WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley launched a new Web feature Wednesday to tell Airmen what is of special interest to him. Known as The Chief’ s Scope, it is designed to highlight topics General Moseley feels are important to America’ s Airmen.

“The issues on my scope are ones that keep me up at night,” said General Moseley. “(These are) ones your senior leaders are working to make sure our Airmen are the best organized, trained and equipped military force in the world.”

The Chief’ s Scope, available on Air Force Link’ s homepage, www.af.mil, will feature a consistently updated listing of topics General Moseley wants to highlight to Airmen.

“The Chief’ s Scope is designed to highlight topics Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley feels are important to America’ s Airmen,” said General Moseley.

“I’ ll use this forum to fire quick bursts of news so you’ ll know what I am focusing on now, or will be focusing on soon,” he explained.

The first set of topics includes the Airman’ s Warfighting Ethos, the Combat Search and Rescue mission, the new tanker and several more. General Moseley has written a brief explanation of each topic so Airmen can better understand the issues he’ s working and why they are important to the Air Force’ s senior leaders.

“The goal is knowledge-enabled Airmen, who are informed on the Air Force’ s key issues and where the service is going,” said General Moseley.

“I’ m excited about the direction our Air Force is heading,” said General Moseley. “I’ m proud to have you on my wing as we fly, fight and win.”

Promotions announced

Thirty-eight Academy officers were promoted Tuesday to colonel, lieutenant colonel or major.

The promotees are:

Colonel
Dean of the Faculty
Louis J. Cherry

Lieutenant Colonel
Cadet Wing
Leslie P. Babich
Matthew R. Beckley
Christina Clausnitzer
Edu L. Edmondson
Joseph E. Hall
Christopher J. Keeton
Douglas W. Kline
Scott A. Kniep
Robert S. Mackenzie
Rhonda K. Reichel (**)
Anthony W. Schenk
Bryan J. Schrass
Scott M. Schroff
Ronald D. Stenger
Ronald J. Tewksbury
William V. Winans (*)
Dean of the Faculty
Harold A. Arb
Denise M. Bruce (*)
Anne L. Clark (*)
John M. Garver
Kevin A. Gibbons
Christopher J. Hays (*)
Timothy P. Jung
Jeffrey P. Kaczmarczyk
Jessica Ann Macdonald (*)
Peter P. Ohotnick
Christian E. Randell
Troy B. Weingart (*)
Athletic Department
Matthew C. Ciccarello
Brandon K. Doan
Preparatory School
Jennifer A. Block
James D. Bottomley
10th Air Base Wing
Jeffrey G. Demuth (**)
Superintendent
Bryan K. Ceasn (*)
306th Flying Training Group
Alexander Cos
Major
Dean of the Faculty
Anthony S. Gunn
Michael A. Hatton
* - PCS’d to USAFA after cutoff date
** - PCS’d from USAFA after cutoff date

Take off

Falcon sophomore guard Andrew Henke defies gravity as he goes for a dunk above Austin Peay’ s Landon Shipley, 12, and Todd Babington Wednesday at Clune Arena. Air Force played head and shoulders above the Governors en route to a 75-51 opening round win in the Western Region of the National Invitation Tournament. The victory was the first ever post-season success for the top-seeded Falcons, and advanced the bluesuiters (24-8) to the NIT second round to host the #4 seed Georgia (18-14). A win over the Bulldogs Monday would set the Air Force record for most wins in a season. For story, see Page 18.

Thirty-eight Academy officers were promoted Tuesday to colonel, lieutenant colonel or major.

See PROMOTIONS, Page 3
Nicaraguan lifestyle proves hard, offers valuable lessons

By Senior Airman Jacque Lickteig
New Horizons - Nicaragua Public Affairs

SANTA TERESA, Nicaragua (AFNEWS) — When Luisa Palacio-Cortez invited me into her life, perspective slapped me in the face and threatened a lifelong imprint - one I will run my finger over in appreciation for years to come.

The 83-year-old Nica woman lives next to Camp Red Horse, in what I originally thought was a gray, brick and wooden barn.

I’ve seen her most afternoons sitting in a white, plastic lawn chair in the dirt-covered front yard as if she were keeping guard over the livestock that grazed nearby and the chickens that pecked for bits of grain at her feet.

Throughout many of our conversations in the surrounding towns to meet the locals and sporadic visits to the medical readiness training exercises, I’ve caught glimpses of the peoples’ existence through my camera lens.

In those few photographs, I could only capture a fraction of what these peoples’ lives are truly like. Through their tattered clothes, impoverished appearances and the sheer number of people who show up at the MEDRETS, it is easy to see how a new school, a new medical clinic and opportunities for free health and veterinary care would help.

Back home, these kinds of gifts are a dime a dozen, easily overlooked and soon forgotten. So, what we were doing here and how much it would help didn’t fully hit me.

During my first interaction with Mrs. Palacio-Cortez, my first week here, I was equipped with my camera. I broke through the language barrier with exaggerated gestures to ask if she would be comfortable with me taking her photo. Sitting cross-legged in her teak skirt, the frizzy, grey-haired woman half smiled and swatted the air in response as if to tell me not to click the shutter.

A month later and over a few days during the past week, she finally let me cross the threshold of her always-open doorway to observe her daily activities and pry into her life’s story.

The first day, I sat on a bench made out of a split tree trunk in the front yard, pen eagerly in hand, as she told me about her life with a slightly uncomfort-able expression.

She said she’s always called the outskirts of Santa Teresa her home. For the last 15 years, she’s resided with her husband, Selmo Cortez, and two of her five sons; Santos, 54, and Julio, 34, in the 15-by-20-foot two-room house that her family built.

She welcomed me and my translator with arms stretched out from her 4-foot, 9-inch thin frame, a wide smile that spanned across her strong-featured face and showed the gaps in her teeth, and the exclamation, “Pobrecito!”

Pobrecito is Spanish for poor.

The front room is the living area, kitchen, storage room and sleeping area for her sons.

As a few of her interested grand-children from next door crept into the house one by one, she led me back to the bench in the front yard where she continued to tell me about her life. She said Santo and Julio are the sole financial providers for the household, bringing in anywhere from 200 to 500 cordobas - equal to $11.11 to $27.28 - a month finding work such as planting sugarcane, picking coffee beans or chopping sugar cane stalks. Her 83-year-old husband is ill, so he cannot work.

“He’s waiting for Jesus to take him,” she said in Spanish.

Mrs. Palacio-Cortez is the machine that keeps the household running.

She said every morning after waking at about 4 a.m., she makes coffee and tortillas for breakfast if they have the commodities.

At around 11 a.m., she starts cooking, something I was able to witness.

She filled a bucket with water from the pump in the front yard, the only source water for the residence, and set it under the table inside. She grabbed dishes off of the ash-covered counter in the kitchen and scrubbed them over the bucket.

The counter spans the width of the room, and its top is made of stone. On the left-hand side, a hearth sinks into the stone and long blocks surround three of its edges. The entire creation came from one solid piece of rock that her family chiseled to make the stove.

As smoke filled the room, she packed a pan, tossed a cup of rice and a cup of water into it and set it on top of the burning wood.

The rice swelled in the pan while she explained she starts cooking at around 11 a.m. for the evening meal, which is usually around 4 p.m. Their meals usually consist of just rice, beans and tortillas she rolls out on stone. Two or three times out of the week they’ll incorporate chicken into their evening meal.

At about 30 cordobas for a chicken at the market, which is sometimes 15 percent of their monthly income, she said he is too costly for them to buy regularly. Most times, it’s the chickens that run around the house that end up on their plates.

