Amy Gillentine
Office of Research

Dr. Steven Brandt has been in love with airplanes since he was a small child.

In first grade, his best friend collected model airplanes, and Brandt's father, a World War II fighter pilot, constantly talked about flying.

As an adult, Brandt combines both influences: He's a former fighter pilot who also leads the aeronautical design class at the Air Force Academy.

"It almost didn't happen that way," he said. "I went to college to be an engineer, but joined ROTC to help pay for it. Because of the Vietnam War, I had to learn to fly. I didn't expect to love it as much as I did."

Brandt's office, his classroom space and his hobbies, reflect his dual lifelong passions. Model planes of every type fill his classroom in the Aeronautics Laboratory, products of cadet design attempts and the technological advances of the Air Force. The overflow fills his office shelves – B-52 bombers, Navy fighters, hobby planes.

"I spend a lot of time thinking about planes and working with planes," he said. "I volunteer with the Boy Scouts from time and time, and it's usually something to do with airplanes."

He combines his zeal for sleek airplane design with his love of the Air Force. He was commissioned in 1975, after a three-year ROTC pro-

gram at Iowa State University. Retired in 1992 as a lieutenant colonel, Brandt spent time as an instructor pilot and fighter pilot, flying F-4s as a captain and F-106s as a major.

"That's why it's so great to work here," he said. "The Air Force Academy is a wonderful place. The leadership is supportive; we're a family. The cadets are second-to-none, the best undergraduates in the nation. I'm proud that I'm part of it."

His enthusiasm is contagious. Cadets in his senior capstone design course are designing their versions of next-generation bombers, planes that fly alongside the F-22 to provide additional firepower on the ground and in air-to-air battles. Another project involves aircraft and missile designs that can reach anywhere in the world in four hours.

The projects are part of the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency's service academy competition, which asks for innovative projects that aid the warfighter. Winning the competition is a step forward from the capstone projects in 1990, the first year he taught at the Academy.

"When I first got here, we were doing projects straight from the textbook," he said. "There was a canned answer and it wasn't very challenging. Now we have customers who expect solutions to real-world problems."

Brandt said the challenge ignites cadets' imaginations and motivates them to go the extra mile for

their design projects.

"Knowing they are coming up with solutions for the Air Force, before they graduate, that's a big deal to them," he said. "Watching them stretch — that's a big deal for me."

Brandt said cadets leave the Academy with a firm footing in aeronautical engineering that will aid them as they become pilots or engineers.

Still, he believes some historical knowledge needed for airplane design and engineering is in danger of being lost. It's one reason he invites retired aeronautical engineers to help cadets with their projects.

"We don't know the same things we knew 50 years ago," he said. "Engineers are making mistakes that wouldn't have been made back then. We're losing decades of knowledge as engineers retire, and I'm not sure we're replacing them."

It's an interesting time to be an aeronautical engineer, Brandt said.

As airplane design moves from stealthy piloted crafts to increasingly smaller unmanned vehicles created for reconnaissance and intelligence missions, knowledge of how things used to be done is increasingly important.

"The physics really change when aircraft get smaller," he said. "It's an interesting problem, and we're still discovering how small we can go with UAVs. We're also working on unmanned craft that will do other things to aid in the fight."

Technology makes teaching easier and provides the opportunity for

cadets to do more and to do more quickly.

"What three machinists could do in half a semester, one can do in 48 hours now," he said. "Computer-assisted design and 3-D printers make all the difference. We can do a lot of testing before we need a model, and we can create models in two days."

Brandt credits the leadership at the Academy for embracing technology and allowing cadets to create projects with the potential to change the way the Air Force fights future wars.

"We have the best wind tunnel facilities of any academic institution," he said. "We have access to them, even if the project doesn't have a paid sponsor. That's highly unusual in an academic environment and it sets the Academy graduates apart, even from graduate-level work."

There's no place he'd rather be, he said.

"Who could ask for more than a supportive leadership, excellent students and the best facilities?" he asked, with a smile. "I'm a pretty lucky guy."

