

# ACADEMY SPIRIT

49TH GRADUATING CLASS OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

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# Graduates on the road to Air Force Success

By Lt. Gen. John F. Regni  
Superintendent

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." We can unequivocally say that we've succeeded in doing that with the Class of 2007!

At a time when America's Air Force is fully engaged in operations around the world, I am confident the Class of 2007 is prepared to step up to the challenges they will face as young officers. Their four-year experience here has ingrained in them the principles of followership and leadership that will steer them toward success in their Air Force careers.

Many who graduate today will go to pilot training. Others head to graduate school; and still others will attend technical training courses before they begin their service in one of the many mission support fields in today's Air Force. In the not-too-distant future, most will serve the United States defending freedom in a hostile environment. But, no matter what mission they're assigned, know that they have put forth the effort required to face tomorrow's challenges with character, integrity and determination.

The Class of '07 has achieved resounding success at the Academy, and I am confident each member will excel in whatever lies ahead. They

couldn't have done it without the unwavering support and encouragement from their families and friends. Your being there for your cadet sustained them through the rigors of the past four years. For that, I thank you!

As America strives to move freedom forward against tyranny and fear, we will look to the Class of 2007 with hope and confidence as each graduate does his or her part to create a peaceful world. These young warrior-leaders will help replace oppression with liberty. You should be extremely proud of each and every one of today's graduates. We are!

Congratulations to the Gus Grissom Class — the Class of 2007! Welcome to the Long Blue Line!



Lt. Gen. John Regni  
Academy superintendent, Class of '73

## AOG salutes the Class of 2007

James A. Shaw, '67  
President and CEO Association of Graduates

The Association of Graduates and its more than 25,000 members extend their congratulations to the Class of 2007 and welcome them to the ranks of the graduate community. Your class deserves special recognition as the second class to enter the Academy in the wake of 9/11. Your dedication to commit your lives to service to the nation in a time of war already reflects the high standards the Air Force and American people will expect from you.

The men and women who have gone before you have left a lasting impact on the Air Force and the nation. In the Academy's short history, it has established a tradition of producing quality leaders for the country. One-hundred and sixty-eight Academy graduates have made the ultimate sacrifice in America's battles. Seven have lost their lives in the Global War on Terror.

Graduate valor and bravery have garnered this nation's highest awards including one Medal of Honor, 16 Air Force Crosses, and 266 Silver Stars. Thirty-six graduates have been prisoners of war. Exceptional graduate leadership has saved lives and produced victories in conflicts around the globe.

Graduates have made an impact in every walk of life. Many of our alumni are astronauts, and more than 500 are doctors. Others are lawyers, entrepreneurs, inventors, teachers, ministers, government officials, coaches, authors and one is a member of Congress.

Your future and that of the country changed with the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Our homeland now faces a real and constant threat of attack. Men and women of our Armed Forces are far from home and are deploying at a rate not seen since Vietnam. These are extraordinary times that demand extraordinary leadership to not only win the war against terrorism, but to guide our economy and inspire confidence in all sectors of society. The Academy's and the Air Force's core values — Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do — will guide you for the rest of your life. Now, more than ever, the country needs leaders of character to lead the nation.

The Association of Graduates stands ready to support you in the future as it has during the last four years. During your tenure here, the AOG has given more than \$9 million to the Academy to support USAFA and cadet programs the government was unable to fund.

This money comes from donations and membership dues.



Courtesy Photo  
Retired Col. James Shaw, Association of Graduates president and CEO, talks to a basic cadet.

We have funded character development programs, club activities, guest speakers, symposia, foreign area studies and a host of other programs that made your Academy experience unique and special. We are extremely proud of the new Association of Graduates Memorial Pavilion and Locator Building at the cemetery which was funded solely through the generosity of the graduate community. We hope you will visit this beautiful building before you graduate. We also strongly encourage you to join the AOG to insure that future cadets have the same extraordinary experience you enjoyed.

As you embark on your career, it is important to note that you are entering the most technologically proficient force in the world. America's citizens expect the Academy to provide qualified men and women to lead that force in the new millennium.

The AOG and its members are confident that the Class of 2007 is ready to meet the challenge.

We extend our best wishes to all of you as you join the Long Blue Line of graduates who have made their mark before you.

For information on the AOG, visit the AOG Web site at [www.usafa.org](http://www.usafa.org).

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Cover photo: Collection of items symbolizes the Academy experience for the Class of 2007. Photo by Dave Armer and Dennis Rogers.

ACADEMY SPIRIT  
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The *Academy Spirit* also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by e-mail: [pa.news.paper@usafa.af.mil](mailto:pa.news.paper@usafa.af.mil).

# Secretary Gates to address Class of 2007



By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates will be this year's guest speaker for the graduating Class of 2007.

The former CIA director and Air Force veteran was sworn in Dec. 18 last year as the 22nd Secretary of Defense. He previously served as president of Texas A&M, the nation's seventh largest university, and, before that, the university's interim dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Secretary Gates spent more than 26 years as an intelligence professional and served with seven U. S. presidents.

"I knew six personally and worked for four in the White House," he said. "I have worked with 10 Secretaries of State, eight Secretaries of Defense, 11 National Security Advisors, eight Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and countless admirals, generals and ambassadors."

Secretary Gates also witnessed in-person and in-action world figures such as Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, Francois Mitterand, Helmut Kohl, Lech Walesa, Anwar Sadat and Yitzhak Rabin, among others.

"I suppose I am sort of a global Forrest Gump," he said.

The husband of Becky Gates and father of two grown children entered Air Force Officer Training School in 1966 and was commissioned in 1967. With "a very brief interruption to get married" he entered active duty at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. He relocated to Washington, D.C., and entered

the Central Intelligence Agency. He served as its director from 1991 until 1993 and is the only career officer in the agency's history to rise from entry-level employee to director.

Until his appointment to the Cabinet post, Secretary Gates served as chairman of the Independent Trustees of The Fidelity Funds, the nation's largest mutual fund company, and on the board of directors of NACCO Industries, Inc., Brinker International, Inc. and Parker Drilling Company, Inc.

A native of Kansas, he holds a bachelor's degree from The College of William and Mary, a master's degree in history from Indiana University and a doctorate in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University.

Dr. Gates has also served on the board of directors and executive committee of the American Council on Education, the board of directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. He was also president of the National Eagle Scout Association.

Secretary Gates is an aficionado of Revolutionary War history, Will Rogers, John "the Duke" Wayne and Washington-insider humor.

He also enjoys looking back to his earlier years.

"I arrived at William & Mary in 1961 at age 17, intending to become a doctor, and my first year was pure pre-med, with biology, chemistry and so on," he related.

"I soon switched from pre-med to history. Lord only knows how many lives were saved by my becoming director of the CIA instead of a doctor."

Courtesy Photo  
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates will speak to the Class of 2007 in Falcon Stadium.

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# Ring symbolizes class values

## Polaris

This symbol serves as a guiding light for all those who came before us and will undoubtedly be the same for all those who follow long after we are gone.

## Chapel

Serves as a reminder of the beautiful view we live in now and the beauty we will fight to protect in the future.

## Aircraft

One JSF-35, and one A-10, and two B-2 bombers add up to 49, the class year. These aircraft reflect the power, speed and intelligence of our class and the Air Force.

## The Graduation Year

2007 proudly adorns the bottom of the crest. It stands out prominently on the ring so that our class year can be visible from most views of the ring.

## The Sabre

The blade, is clutched tightly by the Eagle just as our class holds fast to the core values and military discipline instilled in us from our time at the Academy.

**The Class Motto** "Ad Astra is Latin for "To the Stars."

## Class Year

XLIX, Roman numerals representing the 49th class to graduate from this Academy.

## Eagle

The powerful eagle with its open wings and bold face characterize our dedication to service of our country.

## The Flag

The seven stars and stripes next to the eagle's head stand out prominently symbolic of the price we all share for our country.

## Grissom Scroll

Serves as a reminder of our class exemplar, Astronaut Gus Grissom, and the three class core values he represented. Perseverance, progress and professionalism.



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# Top graduates honored for accomplishments

## By Academy Spirit staff

The best of the best in the Academy Class of 2007 were recognized in ceremonies Monday in Clune Arena.

Cadet 1st Class Aaron Barrow was named overall top graduate, earning an overall grade point average of 3.866.

Cadets 1st Class Brian Pascuzzi and Alicia Stirewalt both earned a cumulative 3.97 GPA, tying them for best academic performance.

Cadet 1st Class Brandon Dues received kudos as top military performer with an MPA of 3.815.

Cadet 1st Class Caroline White earned the top slot in physical education with a 3.940 average.

Qualifications for the top awards are scored on a four point system similar to grade point averages.

Other individual awards this year went to these Cadets 1st Class:

### Outstanding Cadet in Aeronautical Engineering

Christopher Campbell

### Outstanding Cadet in Airmanship

Eric Santroch

### Outstanding Cadet in Astronautical Engineering

Christopher Taylor

### Outstanding Cadet in Basic Sciences

Aaron Barrow

### Outstanding Cadet in Behavioral Sciences and Leadership

Steven Papp

### Outstanding Cadet in Biology

Alicia Stirewalt

### Outstanding Cadet in Chemistry

Michael English

### Outstanding Cadet in Civil Engineering

Stephen Klenke

### Outstanding Cadet in Communications

Joseph Kreidel

### Outstanding Cadet in Computer Engineering

Michael Tanner

### Outstanding Cadet in Computer Science

Nicholas Shelly

### Outstanding Cadet in Eastern Language Minor

Christopher Campbell

### Outstanding Cadet in Economics

David Schulker Jr.

### Outstanding Cadet in Engineering

Christopher Campbell

### Outstanding Cadet in Electrical Engineering

Steven Christopher

### Outstanding Cadet in Engineering Mechanics

Benjamin Mundell

### Outstanding Cadet in English

Katherine Schifani

### Outstanding Cadet in Environmental Engineering

Monica Wu

### Outstanding Cadet in Foreign Area Studies

Brian Leen

### Outstanding Cadet in Geosciences

Shea Mumma

### Outstanding Cadet in History

Joshua Plocinski

### Outstanding Cadet in Humanities

Joseph Kreidel

### Outstanding Cadet in Intercollegiate Speech Competition

Spencer Turner

### Outstanding Cadet in Legal Studies

Jenny Guilford

### Outstanding Cadet in Management

Reed Wildman

### Outstanding Cadet in Mathematics

Jonah Reeger

### Outstanding Cadet in Mechanical Engineering

Jason Christopher

### Outstanding Cadet in Meteorology

Matthew Bar

### Outstanding Cadet in Military History

Aaron Husk

### Outstanding Cadet in Military Strategic Studies

Patrick Burke

### Outstanding Cadet in National Security Studies

Brian Leen

### Outstanding Cadet in Operations Research

Blair Leake

### Outstanding Cadet in Parachuting

Michael Bush

### Outstanding Cadet in Philosophy

Drew Tullson

### Outstanding Cadet in Physics

Brian Pascuzzi

### Outstanding Cadet in Political Science

Margot Swartz

### Outstanding Cadet in Powered Flight

Eric Santroch

### Outstanding Cadet in Soaring

Travis Ahrens

### Outstanding Cadet in Social Sciences

Lindsay Temes

### Outstanding Cadet in Space Operations

Kyle Volpe

### Outstanding Cadet in Systems Engineering

Geoffrey Carrigan

### Outstanding Cadet in Systems Engineering Management

Joshua Gramm

### Outstanding Cadet in Western Language Minor

Michael Blackburn

### Outstanding Cadet in Character

Nathaniel Smith

### Outstanding Cadet Citizenship

Ariane Morrison

### Outstanding Cadet Element Leader

Kenneth Grosselin III

### Outstanding Cadet Fall Wing Commander

Hunter Grunden

### Outstanding Cadet Spring Wing Commander

Joshua Gramm

### Outstanding Cadet Summer Wing Commander

Jenna Maxfield

### Outstanding Cadet Group Commander

Tyler Rube

### Outstanding Cadet Honor Committee Chairperson

Joseph Smith

### Outstanding Cadet Squadron Commander

Matthew Twedell

### Outstanding Cadet Flight Commander

Patrick Cassidy

### Outstanding Cadet Who Best Exemplifies the Highest Ideals of Loyalty, Integrity and Courage

Evelina Kinova

### Outstanding Cadet, United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School Graduate

Timothy McBride

### Outstanding Former Regular Enlisted Cadet Graduating with Highest Class Honors

Timothy McBride

### Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Leadership

William Devoney III

### Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Excellence

Christopher Knaute

### Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Achievement

Jacob Burtschi

### Outstanding Cadet in Physical Education

Joseph Keller

### Outstanding Cadet, Scholar-Athlete

Blair Leake



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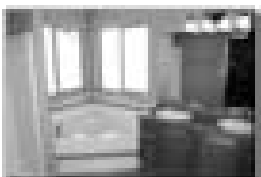
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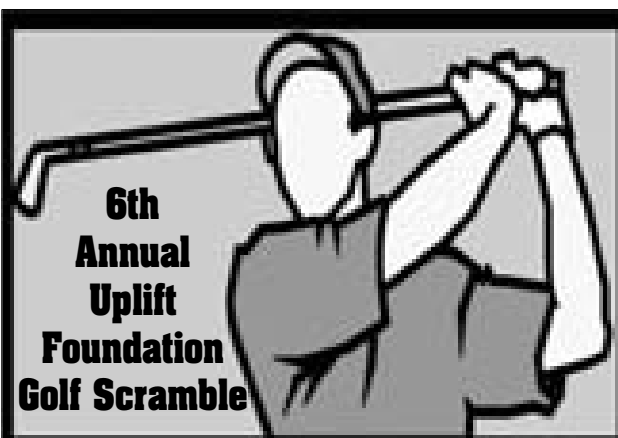
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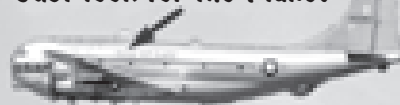
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# Top Squadron

## Eagles soar by putting unit above self

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

The Cadet Squadron 8 "Eagles" captured top honors as the outstanding squadron of the year during a banquet Tuesday night at the Academy Officers' Club.