Mrs. Palacio-Cortez said she shops for meat and other necessities in Santa Teresa. She treks the almost three miles into town because they have no means to do much for her. So, she learned to be grateful for what she has. There were times when she was younger that she wished for more. But she soon realized wishing wasn’t going to do much for her. So, she learned to be grateful for what she has.

Also, she and her family form a tight-knit community in which the successes of one are shouldered by all.

“When I was young,” she said, “I was grateful for what I have. I didn’t have much, but she doesn’t yearn for anything more.

She said she’s happy with what she has. There was times when she was younger that she wished for more. But she soon realized wishing wasn’t going to do much for her. So, she learned to be grateful for what she has.

Also, she and her family form a tight-knit community in which the successes of one is shared by all and the hardships of one are shouldered by all.

“Pacifico,” or peaceful, was her response when asked to sum up her life in one word.

When I left her house that afternoon smelling of wood-burned smoke, she offered thanks for everything we’ve done and are doing here. I told her she’s given me the greatest gift and thanked her for reminding me what is really important and helping me find the path to a peaceful life.

Luisa Palacio-Cortez, the 83-year-old woman who lives in a two-room house next to Camp Red Horse, cooks beef for her family’s evening meal. Beef is a rarity for her and her family. She said they mostly live on beans, rice, tortillas and sometimes one of the chickens that run around their property.

In the era she was born, education was not available so she had no formal learning. As decades passed, schooling became available, more structures went up and roads paved the way for cars. But neither technology nor wealth has pushed past her door.

Throughout that time, power has exchanged hands numerous times, but her life has mostly remained unchanged.

“Whoever is in power makes no difference,” she said. “The only differ-ence I have seen through my years is my lifestyle has gotten better because everything is closer, and it’s easier to get the things we need.”

She said she knows she doesn’t have much, but she doesn’t yearn for anything more.

She said she’s happy with what she has. There was times when she was younger that she wished for more. But she soon realized wishing wasn’t going to do much for her. So, she learned to be grateful for what she has.

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Promotions

From Page 1

The Air Force selected a total of 1,282 master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant Wednesday. The Academy had nine selectees.

The board, which convened here Feb. 5 to 23, considered 14,626 master sergeants, for an 8.77 percent select rate. Last year’s selection rate was 8.63 percent.

The average score for those selected was 663.89, with an average time in grade and time in service of 4.50 and 20.53 years respectively. The average score was based on the following point averages:

- 134.99 for enlisted performance reports;
- 32.88 for time in grade;
- 21.52 for time in service;
- 21.12 for decorations;
- 65.42 for Air Force supervisory examination;
- 387.97 for board score.

Score notices will be available on the virtual military personnel flight, or vMPF, and Air Force Portal March 14. Those selected will be promoted to E-8 beginning in April.

The Academy promotees are:

**Cadet Wing**
- Ricardo Melendez
- Charles Jetton
- Michael Dahlhoff
- Dean of the Faculty
- Daniel Colwell
- Directorate of Finance
- Richard Heath
- Preparatory School
- Jack Ladley
- 10th Mission Support Squadron
- Scott Kottke
- 10th Aerospace Medical Squadron
- Marc Skinkle
- 10th Medical Operations Squadron
- Sharon Reeves

Looking for the gift of life

Cadet 3rd Class Ariana Allen, Cadet Squadron 35, waits outside Fort Carson’s post exchange last weekend to promote this week’s blood drive. The blood drive starts Monday and continues through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Arnold Hall ballroom. It continues Thursday through March 23 at the special events center on Fort Carson from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Blood collected through this drive will be expedited to combat locations where it is needed most.

Character Corner

**Honor**

So, what does “Honor” mean to you? It seems everybody has their own definition of Honor, but Webster’s Dictionary says the noun denotes: “respectability, esteem and complete integrity of character demonstrated in both public and private life.” An honorable person is “marked by uprightness in principle and action.”

All of us should strive to live a life that is above reproach. That means even when others are not watching, we are doing the right thing. Doing the right thing might not necessarily be convenient or what satisfies us at that point in time, but it speaks volumes about your character.

Some people who claim to be honorable have difficulties defending that claim because of their “secret, dishonorable lives.” In the Air Force, to be an honorable person means that you are trustworthy in all your actions, deeds, and communications … in your public and private lives. Our most precious commodity (our people) depends on it.

Tune into KAFA 97.7 FM for Character Counts, 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

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You’re stranded in a vehicle... now what?

Emergency flares, jumper cables
Traction aids (bag of sand or cat litter)
Shovel, tow chain
Matches
Traction aids (bag of sand or cat litter)
Emergency flares, jumper cables
Snacks, water and road maps
Vehicle breakdown safety triangle

“Stay in the vehicle,” advises Mr. Sexton. “Do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow. Display a trouble sign by hanging a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna and raising the hood. If you are in a ditch or other hard-to-see location or in a position to surprise other traffic as they come around a curve, alert others to your location with a safety triangle or flare.”

Turn on the vehicle’s engine for about 10 minutes each hour and run the heat to keep warm, Mr. Sexton said. “Turn on the vehicle’s dome light when the vehicle is running as an additional signal. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning,” he added. “Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation.”

Self-help measures include watching for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. “Do minor exercises to keep up circulation,” Mr. Sexton said. “Clap your hands and move your arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position for too long. If more than one person is in the vehicle, take turns sleeping. For warmth, huddle together.”

Newspapers, maps and even the removable car mats can be used for added insulation. “Avoid overexertion since cold weather puts an added strain on the heart,” said the health and safety expert. “Un-acclimated exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a vehicle can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse. Be aware of symptoms of dehydration.”

You’re stranded in a vehicle... now what?

The snow may not be over yet in Colorado. Historical records say March is the month of the heaviest snow. What should a driver do if a winter storm strands a person in a vehicle?

In recent snow storms, stranded motorists have abandoned their vehicles on Academy roadways without leaving a warning device such as a safety triangle to alert other motorists that their vehicle is adjacent to or partially blocking a lane of traffic.

“It’s an extremely dangerous situation,” said Mr. Nate Sexton, Academy occupational safety and health specialist. “A safety triangle or equivalent will warn approaching motorists of a disabled vehicle and prepare them to stop if necessary.”

The safety office official advises not to get stranded without the essentials and keep an emergency kit in the vehicle with these items:

- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Cellular telephone or two-way radio
- Windshield scraper, snow brush
- flashlight with fresh/extra batteries
- Extra winter clothes
- Shovel, tow chain
- Matches
- Traction aids (bag of sand or cat litter)
- Emergency flares, jumper cables
- Snacks, water and road maps
- Vehicle breakdown safety triangle
Emergency dental services are being provided to 1,200 to 1,800 troops at any given time by 10th Medical Group members deployed to Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan.

“The actual workload varies considerably from week to week due to the number of troops passing through on their way to or from Afghanistan,” said Academy dentist Maj. Brent Havey. Fifteen Academy members are providing dental services to civilians affiliated with the U.S. government.

When time permits, the dentist works with Kyrgyz youth downtown.

“The biggest difference I’ve noticed in my time here has been the education and awareness concerning good dental hygiene among Kyrgyz children,” said Dr. Havey. “Dental floss is relatively expensive here since it must be imported, and so many children simply go without, which causes dental problems later in life.”

The 10th MDG works at being good neighbors now as in past years. They are active in community outreach initiatives including support for local schools, orphanages and children’s hospitals.

“We assist these organizations with repair projects. We obtain donated clothing and supplies for them,” said the general dentist now serving as chief of dental services for the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group. “We simply hang out with them and enjoy their company.”

The medical group members and six people from the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron’s fire department find themselves in an area remarkably similar to Colorado Springs in regards to geography, wildlife and population.

“The Kyrgyz people are exceptionally friendly to Americans,” said the dentist from Madison, Wis. “They recognize we are here to participate in the fight against terrorism and support us in that mission. And the local cuisine is, well, different.”