Brandt's lifelong dedication to the aeronautical engineering field is being recognized by his peers. He's a nominee for a national-level educator award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He'll find out if he won this spring.

He waves off the honor.

"I've spent decades doing what I love," he said. "That's the biggest reward."

Technology aids Academy researchers, cadets

By Amy Gillentine
Office of Research

While other undergraduates spend time on projects that will never leave the laboratory, Air Force Academy cadets perform research directly supporting the Air Force mission.

Their tools range from 3-D printers and computer testing, to social simulators and hours of research and testing in the laboratories.

In engineering mechanics, cadets work on

projects to replace anti-personnel landmines with something safer for civilians. In the Warfighter Effectiveness Research Center, cadets work with a new simulator program to help Airmen work with people from other cultures. In the Aeronautics Department here, cadets shape designs for flight simulators to aid pilot education.

Anti-Personnel Landmines

When President Barrack Obama announced the U.S. would no longer use anti-personnel

landmines outside the Korean Peninsula, it left a hole in American defense. Cadets fill that gap through "smarter" replacements for the dangerous landmines.

"Landmines kill about 5,000 people a year, most of them children, women and the elderly," said Cadet 1st Class Joshua G. Cuany, one of five cadets on the capstone project. "So we're working with the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Defense Advanced Research Projects

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Research

From Page 10

Agency to find a replacement, an alternative we can use deep behind enemy lines, without harming innocent civilians.”

Cadets are working to design a system that replaces the capabilities of anti-personnel landmines while conforming to international treaties. Landmines scatter the roadsides in nations around the world, remnants of conflicts long over. The cadet design won’t leave anything in place, making it safer for civilians living in those nations.

The concept is to make mines smarter with advanced sensors and computer controls, allowing them to discriminate between combatants and noncombatants. Another feature is making mines mobile to make them easier for forces to clear.

Through research with the Army Research Laboratory, cadets learn the Army uses landmines to protect against damage to military vehicles. Their concept only engages vehicles, Cuany said.

For cadets, the project combines the ability to apply everything they’ve learned at the Academy with a new dimension of a real-life application.

The fact that human lives are involved also is a huge motivator, Cuany said.

“Those affected by our work range from Third World civilians to high-level politicians to friendly and hostile militants,” he said. “Our team is motivated to create an effective product that positively affects as many lives as possible. Knowing this project has real and significant implications for millions of people ... motivates us to put in a lot more effort than if the end product was simply proof that we could design a mechanical system.”

Social Simulator

While cadets often conduct research at the WERC, they sometimes become research subjects.

The WERC recently received Strategic Social Interactions Modules Program from DARPA, a video-game style monitor allowing participants to interact with virtual people on the screen. The

avatars listen when people ask questions and react to friendly gestures. Cadets are the test subjects, but the results teach Airmen to work with people from other cultures.

“It’s the ‘good stranger’ concept,” said Lt. Col. Chris McClernon, director of the research center. “Participants try to get the strangers, people from another unidentified country, to give them a piece of fruit or participate in other social ways. You soon find that what works in the U.S., something as simple as shaking hands, won’t necessarily work here.”

McClernon demonstrated, waving his hands and speaking loudly

to the duo on the screen. They looked perplexed at first, shrunk away at his offered hand but finally smiled and offered the fruit. Success, McClernon said, comes from reacting to body language.

“It’s an interesting problem,” he said. “And it’s about training cadets for future interactions. They can’t assume everyone is going to respond the same way Americans do.”

Researchers from the Raytheon, University of California at Santa Cruz, Princeton Labs, SoarTech and DARPA developed the simulator. They chose the Academy as a testing bed for the new technology. Cadets and faculty in the WERC test various research questions with the technology. Future simulations will cover more emotions, McClernon said.

“These guys, they won’t get angry,” he said, pointing to the video screen. “We’re working on



Lt. Col. Chris McClernon, director of the research center, uses a social simulator here in December.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

developing that program.”

High-Performance Computing Researchers in aeronautical engineering are resolving a long-term flight simulator problem for Global Strike Command.

