

# ***FALCON FAMILY NEWS***

**OCTOBER 2006**

## **USAFA OPENS THEIR GATES**

The safety and security of our cadets – and everyone else based here at the Academy – were the senior leadership’s top priorities. These were the paramount considerations options were discussed to make the Academy more accessible to visitors. This is America’s Air Force Academy, and the goal was to increase access while at the same maintaining an appropriate level of security. With the new visitor processes that went into effect on Sunday, 1 October, the USAFA staff is confident we’ll achieve both.

In fact, under the new processes, the Academy will be more secure than it is presently. As you know from your visits, the North Gate entrance is wide open and unguarded from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily (except when the national and/or DoD threat levels are raised). Under our new system, the North Gate will now be manned whenever it is open (it’s not a 24-hour entrance; only the South Gate is open around the clock). The gate guards at both gates will now be checking IDs of all who enter the Academy, and the vehicles of visitors (those without a DoD/military ID card) will be searched prior to entry. Both manning the North Gate and searching visitor vehicles are two additional levels of security we did not previously have. Our plan is to have separate lanes at the gates for visitors to reduce the inconvenience to cadets and others who are authorized access to the base. And, of course, our Security Forces will continue their patrols and vigilance throughout the restricted Cadet Area, as well as across the Academy, just as they do today.

To reiterate, ensuring the safety and security of all our people – from the most junior cadet to our senior officers and civilians – is Job One here (and at AF installations worldwide). Our new access procedures were not implemented without serious consideration and discussion of all the pros and cons of doing so.

## **HOMEcomings MEMORIAL CEREMONY HONORS FALLEN GRADUATES**

The Air Force Academy’s annual Homecoming Memorial Ceremony took place at USAFA on 29 September at 4:30 p.m. At the ceremony 45 deceased Air Force Academy graduates were honored. They included those who died of combat-related or other causes and those whose remains were recovered from previous wars, since the 2005 Homecoming Memorial Ceremony. Each name, year of graduation and the last cadet squadron to which the graduate was assigned was called out. The current cadet squadron commander responded “Absent.” The entire Cadet Wing was present for this annual remembrance. The ceremony also included the playing of Taps and a flight of F-16 Falcons flying the traditional missing man formation.

## **AIR FORCE ACADEMY ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES NEW SPIRIT INITIATIVES**

In an effort to increase spirit and pride in Falcon Football and Falcon Stadium and increase fan involvement, two new initiatives were launched at the first home game against New Mexico on 30 September.

First, fans were invited to welcome the team to Falcon Stadium on game day as part of the first ever “Falcon Walk.” The Air Force football team arrived at Falcon Stadium around 10:10 a.m. The team buses stopped on Tunnel Road just east of Falcon Stadium. The fans were invited to line Tunnel Road and welcome the team as they walked, led by the cheerleaders and the Drum and Bugle Corps, to the tunnel and down to the locker room.

Second, during the game, the fans joined in celebrating each Falcon First Down as the announcer said “it’s good for another Falcon...” fans joined in and responded “First Down.” Hopefully these initiatives will become time-honored traditions at Falcon Stadium.

Fans have risen to the challenge to wear blue to all sporting events. The “sea of blue” at the first two home football games was impressive.

## **FAST FACTS ABOUT USAFA**

- ➔ U.S. Air Force Academy’s Mission: To educate, train and inspire men and women to become officers of character, motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation
- ➔ U.S. Air Force Academy’s Vision: USAFA...the Air Force's premier institution for developing leaders of character
- ➔ Academy Major Organizations (aka, Mission Elements): USAFA/CC (Superintendent, ★★ ★), USAFA/CW (Commandant, ★), Dean of the Faculty (★), Athletic Department (Civ, ★ equiv.), 10<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing (✪), 306<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Group (✪), Preparatory School (✪)
  - ➔ USAFA: Officers: 895; Enlisted: 966; Civ: 1462; NAF (Non-appropriated Fund civilians): 538
  - ➔ AETC: Officers: 101; Enlisted: 41; Civ: 61; NAF: 0
  - ➔ Tenant: Officers: 11; Enlisted: 9; Civ: 31; NAF: 0
  - ➔ Total: Officers: 1007; Enlisted: 966; Civ: 1462; NAF: 538
- ➔ Academy History
  - ➔ USAFA is the youngest of the five service Academies (Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine)
    - ➔ President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill establishing the Air Force Academy on April 1, 1954
    - ➔ First class of 306 men entered on July 11, 1955 at a temporary facilities at Lowry AFB in Denver
    - ➔ Construction of the Academy began the same year
    - ➔ 207 men graduated in the first class in June 1959
    - ➔ The Cadet Wing moved into its permanent home in August 1958
    - ➔ Women were admitted in June 1976 with the first class of women graduating in 1980
  - ➔ USAFA is comprised of 19,304 acres situated 7,250 ft above sea level
    - ➔ Cadet Area was designated a National Historic Landmark in April 2004
    - ➔ Located 8 miles north of Colorado Springs and 55 miles south of Denver
  - ➔ 38,789 graduates in 48 classes, as of July 2006
    - ➔ Graduation rate is approximately 65% from 1959-2005