What isn’t different is the need for dental hygiene.

“What do you call good dental hygiene instruction is very important and it is something a great many Kyrgyz children have not had,” said Dr. Havey. “We hope to increase the level of awareness about the importance of good dental hygiene and thus help to improve the quality of life for the Kyrgyz people.”

The first group of Academy people deployed to Kyrgyzstan should be home by mid-May.
Life-saving turret prototype stems from Airman’s death

By Maj. Cristin L’Esperance
U.S. Central Command Air Forces Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNEWS) — Less than 80 days after Airman 1st Class Leeberrand Chavis was felled by a sniper’s bullet near Baghdad, Airmen in Iraq were testing an improved turret that designers hope will offer service members better protection.

Airman Chavis, of Hampton, Va., was killed by enemy gunfire Oct. 14 while performing duties as a turret gunner with his security forces team, out on joint patrol with Iraqi police in the vicinity of Baghdad. Airman Chavis, a member of the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, was part of the U.S. military police training effort supporting Iraqi police.

“We have an emerging threat that has developed — the sniper,” explained Col. Gerard Jolivette, U.S. Central Command Air Forces’ director of force protection.

“We’ve lost an Airman due to sniper fire...and this is a mental and physical threat that we must mitigate immediately.”

And Airmen from Detachment 7 of the 732nd ESFS and the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron’s vehicle maintenance shop did just that, putting forth the first efforts at designing and building a new, more protective turret last fall.

The original, custom-made turret was dubbed the “Chavis Turret” to honor Airman Chavis and was made from scavenged materials using pieces cannibalized from junked vehicles and old parts.

Building on these efforts, Colonel Jolivette took it to the next level, calling for a solution from the Air Force Security Forces Force Protection Battlelab, charged with identifying, evaluating and recommending innovative concepts for protecting personnel, facilities and weapon systems. The battlelab rapidly measures these concepts’ potential value through modeling, simulation, assessment and operational employment.

Just two weeks after Airman Chavis’ death, Don Lowe, technical director with the Force Protection Battlelab since its inception in 1997, sat down with members of the USCENTAF force protection staff and sketched a concept to provide service members better protection from sniper fire.

“We looked at concepts available out in industry, but nothing quite fit the bill,” said Mr. Lowe, a former security forces career Airman. He stressed that the design had to provide increased visibility and protection for turret gunners, while still allowing them the ability to sustain engagement.

“It’s vital that the turret gunner on patrol be the eyes and ears of the crew onboard,” he said.

John Schneider, lead engineer with NAVSEA Crane Division, which specializes in rapid prototyping, took it from there. The fact that Mr. Schneider, a Defense Department civilian engineer, was a former Marine rifleman catapulted his security forces team, out on joint patrol be the eyes and ears of the crew onboard.

The protective prototype’s inception in 1997, sat down with members of the USCENTAF force protection staff in concert with the Air Force Security Forces Force Protection Battlelab.

In 41 days, Mr. Schneider’s team had all the parts assembled into a protective, igloo-shaped structure that is designed to wrap around and over the turret gunner, according to Mr. Lowe. Mr. Schneider teamed up with fellow engineers Mr. Ron Glasscock and Mr. Mark Collins, a former Soldier himself, to make it a reality.

“This is the product of passion for Airman,” said Mr. Schneider. “This is the Air Force putting its best foot forward to help Airmen.”

In 41 days, Mr. Schneider’s team had all the parts assembled into a protective, igloo-shaped structure that is designed to wrap around and over the turret gunner.

The assembly included 10-by-10-inch panels of ballistic glass, already widely used by the U.S. military, and 3/8-inch rolled ballistic steel, the same kind used to armor Humvee door panels. The structure is built to accommodate a heavy weapon and still rotate smoothly and safely.

Rather than conduct field evaluations stateside, as might ordinarily happen, the USCENTAF force protection staff insisted
AFIT offers distance learning degree program

By Air Force Print News

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNEWS) — The Air Force Institute of Technology recently achieved two milestones that will help the school move forward into the 21st century and serve the Air Force with greater responsiveness.

This month, AFIT began offering its first distance learning graduate degree program. AFIT has been using DL technologies to offer graduate certificate programs, as well as professional continuing education, for some time. But with this pilot program in Systems Engineering, it is now possible for military members, DoD civilians and government contractors across the country to earn a master’s degree from AFIT without moving to Ohio or leaving their current assignments.

“Students interested in getting a masters degree in systems engineering can do so in any number of ways,” said Dr. David Jacques, the curriculum chair for AFIT’s Systems Engineering Program. “What makes our program so unique is that it is geared toward the DoD employee. Our faculty uses its extensive military background to create a defense-centered educational experience.”

“During their research, our students are encouraged to tackle real-world systems problems found in their workplace,” said George Mooney, director of AFIT’s Center for Systems Engineering. “That way, students can make strides toward obtaining their master’s degree while helping the Air Force — more specifically, while helping the student’s own organization or company.”

“How unique is that a huge benefit for the military student.”

The second AFIT milestone was the recent opening of the graduate school’s brand-new DL studio suite. After an interior construction and renovation project, the school installed new equipment in the studio suite to facilitate an expanding distance learning outreach.

“Our goal was to create a flexible toolbox that faculty members could use to create streamable content, as well as interact in real-time with the distance learning student,” said John Reisner, director of AFIT’s Office of Extension Services. Previously, the school relied on video-teleconferences to deliver educational content to the remote student.

“We wanted to use technologies that were more versatile, and more scalable, without sacrificing quality,” said Dr. Marlin Thomas, dean of AFIT’s Graduate School of Engineering and Management. “Our new studios have empowered the faculty to do that.”

With a newly-hired staff, the graduate school’s extension services office is poised to help the school realize its goal of becoming an increasingly important educational resource for agencies and organizations across the Air Force and DoD. In January 2007, AFIT’s Center for Space Studies and Research began offering the graduate school’s second certificate program fully available online: the graduate space systems certificate. This recent growth of DL educational opportunities has meant a spike in the numbers of students taking advantage of these programs, and the school is optimistic that this is only the beginning.

Prospective students interested in learning more about DL programs offered by AFIT’s Graduate School of Engineering and Management can visit AFIT’s Office of Extension Services’ Web site at www.afit.edu/en/dl.
Air Force kicks off energy forum

By Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young
Air Force Print News

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNEWS) — Secretary of the Air Force, Michael W. Wynne, welcomed members of the energy industry to the Air Force Energy Forum at the Crystal Gateway Marriott here March 8.

“The interesting thing that we are looking for in the Air Force is to actually change the environment that we operate in so that we can operate from a position of ultimate strength, knowing full well that our economy and our industry, as well as ourselves are working from domestic resources,” said Secretary Wynne.

Also participating in the forum were representatives from the Departments of Defense, Army, Navy and Energy, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture and the Federal Aviation Administration.

“I’m proud to say the Air Force leads the way in using alternative and renewable energy sources and finding new ways to conserve,” said Secretary Wynne.

Secretary Wynne said the Air Force is testing synthetic fuels in order to move towards being self-reliant for energy sources, because of the fluctuating oil prices and rise in fuel costs in the last few years.

“The forum will focus on energy issues from both the supply and demand side, as it relates to infrastructure, vehicles and aircraft,” said Secretary Wynne.

The secretary discussed his vision to create a culture where Airmen incorporate energy consideration into everything they do. His September Letter to Airmen focused on energy conversation and is now incorporated into Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century.

“Under the auspices of AFSA 21, I have asked every Airmen to make energy a priority and to bring ideas forward on how we can be more energy efficient,” said the secretary.