“The simulators are supposed to show how the B-52 reacts to flight conditions while refueling from a KC-135, but the simulations don’t have the wake effects of the B-52,” said Cadet 1st Class Ryan Novack. “It’s very turbulent up there. Air flowing behind, under and around the planes makes it really rough.”

Currently, training pilots don’t know about the potential rough ride until they actually experience it, but Novack and team member Cadet 1st Class Jacob Laheta think they can give pilots realistic training before they enter the cockpit. Novak is working on the KC-135 simulation, creating a model that includes downwash from the aircraft’s approach. La-

heta took on the B-52 simulation to see if he can replicate the current model using CFD.

“There’s an experimental side to this as well as the computational one,” Novack said. “Some cadets are working on the problem in the subsonic wind tunnel, using a method to bounce laser light off airflow particles, showing how they move in the real world. That way, we validate what we’re doing on the computers.”

The problem isn’t without its challenges, but both cadets are confident they’ll deliver a solution to AFGSC by the end of the semester.

“This is a significant project,” Laheta said. “We’re doing something for the Air Force now, not a future project that could never happen. We’re solving a problem for AFGSC and the Air Education Training Command. That’s not something every cadet gets to do.”



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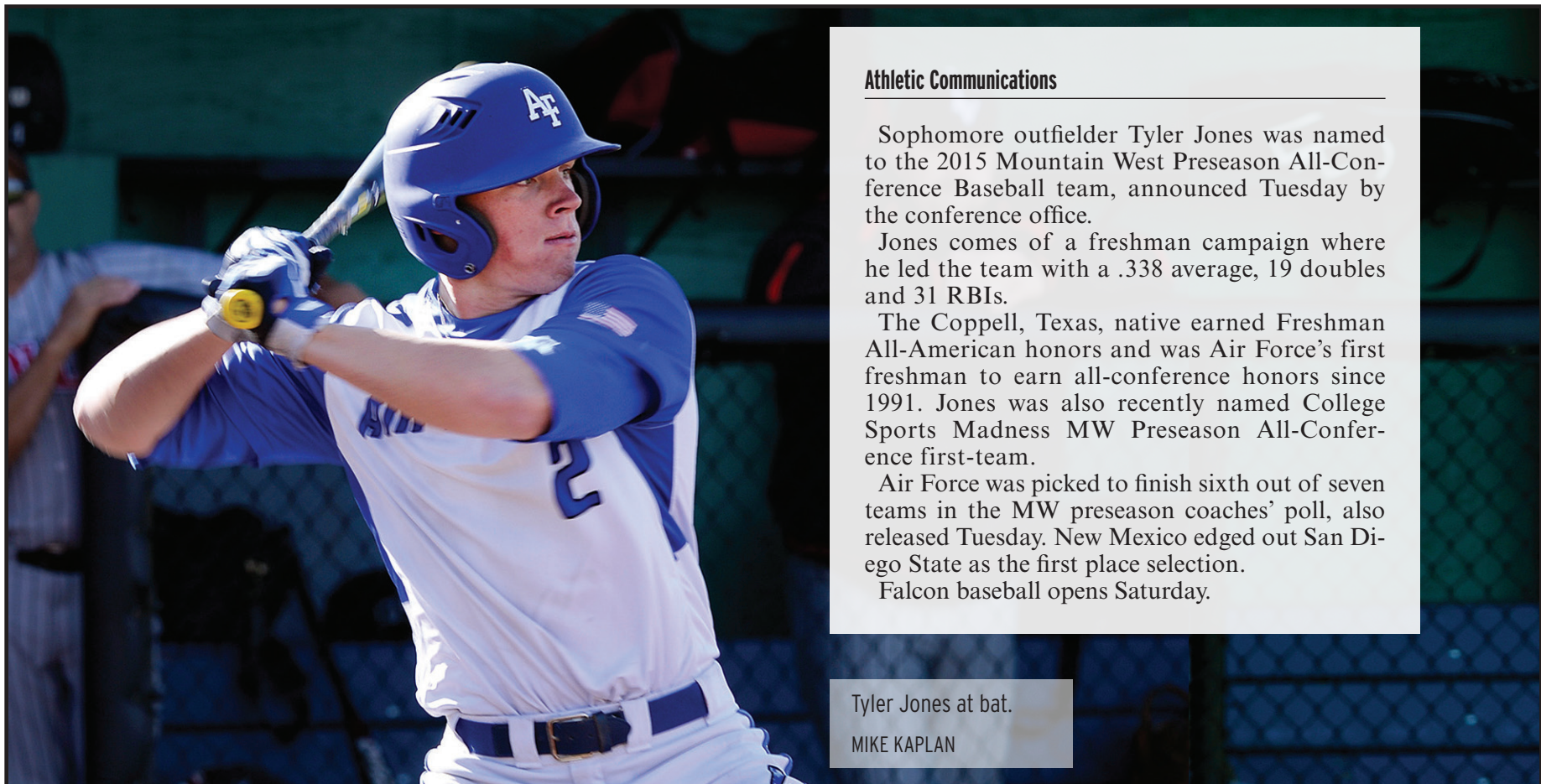
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BASEBALL