- Historical average attrition rate of approximately 35% over the four years at the Academy; over the last decade, however, attrition has decreased to around 27%
- Approximately 38% of graduates are still on active duty
- Cadet Wing Facts
  - Authorized strength of Cadet Wing, established by Congress, is 4,000 cadets plus 60 international students
  - Graduates earn a Bachelor of Science degree, regardless of academic major, and most are commissioned as Air Force 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants (a few each year received their commissions in another branch of the Armed Forces)
  - Cadet's time at USAFA is valued at \$346,652.00 (fiscal year 2004 evaluation); the academic education is estimated to be \$38,038.00 per year
  - Cadets are paid \$820.00 a month, provided room and board, and healthcare
  - Cadets pay for their uniforms and other issued items with their monthly pay
    - 4<sup>s</sup> make \$100 per month; 3<sup>s</sup> make \$220 per month; 2<sup>s</sup> and 1<sup>s</sup> make \$575 per month (take-home pay)
- Academy Development
  - Four "Pillars" of development for cadets—Character Development, Professional Military Training, Academics, and Athletics
    - Officer Development System is core of cadet training, framework designed to coordinate and integrate cadet developmental activities across their entire four-year experience with emphasis on cadet ownership
    - Four-Class System, NOT Fourth-Class System: First Class Cadet (C1C or Firsties) are Leaders/Supervisors, Second Class Cadets (C2C or 2<sup>s</sup>) are Workers/Mentors, Third Class Cadet (3C3 or 3<sup>s</sup>) are Coaches/Role Models, Fourth Class Cadets (C4C or 4<sup>s</sup>) are Loyal Followers
- The U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges 2007 rankings
  - Academy's undergraduate engineering programs tied with Pennsylvania's Bucknell University for the #7 program in the nation
  - #2 in the Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
    - #2 in the nation every year since 2001, behind only Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
  - #7 in Electrical Engineering
- The Princeton Review's Best 361 Colleges Rankings 2007
  - #1 Professors Make Themselves Accessible (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)
  - #3 Don't Inhale
  - #7 Stone-Cold Sober Schools
  - #9 Future Rotarians and Daughters of the American Revolution
  - #11 Students Most Nostalgic for Reagan
  - #13 Everyone Plays Intramural Sports
  - #13 Is It Food?
  - #14 Their Students Never Stop Studying
  - #15 Scotch and Soda, Hold The Scotch
  - #17 Students Pray On A Regular Basis
  - #20 Least Happy Students

**Class of 2010:**

Entered BCT..... 1048 men, 267 women, 1315 total  
Completed BCT..... 999 men, 249 women, 1248 total  
Present strength..... 1001 men, 246 women, 1247 total

**Class of 2009:**

Entered BCT..... 1146 men, 244 women, 1390 total  
Completed BCT..... 1084 men, 223 women, 1307 total  
Present strength..... 982 men, 205 women, 1187 total

**Class of 2008:**

Entered BCT..... 1077 men, 250 women, 1327 total  
Completed BCT..... 1042 men, 235 women, 1277 total  
Present strength..... 856 men, 189 women, 1045 total

**Class of 2007:**

Entered BCT..... 1081 men, 221 women, 1302 total  
Completed BCT..... 1010 men, 204 women, 1214 total  
Present strength..... 826 men, 179 women, 1005 total

**RANDO FUND STORIES (from Diane Mackey)**

(Diane sent this out to the Famnet and gave permission to print it. Cadet last names were withheld.)

I thought this was a good time to tell a few Rando Fund stories. I had the incredible honor of being the first president of the fund because I have such a big mouth and was never afraid to ask for money, perfect job for me! LOL!

The first letter I got came from C1C Adam. His best friend, C1C Damien was dying of cancer and Adam learned that the time was close and he wanted to see his friend. The Rando Fund paid for him to fly to Washington State and visit Damien who was on a heavy dose of morphine.