The secretary urged all Airmen to make energy a priority and to work closely with the Air Force’s outside partners.

Three of those partners followed Secretary Wynne. Each one discussed reasons to move toward a cleaner and self-reliant energy program in the United States. They included the Honorable Marion C. Blakey, administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; George Mueller, president, Advanced Systems and The Boeing Company; and Daniel Yering, chairman, Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Turret

From Page 6

that the prototype be brought to the Middle East to be tested and evaluated by battlefield Airmen who operate daily on the streets of Baghdad to help train Iraqi forces.

In less than 80 days, the prototype arrived at a base near Baghdad.

While the prototype didn’t leave the base, Airmen who do leave the relative safety of the base daily to help train the Iraqi police force in and around Baghdad put the turret through its paces.

The men and women of the 732nd ESFS Detachment 7 are battlefield Airmen who perform the same duties Airmen Chavis did.

Once the new turret was assembled and mounted on top of a Humvee at Sather Air Base, Iraqi defenders from Detachment 7, assigned to Camp Victory, had the opportunity to assess the vehicle’s maneuverability — acceleration, deceleration, turning characteristics — given the modified vehicle’s slightly raised center of gravity.

“We asked them, ‘Can you operate and do what you need to do?’” said Mr. Lowe. “We were looking at form, fit and function and took their recommendations and feedback.”

“Thank you to your department, because this turret is really an interesting project,” said Mr. Schneider. “I appreciated your help and patience.”

Col. Jolivette, from Detachment 21, added, “I feel good about the turret.”

Col. Jolivette stressed the turret had to meet certain requirements and receive the green light from U.S. Central Command Air Forces’ leaders. Soon, 60 operational turrets will be deployed. Mr. Lowe anticipates Airmen in the fight will receive the first five by late March.

“With a few additional modifications underway, the prototype has the green light from U.S. Central Command Air Forces’ leaders. Soon, 60 operational turrets will be deployed. Mr. Lowe anticipates Airmen in the fight will receive the first five by late March.

“This project will help save lives,” Colonel Jolivette said. “It is one of several UNCENTAF initiatives being developed to improve the protection and defense posture of our personnel and the command’s warfighting assets.”

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Future is bright for Air Force space assets

The Airmen of Air Force Space Command are tracking a lot more than the man-made space junk that orbits the Earth.

By Louis A. Arana-Barradas
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AFNEWS) — Space operators are troubleshooting the way they do business. They’re focusing on getting their capabilities — the ones most Americans know little about — to the forefront of the battlefield.

Continued next page
Leading the effort is a group of leaders with experience in real-world combat operations. These men and women know how to work with their sister services to ensure servicemembers on the ground get the best air and space support needed to win the war on terrorism. Every day, these combat Airmen help joint forces achieve the best possible spherical situational awareness.

The commander of these space Airmen, Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, is a longtime space operator. The command is modernizing its capabilities and technologies and focusing on the details to make the services second to none. He said the command is focusing on key areas.

“First we need to be preserving, as well as developing, new capabilities the joint warfighter relies on. Second, we have to provide a nuclear deterrent with our intercontinental ballistic missile force,” the general said. “Third, unlike other commands, we have an acquisition responsibility, so we are focusing on making sure we develop, acquire and field the necessary capabilities we need for the future. Underpinning this is our need for talented people.”

As the command heads into a more clearly defined future, it is concentrating on recruiting, training and retaining “the talent we need to run our space systems in the future,” he said.

That is a key strategy for fighting the continuing war on terrorism, a battle in which space command Airmen are deeply involved every day. Space operators bring the Global Positioning System and timing signal, General Chilton said.

“The command has some immediate goals, he said. “First we need to be preserving, as well as developing, new capabilities the joint warfighter relies on. Second, we have to provide a nuclear deterrent with our intercontinental ballistic missile force,” the general said. “Third, unlike other commands, we have an acquisition responsibility, so we are focusing on making sure we develop, acquire and field the necessary capabilities we need for the future. Underpinning this is our need for talented people.”

Getting there means facing change involving recapitalization and acquisition. But the general said his Airmen are up to the challenges and that this will make for some exciting times ahead.

“We are recapitalizing every system in the command,” General Chilton said. “Right now, every satellite system — whether weather, communications, missile warning or GPS satellites — is being recapitalized. We are developing brand new ones, and we are launching some of those satellites this year.”

The command is looking deep into the future to develop satellites that won’t go into service for several years, but that will help with space surveillance. And the command is also recapitalizing the Air Force’s entire ICBM force, essentially rebuilding the Minuteman III missile system deployed in the field.

“Nothing we do in Air Force Space Command is for Air Force Space Command,” General Chilton said. “Everything we do is for the joint fight.”

That’s why the general said he wants everyone to know and have the confidence to turn to the command for “anything space.” Space Airmen have capabilities that run the gamut from systems development, acquisition, fielding and actual operations to the launch of ICBMs, missile warning, space surveillance and a host of key satellite systems.

“We have the expertise for America in Air Force Space Command,” he said. “If you have a question about space, we should be at the top of your roster.”

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High Blood Pressure: What you should know

By Capt. Wayne A. Weissinger
10th Medical Group

What is hypertension or high blood pressure as it is more commonly called?

Blood pressure is the amount of pressure against the walls of your blood vessels from the blood inside pushing out. When your blood pressure is taken, two different pressures are measured. The top number, or systolic pressure, is the pressure inside the vessel when your heart squizzes and forces more blood into the vessel. The bottom number, or diastolic pressure, is the pressure inside the vessel when your heart is at rest between beats.

The term high blood pressure is used when one or both of those numbers is higher than an established “norm.”

The medical community has adopted guidelines that specify what high blood pressure is and classify it based on severity. In general, blood pressure should be less than 140/90 to be in the “normal or prehypertensive” range. For those with a chronic disease such as diabetes, kidney disease or certain types of heart conditions, their blood pressure should usually be kept at an even lower level. Blood pressure is regulated and maintained by a fairly complex system including the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, other organs and numerous hormones.

There are two main types of hypertension. Secondary hypertension is uncommon and occurs when a specific reversible cause of hypertension is identified. Essential hypertension is the cause of 95-98 percent of all cases of hypertension. A health care provider can explain what the optimal blood pressure should be for a particular condition.

Why is high blood pressure so dangerous?

If we think about blood pressure as “stress,” it is easier to think about the effects of increased blood pressure. The increased stress wears on body parts over time. For example, by making the heart work harder against the increased pressure, high blood pressure causes the heart to wear out prematurely or can cause damage to other organs such as the kidneys and eyes. The blood vessels themselves can be damaged in the form of aneurysms, which are weak areas in a vessel that “balloon” out, and can rupture causing stroke or other potentially deadly problems.

When vessels are continually stressed from high blood pressure, they can become thicker. This causes a narrowing of the space for blood to flow, leading to problems related to decreased blood supply. People with severely elevated blood pressure may experience headaches, blurred vision and nausea or vomiting, but this is fairly rare. Generally people do not feel any different with high blood pressure, which is why it has been called “the silent killer.” This is why it is important to have regular screening for high blood pressure, especially as we get older.

Who is at risk and should be screened for high blood pressure?

There are many estimates on the number of people with high blood pressure. Some say roughly one in three individuals, or 50 to 65 million adults in America fit the criteria for high blood pressure. Some specific groups, such as African Americans, are at high risk of developing high blood pressure earlier in life as well as developing more severe forms.

Other risk factors for high blood pressure include: being overweight, men older than 45 years old, women older than 55, a family history of hypertension, high-salt diet, smoking, excessive alcohol intake, excess stress and a sedentary (lack of exercise) lifestyle.

When should I start checking my blood pressure?