Tyler Jones named to MW Baseball Preseason All-Conference Team



Athletic Communications

Sophomore outfielder Tyler Jones was named to the 2015 Mountain West Preseason All-Conference Baseball team, announced Tuesday by the conference office.

Jones comes of a freshman campaign where he led the team with a .338 average, 19 doubles and 31 RBIs.

The Coppell, Texas, native earned Freshman All-American honors and was Air Force's first freshman to earn all-conference honors since 1991. Jones was also recently named College Sports Madness MW Preseason All-Conference first-team.

Air Force was picked to finish sixth out of seven teams in the MW preseason coaches' poll, also released Tuesday. New Mexico edged out San Diego State as the first place selection.

Falcon baseball opens Saturday.

Tyler Jones at bat.

MIKE KAPLAN

TRACK AND FIELD

Darby Maier is MW Field Athlete of the Week

Backed by a career-best throw in the shot put, Air Force sophomore Darby Maier (Missoula, Mont.) was named the Mountain West Men's Indoor Field Athlete of the Week, the conference office announced Tuesday.

It is the first weekly conference honor for Maier, who recorded a personal-best distance of 57'2¼" to win the shot put at the Air Force Team Challenge Friday.

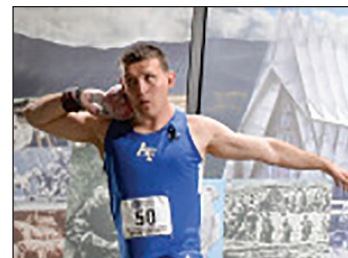
Maier, who won the event by over three feet to help the Falcons to a dual-meet victory over conference-opponent Wyoming, improved his number 7 standing on the Academy's all-time list. His throw of 57'2¼", a top-75 distance nationally, is ranked third in the Mountain West this season.

Maier shared this week's award with Utah State's Nic Bowens (men's track athlete of the week), Wy-

oming's Kerry White (women's track athlete of the week) and Utah State's Chari Hawkins (women's field athlete of the week).

The Falcons split for a pair of meets this weekend, as part of the team travels to Fayetteville, Ark., for the Tyson Invitational today and Saturday.

The rest of the squad heads to Alamosa, for the Adams State Qualifier Sunday.



Darby Maier is the Mountain West Men's Indoor Field Athlete of the Week.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Air Force falls to Boise State

Athletic communications

Air Force women's basketball (2-22, 1-12 Mountain West) dropped a 88-69 contest to Boise State (15-7, 7-4 MW) in Mountain West action Wednesday night at Clune Arena.

Air Force was led by freshman Cortney Porter and senior Lindsey Lewis, who combined to score 47 points for the Falcons.

Boise State had four players in double-figures scoring, led by forward Deanna Weaver, who scored 24 points. Guard Brooke Pahukoa added 19 points.

Porter and Lewis both set career-high's in scoring with Porter notching a game-high 26 points, and Lewis adding 21. Porter was 8-of-17 from the field, hitting four three's and making all six of her free throws. The freshman from Ogden, Utah, also led the team with seven rebounds and six assists. Lewis was 9-of-16 from the field, hitting a pair of three-point baskets and adding four rebounds.