Gen. Kevin Chilton, commander of Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, was guest speaker.

The squadron's air officer commanding praised his cadets.

"I couldn't be prouder of the job they've done," said Maj. Ronald Tewksbury.

"I look forward to working with them when they are on active duty."

The award is the highest unit-level honor, given to recognize the squadron achieving the highest standards in all three areas of military, academic and athletic excellence. The award recognizes teamwork and reinforces among cadets that every member of the team counts and that everyone's performance matters to the success of the group.

The award was first established



in 1959 and is sponsored by the Air Force Association and the Association of Graduates.

In addition to being named top cadet squadron, the Eagles also received top honors for core values and military proficiency.

Team work was a large factor in the squadron's first place selection.

"They have a strong commitment to the job as cadets and to one another," Major Tewksbury said.

Squadron members focused on accomplishing unit goals rather than individual goals.

"It's the best squadron I've ever had in the Air Force," the '92 Academy grad said.



Courtesy photo

### Make safety a top priority when hitting the rapids this week

If white water rafting is in your summer plans, keep safety in mind. River water level is measured in cubic feet per second (CFS). Rivers running above 3,000 CFS usually are more dangerous with fast moving rapids which require rafters with high experience and familiarization with that particular river. This also makes rescue much more difficult. Most guided tour companies will open rafting at levels of 2,400 CFS and below. Current water level is at 1,400 CFS according to Noah's Ark White Water Rafting Company. The Academy Services Outdoor Recreation offers guided tours to the following rivers:

- Bighorn Sheep Canyon, Class II-III
- Browns Canyon, Class III-IV
- Royal Gorge, Class III-V

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# 50

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# New officers further education via grad studies

By Academy Spirit staff

Academy graduates will grace the halls of Oxford, MIT, Harvard, Cambridge, and other institutions of higher learning in coming months, as part of the Air Force Academy's graduate studies program.

Through the National Competitive Scholarship Program, 71 graduating cadets were selected this year to complete an advanced degree as their first active duty assignment. Nationally Competitive and Endowed Scholarships include:

**Rhodes Scholarship:** Cadet 1st Class Nicholas Shelly. The qualities of both character and intellect are the most important requirement for this two-year scholarship. Recipients attend Oxford University for two years.

**Alberta Bart Holaday Scholarship:** Cadet 1st Class Erin Finger. The applicant chosen for this scholarship is the "top" candidate from the Academy's Rhodes's pool of candidates. The person selected embodies the Rhodes pillars. Recipients attend Exeter College in Oxford, England for two years.

**Marshall Scholarship:** Cadet 1st Class Christopher Campbell, who will attend Cambridge University. Applicants must demonstrate character, high academic ability with the capacity to participate in the life of the UK university they will attend for two years.

**East-West Center Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Michael Bosack. Eligibility is based on high academic achievement, maturity, professional commitment to the mutual problems of the United States and the Asian/Pacific Rim area and potential for independent work in Asia and/or the Pacific. Recipient must have working knowledge of a Pacific Rim language. Recipients attend the University of Hawaii.

**Franklin C. Wolfe Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Hunter Grunden, who will attend Georgetown University. Applicants must be outstanding in one of the humanities disciplines and recommended by the Humanities Division.

**Fulbright Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class John Amnah and Stephanie Rice. Cadet Amnah heads to Germany for his Fulbright Scholarship, while Cadet Rice is bound for Jordan. Cadet 1st Class Reed Wildman was also awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Mexico, but declined the Fulbright Scholarship to accept a JFK scholarship at Harvard University. Applicants are selected based on academic record, the validity and feasibility of the proposed study plan, foreign language preparation and personal qualifications. Study in a foreign country must be approved by the Institute of International Education.

**General John F. Gerhart Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Christopher Gamble. Competition is open to first class cadets in the top 25 percent of the class who have demonstrated strong abilities in the French language, along with leadership, integrity, initiative, imagination and general adaptability. Recipients attend the Paris Institute of Political Sciences.

**General Richard L. Lawson Scholarship:** Cadet 1st Class Joseph Kreidel, who will attend the University of Utah. This scholarship is open to all academic majors and tenable at any university in the United States. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in communication.

**Harvard University Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Joshua Gramm, Steven Papp, Jessica Schroeder, Alicia Stirewalt and Reed Wildman. This graduate school is designed to train top students for a Master's degree in Public Policy. Recipients attend the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

**International Science and Technology Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Adam Gray and Brian Kester. This scholarship is sponsored by the Center for Space and Defense Study. Recipients will earn Master of Arts degrees in International Science and Technology Policy with a focus in Space Policy at the Elliott School



Photo by 1st Lt. John Ross

**Cadet 1st Class Chris Oravetz sets up an experiment in a Department of Aeronautical Engineering wind tunnel this spring, while working on NASA's next-generation manned space vehicle. Cadet Oravetz is bound for a masters program and more aeronautical research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology after graduation from the Academy.**

of International Affairs at George Washington University.

**Draper Fellowship:** Cadets 1st Class Blair Leake and Christopher Taylor. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program at Draper Laboratory while satisfying the Massachusetts Institute of Technology thesis requirements for the graduate degree.

**Departments of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering:** Cadets 1st Class Christopher Oravetz, Theodore Seher and Lauren Viscito. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored program while satisfying the MIT thesis requirements for the graduate program.

**Department of Engineering Systems Division:** Cadet 1st Class Geoffrey Carrigan. He will perform research as part of a sponsored program while satisfying the MIT thesis requirements for the graduate program.

**Lincoln Labs Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Kyle Volpe. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored research program at Lincoln Labs Laboratory while satisfying MIT thesis requirements for the graduate degree.

**National Collegiate Athletic Association Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Blair Leake, who will attend MIT under this scholarship and a Draper Fellowship, and Kyle Schafer, who will attend the University of Missouri. The NCAA scholarship is awarded by the NCAA to graduating student-athletes who have performed with distinction in both athletics and academics. The NCAA awards just 174 scholarships annually to the best of over 384,000 NCAA athletes who compete in Division I, II, and III sports.

**National Science Foundation Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Christopher Campbell, who deferred this fellowship to accept the Marshall Scholarship and attend Cambridge University. The National Science Foundation Fellowship can be utilized at any United States or foreign institution of higher education. Applicants are evaluated based on all available evidence of ability, including academic records, recommendations regarding the applicant's qualifications, and potential to make significant contributions to the sciences

in the United States.

**Draper Fellowship:** Cadets 1st Class Brian Crouse, Michael Plummer and Jonah Reeger. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored laboratory program while satisfying the Rice University thesis requirements for the graduate degree.

**Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science Fellowship:** Cadets 1st Class Jason Christopher and Paul Elsbernd. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored program while satisfying the Rice thesis requirements for the graduate program.

**Department of Psychology:** Cadet 1st Class Clayton Stanley. Recipients attend Rice University engaging in a graduate degree program with the intent of attaining a Master's degree in Psychology.

**Superintendent's Rand PhD Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Brandon Dues, Benjamin Mundell, Brian Pascuzzi and Davis Schulker. Each will attend the Pardee Rand Graduate School in Santa Monica, Calif. The PhD degree earned is in Policy Analysis, a program which combines analytical rigor with practical experience in some of the world's most challenging problem areas, such as security, health, justice, education and poverty with a primary research focus on Project Air Force.

**University of Maryland Scholarship:** Cadets 1st Class Kyle Schafer, Michael Wehterbee, Caroline White and John Wooten. This scholarship is open to cadets in all majors. An important selection criterion is a continuing interest in public problems and service in the public sector. This program awards a Master's in Public Policy.

**University of Washington Engineering Fellowship:** Cadet 1st Class Kyle Krogh. Recipients perform research as part of a sponsored program while satisfying the University of Washington requirements for the graduate degree.

**AFIT-in-Residence:** Cadet 1st Class Michael Tanner. A regular Air Force Institute of Technology 18-month quota for performing research in Computer Engineering and Computer Science information assurance.

**Graduate School Program:** Cadets 1st Class Ilea Eskildsen, University of Texas at Austin; Thomas Hanson, Georgia Institute of Technology; Katherine Schifani, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Joshua Plocinski, Kansas State University; Margot Swartz, Catholic University of America; Lindsay Milkert, Purdue University; Katherine Plichta, University of Virginia; Andrew Peloquin, University of Florida; Rebecca Stone, University of Maryland; Kathy Rakel, University of Arizona; Ryan Regan, Naval Postgraduate School; Vipul Sharma, AFIT-in-Residence; and Jenny Lee Gibson, University of Colorado at Boulder. The GSP is an Air Force sponsored advanced academic degree program allowing selected cadets to attend a 12-month program with the intent of returning these graduates to Academy to teach at some point in the future.

**Health Professional Scholarship Program**

These cadets will attend the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences: Cadets 1st Class Michele Bonneau, Connie Chung, Vincent Diaz, Nathan Holloway, Jun Mendoza, Ashley Snyder and Sara Stampher.

These cadets will attend civilian medical schools: Cadets 1st Class Aaron Barrow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Elizabeth Catherwood, Johns Hopkins; Russell Day, University of Alabama – Birmingham; Debra Koenigsberger, University of Wisconsin; Bryan Lawson, Harvard University; Jessica Leuschen, Duke University; Christina Ramirez; Harvard University; James Robbins, Georgetown University; Jonathan Stralka, Loyola University; and Ian Tuznik, Georgetown University.

These cadets will attend dental school: Cadets 1st Class Kaitlin Barlon, University of California at Los Angeles; and Michael English, University of Alabama – Birmingham.