Blood pressure should be checked every time you see a health care provider. Ask about your blood pressure, such as, “is it high,” or “what should it be for me.” Some providers may use the term “white coat syndrome,” which describes elevated blood pressures associated with being nervous in a medical office.

Providers may suggest some home blood pressure measurements. For those taking their blood pressure at home, remember to take it as the provider ordered it. Generally, taking your blood pressure measurements daily or every other day at varying times is sufficient for those being treated for high blood pressure and those at risk. Always keep a record of the readings, to include the time of day. Avoid coffee, smoking or excessive activity before taking blood pressure measurements.

Blood pressure readings should be done while sitting, and be sure to use a blood pressure cuff that is an appropriate size. Provider or pharmacists can help find a suitable blood pressure cuff and machine. Remember that blood pressure naturally changes in response to internal body functions and outside stimuli so readings will vary. Again, ask the health care provider for parameters of what is too high and when to seek medical attention. Patients being treated or about to start medication for high blood pressure should remember that with essential hypertension, two or more medications may be needed to control blood pressure.

Always discuss your particular situation and concerns with your health care provider to find a treatment plan that’s right for you.

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333-3168
By Capt. Ken Hall  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – “I’m excited to have the new ammo,” 1st Lt. David Bennet said, “and glad to employ it to help the guys on the ground.”

Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots, like Lieutenant Bennert, a 2003 Academy graduate from the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing here, are employing a new 20mm cannon round in their M61/A1 Gatling guns for the first time, improving pilot safety, while reducing collateral damage.

Pilots first validated the rounds at a firing range and then employed them in battle at the end of February.

Ground forces east of Baghdad chased insurgents into a building and then called in close-air support. F-16s from the 332nd AEW responded, strafing the insurgents and vehicle.

Improved PGU-28/A/B 20mm ammunition began replacing the long-used M56 high explosive incendiary ammunition in the wing’s F-16s, making pilots’ jobs easier, safer and more effective. That is a lofty claim, but recent combat sorties prove the ammo is enhancing combat airpower.

The older M56 ammo required a specific impact velocity in order for its high explosive incendiary properties to function correctly. In other words, the round would not explode on impact if it did not get there fast enough, so pilots had to get in closer for the strafe. Of course, the impact and mass of the projectile would still damage the target, but would not achieve the full explosive effect for which it was designed.

The new cannon round employs a more aerodynamic design and “hotter load,” which increases its velocity and effective range, allowing greater standoff distance for pilots, according to wing officials. That increased distance directly translates to greater pilot safety overall, because they can fire the new rounds from more than a mile and a half away, said Capt. Jim Maxwell, the deputy chief of weapons and tactics at the wing.

The captain also noted that when bullets can be used instead of bombs, the potential for collateral damage is reduced as well, increasing airpower options for the ground commander who must calculate the desired result when calling in air support, according to Captain Maxwell.

Acquiring and readying the new ammo for use, though, was not an easy task.

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Munitions Group deployed a ‘replenisher’ (foreground) into a universal ammunition loading system. UALS are a diverse group of members deploying to employ the ammo quickly.

Capt. Kevin Tanner, 332nd EMXS officer in charge, said, “Airmen toiled around the clock as well swapping PGU ammo for M56 rounds over a period of two days,” said Capt. Kevin Tanner, 332nd EMXS officer in charge.

That hard work allowed F-16 pilots to employ the ammo quickly. The weapons crew and ammo Airmen are a diverse group of members deploying from throughout the world — Aviano Air Base, Italy; Misawa AB, Japan; Seltjod Air National Guard Base, Mich.; Syracuse ANGB, N.Y.; Duluth ANGB, Minn.; and Joint Reserve Base Ellington Field, Houston, Texas.

“Our ammo and weapons loader personnel are just phenomenal,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Kamoshiko, the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group deputy commander. “Ours is a total force team effort, and they managed to get our F-16s loaded within an amazing 48 hours of the ammo’s arrival.”

Lieutenant Bennett and Capt. George Watkins, both from the 510th EFS, piloted the first two-ship combat mission to use the new cannon rounds. The pilots worked as a team employing standard night tactics where one “sparkles” the target with infrared marker invisible to anyone not wearing night vision goggles, and the other then strafes and destroys the target.

Captain Watkins says, “Protecting the guys on the ground is our No. 1 priority, and having the new ammo makes it easier and safer for us to do that.”

Col. Scott Dennis commands the wing’s 332nd Operations Group.

“It’s critical for ground forces who call in air support to get it when they need it,” Colonel Dennis said. “These new rounds certainly kick our (close-air support) effectiveness up a notch.”

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Cadets charged with violations of UCMJ

Three cadets have been charged with violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and each could face a general court-martial.

Cadet 1st Class Andrea Taylor was charged with one violation of Article 112a of the UCMJ for wrongful use of a controlled substance (D-Amphetamine). If convicted of all charges and specifications, he faces a maximum punishment of 6 ½ years confinement, dismissal from the Air Force, and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Cadet 2nd Class Christopher Wolff was charged with violating Article 134 of the UCMJ for indecent assault upon a fellow cadet. If convicted of all charges and specifications, he faces a maximum punishment of 5 years confinement, dismissal from the Air Force, and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Cadet 3rd Class David Watson was charged with three violations of UCMJ: Article 92, failure to obey an order or regulation; Article 108, damage, destruction or wrongful disposition of military property of the United States; and Article 112a, wrongful use of a controlled substance (D-Amphetamine). If convicted of all charges and specifications, he faces a maximum punishment of 5 years confinement, dismissal from the Air Force, and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

The next step in the military legal process will be an Article 32 hearing. An Article 32 hearing is used to determine if there is enough evidence to move the case forward to a court-martial or make recommendations for an alternative action.

Cadet Watson’s Article 32 hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 28, and Cadet Taylor’s Article 32 hearing is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday. A date for Cadet Wolff’s Article 32 hearing is pending.

Marines offer officer commissions

Effective immediately, applicants who are commissioned officers in another service are eligible to earn a commission with the United States Marine Corps through the Officer Candidate Class program if they apply prior to promotion to major. Officers who are major selects are eligible for application.

This policy applies to Air Force commissioned officers who are pushed out of service due to branch downsizing.

Commissioned officers who are interested in a Marine Corps commission may contact their local officer selection office in Fort Collins at (970) 484-8118 or in Denver at (303) 832-7121.

NMFA application period open for AFCPE Fellowship

The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education®, in association with the National Military Family Association and the National Association of Security Dealers Investor Education Foundation, is pleased to announce applications are being accepted for the Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial CounselorSM Program. This program will provide 200 military spouses with the education necessary to enter the financial counseling career field.

The fellowship covers the costs associated with completing the Associated Financial Counselor training and testing. Upon successful completion of the program and required practicum, the participant is awarded the Accredited Financial Counselor designation from AFCPE.

Many employers such as credit unions, financial aid offices, and community housing agencies need well-trained, ethical and caring financial counselors to meet the increasing demand for financial counseling services. Military spouses can fill this need while building a rewarding career that is flexible to the demands of the military family lifestyle.

Applications are only accepted online, www.nmfa.org/fellowship, and must be submitted by midnight March 31, 2007. To find out more about the National Military Family Association, visit www.nmfa.org.

Spirit mission monkey business

A huge inflatable gorilla appeared on spirit hill Wednesday morning as cadets criss-crossed the terrazzo the day before Recognition began. Cadet Squadron 1 also hung a banner in Mitchell Hall that read, “What did you expect, a griffin?” Cadet tradition has the 40 squadrons doing spirit missions on the days that correspond to their squadron number leading up to Recognition. Cadet Squaion 29 hoisted the superintendent’s flight cap to the top of the Cadet Chapel on the 29th day before Recognition. Cadet Squadron 1’s mascot is a griffin.