Senior Jimi Blagowsky added six points and three assists, to go with a team-high four steals. Senior Angela Johnson came off the bench to score four points and pull down six rebounds.

The Falcons shot a respectable 41.7 percent from the field and made eight three's. Air Force was out-rebounded 44-33 and lost the points in the paint battle 38-22.

Air Force returns to action Saturday at UNLV.

LACROSSE

Falcons to host Marist, Saturday

Athletic communications

Air Force (0-1 overall) hosts the Marist Red Foxes (0-0 overall) in the first home game of the season, noon Saturday at the Academy's Falcon Stadium.

Marist finished 6-9 overall in 2014, including 3-3 in MAAC competition, before reaching the MAAC title game for the first time in nine seasons.

The Red Foxes hosted the MAAC Tournament and defeated third-seeded Detroit in the semifinals, 11-9. The Red Foxes fell to top-seeded Siena, 11-7, in the championship game. Marist led the MAAC in goals per game, averaging 11.00, and its 187 turnovers were lowest amongst the seven teams in the conference.

Last Season vs. Marist

Seniors Mike Crampton and Tommy McKee (Class of '14 graduates) combined for 10 goals to lead the Air Force lacrosse team to a 17-9 victory over Marist, Feb. 22, 2014, in the Frontier Airlines Face-Off Classic, hosted by Denver.

Crampton finished with five goals and two assists against the Red Foxes, while McKee added five goals of his own. Air Force held a

10-4 lead at the half en route to the 17-9 win. Air Force won the ground ball battle against Marist, 37-27, and also held a 48-31 advantage on shots taken.

Last Week

Third-ranked Duke needed a strong third quarter for a come-from-behind, 13-7, win over Air Force in the season opening lacrosse game, Sunday in Durham, N.C.

Inside the Numbers

Sophomore Austin Smith leads the team with two goals. Senior James Burke is tied for the team lead with two points (1-1-2). Burke leads the team with seven shots. Sophomore Luke Toscano was the Falcons' top faceoff man against Duke, winning nine draws. Toscano leads the team with six ground balls while senior Kyle O'Brien has five.

Junior Doug Gouchoe started and played all 60 minutes vs. Duke, recording a career high 13 saves. Gouchoe started in seven games, and played in 17 last season, logging 628 minutes on the field. He made 96 saves, while allowing 101 goals, for a .487 percentage on the season.

Last season, he turned in a pair of stellar performances at the ECAC championships recording a combined 16 saves and allowing just five goals in two halves of championship play.

Challenge

From Page 9
finished third in the triple jump (season-best 47'4 1/2") and fifth in the long jump (21'8 1/4"). Senior Erica Carson joined Alston among the top eight of the 200-meter dash (sixth, 25.85), while Alston added the same placement in the 400-meter dash (58.06). That pair also book-ended the Falcons' mile relay that finished third in a time of 4:03.00. Freshman Giulianna Vessa finished fourth in the mile (5:16.80), while sophomores Lindy Long and Alexa Chacon earned matching sixth-place finishes in the 3000-meter run (11:09.65) and 60-meter hurdles (season-best 8.94), respectively, and senior Morgan Malone clocked a season-best 7.90 to finish seventh in the 60-meter dash.

Air Force earned a pair of scoring finishes in the weight throw, as sophomores Cydnee Reese and Ashley Morgan finished fifth (49'6 1/4") and eighth (42'11 3/4"), respectively, behind personal-best distances. Sophomore Taelor Eyre added a top-eight finish in the high jump (seventh, 5'1") to round out the women's scoring finishers.

The men defeated Wyoming 198-168, while falling to Grand Canyon (224-186) and Utah Valley (222-183), and the women dropped dual meets to Grand Canyon (234-147), Utah Valley (255-152) and Wyoming (190-153).


The Falcons travel to three different meets, including the Tyson Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., today and Saturday, the Husky Classic in Seattle, today and Saturday and the Adams State Qualifier in Alamosa, Saturday.