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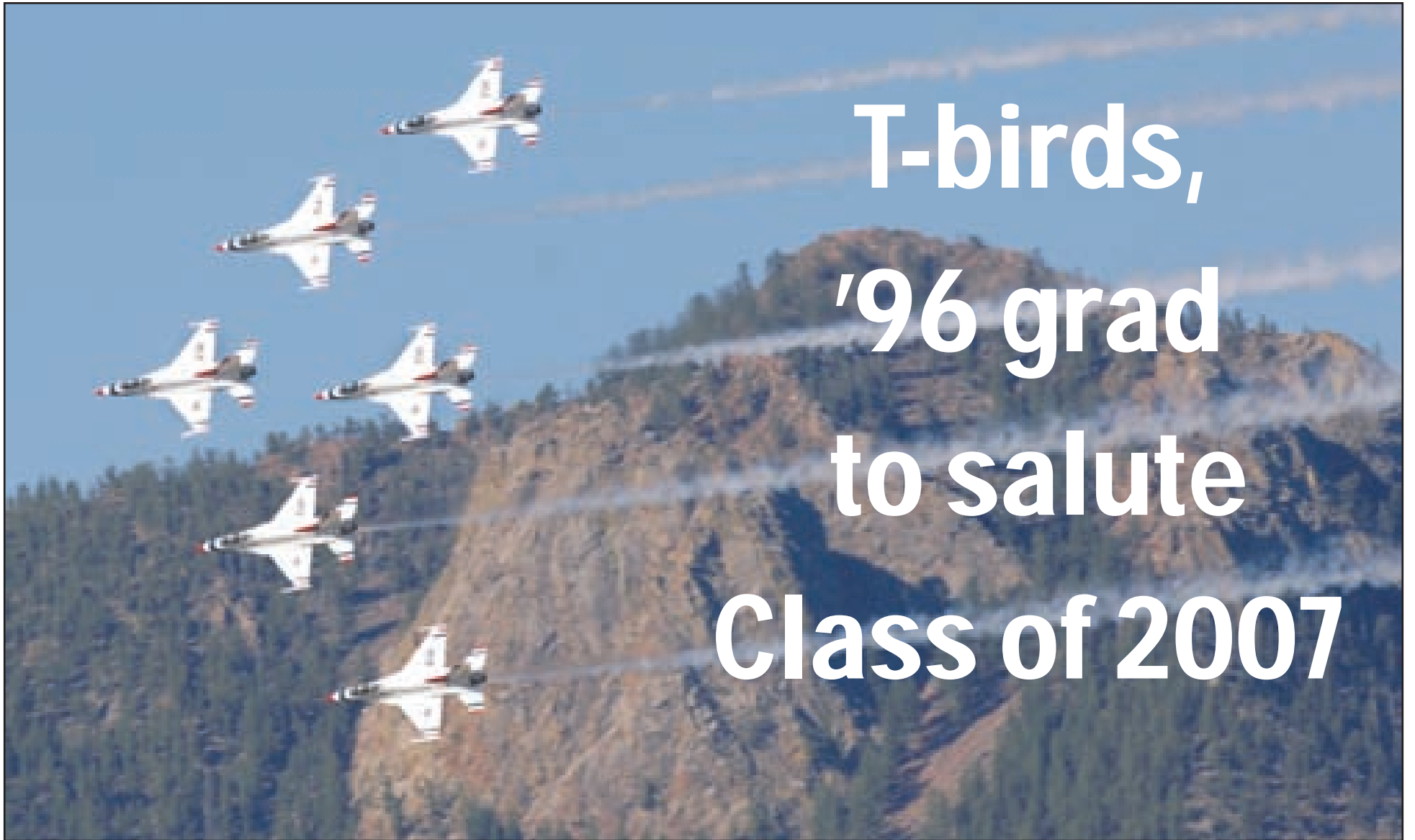
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# T-birds, '96 grad to salute Class of 2007

**By Ann Patton**  
Academy Spirit staff

The Air Force Thunderbirds will point the Class of 2007 skyward, "ad astra," during commencement exercises Wednesday at Falcon Stadium.

Maj. Nicole Malachowski, a '96 Academy grad, will pilot the No. 3 jet as the right wing pilot in the diamond formation. She is the first female pilot in the Thunderbirds' 52-year history.

"The entire Thunderbird team is honored to be part of the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2007," she said. "This is a class of very talented and courageous young Americans who have decided to serve their nation during a time of war. I can't think of anything nobler. It is our pleasure to bring them into our Air Force through the tribute of this fly-by. It represents the beginning of the greatest adventure of their lives."

The Thunderbirds demonstration is a mix of six aircraft, performing formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solos highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The pilots perform approximately 40 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about one hour.

Major Malachowski said the demonstration is appropriate especially as a commemoration of the 60th

anniversary of the Air Force.

"It's wonderful to know that our proud heritage and tradition of excellence is being guaranteed," she said.

"These new second lieutenants are the future leaders of our great Air Force. We have been the world's dominant air and space power for 60 years. The contributions of these young leaders will enable us to maintain that supremacy."

The Thunderbirds' squadron is an Air Combat Command unit comprised of eight pilots (six are demonstration pilots), four support officers, and approximately 120 active-duty, Air National Guard and Reserve enlisted personnel.

Officers serve a two-year assignment with the squadron, while the enlisted corps serves three to four. The pilots have a minimum of 1,000 hours of military jet experience, and are recommended for the position by their commanding officer. From all of the applicants, four to six members are selected to demonstrate their flying abilities and compete for one of the three available demonstration positions. Nearly a third of all personnel are replaced each year, providing a constant mix of experience levels.

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a multi-role fighter built by Lockheed Martin. The plane has a 32-foot wingspan and is capable of a maximum speed of 1,500 miles per hour (Mach 2 at altitude). The F-16 was deployed in 1979, and the Air Force has 809 in service.

The F-16s used by the Thunderbirds have been

modified to accommodate the smoke oil system, which includes the removal of the 20 mm cannon. The paint scheme is also unique to the Thunderbirds. Otherwise, the aircraft that the squadron flies are the same as those in the operational Air Force. Each Thunderbird aircraft is able to return to combat status within 72 hours.

To perform, the Thunderbirds must have at least five nautical miles of visibility horizontally from the show center and a minimum cloud ceiling of 1,500 feet. At these minimums, the Thunderbirds can perform a limited number of maneuvers in what is called a "flat" show. With a minimum ceiling of 8,000 feet and visibility of five nautical miles, the Thunderbirds can perform their "high" show, which includes all maneuvers.

The team's first performance was June 8, 1953, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Since then, the Thunderbirds have flown for more than 310 million people at 3,944 air demonstrations in all 50 states and more than 60 foreign countries.

This year's commencement demonstration is reminiscent of Major Malachowski's own graduation when the Thunderbirds performed.

"I simply can't believe how fast time flies," she said. "I am proud of these graduates for joining our team but am even more excited for the great adventure they are about to embark on. It would be nice to be young again and adopting such a fantastic Air Force. They are truly lucky."

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# Like father, like son milestones

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

A cadet attended his father's promotion to major general at Peterson Air Force Base Monday afternoon and the two-star officer was on hand at his son's second lieutenant Academy commissioning at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"Actually this has more than a bit of luck behind it," said computer science major Cadet 1st Class Curtis Raaberg whose home of record is Abilene, Texas, but is actually with Brig. Gen. Douglas Raaberg's home at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

It happens that their commissioning and promotion dates fell near each other.

"I was planning on attending his pin-on sometime during the summer, but this worked out much better," said Cadet Raaberg.

The tracks to the Academy began years ago.

The cadet first considered the Academy as a high school sophomore.

"My Dad was a '78 grad so I got the original idea from him," said the future Air Force pilot. "I've been around the flying community most of my life and I saw the Academy as the best route to become both a pilot and an effective officer."

The Cadet Squadron 11 member said he enjoyed the military lifestyle as a dependent and wanted to remain a part of that community.

"There was also a great deal of patriotism behind my decision due to the 9/11 attacks during my junior year," he said.

He received his Academy appointment in the spring of 2003.

"It was important to me that the decision was mine to make," said Cadet Raaberg. "I've watched many cadets leave the Academy because they were obligated to attend by some other driving factor. It is very important that those who join the Academy do so with the knowledge

that it is their decision and with that decision comes a commitment to the Air Force."

He admits it was nudged by familiarity with the Air Force lifestyle.

"I wouldn't say my childhood was rough. My high school experience is a great example," he said. "I went to three high schools which often separated my friends, but at the same time allowed me to participate in many more school activities. It takes a special family to make military life work well and we never had major problems with issues like moving often, living on base or deployments. There is a large amount of trust and compromise that needs to take place.

"Most dependents are much more familiar with the military when they enter the Academy, I know I was," Cadet Raaberg said. "There is a higher standard that your peers will judge you by. Dependents will be bombarded with the stigma of being a 'General's kid', which is difficult to reconcile. I view it as an advantage because I have been able to observe officers my entire life."

He thinks class members of 2007 will have successful and exciting futures.

"The challenges which face our nation are not to be underestimated and I think that 2007 will shoulder the responsibility with ease," he said.

Now for the summer.

"The plan is to travel Europe with my Academy buddies and attend a couple of weddings in various parts of the states," said the cadet. "The rest of my time I'll spend at home at Langley relaxing or driving to visit friends."

"These graduates have come a long way," said the cadet's father.

Last summer, the cadet and General Raaberg had a 'family reunion' at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, while he and his classmates were fully engaged in Operation Air Force.

"I was serving as the CENTCOM deputy of



Courtesy Photo

**Brig. Gen. Douglas Raaberg during a visit with son 1st Class Curtis Raaberg. The director of Air and Space Operations, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va., is receiving two stars and his graduating son will become a second lieutenant.**

Operations at Camp As Sayliyah," said the general. "What an extraordinary opportunity for the cadets to prepare for our expeditionary Air Force."

The general, director of Air and Space Operations, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va., said it is an honor to have a "legacy son."

He sees it as the spirit of the Air Force's 60th Anniversary, "Heritage to Horizons."

"I don't believe the Air Force could have given Curt, me and our family a greater honor than to serve and continue to serve this powerful Air Force; incredibly, a second lieutenant son and a two-star dad with the same date of rank of May 30. We salute the graduates of the Class of 2007 for making a commitment to join and now serve our Air Force and having done this all in a time of war."



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# Academy life: an Albert family affair

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

For the Albert family, Academy life seems to come in twos.

Brothers William and Michael are both cadets. Their parents, Michelle and John Albert of Olympia, Wash., are both Academy graduates.

Last semester, Cadet 1st Class Bill Albert and Cadet 4th Class Michael Albert earned the same semester grades: straight A's.

"I guess it has become sort of a family tradition," Michael said. "Our parents both made it through here, and they know exactly what my brother and I are going through."

The brothers are among 32 Academy cadets who earned all A's last semester.

The family Academy coincidences don't end with grades. Michael and Bill also live close to each other.

"Of all the rooms that I could have moved into, I was fortunate to get placed almost exactly one floor above my brother," Michael said. "It's not like we hang out every day, but it is nice knowing he's there if I ever really need anything."

The brothers' father, Class of 1978, served 21 years in the Air Force as an F-4 and A-10 pilot before retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Their mother, Class of 1981, is now a YMCA swim team coach.

"The great thing about them is they've never pressured me or my brother to

succeed," Bill said. "They have only encouraged us to do our best. Their advice and support have definitely gotten me where I am today."

Michael also appreciates his parents' strong influence.

"They are constantly supportive and I most definitely would not be here without their encouragement and help," he said.

He credits his mother, who home schooled him until high school, for his Academy academic performance.

"Without her instruction I never would have made it through all those long papers!" Michael said.

He looks to his father, a pilot for Southwest Airlines, for character development.

"My dad is an amazing role model, and, through example, has taught me more about being a good person than anyone else."

Bill, a mathematics major, found his toughest course to be upper-level math classes.

"It gets downright bizarre and difficult to visualize," he said. "This semester in math 470 we spent three lessons and seven pages of notes on one problem."

His easiest classes have been operations research and management.

Michael's toughest courses involved plenty of writing.

"Generally my most time-consuming assignments are papers, so classes which involve a lot of writing are the hardest to



Keeping it all in the family, Cadet 1st Class Bill Albert presents his brother Cadet 4th Class Michael Albert with his first cadet shoulder boards.

do well in," he said. "I can write well but it tends to take a long time. It's also not my ideal way to spend an entire Sunday."

The fourth degree cadet's favorite classes are math, "since those come easiest to me."

He is exploring various majors and is seriously considering math, physics or chemistry.

Like his brother, Michael came here for the opportunity to fly fighters.

Brother Bill has a pilot slot after graduation. "That really inspires me to keep going," Michael said.

Sleep vs. studying doesn't seem to present a problem for these cadets.

Bill said he probably gets as much

sleep as "the average cadet" except on the night before a report or paper.

Then he burns the midnight oil.

"I have found I will do better with more knowledge despite less sleep," he said. "So sometimes I will study until 3 or 4 a.m. for a particularly hard exam."

The prospect of sleep gets Michael going on hitting the books.

"There's something motivating about being really tired and knowing that homework is all that stands between me and sleep."

He almost always goes to bed after his roommates and has grown accustomed to sleep deprivation.

"Napping is important," he said.

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# Cadet excels with his head in the clouds

By Ann Patton  
Academy Spirit staff

Cadet 1st Class Chris Ross loves everything about flying.

After graduation he'll enter pilot training. His ultimate Air Force goal: become a Thunderbird.

Cadet Ross is well on his way to both. Last month at the U.S. National Glider Aerobatic championships in Dennison, Texas, he was awarded the John Serafin trophy for his aerobatics in free routines where pilots invent their own combination of maneuvers.

"I knew I had a good flight, but I didn't think it would be as good as it turned out to be," he said. "I was pleasantly surprised."

Categories for the competition, from easiest to most difficult, are gliders, sports class, intermediate and unlimited.

Soaring in a TG-10 glider, Cadet Ross competed in the intermediate class and scored 80.57 percent out of a possible 100, the highest a cadet has ever scored in any contest in Academy aerobatics.

Not only did he beat out all five glider intermediate competitors (all Academy cadets) at the nationals but he also topped the percentages of all three unlimited glider civilian competitors.

"Cadet Ross is constantly doing things up and beyond what's expected,"

said advanced soaring coach Mark Matticola with the 94th Flying Training Squadron. "He's going to be a great officer."