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Cadets learn about past, present weapons

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Academy history majors and history club members went back in time with a historic weapons shoot March 10 at Fort Carson’s Firing Range 19.

Sparked by an annual West Point event, a couple of Academy History Department instructors came up with the idea to provide cadets with a better appreciation of firearms throughout history.

“These are modern civilian and legal copies of historic firearms provided by history department instructors,” said Army Lt. Col. Nathan Watanabe, military history instructor. Ammunition was procured from commercial sources and participants paid for it.

To his knowledge, this is the first effort of its kind.

It’s not a step back in time, but it might look like one.

Cadre running the range were dressed in appropriate period-specific Civil War, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and current uniforms.

“We may plan on holding another in April,” said the cross-commissioned officer, a 1988 Academy graduate and Army UH-60 helicopter pilot who teaches Introduction to Military History and World War II.

Nine department officers plus six cadet history majors and history students fired weapons.

“The purpose of this event was to provide an appreciation of the operating and firing characteristics of historical U.S. small arms from 1750 to present,” said Colonel Watanabe, from Hilo, Hawaii. “The goal was to give the participants the experience to answer ‘What does it take to prepare and fire a weapon from this time period?’ and ‘What weapons-related challenges did the Soldiers face in those time periods?’”

Officers manned the range, assisted by cadets. Other officers and cadets also went through the training.

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Lt. Col. Vance Skarstedt, History Department Head, fires the current M-4 Carbine. ”It sure doesn’t handle like an F-4!” he said.

Cadet 1st Class Kevin Goulding fires the M-4 (foreground) while Maj. Jesse Long fires the M1903A4 Springfield Sniper Rifle at Fort Carson’s Range 19.

FalconSAT-3 takes its place in space

Cadets watched their engineering efforts blast into space March 8 in a launch televised live from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

The cadet-built satellite, FalconSAT-3, was launched aboard an Atlas V rocket at 7:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.

FalconSAT-3 was one of six satellites launched aboard a single rocket as part of the Defense Department's Space Test Program-1 mission, the first Air Force mission to launch aboard an Atlas V launch vehicle.

Once the satellite was released into orbit cadets took the controls via the Academy’s ground control station to gather scientific data. This satellite was the product of the Academy’s Space Systems Research Center.

Cadet 1st Class Leah Sullivan and Eric Antonietti were in mission control. Both were very excited.

“It was very nerve-wracking since we didn’t know if something would go wrong with the launch vehicle’s engine or if we would have problems separating from the ring,” said Cadet Sullivan, an astronautical engineering major from North Kingstown, R.I., who was a chief engineer for the launch. “Just knowing that a satellite we had a part in would be going into space was very exciting. It was an amazing opportunity that not too many people get to experience and we were very lucky to be a part of it.”

The center runs a multi-disciplinary, two-semester astronautical engineering course where cadets put theory into practice by designing and constructing a microsatellite for Department of Defense research and constructing the flight model of the center’s next two satellite, FalconSAT-4 and FalconSAT-5.

FalconSAT-3 contained five military scientific experiments, which were the work of the Academy’s Space Physics and Atmospheric Research Center and other government agencies. The experiments dealt with space weather or spacecraft operations.

Among the three main experiments were:

- Flat Plasma Spectrometer: which characterizes the effects of non-Maxwellian charged particles on the formation, propagation and decay of ionospheric plasma bubbles. These space weather effects can impact space-based communication and navigation signals, including the Global Positioning System and other civil and military communications.

- Plasma Local Anomalous Noise Element: which identifies and characterizes spacecraft-induced plasma turbulence.

- Micropropulsion Attitude Control System: a low-thrust, electric-pulsed plasma system with a thrust of 150 micro- Newtons, established the space flight heritage for this new technology.

A shock ring designed to test vibration suppression and a gravity gradient boom experiment rounded out FalconSAT-3’s experiments.

The Space Systems Research Center’s cadets are now busy constructing the flight model of the center’s next two satellites, FalconSAT-4 and FalconSAT-5.

There was a nonchalant atmosphere when both cadets arrived in mission control, with most people more interested in a barbeque outside than waiting around a console inside.

“However, the countdown proceeded and time went by very quickly as the launch window approached,” Cadet Antonietti recalled. “There were several commands that had to be given before the ‘go’ for launch, and FalconSAT was always the first satellite to respond.”

The systems engineering major from Spokane, Wash., also a FalconSAT-3 test coordinator grew worried about saying the wrong thing or missing a command.

The cadets’ final command was that FalconSAT-3 was ready. Then it was up to the Atlas launch team to start the terminal countdown.

“Myself and Leah Sullivan actually went onto the roof for the actual launch to see first hand as the rocket lit up the night sky,” he said. After watching the rocket fly into space, they returned to mission control to give the separation command when the satellite would actually separate from the launch vehicle.

It was then up to the Academy ground station to acquire signal and communicate with the satellite once out-gassing was complete.

“The FalconSAT program is an amazing educational experience that allows gives cadets experience in Space and Air Force programs,” Cadet Antonietti said. “It is a great program for the Air Force because the Academy builds satellites to accommodate air force payloads experiments. The work is cheap for the customers who want us to build them satellites and educational to the students who learn how to solve real problems, meet real deadlines, handle anomalies, and budget a great deal of money.”

Cadets Sullivan and Antonietti issued the “go” commands for FalconSAT-3 from mission control.

The first pass by the cadets turned the satellite on for the first time. They did three more passes with the last one ending at 3:10 a.m. MST. During four passes they evaluated the communication and power systems and prepared the satellite for a series of software uploads.

“For the Academy, this launch was pretty important because it shows how successful the Department of Astronautics is in developing engineers for the future,” Cadet Sullivan said.

“With the unsuccessful launch of FalconSAT-2 last year, success of FalconSAT-3 will guarantee the future of this program. We have not been able to acquire a signal from FalconSAT-3, however, once we are able to send and receive data, the payloads onboard will provide feedback for solutions to real Air Force and DoD problems.”

Two of the payloads on the satellite will work together to determine how plasma bubbles cause signals from satellites to scramble as they pass through the ionosphere, she said.

That will help both current satellite constellations, such as the Global Positioning System, and future satellites.

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Falcons fly high in NIT debut

AF ends Austin Peay’s season, 75-51

By Wayne Amann
Academy Spirit Editor

Air Force didn’t let the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament snub on Sunday sideline them in their National Invitation Tournament debut three days later.

In a statistical rarity, all five Falcon starters: Matt McCraw, Tim Anderson, Jacob Burtschi, Dan Nwaelele and Nick Welch scored double figures in their previous 24 games. Austin Peay in the first round of the NIT Wednesday before 2,718 raucous fans at Clune Arena and a national television audience on ESPN2.

“We put it (the NCAA exclusion) behind us Monday morning,” Burtschi said. “You can’t hang on to the past. We’ve moved on to a great opportunity in the NIT and we plan on making the best of it.”

The win was the Falcons first ever in the post-season and snapped a four game losing streak. Air Force (24-8) tied its all-time high for wins in a season, set in 2006. The Falcons start the new season at 21-12.

The three’s triggered a 23-6 run as the Falcons forged a 33-24 halftime lead. Air Force out-rebounded the Governors 43-33, including one by McCraw which put Air Force up for good at 19-16.

“We made them look like a good coach. I told them to start making shots,” Bzdelik said with a grin. “Our guys responded well.”

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AF gets NIT-picked before NCAA snub

I said it before and I’ll say it again because it bears repeating, although the powers-to-be have turned a deaf ear. The team that stocked the 65-team NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament field is flawed big time. If it wasn’t, why is there an annual argument over who gets in and who doesn’t?