TRACK AND FIELD



Sophomore Cydnee Reese competes in the weight throw Friday at the Air Force Team Challenge in the Cadet gym. She finished fifth (49'6 1/4") to boost the team's score.

JASON GUTIERREZ



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International

From Page 1

also talk to the air officers commanding and get formal input for many of the programs — especially the semester exchange programs. From the AOC’s perspective, ‘Is this cadet ready to go abroad? Will they represent the Academy well? Will they benefit, and will the Academy benefit from sending them?’”

Cadets participating in international programs can visit a wide variety of foreign countries, including Chile, Morocco, Canada and Germany. Cadets on exchanges can attend academies in France, Germany, Chile, Spain, Canada, Japan and Singapore.

“We expect them to go to every class, just like here,” Howe said. “In an exchange program, we expect them to engage in all the military components of that. So there are expectations, but we try to phrase it in the idea that these are fantastic opportunities, and these are the expectations that accompany them. It’s a way for them to grow outside the Academy setting, and to translate what they’ve learned here to a different environment. Their language skills grow, but I think they grow as people as well.”

Maj. Victor Colon, deputy director of the International Programs Department, feels cadets grow from the experience in a way that will ultimately help them in the Air Force.

“Cadets don’t get a foreign experience at the Academy unless they go overseas,” Colon said. “When they actually see it, it opens their eyes.”

Colon said the bonds formed between countries and academies through exchanges and semesters abroad will prove useful in the future.

“I don’t think we’ll ever go to war by ourselves again,” he said. “We will always go in some kind of allegiance, and those who have met and become friends through exchanges will find each other once they get there. Because they’ve had that experience together, they can show a respect and an awareness of each other’s cultural traditions.”

Lt. Col. Rich Dodge, chief of the Franco-German language division here, agrees that participating in an exchange can have far-reaching effects.

“The French exchange was one of the most rewarding programs I’ve participated in during my Air Force career,” he said. “In addition

to expanding my knowledge of the French culture and language, I also began professional and personal relationships with French air force officers. The combination of the knowledge I obtained and the friendships I made has opened many doors for me during my career. For example, as a captain working in a NATO airborne warning and control system squadron in Germany, I was selected to take the lead for preparations for a training exercise that would take place in France. As I spoke with the French base operations personnel about using their facilities to support the exercise, they were definitely impressed that I was willing to speak their language and that I knew a bit about the French air force. This kind of thing goes a long way as we work together



Cadets participating in the Academy’s Office of International Programs visit a variety of foreign countries, including Morocco, to broaden their cadet-learning experience.

COURTESY PHOTO

with our allies to accomplish our common goals.”

Despite the difficult entrance specifications for semesters abroad, exchange programs and CSLIP, Donoho encourages her fellow cadets to apply.

“There are certain requirements you have to meet, but if you have even the slightest interest, work toward it,” she said. “Come up to our department on the fifth floor of Fairchild – there are so many foreign officers willing to give you advice. It’s an amazing experience, and it’s one I think everyone should have.”

Rates

From Page 1

In odd-numbered years, the assessment involves visits to each of the academies by members of DoD’s Sexual Assault Prevention Response Office and the service sexual assault prevention response programs, as well as focus groups conducted by the Defense Manpower Data Center, he said.

For the site visit, the Department interviews academy sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates, criminal investigators, attorneys, and medical providers to assess how they’ve been performing their duties, what problems they might have encountered, and the things that they do to push the program forward and make progress.

“Then we make recommendations where we see that there’s potential for improvement, or we identify things that we think are best practices and we try to share those with the other service academies,” he explained.

Because the survey is voluntary, there is potential for the pool of respondents to be fundamentally different from those who choose not

to participate, Van Winkle said.

“For this particular survey, because we get such high response rates, we have very good confidence in our estimates based on the scientific weighting that we do and the adjustments that we do based on that scientific rating,” she said.

Increase in Unrestricted Reporting

While there was a decrease in the estimated prevalence of sexual assault, the academies received fewer formal reports of sexual assault during the same time period.