Chosen as advanced soaring teams commander by his peers, Cadet Ross serves as both a line instructor and member of the aerobatics team.

"They're definitely the top of the top," Mr. Matticola said of aerobatics pilots.

To become eligible for solo aerobatics, cadets must first complete no fewer than 75 basic instructional flights in gliders. They are selected for aerobatics based on maturity, experience, drive and motivation.

The one-week training in Academy aerobatics is usually held in Arizona in March.

"They pick it up fast," Mr. Matticola said, and added, "We give them airman-ship they can't get any place else."

The Academy has the only glider squadron in the Air Force. Fifteen cadets form the advanced soaring team.

Flying without an engine adds a huge dimension to aerobatics. The glider's energy comes from its speed and height. The pilot must manage both to complete a routine before getting too close to the ground.

Aerobatic competitors must fly their routine within the confines of "the box," an imaginary one kilometer cube of sky.



Cadet 1st Class Chris Ross prepares for the launch of his TG-10 glider at the 2006 U.S. National Aerobatics championship last month. Courtesy Photo

At top speed a glider can fly across the width of the box in less than 12 seconds.

Flying outside it shaves points from or even disqualifies competitors.

Cadet Ross finds soaring "really calming, just being up there above everything. But when it's time for 'acro' it's game on and the intensity kicks up a few notches.

"Right before I enter the aerobatic box my palms are always sweaty and my heart is pounding," he said. "It's like the 'ready, set, go' before a 100-meter sprint."

His favorite maneuvers are hammer-heads and snap rolls.

"Hammers are nice because you go from 110 knots and 5 g's to zero knots at the start and zero g's at the top," he said. "Snaps are about as wild as it gets in our gliders with a swift 4.8-g pull to stall the tail, then a rudder kick to get it to roll."

Cadet Ross is grateful for being at the Academy and the "awesome opportunities I have had."

He is also grateful to his parents who have supported him all the way.

"They let me do all this crazy flying even though they may have a few more grey hairs for it."

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# Cadet's training put to good use ... again

By Butch Wehry  
Academy Spirit staff

The cadet was returning by air from emergency leave Jan. 17 when it happened ... again.

There was a commotion in the row ahead of Cadet 1st Class Alfred Smith. A flight attendant was trying to wake an unconscious female passenger having seizures.

During the Fall and Spring of his third class year, the astronautics major took part in the cadet emergency medical training program. After completing this program and passing the EMT certification test, he became an EMT.

"I knew that a blood pressure cuff, a stethoscope, and a portable oxygen tank with a breathing mask would be on the plane," said the cadet from Darien, Conn. "I asked for the flight attendant to bring this equipment to me and began assessing the patient and her surroundings."

He knew what equipment was available because of an earlier incident in a

flight home after Thanksgiving break 2005.

As he assessed the patient's pulse and breathing, she began to open her eyes and became responsive, but not coherent. The patient did not understand what had just happened, but was able to respond to his questions.

"I provided high-flow oxygen through the portable oxygen tank, placing a breathing mask over her face because her pulse was weak and rapid and her skin was cool and clammy," said the budding Air Force pilot. "While I had another flight attendant asking her questions, I was evaluating her blood pressure and breathing rate. I had this information relayed on a piece of paper to the pilots who then relayed this information to the paramedics on the ground in Denver."

After 10 minutes on oxygen, his patient apparently regained full consciousness. He advised against making an emergency landing based on her improving condition.

In Denver, as paramedics took over, the woman began thanking him for being

there, though she could not remember what happened.

"I told the woman I was just glad these seizures happened while she was on the plane and while I was there and not while she was behind the wheel or in her house, alone, away from care," he said.

It had shades of déjà vu for this cadet.

On a red-eye flight home for Thanksgiving break during the fall of his second class year, the cadet also treated a patient who had gone into septic shock from a bad mouth infection.

"He was unconscious when I got to him," said the Cadet Squadron 10 member. "I administered oxygen, treated him for shock and monitored his vital signs in the aisle near the cockpit where he had collapsed, for roughly two hours until we landed."

Cadet Smith isn't waiting for horns to sound or drums to beat.

"I just happened to be lucky enough to have the right training and be in the right place at the right time," he said. "Any member of the cadet EMT team would have taken control of the situation



Courtesy Photo  
Cadet 1st Class Alfred Smith

just like I did. The training we receive through the EMT training program on base is a great opportunity, and I'm glad that it is available to us. It is a great life skill to have."



## Discipline for Body and Spirit

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ASSOC. OF AMERICA



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Emery Almasy, 554-9351 or Ray Walkowski, 266-1280



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If you're serious about making a change in how you manage your money, then the **Asset Recovery Kit (ARK) Program** can help.

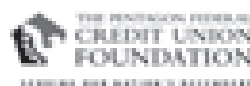
**ARK** will provide military and DoD personnel and your families with a short-term, no interest loan to help meet your immediate cash needs. As long as you agree to undertake financial counseling (located at 5262 N. Academy Blvd., Suite 1000, Colorado Springs), you may borrow up to 80% of your net pay to a maximum of \$500. The loan is offered at a \$6 flat fee with no credit report—BUT you must agree to financial counseling.

**Take control of your finances.** Contact one of our representatives at Pentagon Federal Credit Union and ask how **ARK** may be able to change your life.

**Come talk with us today.**

Colorado Springs Branch:  
6045 Barnes Road

Monday-Friday, 10AM-6PM

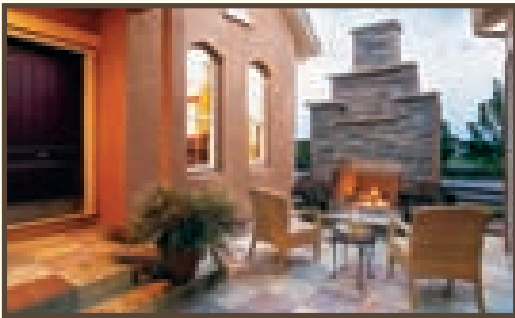




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**30** Days  
~ of ~  
Style

Get a \$10,000 Pottery Barn® shopping spree when you buy a select John Laing home between May 19 and June 17.



**How much style can you fit into a home? Let's find out.** Buy one of our select, ready-for-move-in homes, and you'll not only get a \$10,000 Pottery Barn shopping spree, you'll also get your very own Pottery Barn designer to help you make the most of that \$10,000. It's a 30-day opportunity to literally surround yourself with style.

For more information on availability and pricing of move-in ready homes, call the New Home Counselors at these John Laing Homes communities. Sales Centers open daily till 6pm.

[www.JohnLaingHomes.com/ColoradoSprings](http://www.JohnLaingHomes.com/ColoradoSprings)

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Only one home left!  
719.227.7627

**Tallgrass**  
Closeout celebration!  
Move-in ready & model homes  
719.487.7426

**Meridian Ranch**  
Recreational and golf course community  
Move-in ready homes  
719.494.0970

**Wolf Ranch – The Villages**  
Move-in ready homes  
719.495.7773

**The Gables**  
Move-in ready homes!  
1/4-acre homesites  
719.886.4088

1/2-acre homesites  
719.559.6010 or  
719.559.6014

**JOHN LAING HOMES**

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Promotion, prices, specifications, square footage and availability subject to change without notice. To be eligible to receive a \$10,000 shopping spree at Pottery Barn, Buyer must 1) sign Purchase Agreement between May 19, 2007 and June 17, 2007; 2) close the transaction on or before July 31, 2007; 3) qualify for financing through John Laing Mortgage "Eligible Buyer". For purposes of qualifying for financing through John Laing Mortgage, the sales price of the home will be reduced by the value of the gift card. Therefore, buyers who require a loan greater than 80% of the home's sales price may not qualify for this promotion, and will not be deemed an Eligible Buyer. Other promotions of equal value may be available. The term "select, ready-to-move-in homes" means only substantially completed homes; approximately twenty-eight (28) homes available at the commencement of this promotion. The \$10,000.00 gift certificate will be presented to Eligible Buyers after closing on the home. WL Homes LLC, d/b/a John Laing Homes is not responsible for lost or stolen gift certificates. John Laing Homes will interpret these rules and resolve any disputes, conflicting claims or ambiguities concerning the rules or the promotion and John Laing Homes' decisions shall be final. Pottery Barn is a registered trademark of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Pottery Barn is not a sponsor of this promotion.



# Class of 2007 Graduates



## **Squadron 1**

Thomas Bihansky  
Nathan Brown  
Esamu Cooper  
Troy Egbert  
Sloan Green  
Eric Guzman  
Bartholomew Ingallina  
Jacobe Kendrick  
Evelina Kinova  
Lindsey Kirchhoff  
Kyle Krogh  
Jessica Lackey  
Christopher Lien  
Timothy McBride  
Ian McKay  
Richard Mickelsen  
Christopher Odell  
Anthony Patino  
Christine Powers  
Nathan Rieber  
Justin Skinner  
Phillip Stewart  
Michael Van Norman  
Lauren White



## **Squadron 2**

David Andrews  
Frank Boyce  
Philip Brown  
Nathan Buckhout  
Patrick Burke  
Christopher Campbell  
Veronica Dawson  
Daniel Fenwick  
Erik Greendyke  
Michael Gruber  
Matt Jasinski  
Nicholas Kamon  
Debra Koenigsberger  
Charles Linz  
Stephen Miller  
Rey Ortega Alicea  
Jonathan Ostwalt  
Casey Probst  
Martin Riggan  
Gary Risher  
Peter Theisen  
Caroline White  
Monica Wu



## **Squadron 3**

Azhar Abbas  
Eric Antonietti  
Robert Bethancourt  
Christian Blume  
Jeremy Chang  
Joseph Duome  
Jose Garcia Reyes

Stephen Greenwade  
Kate Hrynyk  
Bryan Lawson  
Chad Miller  
Andrew Peloquin  
Gilberto Perez  
Daniel Picard  
Lauren Quinn  
Steven Riley  
Aaron Schuett  
Vipul Sharma  
Michael Tetreault  
Aaron Timmermann  
Jordan Wilhelm



## **Squadron 4**

Jonathon Backes  
Ronald Barnhart  
Juliette Delgiudice  
Kimberly Duarte  
Justin Fetherolf  
David Gribbin  
Allen Jennings  
Olivia Korte  
Matthew LeBlanc  
Frank Lochocki  
Jun Mendoza  
Eric Miller  
Jordan Ornelas  
Daniel Ouper  
Adam Parks  
Ryan Powell  
Craig Rasley  
Elliot Riling  
Aaron Schmidt  
Benjamin Schulze  
Don Smith  
Ian Whiteman  
Alison Wood  
Amir Zghidi



## **Squadron 5**

John Bochert  
Peter Bozynski  
Michael Cerise  
Michelle Dieringer  
Charles Follett  
Eric Gonzales  
Joshua Gramm  
Gabriel Gricol  
Jacob Hempen  
Sky Jensen  
Kalina Kantcheva  
Christopher Leonhardt  
Barry Loggins  
Collin Lohr  
Trevor Millette  
Daniel Paden  
Steven Papp  
Eric Perez  
Stephanie Rice  
James Robbins  
Matthew Sievers  
Eric Foss Smith  
Kristopher Trumble

Spencer Turner  
Michael Wetlesen  
Kent Whitney  
Nina Yacovone



## **Squadron 6**

Travis Ahrens  
Donald Alexander  
Robert Antypas  
Steven Bogert  
Dennis Chan  
Keith Cronican  
Jason Ford  
Kendal Forrester  
Lionel Garcia  
Thomas Griesemer  
Crystal Grijalva  
Thomas Hanson  
Stuart Jessup  
Zachery Lord  
Matthew McCraw  
John Palicka  
Joanne Pretz  
Anthony Quirarte  
Amanda Reed  
Celina Richardson  
Zachary Roberts  
Skyler Smith  
Christopher Sutton  
Thomas Talafuse  
Brandon Willert  
Meredith Zoch



## **Squadron 7**

Shari-Jean Adams  
Christopher Allen  
Steven Appleby  
Nicholas Berry  
Ryan Bolles  
Ryan Carolan  
Adam Cross  
Lea Doyle  
Peter Foster  
Patrick Griffin  
Zachary Hughes  
Christopher Ishida

Christopher Johnson  
Ieva Kuzminaite  
Ki Kwak  
Colin LaFavor  
Jessica Leuschen  
Bridger Lord  
Michael May  
Christopher Mayor  
Kenneth Molleson  
Steven Parker  
Raymond Roe  
Beau Suder  
Ian Tuznik  
Brandon Wilson