Case in point: Air Force. Despite the local euphoria generated by the blue-suiters’ blistering 17-1 start and season-high #13 national ranking, the Falcons were not invited to the “Big Dance.” Why wasn’t their ticket punched?

According to the tournament selection committee and the so-called media “experts” around the country, it came down to what have the Falcons done for them lately. After bolting from the gate, Air Force went 6-7 to end 23-8, second best record in school history to last season’s 24-7. The sub-.500 record down the stretch included dropping the last four in a row, which the “experts” said bumped Air Force off the “bubble” and out of the race.

The bottom-line measure of success in any sport is wins and losses, period. It’s not how convincingly a team won that matters, where or when they won that matters or even the quality of the opposition that a team beats that matters. Last time I checked, each win counts the same in the standings, no more, no less.

Legendary Green Bay Packers head coach Vince Lombardi said, “winning isn’t everything, it’s the ONLY thing.” That’s why I can’t fathom why the NCAA insists on convoluting what should be a simple selection process with ridiculous criteria.

Since 1981, the selection committee has used, among a litany of other factors the Ratings Percentage Index, which combines winning percentage and schedule strength into a formula used to compare teams from different conferences and regions. The RPI was adjusted two seasons ago to lessen the value of home court victories while emphasizing road performance.

Using that twisted logic, the Falcons 13-1 record at Clune Arena this season carries less weight than their combined 7-0 road and neutral site slate? Give me a break!

Last season Andy Glockner of ESPN.com included Air Force among 14 Division I-large contenders that still had “work left to do” to make the post-season. “Nice late run has the Falcons very much in the mix. This is another team that could finish second (third this season) in a solid conference (Mountain West) and will be sweating on Selection Sunday.”

Glockner said back then: “The Academy just needs to keep winning games and hope a gaudy record overshadows the strength-of-schedule problem.”

I have a strength-of-schedule problem! SOS basically says it’s OK to lose more games if they’re against tougher opponents. Excuse me? Since when does losing more than winning equate to a better team?

If I was king of the NCAA, my selection process would be in the hands of the teams themselves. The 65 winnershhips after the regular season earn their way to the tournament. That’s it. End of discussion. Any other factor is just window dressing. The how and why standings are determined.

Why not tournaments? For the record, Air Force’s RPI is 32 out of 334 Division I hoops programs. That, and its Strength of Schedule of 70 are last from a season when they got the tourney nod.

If the NCAA brain trust reduced or expanded the tournament field, to negate the controversy surrounding every Selection Sunday, I’d appreciate it. That way teams like Air Force wouldn’t have to wait, watch and hope for its season to continue.

The Falcons’ body of work this season made it clear to this scribe the Falcons deserved a post-season. Thank you, National Invitation Tournament.

By Dave Toller
Athletic Media Relations

Ben Worker stopped all 17 shots he faced as Air Force blanked Holy Cross, 3-0, in an Atlantic Hockey Association quarterfinal game as 1,127 fans witnessed history at the Cadet Ice Arena Saturday.

The win was the Falcons first ever home playoff game. Air Force advances to the AHA Final Four in Rochester, N.Y., today and Saturday at the Blue Cross Arena. The fourth-seeded Falcons will face top-seeded Sacred Heart today, at either 2 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time on ESPN radio 1300 AM.

The Falcons improved to 17-15-5 overall while Holy Cross fell to 10-20-5.

Neither team scored in the first period. Defensemen Matt Charbonneau and Josh Print, 20, clear Holy Cross’ Dale Schiavone assisted on the play. For his

Falcons reach AHA Final Four

By Dave Toller

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Both teams played well and it was a hard-nosed game. Holy Cross has a lot of playoff experience and, let’s not forget, they knocked off Minnesota in the NCAA Tournament last year.”

With just over four minutes left in the first period, Theo Flynn fired a slap shot from the point for the game-winner before his teams 2nd goal. The game was over.

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Falcons salute deployed Airmen with patches

By Troy Garnhart
Sports Information Director

The Air Force men's basketball team is honoring the six air and space expeditionary wings in the Air Force by wearing patches from each unit on their uniforms.

The Air and Space Expeditionary Force concept is the Air Force's vision for the 21st century to organize, train, equip and deploy forces for contingency operations while remaining ready to meet national crises.

AEEF also creates a mindset and culture that embraces the unique characteristics of air and space power — range, speed, flexibility and precision. A typical AEF consists of a full spectrum of air and space capabilities and is balanced, flexible and sustainable. It is also tailored to meet combatant commander requirements.

Deployed Airmen become a part of one of these six wings:

- **380th Air Expeditionary Wing**: Located in the Southwest Asia Area of Responsibility, it serves as the enabler and force multiplier for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to wage America's Global War on Terrorism.
- **455th Air Expeditionary Wing**: Located at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, it's responsible for flying airlift and strike missions from Bagram Airfield for Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit provides 24-hour support and maintains the infrastructure necessary to conduct combat operations in Afghanistan.
- **379th Air Expeditionary Wing**: Transitioned from a predominately fighter-based wing during Operation Iraqi Freedom to a multi-purpose wing, it was touted as "the largest concentration of coalition airpower in history." Now it supports a wider range of missions including bomber, airlift, refueling and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, plus humanitarian airlift and aeromedical evacuation. Its specific location is not public due to host-nation sensitivities.
- **332nd Air Expeditionary Wing**: Located at Balad Air Base, in the south-eastern corner of the Sunni Triangle, its mission is combat airpower for America — right here, right now. The wing is the most forward-deployed Air Force wing in the Iraq war and uses advanced weapons systems such as the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle for close air support, traditional and non-traditional intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance missions. The heritage of the 332nd AEW is tied to the famous 332nd Fighter Group led by the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II.
- **376th Air Expeditionary Wing**: Located in the Manas International Airport, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, the wing has 1,000 airmen representing more than 85 bases and covering every aspect of the total force: active duty, Guard, Reserves, civilians and contractors. The wing is responsible for providing air combat power projection throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, including tactical airlift and air refueling, principally in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- **366th Air Expeditionary Wing**: Located in Southwest Asia, it traces its roots to the deactivated 386th Bombardment Group. The wing's diverse mission canvases the CENTCOM AOR. The wing is the primary aerial hub for Operation Iraqi Freedom and provides airlift support for Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Horn of Africa. The wing is comprised of the 386th Expeditionary Maintenance, Mission Support, Medical and Operations Groups and the 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group.

These are the patches being worn by the Falcons to honor the six air and space expeditionary wings.

AF lacrosse fosters Army unit

By Melissa McKeown
Athletic Media Relations

While the Air Force lacrosse team strives for success on the field, it is the actions of the players off it that will leave a lasting impression.

The Falcons' latest off-field endeavor is a source of pride for the Academy and the athletic department. The lacrosse team is involved in the America Supporting Americans Foster-A-Unit Program.

The Falcons, one of several college lacrosse teams across the country participating in the ASA program, are fostering a unit based out of Fort Hood, Texas, currently stationed in Iraq. The F Company, part of the 3rd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, is a forward support company. It has traveled more than 12,000 miles of combat logistical convoy's throughout the batallion-assigned sector.

The Falcons have assembled care packages for their fostered unit and will continue throughout the season. In return, the team receives periodic updates and photos from its unit serving in Iraq.

"It's our pleasure to do what we can to support the people who allow us to play our game," Air Force head coach Fred Acee said. "[Those serving] are truly heroes to me and our staff."

ASA is a non-profit organization that links individual units in all military branches with communities across the country.

Started in 1967 by Linda Patterson in support of her younger brother's unit serving in Vietnam, ASA facilitates adoptions between towns, cities, or counties and individual military units throughout the country, to build and strengthen the link between the men and women of the armed forces and the civilian communities they serve.