“This is something that we’re in for the long haul; we want this problem to go away. We don’t want people to believe that this is part of the military experience. When people volunteer to do the world’s most dangerous work, they deserve the safest environment possible to do it in.”

Dr. Nate Galbreath,

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program

However, this year, unrestricted reports outnumbered restricted reports. A victim who chooses to make an unrestricted report engages the military justice process and participates in an independent investigation.

“Victims who decide on an unrestricted report might be more confident that we’ll be able to support and care for them as they go through the challenges of partici-

pating in the justice system,” he said. “However, we see any report as beneficial, as it allows us a greater opportunity to provide victims with the support and services they need to restore their lives.”

Galbreath said one element that may be driving the increase in unrestricted reports is the introduction last year of the special victims’ counsel program, also known as the victims’ legal counsel program in the Navy and Marine Corps.

“Academy cadets and midshipmen are eligible for this program, and can have an attorney represent them throughout the military justice process. Our surveys indicate this service is highly valued by survivors,” he said.

Continuum of Harm

This year’s report included an anonymous survey of cadets and midshipmen. “While survey estimates indicate there were fewer sexual assaults this past academic year, responses also suggest that sexual harassment remains a problem area for the academies,” said Van Winkle.

“All of these behaviors fit into a continuum of harm,” she added.

Sexual harassment operates in two different ways, Galbreath said.

Sexual harassment may act as a

“green light” for potential offenders. They may get an impression they can behave anyway they’d like in a permissive environment.

Sexual harassment can also be used by the offender as both a way to groom potential victims or to keep a victim’s behavior in check, he said.

“Sexist jokes and other unacceptable gender-based behavior can be used to test boundaries with a victim,” Galbreath said.

“When unit members refuse to tolerate this and shut down the offender or any person who’s behaving inappropriately — it sends a strong message,” he said. “People that commit sexual assault aren’t particularly brave folks — they’re looking for the path of least resistance — and when they’re called to task for sexual harassment and other grooming behaviors, it lets an offender know the military is the last place they want to be.”

Though the report contains signs of progress, the department will continue to combat these problems, Galbreath said.

“This is something that we’re in for the long haul; we want this problem to go away,” he said. “We don’t want people to believe that this is part of the military experience. When people volunteer to do the world’s most dangerous work, they deserve the safest environment possible to do it in.”

Commentary

From Page 2

us are willing to be educated about our diversity and educate others. The Academy and clubs such as the WLC do a great job providing outlets for cadets to better understand one another and why we are the way we are. This exploration we experience while learning about one another makes us better cadets and will make us better officers.

Diversity is beautiful and necessary, and the Academy would not be the same institution without it. Through our differences we are able to grow and realize we have more in common than we think. Diversity does not make us peculiar; it just means we all have a different way of life.

In a society filled with people who may lack an appreciation for others not like them, I can

proudly say cadets are not like this. We embrace one another, we respect one another and we understand our differences make up the multiple pieces of a spectacular puzzle.

Mahatma Ghandi said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” Cadets see the change that has to be made and they embrace it. As a result, they have the potential to make our Air Force a better organization.



National Prayer Luncheon

The 2015 National Prayer luncheon is 11:30-1 p.m., March 3 at the Falcon Club. Retired Gen. Stephen Lorenz is the guest speaker. The cost is \$5 for senior airmen and below and their civilian equivalent; \$7 for all others. Call 333-3300 for reservations.

USAFA Tax Center open until April 15

The USAFA Tax Center is open until April 15. Tax returns are prepared by appointment 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Mon.-Fri. This free service is available to enlisted service members and captains and below, their dependents, cadets and retirees, if space is available). The Tax Center will process returns if your gross income is less than \$100,000, or if you do not have more than one rental property and do not own a business. Service members and families exceeding the eligibility limits, or otherwise unable to visit the Tax Center, are encouraged to visit their local Base Exchange for free or discounted services, or use the free Military OneSource online tax preparation service at www.militaryonesourceap.org. Fort Carson's Tax Center (524-1013) may be able to assist.