## **Squadron 8**

Ruth Afiesimama  
Jonathan Bateman  
Karl Bolt  
Jacob Burtschi  
Michael Carter  
Thomas Crump  
Tanya Dubiel  
Cody Fabricius  
James Gresham  
Daniel Griffin  
Hunter Grunden  
Monica Herrera  
Kamille Kemp  
Russell Kingsbery  
Anna Ruth Lowery  
Nathan Lowry  
Dereck Monnier  
Matthew Parker  
Skylar Rollins  
Elisabeth Rowland  
Philip Smith  
Steven Stein  
Matthew Twedell  
Andrew Vasquez  
Ryan Wilson  
Raymond Zenkert



## **Squadron 9**

Timothy Balthazar

Mitchell Belger  
James Blinn  
Joseph Czabaranek  
Charity Day  
Vincent Diaz  
Rachel Egley  
Lucas Fox  
Nicholas Gronlund  
Joshua Huberty  
Jason Jones  
Patrick King  
Michelle Kolcun  
John Larson  
Marcus Losinski  
Sarah Lowry  
Blake Luttrell  
Jeffrey Moon  
William Parks  
Michael Plummer  
Andrew Pratt  
Joshua Rausch-Davis  
Joseph Ruotolo  
Brittany Sass  
Christopher Smith



## **Squadron 10**

James Baker  
Michelle Bonneau  
Michael Borradaile  
Tara Dunn  
Dorothy Ellis  
Michael English  
Michael Fitzsimmons  
Joseph Fraier  
Zachary Franklin  
Stefan Hafner  
Brian Kester  
Steven Mackinder  
Aaron Moore  
Sergio Nazzaro  
Paul Parmenter  
Joseph Peterson  
Theodor Rosander  
Jamie Shea  
Wesley Simmons  
Alfred Smith  
Nathaniel Sorensen  
Nicholas Uzelac  
Kevin Winslow  
Mark Wise





**Squadron 11**

Rachel Adams  
Michael Blackburn  
Michael Bush  
Christina Chung  
Joseph Davi  
John Doyle  
Patricia Elmstrand  
Ayana Floyd-James  
Ryan Freaney  
Zachary Garrett  
Kadawathgama Gunaratne  
Albert Hainsfurther  
Travis Indharasophang  
Jordan Kahn  
Robert Madson  
Megan Mapes  
Brandon Martinez  
Mauricio Monte  
John Peskar  
Curtis Raaberg  
Christopher Ross  
Grant Thomas  
Jonathan Vaage  
Brian Walsh  
Benjamin Worker  
Adam Zanotti



**Squadron 14**

Diane Banks  
Jonathan Bergkamp  
Khary Branch-Romer  
Nicholas Burton  
Christopher Carp  
Christopher Decker  
Erin Finger  
Jeffrey Furnary  
Kevin Goulding  
Joseph Halpern  
Robert Humphries  
Matthew Manship  
Jenna Maxfield  
David McGee  
Jocelyn Mitnaul  
Sean Mortenso  
Donald Petrash  
Kathy Raket  
Kyle Schafer  
Michael Sherman  
Robert Smith  
Russell Smyth  
Samuel Thurmond  
John VanDenBroeke  
Gabriel Yoder



**Squadron 15**

Joseph Balskus  
Derek Bell  
Timothy Birt  
Joseph DeMonte  
Ilea Eskildsen  
Zachary Fulton  
Benton Hall  
Ashley Hawkes  
Ezekiel Ignaco  
Justin Lau  
Nicholas Luina  
John Maloney  
David Mangold  
Sarah Mashburn  
Stanley Montoya  
Barbara Myers  
Austin Nick  
Adam Peay  
Daniel Rowland  
Jessica Schroeder  
Thomas Smith  
Clayton Stanley  
Jared Swindle  
David Van Alstine  
Nicholas Welch  
Evan Wright  
Mary Zinnel



**Squadron 13**

Matthew Adams  
Grace Anderson  
Aaron Barrow  
Jacob Becker  
Daniel Bellissimo  
Connie Chung  
Jonathan Elliott

**Class of 2007 Stats**

Graduates from the Class of 2007 incur a five-year active duty service commitment. Graduates who enter pilot training incur an active duty service commitment of ten years after earning their wings. For navigators, the service commitment is six years after successful completion of training.  
**Graduation Class size:** 976 (800 men, 176 women)  
**Minorities:** 161  
**International students:** 18 (one each from Cameroon, Columbia, Ecuador, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Qatar, Tunisia; two each from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Pakistan, Peru and Sri Lanka)  
**Sets of twins:** 2  
**Third-child graduates:** 4  
**Second-child graduates:** 40  
**Second generation graduates:** 44  
**Attending pilot training:** 514  
**Attending navigators training:** 13  
**Attending air battle manager training:** 4  
**Total graduates since 1959:**  
**Male:** 36,202      **Female:** 3,574      **Total:** 39,776  
**Graduates who have attained the rank of general:** 453 (202 Active duty, 242 retired, 9 deceased)  
**Total number of international graduates:** 247

All stats current as of May 25th



**Squadron 17**

Heather Barrington  
Amanda Curtis  
John Davis  
Russell Day  
Kelly Edwards  
Jessa Flatebo  
Terrance Fregly  
John Fuson  
TJ Gabrielson  
Evan Kelly  
Benjamin Lorber  
Dustin Mayne  
April McDonald  
Matthew McPherson  
Brian Pascuzzi  
Jonathan Polston  
Richard Ricciardi  
Benjamin Roth  
Denver Saunders  
Angela Sheffield  
Theodore Shillig  
Chrystina Short  
Shaun Steipp  
Ryan Stillwell



**Squadron 18**

Kaitlin Barlow  
Andrew Bergman  
Jesse Caldwell  
Richard Cheng  
William Devoney  
Lucas Ewing  
Charlotte Freedman  
John Frye  
Peter Gac  
Daniel Helland  
Daniel Kimmich  
Matthew Mazur  
Jordan Mugg  
Robert Percy  
Blake Pickell  
Keith Sanders

Rodrigo Santos  
Michael Scott  
Caleb Standridge  
Victor Thompson  
Joost Verduyn  
Shane Williams  
Jesse Ziegler



**Squadron 19**

Roberts Andrejevs  
Matthew Bar  
Jared Baxley  
Lindsay Bengard  
Jonathan Camilletti  
Sean Conley  
Margaret Frash  
Joseph Gagner  
William Goss  
Joseph Helton  
Nathan King  
Jason Kirk  
Robert Lantz  
Adam McAuley  
Reagan Mullin  
Barrett Perdue  
Matthew Pinson  
Clayton Rieber  
Nicholas Rochelle  
Anthony Santino  
Christina Smith  
Jason Stockdale  
Aaron Veydt  
James Walker  
Joseph Zieja



**Squadron 20**

Lydia Bigelow  
Peter Billings  
Samantha Cod  
Robert Garrett  
Allison Gawlinski  
James Hansen  
David Hocking  
Cody Holland  
Adam Johnson



Cadet 1st Class Ted Rosander debuts one of the Academy's newest mascots, Banshee, at the St. Petersburg Times Forum in Florida, while hockey's Stanley Cup is being displayed. Cadet Rosander trained the falcon for free-flight performance last fall, and heads next to Vandenberg AFB, Calif. to be an astronautical engineer.

Christopher Knaute  
Lindsay Milkert  
Alex Moon  
Onyenma Nwaelele  
John Powers  
Seth Ratner  
David Schulker  
Tyler Smith  
Ashley Snyder  
William Stooksbury  
Christopher Taylor  
Kevin Vandagriff  
Augustin Viani  
Michael Weber  
Donald Whitt  
Jeffrey Wilson  
Theron Zacour



**Squadron 21**

Nathan Allred  
Christopher Baran  
Kristan Bird  
Bradley Breaux  
Joseph Cangealose  
Robert Colby  
Christopher Dolby  
Jenny Gibson  
Sean McClain  
Heather Moe  
Benjamin Mundell  
Kevin Murray  
Daniel Oldham  
Jeffrey Pelehae  
George Price  
Tyler Rube  
Vaidas Sinica  
Yvonne Sparks  
Brett Vongroven  
Shane Weeks  
Zachary Zorn



**Squadron 22**

John Annah

Matthew Barnard  
Lindsay Blong  
Michael Bosack  
Daniel Breiding  
Logan Brewer  
Matthew Carlisle  
Miji Dalton  
Ricardo Flores  
Nicholas Gardner  
Cesar Gonzalez  
Daniel Henney  
Andrew Kramer  
William Meister  
Melinda Mokus  
Andrew Nation  
Charles Price  
Daniel Reyes  
Eugene Salazar  
Matthew Shemo  
John Sparks  
Tyler Streit  
Adam Wade  
Michael Zudic



**Squadron 23**

Alison Bonanno  
John Brittingham  
Patrick Carpenter  
Geoffrey Carrigan  
Christopher Collins  
Christopher Donohoe  
Vincenza Grossman  
John Hereford  
Charles Higham  
Justin Kuchta  
Christopher McGrath  
Katherine Miller  
Arianne Morrison  
Brandon Olson  
Stephen Porter  
Michael Quashn  
Christopher Schlener  
Tyler Schultz  
Alicia Mead Stirewalt  
Robert Strzelec  
Ryan Patterson Wade  
Kemper Wagner  
Matthew Yan



**Squadron 24**

Ghanem Romaihi  
Guy Baldwin  
Garrett Bartee  
Matthew Beaubien  
Philip Becker  
Laura Bouchard  
Lucas Bommer  
Patrick Cassidy  
Elliott Gautreaux  
Brendan Greenaway  
Jenny Guilford  
Francis Hallada  
Timothy Jastrab  
Joseph Keller  
Karl Kuehner  
Matthew McDonald  
Marcella Mueth  
Benjamin Newman  
Jennifer Ng  
Daniel Quinlan  
Gregory Roberts  
Allan Sain  
Matthew Schwandt  
Rebecca Stone  
Harrison Sumerall  
Joseph Swar  
Eric Weber



**Squadron 25**

Guennadi Antonov  
Jason Beck  
Kimberly Brady  
Joel Brown  
Silas Brown  
John Cordova  
Matthew Duncan  
Matthew Groves  
Katherine Gulczynski  
Brett Hickman  
Mark Kuhn  
John Mann  
Garrett Nikiforoff  
Kevin Quinn

Jose Rubianogroot  
Leah Sullivan  
Daniel Taylor  
Keith Vandagriff  
Kyle Vaughn  
Damon Wong  
Scott Wright



**Squadron 26**

Robin Bergoo  
Andrew Brown  
Bradley Echols  
Lindsay Freeman  
Stephen Gandy  
Scott Geiser  
William Hildebrand  
Jon Kaskela  
Jason Knussmann  
Bennet Krawchuk  
Chad Kuffenkam  
Scott Kumpula  
Laura McAlister  
Colin McDonald  
John Nep  
David Nissen  
Jaclyn Novak  
David Scott  
Matthew Spakowski  
Margot Swartz  
Paul Taggart  
Trenton Updike  
Kyle Volpe  
Marcus Wells  
Brock Yowell



**Squadron 27**

Sean Andrews  
Larry Cornelio  
Christopher Dunlap  
Jonathan Gentry  
Shawn Green  
Mark Hancock  
Christopher Handy  
Kelsey Hayward

Gregory Hermantin  
Brian Hoffman  
Malgorzata Kosycarz  
Robert Kraay  
Bjorn Langefeld  
Christopher McGarvey  
Iain McIntyre  
Christopher Nitzel  
Brittany Oligney  
Johann Pambianchi  
Andrew Ramsey  
Bobby Scott  
Edward Sutton  
Mallory Swiderski  
Regan Tillman  
Matthew Walton  
Patrick Wanko