An offshoot of ASA's centerpiece project, the Adopt-a-Unit program is the Foster-A-Unit program designed to give businesses and organizations the opportunity to support the morale of troops serving both at home and overseas.

A business, community group or school group not involved with local adoption activities can foster a military unit by sending one or two rounds of letters and/or care packages to troops serving in harms way.

For more information on ASA and its Adopt-a-Unit and Foster-a-Unit programs, visit www.asa-usa.org.
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Contract positions available
The community center chapel has these appropriated fund contract positions available: Protestant traditional music coordinator, Protestant religious education coordinator and Catholic religious education coordinator. For information or to obtain a statement of work for any of the above positions, contact the chapel at 333-3300. Resumes and sealed bids should be submitted to Mike Slocum, 333-6081, by June 30.

Teen job search, resume workshop
The Academy Airmen & Family Readiness Flight hosts a teen job search and resume Workshop Tuesday and Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. Teens must attend both days in the flight’s classroom. The workshop is open to dependent children of active duty, retiree, Reservists and Department of Defense civilians only. Class size is limited. Minimum age for attendees is 14. To register or for more information, call 333-3444.

Adoption workshop and information fair
The area military installations sponsor an adoption workshop and information fair April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Armed Services YMCA located at 2190 Jetwing Drive in Colorado Springs. For more information or to register, call 333-3444.

Commissary student employment
The commissary is accepting applications for the Student Temporary Employment Program. Information on how to apply can be picked up at the commissary.

Distinguished Service Awardnominees sought
The Academy seeks nominations for the 2007 Air Force Academy Distinguished Service Award. Established in February 1999, it’s presented annually by the Superintendent to a military person, civilian or group, whose unselfish contributions had a distinct impact on the morale or well-being of the Academy. Any individual or group who has contributed significantly and directly to the morale or well-being of the Academy through the generous donation of time, resources or influence is eligible. Nominations must be submitted no later than April 1 to: HQ USAFA/CMA 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3200 USAF Academy CO 80840-5002 All packages should include: a single page with biographical data to include name, rank (if military), organization or company, telephone number and mailing address, plus a typed narrative justification, not to exceed one page, describing the nominee’s accomplishments. Last year’s winner was the Academy Top 3. For more information, call Steve Simon at 333-8827.

Fitness run set
The Health and Wellness Center hosts a fitness run Thursday at 4 p.m. on the Falcon Stadium fitness test course, weather permitting. The event is open to all. Prizes will be awarded to the first two male and female finishers. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call 333-3733.

Banquet tickets on sale
Tickets for the 2006 Academy Annual Awards Banquet are on sale from unit first sergeants. The April 5 event starts at 6 p.m. with a social hour at the officers’ club. The theme is “Honoring Heritage … Forging New Horizons.” The meal will feature London broil, herb roasted chicken or a vegetarian plate and dessert. The price for club members is $23.45 and for nonmembers $25.45. Attire is mess dress or semi-formal for military and the formal equivalent for civilians.

Attic volunteers sought
Volunteers are needed to keep the Academy Airmen’s Attic open. It helps junior ranking Airmen with free clothing, furniture, appliances and more. Paid childcare is available for volunteers. The attic is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. To volunteer, call Capt. Nordin at 472-7923 and leave a message.

Cultural programs need support
The Academy special observance committee needs project officers and members for Holocaust: “Days of Remembrance,” April 15 and Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May. To help, call the military equal opportunity office at 333-4428.

St. Patrick’s Day dinner
The Disabled American Veterans Chapter #26 is holding a “Show your green” St. Patrick’s Day dinner Saturday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 6880 E. Palmer Park Blvd. in Colorado Springs. Cost is $5 for adults, $3 for children ages 5-11 and free for those under age 5. For more information, call Kathy McDonald at 591-8787 or 685-6505.

On line tax help available
Military OneSource provides income tax preparation help with H&R Block’s Tax Cut Basic Online live. Additional phones are manned to walk callers through the process. Call anytime at 1-800-342-9647 or access www.militaryonesource.com.

CADET CHAPEL
No services Mar. 25 or Apr. 1 – Spring Break

Catholic Masses:
- Sunday  Reconciliation 9:15-9:45 a.m. or by appointment
- Mass 10 a.m.
- Weekday Mon., Tues., Thurs. - 6:45 a.m.
- Wednesday Catholic Adoration - 6 p.m.
- Mass 7 p.m.

Protestant Services:
- Sunday Traditional - 9 a.m.
- Contemporary - 10:30 a.m.
- Inspirational Worship - Noon

A special presentation will be made in the Chapel for Army Air Force History Month. The presentation will be given by a guest speaker who has been an Academy professor. The service is at 10 a.m. Monday, April 2.

Jewish Services
- Fridays - 7 p.m.
- Buddhist Worship - 6:30 p.m. Wed (All Faiths Room)
- Muslim Prayer
- Fridays - Noon - Muslim Prayer Room (Chapel Basement)

COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL
Catholic Masses:
- Saturday Mass - 5 p.m.
- Sunday Mass - 9 a.m.
- Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m.
- Monday-Friday Catholic Mass - 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Services:
- Saturday Contemporary - 7 p.m.
- Sunday Traditional - 8 a.m.
- Gospel - 11 a.m.
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For more information, call 333-3300.

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For more information, call 333-3300.
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Spring 2007 - TERM V/200730 CLASS SCHEDULE
Term V Dates: March 26 - May 19, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<td>Physical Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ART (Humanities)</td>
<td>Art Appreciation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>BUSINESS</td>
<td>Introduction to Business</td>
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<td>COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS</td>
<td>Computer Literacy</td>
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<td>ECONOMICS (Social Science)</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>POS 205.571</td>
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<td>PSY 102.571</td>
<td>General Psychology II</td>
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<td>PSY 101.561</td>
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<td>SOCIOL (Social Science)</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SPEECH</td>
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<td>SPE 115.561</td>
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</table>

NOTE: All courses are subject to cancellation and/or change.

ATTENTION!
Tuition Assistance Eligible
Active Duty Army Personnel
Must Apply to PPCC at www.ppcc.edu;
Enroll For Military Classes at a Military Site Office;
Then, Apply for TA at the GoArmyEd portal.

Because you have a busy life
Open-Entry, Open Exit Courses

- Work at your own pace.
- Work on-site, at home, at times that are convenient for you.
- Courses meet:
  - April 9 – May 13 (five weeks)
  - Courses must be completed in the scheduled five week format.
  - Students must attend a mandatory orientation session.
  - Register at one of the military site offices.
  - Tuition is $84.50 per semester hour.
  - Textbooks are required.

Choose from the following courses
- CIS 115 Introduction to Computer Information Systems 3sh
- CIS 118 Introduction to PC Applications 3sh
- CIS 124 Introduction to Operating Systems 3sh
- CIS 130 Introduction to the Internet 1sh

All courses are conducted at the PPCC Fort Carson Computer Lab.
For your convenience, lab hours are:
- Mon.: 9:00a – 6:00p
- Tues., Wed., and Fri.: 9:00a – 5:00p
- Thurs.: 9:00a – 7:00p
Sat., and Sun. lab is closed
Please call the Computer Lab at 502-3299 for additional information.
Active duty Tuition Assistance, Veteran’s Benefits, and Federal Financial Aid are available.

✔ Get Started Today
Active duty Tuition Assistance, Veteran’s Benefits, and Federal Financial Aid are available

MILITARY PROGRAMS

Fort Carson Mountain Post
502-4200
PPC Office, Bldg. 1117, Room 118
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m

U.S. Air Force Academy
333-0919
PPC Office, Bldg. 5136, Room P106
1st & 3rd Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Peterson Air Force Base
502-4300
PPC Office, Bldg. 1141, Room 112
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m