Clients need to bring their military or dependent ID cards; copy of their 2014 tax return; W-2s, 1099s, and 1098s; Social Security cards for the service member and dependents; birth dates for the service member and all dependents; copies of court orders for divorce, child custody, and child support and Form 8332, if post-2008 divorce; and a blank or cancelled check. Other documentation may be applicable such as child-care costs; IRA contributions; stock, bond or mutual fund sales, brokerage statements; alimony paid or received; bank account and routing numbers to receive a refund by direct deposit; Power of Attorney if signing a tax return for a deployed service member; and list of charitable donations, copies of all automobile registrations for all owned automobiles. To allow for more efficient processing of simple returns, the Academy Tax Center asks service members who have complicated taxes, multiple dependents, or other multiple deductions, to wait until the last week of February before making an appointment. The Academy Tax Center is in the 10th Air Base Wing headquarters building, Suite 237, 8034 Edgerton Drive. Call 333-3920 to make an appointment.

Claims against estate

Any person, firm or corporation with claims against the estate of deceased Cadet 4th Class John E. Lindsey must submit their claim to the Academy Staff Judge Advocate Office by Feb. 27.

African-American History Month events

- African-American display at the Cadet library in Fairchild Hall, 7:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. today at the Fairchild Hall Cadet Library
- A celebration of Africa-American History Month will take place at the Main Exchange 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 21. The event features live

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

SERVICE BEFORE SELF:

Celebrating African American Military Service Past to Present

Friday, February 13th
11:45AM
Arnold Hall Ballroom

RSVP and submit payment NLT 10 Feb
Military/Civilian: \$15
Cadets: \$5

Dress: UOD or business casual

FOC: C3C Rico Hill
Alt FOC: C2C Trigg Nyaga-Ogile
DF FOC: Lt Col Candice By

- music and family-friendly activities.
- Soul Food and African-American heritage exhibits 11 a.m.-noon Feb. 25 at the High Country Inn
 - Health Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 27 in the 10th Medical Group lobby

NCLS registration

Registration for the 22nd Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium is open to Academy permanent party, faculty and staff. This year's theme is: "Serving Our Nation: Our Calling, Core Values and Commitments." Visit www.usafa.edu/ncls for more information.

10th FSS events

- Ski trips:** Loveland on Valentine's Day, Saturday. \$25 for transportation only. Call 333-4475 for more information.
- Single Airmen Trips:** Copper Mountain skiing, Sunday. Call the Rec Center at 333-4475.
- Free youth clubs:** Academy children can join various youth clubs to gain leadership and service experience. The Torch Club is for children 9-13 and meets Wednesdays, 4 p.m.; The Keystone Club is for teenagers 14-18 and meets Wednesdays, 4 p.m.



Cadet Chapel

- BUDDHIST**
Service: Sunday, 10 a.m.
Meditation: Thursday, 6:20 p.m.
- PROTESTANT**
Traditional, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary, Sunday, 11 a.m.
- CATHOLIC**
Mass: Sunday, 10 a.m.
Daily Mass: Mon. - Thurs., 5:30 p.m.
Confession: Sunday, 9 a.m.
Adoration Confession, Wednesday, 4:30-5:20 p.m.
- JEWISH**
Shabbat, 7 pm., Kiddush dinner, 7:45 p.m.
- MUSLIM**
Jumah Prayers, Friday, 12:30 p.m.

Community Center Chapel

- CATHOLIC WORSHIP**
Mass: Saturday, 4 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m. Tuesday - Friday, 11:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturday, 3 p.m.
Formation Classes: For students in grades K-8. Sunday, 10:15-11:30 a.m., September-May.
- PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE**
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Religious Education: Sunday, 9 a.m., pre-school through adults.

Instagram photo of the week



User **kblessed88** shared this Instagram of a fresh snow fall on the Academy and posted: "Focus more on your future than your past! We look forward to highlighting your Instagram photos in upcoming editions of the **Academy Spirit**. If you would like to have a photo published, upload it to Instagram using **#YourAcademy**."

@KBLESSED88