**Squadron 28**

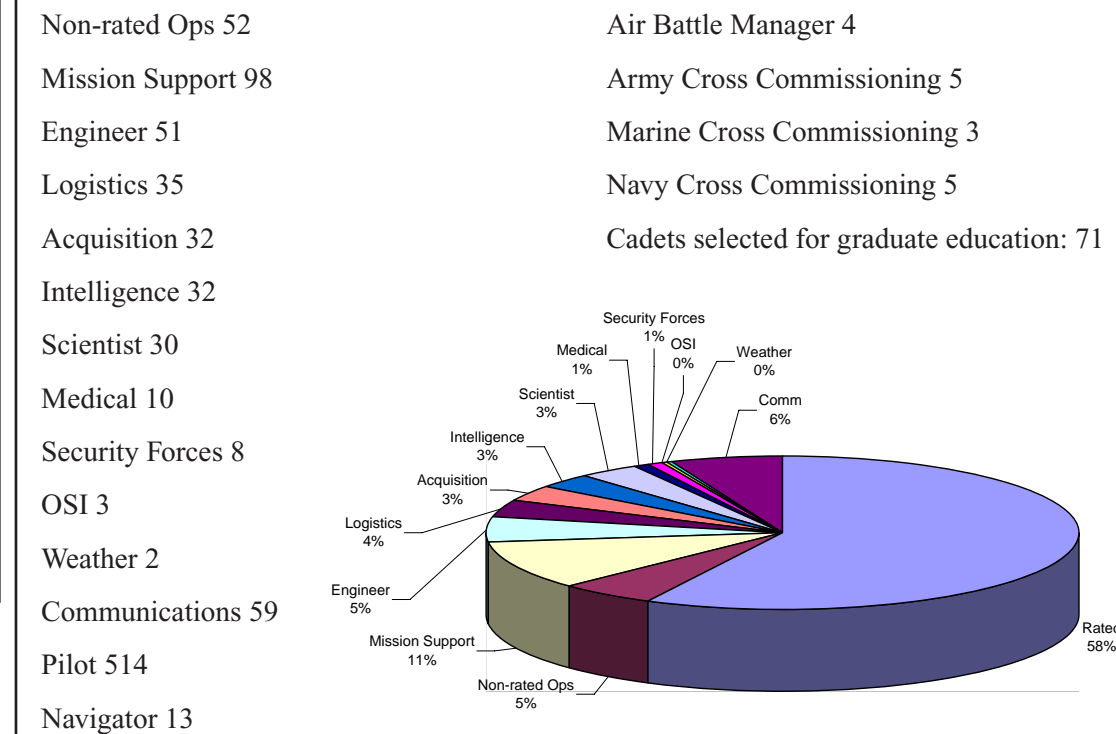
Charles Chambers  
Matthew Douglass  
Jonathan Dunn  
Bryan Gibbs  
Mary Heisel  
Stephanie Hirst  
Jonathan Hoang  
Griff Hofman  
Justin Lapin  
Darin Lister  
Jonathan Louie  
Kyle Morales  
Shea Mumma  
Blake Nixon  
David O'Donnell  
Erica Olson  
Stuart Perlow  
Thomas Raper  
Matthew Schlittler  
Chase Scully  
Eric Sepp  
Candice Stewart  
Elizabeth Taylor  
Matthew Ward



**Squadron 29**

Brett Agatep  
William Albert  
Edwin Berry  
Austin Buck  
Charles Chapot  
Robert Crespo  
Zachary Dvorak  
Craig Gullede  
Ronda Helart  
Joshua Hollingsworth  
Eric Layo  
Mark McNaughton  
Joshua Meyer  
Austin Noble  
Myogene Park  
Joshua Plocinski  
James Rayborn  
Jose Rosales  
Charles Setzer  
Ryan Shaub  
Timothy Stephens  
Scott Swigonski  
Andrea Taylor  
Chad Thompson  
Shane Villanueva  
William Waterworth

**Class of 2007 career fields**



All stats current as of May 25th



**Squadron 30**

Haseeb Ashraf  
Lauren Burse  
Nathan Chott  
Adam Dyke  
Justin Handley  
Nicole Helmers  
David Hernandez  
Nathan Holloway  
James Johnson  
James Lee  
Jonathan Lohse  
Mark McCartan  
Krysten McPherson  
Matthew Merritt  
Kyle Myers  
Sergio Padilla  
Alyssa Palmer  
Brian Reese  
Grant Scholl  
Adam Smith  
Francis Tartaglia  
Lindsay Temes  
Drew Tullson  
Daniel Week  
Michael Welt

**Squadron 31**

John Ahn  
Robert Alexander  
Travis Anderson  
Daniel Beaudoin  
Matthew Berszoner  
Caitlin Butterfield  
Bryan Christopher  
David Drennan  
Derek Ebeling  
Christopher Gamble  
Brian Gineo  
Jason Giroux  
Kandi Henderschied  
Matthew Hought  
Jay Medenwaldt  
Jessica Palomba  
Alexander Pannone  
Erica Pong  
Raul Roldan  
Carlos Saito  
Jeffrey Shehan  
Andrew Simpson  
Megan Togni  
Kurt Wagner  
Gabriel West

**Squadron 32**

Marvin Brown  
Ryan Bushnell  
Elizabeth Catherwood  
Michael Clawson  
Tyler Dohallow  
Brian Eddy  
Harrison Gipple  
Katherine Higginbotham

Christopher Kurtz  
Jonathan Lattimore  
Shaun Ranew Lee  
Raymond Leong  
Willie Lloyd  
Lance McPeak  
Adam Merello  
Andrew Mickles  
Weiss Nusraty  
Ashley Parker  
Annaline Rubio  
Zachary Sasser  
Andrew Teigeler  
Eileen Trimpe  
Jeffrey West  
Christopher Woodward

**Squadron 33**

Brian Brown-Dymkoski  
Jason Christopher  
William Clemmer  
Sarah Craycroft  
Brian Crouse  
Ryan Glasgow  
Jeffery Harville  
Caitlin Holliday  
Bradley Huebner  
James Kellenbence  
Brian Leen  
Eric Liscar  
Michael McKenna  
Evin Negron  
Ryan O'Dea  
Alicia Peasley  
Chad Rege  
Jarrod Silcox  
Leonard Spigiel  
Cody Teer  
Charith Gamage  
Reid Touchberry  
Kailin Tuscano  
Mary Vendt  
Curtis Weinstein  
Christopher Weston

**Squadron 34**

Kurt Antonio  
Robert Belkowski  
Trevor Cook  
Abigail Crews  
Frank Cumbie  
Andrew Edwards  
Richard Elmore  
Michael Gentry  
Eric Goldman  
Jerome Hundt  
Janelle Hyde  
Douglas Kelley  
Stephen Lawson  
Eric Lefebvre  
Christopher Oravetz  
Jae-Hyun Park  
Brittney Perkowski  
Brandon Rodts  
Alexander Sibal  
Ryan Teets  
Lauren Viscito  
Michael Wetherbee  
Anne Williamson

Joshua Yerk

**Squadron 35**

Sean Andrews  
Robert Bettinger  
Nicholas Burke  
Aaron Conine  
Ashley Culp  
Daniel Edelstein  
Ryan Gavina  
Jeremy Gordon  
Pall Green  
Joshua Hunt  
Sashonna Iwaniec  
Michael Lewis  
Barrett Meysembourg  
Nicholas Ngo  
Kyle O'Neill  
Edward Ortiz  
Alexandra Perr  
Christopher Reusser  
Erik Richardson  
John Tekell  
Aleksy Vlasov  
Karissa Walker  
Ryan White  
Scott Willis

**Squadron 36**

Chang Bae  
William Cargill  
Joseph Conrad  
Ashley Cwiakala  
Adam Danielso  
Marco Escalera  
Christopher Exstrom  
Tyler Goulding  
Carlos Hernandez  
Aaron Husk  
Nicole Keller  
Ryan Lewkowicz  
Hugh Miller  
Jonah Reeger  
Brandon Rice  
Eric Santroch  
Brian Silva  
Scott Skibitsky  
Beth Ware  
Keith Yelk  
Lindsay Yi

**Squadron 37**

Andrew Alderman  
Jordan Alexander  
Abby Barger  
Robert Butler  
Brian Chin  
Matthew Crippes  
Jukari Davis  
Mark Domogala  
Jahmil Edwards  
James Gilchrist  
Scott Gross  
Robert Hendrick

Lucas Karl  
Richard Martinson  
Sean McCarthy  
Casey McConnell  
Elliott Millike  
Kelly Morgan  
Sean O'Malley  
Lauren Robillard  
Theodore Seher  
Wesley Wilkening  
Kevin Winblad

**Squadron 38**

Kenneth Ackerson  
Robert Auflick  
Casey Bayne  
Eric Brown  
Scott Crellin  
Louis Gabriel  
Adam Gray  
Bryan Jones  
Stephen Klenke  
Brian Kotowski  
Scott Nakatani  
Patrick Picard  
Katherine Plichta  
Samuel Reed  
Katherine Schifani  
Thomas Skora  
Cory Smith  
Zachary Sumner  
Christopher Sweeney  
Douglas Templeton  
Michael Tuchscherer  
Graydon Vandament  
Christopher Yeager  
Matthew Zenishe

**Squadron 39**

William Bell  
Daniel Boethin  
Adam Burwinkle  
Steven Christopher

Melissa Collins  
Eric Dorsey  
Paul Elsbernd  
John Jaszkwiaak  
John Karlen  
Joseph Kreidel  
Katy Luttrell  
Jace McCown  
Kassandra Merritt  
Clinton Muery  
Brandon Murphy  
Mary Nhan  
Aaron Russell  
Zaqueo Salazar  
Aaron Sanchez  
David Scanland  
Joseph Smith  
Sarah Stampher  
Charles Staten  
Kaelin Thistlewood  
Colton Tuttle  
Elizabeth Vaccar

**Squadron 40**

Robert Allen  
Jeff Borriello  
Stephen Boyd  
Todd Branchflower  
Elizabeth Brende  
Matthew Burton  
Letricia Castillo  
David Cooper  
Seth Erickson  
Hans Foster-Jorgensen  
Anders Johnso  
Emily Kukuruda  
Brady Lindber  
Donald Naiman  
Jared Neumann  
Dierra Poland  
Lon Schmidt  
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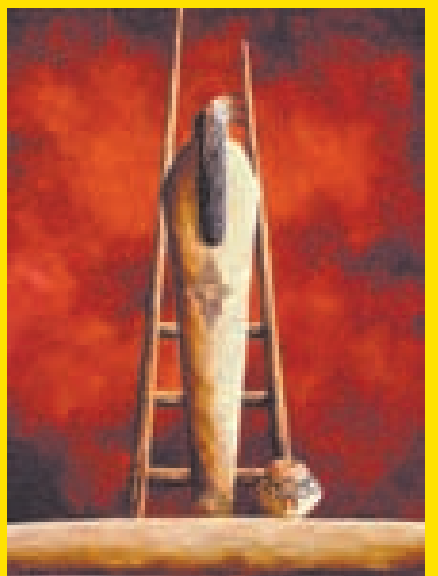
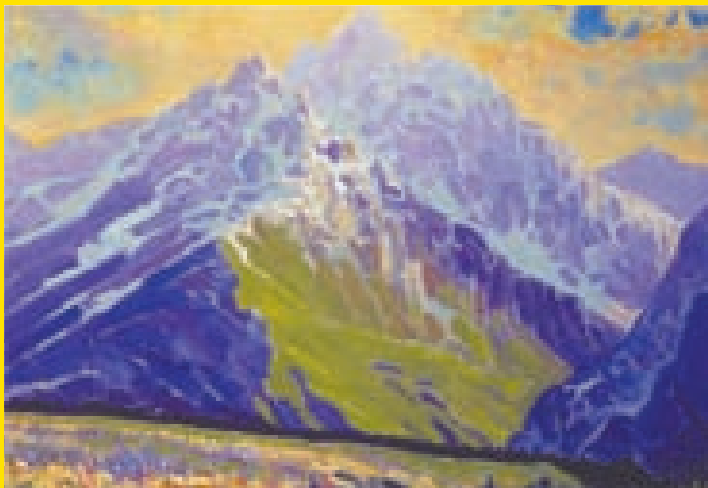
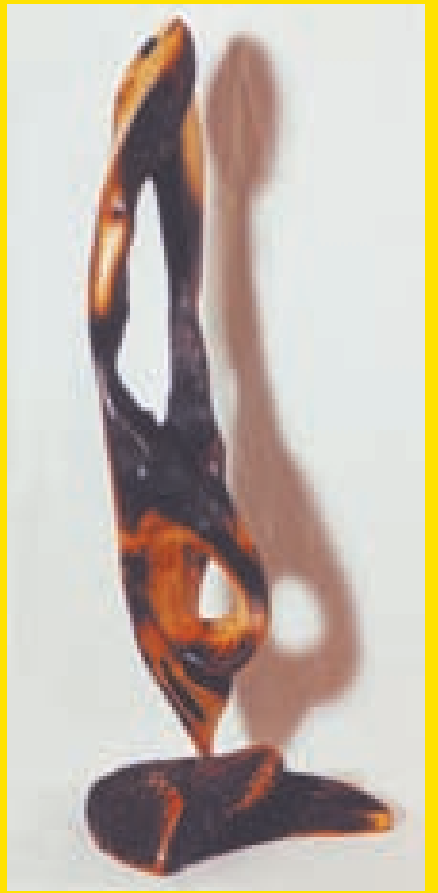
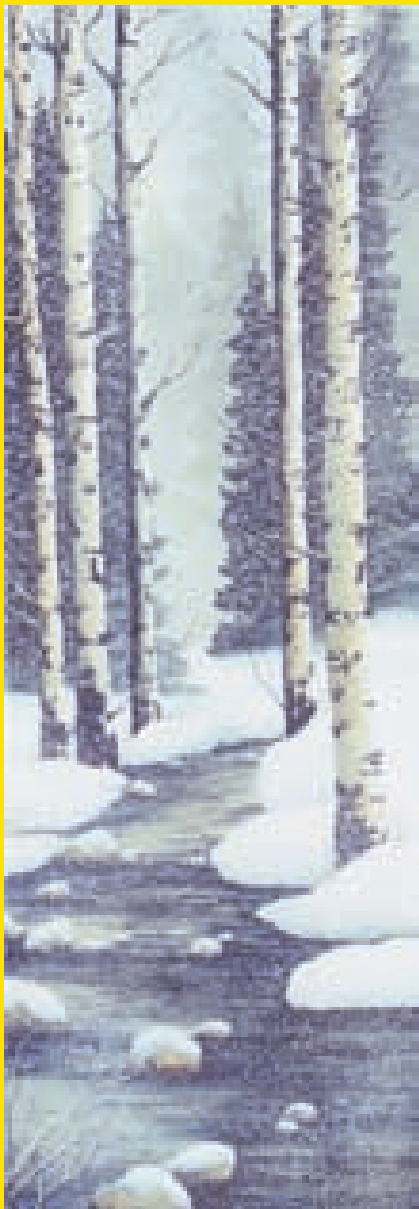
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# Athletic department recognizes 2007 outstanding student athletes

## By Athletic Media Relations

### Most Valuable Athlete (Men)

Eric Ehn became the most decorated Falcon hockey player ever and one of the most honored athletes in any sport. He was the first AFA, and first service academy player, ever selected as one of the top 10 finalists for college hockey's top award, the Hobey Baker. He was then named to the "Hobey Hat Trick" as one of three finalists and invited to the NCAA Frozen Four and the Hobey Baker ceremony in St. Louis, Mo. The Atlantic Hockey Association Player of the Year, Ehn became Air Force's first All-American as he was selected to the second-team by the RBK/AHCA All-American (coaches) and the first-team by *InsideCollege Hockey.com* and U.S. College Hockey Online. He is the first Atlantic Hockey/MAAC player and first service academy player ever named to the AHCA (coaches) All-American team. Selected as the team's MVP for the second straight season, he finished the season second in the nation in scoring with 1.60 points per game (just .08 out of the lead). He was also second in the nation in assists per game (1.00) and 11th in goals per game (0.60). Ehn set a new league record with 45 points (16-29-45) in 28 AHA games. He was a two-time league player of the week and led the league in points, goals, assists, shots and plus/minus in all games. As one of the most dangerous scoring threats in the nation, Ehn led the Falcons to the Atlantic Hockey Association tournament championship and the team's first-ever bid in the NCAA Tournament.

### Most Valuable Athlete (Women)

The 2007 MWC champion in the discus, Olivia Korte has continued to rewrite the Academy's track and field record books. During the indoor season, Korte set a new program standard in the shot put (47'6½"), as she earned all-conference accolades at the MWC

Championships. During the outdoor season, Korte won the discus at the Oregon Invitational, while earning NCAA Regional Qualifying Marks in the shot put and discus throw. In addition, she picked up two event titles at the first-ever Military Classic to help guide the women's team to a second-place finish. By setting the Senior Class record in the discus, Korte became the first Air Force athlete – male or female – to hold all four Class Records in two different events. She also holds the freshman, sophomore, junior and Senior Class records in the weight throw. Last year, she became just the second Academy female to earn NCAA All-America status. She earned two MWC Athlete of the Week awards and all-conference accolades six times. Korte also set an MWC Championship meet record, as she broke the conference's six-year-old mark in the discus throw. A two-time Outstanding Competitor for the women's track team, Korte holds three Academy records, including the weight throw, discus throw and indoor shot put.

### Athletic Leadership

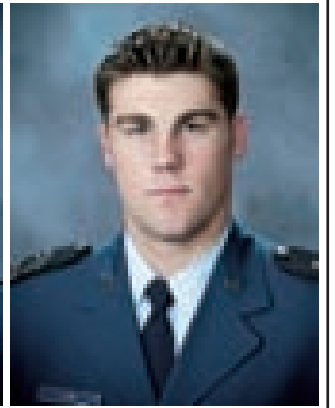
Selected as the team captain by his teammates, Billy Devoney became the first Air Force hockey player ever named to the Lowe's Senior CLASS All-American first-team and was a finalist for the Lowe's Senior CLASS award. The award recognizes character, community, academics, leadership and on-ice performance. Devoney earned three of the team's seven major awards, including the Vic Heyliger Award, the Larry Cronk Inspirational Award and the Defensive Player of the Year honor. He set a new school record by playing in all 40 games this season, led the Falcons to the Atlantic Hockey Association tournament championship and the team's first-ever bid in the NCAA Tournament. He scored 15 points on the year, but none bigger than his goal with 54 seconds left in the AHA semifinals vs. Sacred Heart. With AFA trailing 4-3, Devoney's goal,



Jacob Burtschi



Billy Devoney



Eric Ehn



Chris Knaute



Olivia Korte



Blair Leake

after AFA pulled its goaltender, tied the game and forced overtime. AFA went on to win the game and then beat Army, 6-1, in the championship game.

### Scholar Athlete

Team captain and four-time Academic All-MWC Selection, Blair Leake has been on the Academy's superintendent's list all four years. Leake is an all-MWC selection in the 100 and 200-yard breaststroke events. She holds the school record in the 200 breaststroke and was named MWC Swimmer of the Week award winner. She was the Cadet Wing Director of Support and Safety during the summer of 2006.

### Athletic Excellence

Chris Knaute is a nine-time Mountain West Conference champion. That total is tied for the most by any athlete in the conference. Knaute is a

two-time MWC Men's Swimmer of the Year (as a sophomore and senior). He is also a two-time honorable mention All-American and Olympic Trials Qualifier. He owns four individual and five overall school records. Knaute is a four-time team MVP and team captain.

### Outstanding Athletic Achievement

Jacob Burtschi, a basketball forward from Chickasha, Okla., averaged 13.5 points and a team-leading six rebounds per game in 2006-07. He earned an all-MWC second-team selection and was on the NABC's all-district 13 second-team. He also was named to the USBWA all-district 8 team and MVP of the Cable Car Classic and the CBE Regional at Stanford, Calif. Burtschi, a member of the NIT all-tournament team, is No. 1 on the school's career lists for games played (125) and steals (196) and 10th on the career scoring list with 1,205 points.

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# Top athletes earn kudos in their respective sports

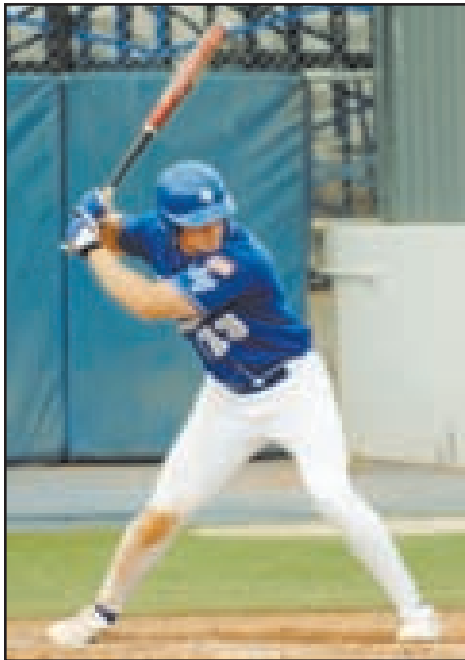
By Athletic Media Relations

## Baseball

Karl Bolt ranked among the top hitters in the Mountain West Conference, leading the Falcons with a .359 batting average to go with eight home runs, 14 doubles and 44 RBI. Bolt had driven in four-or-more runs four times including two six-RBI games. A four-year starter, Bolt ranks among the Air Force career leaders in home runs, RBI, games played, walks and hit-by-pitches. Bolt is in the hunt for an All-MWC selection and has a shot at getting drafted in this year's Major League Baseball Amateur Draft.

## Basketball (Men)

Jacob Burtschi, a forward from Chickasha, Okla., averaged 13.5 points and a team-leading six rebounds per game this season. He earned an all-MWC second-team selection and was on the NABC's all-district 13 second-team. He also was named to the USBWA all-district 8 team and MVP of the Cable Car Classic and the CBE Regional at Stanford, Calif. Burtschi, a member of the NIT all-tournament team, is No. 1 on the school's career lists for games played (125) and steals (196) and 10th on the career scoring list with 1,205 points.



Karl Bolt

in the heavyweight division. Tuznik posted a perfect 5-0 record on the year, including three victories that came in referee stopped contests. En route to becoming a three-time NCBA All-American, Tuznik claimed his third straight Wing Open title, while also earning his second NCBA Western Regional title. Tuznik was named the Academy's Boxer of the Week following a victory at the prestigious New York Athletic Club.

## Cross Country (Men)

Richard Elmore earned all-Mountain West Conference honors after finishing ninth at the conference championships. Clocking a time of 25:07, he became the 12th Falcon to earn all-conference accolades. In addition, Elmore was the Falcons' top finisher at the Roy Griak Invitational (101st) and the Pre-NCAA Meet (97th).

## Cross Country (Women)

Junior Kelly Robinson picked up the second Most Valuable Athlete honor of her career (she also received the honor as a freshman). She was the fastest Falcon in four of the team's seven meets, including the Mountain West Conference Championships (21st). Robinson also led the team at the Wyoming Invitational (11th), Utah Fall Festival (4th) and the Pre-NCAA Meet (184th).

## Fencing (Men)

Senior Nathan Smith was the fencing team captain. In 2007, Smith qualified for the second time in his Academy career for the NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Championships. He qualified with his fourth-place finish in men's foil at the Western Region Championships. He finished 21st in foil at the NAAs. In 2006, he was an NCAA qualifier, but due to his military leadership commitments, he did not compete in the NCAA finals. He won the Military Championships gold medal in 2006. In 2002, he placed eighth in the Division I National Championships in foil and has been a multiple time state, regional, and sectional champion. He served as one of three Basic Cadet Training Commanders in charge of Basic Cadet Training (BCT) for the class of 2010 in 2006. He concludes his Academy career as a Cadet Colonel permanent advisor to BCT staff.

## Fencing (Women)

Senior Lydia Bigelow was the 2006-07 fencing team captain. Her leadership has led the Falcons to several top finishes

throughout her career. At the 2007 NCAA West Region Championships, she finished seventh in women's epee. At the Duke Invite in February, she finished with a 5-7 record. At the 2006 Falcon Open, she earned her "B" rating after she tied for third place in her event. She won the silver at the New Mexico Open last fall. Bigelow captured the Division III NAC women's epee title in 2006.

## Football Special Teams

Hunter Altman was among the team leaders in special teams tackles in 2007. He finished the season with 14 total tackles, including 10 unassisted as a backup safety and on special teams. Altman recorded his first career blocked kick vs. UNLV when he blocked a punt. The block led to an AFA touchdown.

## Football Lineman

Junior linebacker Drew Fowler led the conference and ranked 11th nationally in total tackles with a 10.2 average becoming the first Falcon since Chris Gizzi in 1997 to lead the league in tackles. The Clayton, N.C., native recorded 123 tackles, which is the most by a Falcon since Gizzi posted 179 in 1997. Fowler led the team in tackles in 10 of 12 games in 2006 and notched a career-high 18 tackles in the loss to Navy. His 18 stops are the most by a Falcon since Gizzi had 20 vs. Fresno State in 1997. He was named the conference's player of the week for his efforts against Navy. Fowler earned first-team all-conference honors for his efforts, becoming the first Falcon to earn first-team honors since Marchello Graddy in 2003.



Chad Hall

## Football Back

Junior halfback Chad Hall had a breakout season. He ranked fourth in the conference in rushing with a 65.3 per-game average. Hall rushed for a career-high 122 yards in Air Force's win at Wyoming. Hall hit the 100-yard mark for the second time this season and third in his career against Colorado State with 102 yards rushing. His two 100-yard efforts tie him for the team lead with quarterback Shaun Carney, who also rushed for over 100 yards against Wyoming and Colorado State. Hall nearly did it for the third time this season in the win over Army with 93 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries. The 5-foot-8, 180-pound Hall has topped the 20-carry mark three this season. He had 20 carries vs. Wyoming, 25 against Colorado State and 20 for a team-high 67 yards vs. Notre

Dame. Hall hit the 1,000-yard mark for his career recently, becoming the 34th player in school history to rush for over 1,000 yards. Hall is ranked 31st in school history with 1,128 career yards. Hall is just the third Air Force halfback in school history to earn all-conference honors and the first since Greg Johnson was a first-team all-Western Athletic Conference selection in 1989.

## Golf

The top performer and MVP for the Air Force golf team for a third-straight season was senior captain Tyler Goulding, who led Air Force in eight of 13 tournaments for the year. The Falcons' top finisher at the Mountain West Conference Championship, Goulding earned all-conference honors for the second time in his career. A competitor for the Falcons in every tournament over the past four years, Goulding holds eight of the lowest 20 individual tournament scores in school history, more than any other Air Force golfer.

## Gymnastics (Men)

For the second straight year, junior Brian Boardman was invited to compete at the NCAA National Qualifying Meet on the vault. A co-captain of the 2007 squad, Boardman improved his personal-best in the high bar, while nearly matching his personal-best on the parallel bars. Boardman collected Mountain Pacific Sports Federation all-academic team honors for the second straight year.

## Gymnastics (Women)

Senior captain Sashonna Iwaniec concluded four years of consistency with a selection to the USA Gymnastics All-America second-team. Iwaniec, a two-time Mountain Pacific Sports Federation all-academic team member, posted four of her five season-best scores at the MPSF and USAG competitions. Following the MPSF championships, Iwaniec was awarded first-team honors on the vault, uneven bars and all-around, while collecting second-team accolades on the floor exercise.

## Hockey

Eric Ehn became the most decorated Falcon hockey player ever and one of the most honored athletes in any sport. He was the first AFA, and first service academy player, ever selected as one of the top 10 finalists for college hockey's top award, the Hobey Baker. He was then named to the "Hobey Hat Trick" as one of three finalists and invited to the NCAA Frozen Four and the Hobey Baker ceremony in St. Louis, Mo. The Atlantic Hockey Association Player of the Year, Ehn became Air Force's first All-American as he was selected to the second-team by the RBK/AHCA All-American (coaches) and the first-team by *InsideCollegeHockey.com* and U.S. College Hockey Online. He is the first Atlantic Hockey/MAAC player and first service academy player ever named to the AHCA (coaches) All-American team. Selected as the team's MVP for the second straight season, he finished the season second in the nation in scoring with 1.60 points per game (just .08 out of the lead). He was also second in the nation in assists per game (1.00) and 11th in goals per game (0.60). Ehn set a



Alecia Steele

## Basketball (Women)

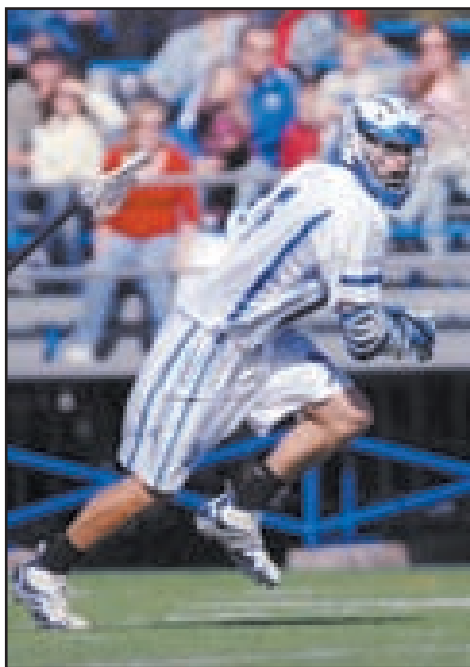
Junior Alecia Steele earned her third-straight MVP honors for the Air Force women's basketball team. The squad's leading scorer and rebounder in all three seasons, Steele finished her junior campaign averaging 12.1 points and 7.9 rebounds per contest. A Mountain West Conference Co-Player of the Week in January, Steele recorded eight double-doubles on the season, including a career-best 28 points and 15 rebounds against UNLV. She also hit the game-winning shot in the Falcons' tournament match-up against Colorado State, giving Air Force its first ever MWC Tournament victory. For her accomplishments, Steele earned all-conference honors for the third-consecutive season, selected to the All-MWC third team.

## Boxing

Senior Ian Tuznik capped off his boxing career with his second consecutive National Collegiate Boxing Association (NCBA) championship title

## Top Athletes

new league record with 45 points (16-29-45) in 28 AHA games. He was a two-time league player of the week and led the league in points, goals, assists, shots and plus/minus in all games. As one of the most dangerous scoring threats in the nation, Ehn led the Falcons to the Atlantic Hockey Association tournament championship and the team's first-ever bid in the NCAA Tournament.



Will Meister

### Lacrosse

Senior co-captain Will Meister was named the MVP for the 2007 Air Force lacrosse team. Meister, who led the team with 20 assists on the year, ranked second on the squad in total points with 33, while also registering a team-best six man-up goals. Meister, who has scored at least one goal or assist in 25 consecutive games, ends his career with 84 assists, ranking tied for sixth in the Air Force record book. Meister, who ranks among the nation's leaders in assists per game, also earned all-conference honors for the third straight season.

### Rifle

Senior Jessica Palomba is the Academy Most Valuable Cadet in marksmanship (Rifle). In addition to her outstanding performance in competition throughout the season, Palomba did what all MVPs must do: Make her teammates better. As team captain, she was involved in every aspect of her teammates' lives, from military mentoring to personal instruction on the firing line. She set the standard in competitive excellence; shooting the high aggregate score for the Falcons in seven of nine competitions this season, a feat unequalled in the past decade. Her career highlights include an air rifle Personal Record of 585 X 600, and a Smallbore Personal Record of 575 X 800.

### Soccer (Men)

Junior Ian Hauck, one of only three Falcons to start all 18 games in 2006, is the MVP for the Air Force men's soccer team. Hauck was the team's most consistent defender all season, earning first-team all-conference honors. He scored one goal and added two assists during the campaign. One of his assists came on the game-winner in a 1-0 victory over UNLV, giving coach Lou Sagastume his 300th career victory.

### Soccer (Women)

Corbin Sanford earned the MWC

award despite being just a sophomore. She appeared in 19 games, starting 16 as a forward. She scored her only goal of the season against St. Mary's. In addition to winning the team MVP honor, she was a member of the BAE Systems Classic All-tournament team earlier this season.

### Swimming (Men)

Chris Knaute is a nine-time Mountain West Conference champion. That total is tied for the most by any athlete in the conference. Knaute is a two-time MWC Men's Swimmer of the year (as a sophomore and senior). He is also a two-time honorable mention All-American and Olympic Trials Qualifier. He owns four individual and five overall school records. Knaute is a four-time team MVP and team captain.

### Swimming (Women)

Senior Blair Leake was team captain for the Falcon women's swim team. Leake was named MWC All-Conference for the second-consecutive year. Leake was recently awarded an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, one of just 58 student-athletes to earn one for the winter sport athletes. Leake is the Academy record holder in the 200 yard breaststroke.



Robert Alexander

### Tennis (Men)

Robert Alexander played his entire senior campaign at the No. 1 singles spot for the Falcons. He posted nine dual wins during the season and won six in a seven-match span during the middle of the season. Despite consistently playing nationally ranked opponents in the MWC, Alexander played well and took two of them to a third set. Robby's best win of the season came against Henrik Almstrom of Rhode Island, rallying from a set down to win, 1-6, 6-2, 1-0(8).

### Tennis (Women)

Kelly Morgan posted a team-high 24 singles victories in 2006-07, including a 15-9 record in dual matches. She was .500 or better at every position she played this season. Morgan, the only Falcon to win two dual matches against MWC opponents, won both of her singles matches at the Wyoming Invitational and advanced to the final of her flight at the Academy Invitational last fall.

### Track Most Valuable (Men)

For the second straight year, senior Brian Walsh has been named the team's Most Valuable Player. En route to earning the 2007 conference champion in the

decathlon, Walsh accounted for the third-highest point total in MWC championship meet history. Walsh has provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships on two occasions this season, including a career-best outing at the prestigious Mt. SAC Multi-Event meet. His 7334 points is the second-best performance in Academy history, a new Senior Class record and the third-best total in MWC history. During the indoor season, Walsh broke his own Academy record in the heptathlon, accumulating 5539 points to finish second at the MWC Championships. In addition to becoming just the third Falcon to claim all four "Class" records in a single event with his Senior Class total, Walsh posted the second-best MWC championship total and the third-best overall score in conference history. In addition, he has moved into the Academy's all-time top-10 list for both the indoor and outdoor long jumps. A two-time participant at the NCAA Indoor Championships, Walsh has accounted for five all-conference accolades during his impressive four-year career.

### Track Most Valuable (Women)

The 2007 MWC champion in the discus, Olivia Korte has continued to rewrite the Academy's track and field record books. During the indoor season, Korte set a new program standard in the shot put (47'6½"), as she earned all-conference accolades at the MWC Championships. During the outdoor season, Korte has won the discus at the Oregon Invitational, while earning NCAA Regional Qualifying Marks in the shot put and discus throw. In addition, she picked up two event titles at the first-ever Military Classic to help guide the women's team to a second-place finish. By setting the Senior Class record in the discus, Korte became the first Air Force athlete – male or female – to hold all four Class Records in two different events, as she also holds the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class records in the weight throw. Last year, she became just the second Academy female to earn NCAA All-America status. She has also earned two MWC Athlete of the Week awards and all-conference accolades on six different occasions. Korte also added a MWC Championship meet record to her resume, as she broke the conference's six-year-old record in the discus throw. A two-time Outstanding Competitor for the women's track team, Korte currently holds three Academy records, including the weight throw, discus throw and indoor shot put.

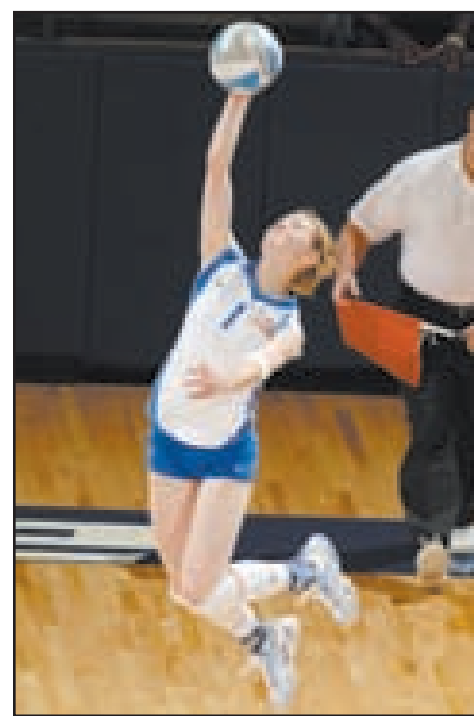
### Track Outstanding Competitor (Men)

Junior Kevin Hawkins claimed two Mountain West Conference titles this season, winning the 800-meter run during both the indoor and outdoor championships. During the indoor season, he moved into third on the team's all-time list with a time of 1:49.54, while also claiming the Junior Class record in that event. During the outdoor season, he ran the final leg of the sprint medley relay team that shattered one of the Academy's oldest records at the prestigious Drake Relays. With a combined time of 3:19.52, Hawkins helped shave two seconds off of a relay

record that had stood since 1966.

### Track Outstanding Competitor (Women)

Even though she is just a freshman, Sara Neubauer has made an immediate impact on the Falcons' history. Having qualified for the NCAA Regionals in two events, Neubauer set a new Academy and Freshman Class record in the outdoor shot put with a conference-leading throw of 50'2¾". A conference-leading throw, that mark was the first-ever throw over 50-feet at the Academy. In addition to recording the second-best throw in the discus and the seventh-best toss in the javelin during the outdoor season, Neubauer earned all-conference (runner-up) honors in the shot and discus at the MWC Championships. During the indoor season, she rewrote the Academy shot put record several times, while setting a new Freshman Class record in the process.



Katie Batchelder

### Volleyball

In addition to being the only Falcon to play in all 88 games, Katie Batchelder was the only one to surpass the 200-kill plateau. Amassing 231 kills in her first season, she topped the rest of the field by nearly 80. The freshman led the team in kills during 17 of the team's 28 matches, including 11 of the last 13. She was also second on the team with 0.32 aces and 1.90 digs per game. She is the first player to collect Rookie of the Year and MVP honors during the same season.

### Water Polo

Senior Denver Saunders was named the Air Force water polo MVP for the 2006 season. The Falcons' starting goalkeeper, Saunders played in all 31 games for Air Force, which finished the season ranked, 17th in the nation. Saunders recorded 304 saves on the season, ranking third in the nation. Saunders was also the MVP of the East Meets West Tournament, hosted by Air Force in September.

### Wrestling

Senior co-captain Bridger Lord, the Falcons' starter at 149 pounds, was chosen as the 2006-07 Air Force wrestling team MVP. With the Falcons' leading win percentage, Lord recorded a dual meet ledger of 10-4 this season. A fourth-place finisher at the NCAA West Regional, Lord was one of three Falcons to earn WWC Wrestler of the Week honors this year.



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