Damien reduced his morphine so he could visit with Adam and the two other cadets who were there to visit. The tumors were large and very painful when the sheet would touch them, so Adam and friends made a stick tent to keep the sheets off of Damien and relieve that pain. They also were able to share in a few laughs and good time memories together. Damien passed away the day after they left to return to USAFA.

Adam wrote to me and thanked me profusely for giving him the opportunity to be with Damien at such a critical time and have the memory of his friend smiling and laughing with him. Had it not been for the Rando Fund, he would not have had the chance to hear how important he was to Damien, to help provide some pain relief for his dearest friend, and to have the chance to say all he wanted to say to someone he loved.

I got a letter one day from a lady who wanted to thank me for sending her cadet niece to the funeral of her 12 year old daughter. We will call the cadet Jane. Jane had a 12 year old

cousin who absolutely adored her because they spent a lot of time together since learning she had a fatal cancer. Jane's family could not afford to bring her home for the services.

The letter said something like, "As I got out of my car, there on the stairs was a Cadet Angel, and I knew everything would be okay because she was here. I could not have gone through those services and dealt with the death of my daughter without Jane by my side. It was as if the light was brought back into my life..." and she went on and made me really cry. Then I got letters from Jane, her AOC, and her parents as well.

I had a yard sale and my neighbor came to buy stuff. I just wanted to give it to her and she insisted that she pay me, so I told her to give me a check for the Rando Fund for whatever she thought it was worth, and she could have a tax deduction too. She asked about the Fund and I told her. She gave me a Big Check\$\$\$!!

Six months later, she is buying insurance from a young man, about 21. He tells her his brother is at AFA and they have this Rando Fund, and they were so grateful that it paid for his brother to come home when their dad died. Mom was disabled and this guy had to care for his dying father and couldn't work, and had no money. Lisa then tells him that the president of the fund lives next door and calls me. This guy gets on the phone and starts to cry, I do the same and I don't even know the story yet, just that it is about the Rando Fund! We both cried as he told me the whole story. Got a big check from him a few weeks later for money he collected from co workers after they heard the story!

Another female cadet had to get home to her dad's funeral and the family couldn't afford it. She sends me a long letter of appreciation. Two months later, she sends me a check to reimburse the fund!! I called her and told her it was a gift. She then tells me that the Fund was a blessing and she now had the money from insurance to replenish the fund so it could help others. Her mother also sent a nice donation too, along with a letter telling me I was their angel when they needed one. It doesn't get better than that!

A Famnet member writes to us to tell us her husband has died and she had called AFA to tell them to speak with her son. She explains to the Chaplains that she cannot afford to bring him home, so please help him through this. Her cadet calls 15 minutes later and tells her the flight he is on to come home and the Rando Fund took care of it. She was shocked that it all happened so quickly, she never thought of herself as needing the Rando Fund, and she let her gratitude flow. I was pleased that she was so open with the members and they could see the good the Rando Fund was doing.

Commandant Gilbert was here in MA to give a speech to parents. He told us how impressed he was with the Rando Fund and he learned about it when he had to face a dilemma. An exchange student from West Point had a parent pass away, and the cadet had no financial way to get home. The Rando Charter specifically states, Air Force Academy Cadets, so he had to decide if the exchange cadet could use it, and he decided he could. Then he tells us that he got several letters from WP cadets, command staff from WP, and the cadet's family expressing gratitude at the generosity. He saw first hand how the Rando Fund impacted people beyond

the cadet and thought it was very impressive and a great asset. Bob, Jack and I were all there and let him know we were very pleased that he made the decision to help the cadet.

Cadet funerals are very hard for me to talk about, but for each one there were several letters of gratitude, not just from the cadets who attended, but from the parents who were so grateful to have other cadets there to help them in their grief.

We are all very privileged to help the Cadets in such a way as the Rando Fund does. The level of appreciation is beyond my expectations of what this Fund could do, and now that I have seen it, the Rando Fund must always be present at AFA and kept financially healthy.

Diane  
God Bless America!  
Diane Mackey  
Lowell, MA  
Captain Justin, USAFA 2000

## LETTER FROM MITCHELL HALL STAFF

Dear Parents,

The start of the school year has flown by. September proved to hold many challenges and a number of accomplishments. We've made inroads on the "Mitchell Hall Food Improvement Plan". There's a long way to go, but it's satisfying to know we are on the right path. The plan has now transferred to a living document, which continues to be expanded. Accomplishing one detail now inspires us to search for new ways to improve the operation. For example, recently Lorna and I started brainstorming how we could transform the birthday meal in to a memorable meal for the cadets.

We held the first Mitchell Hall/Cadet focus group on 13 Sep 06. There were representatives from all 40 squadrons and most actively participated by providing constructive comments and requests. The cadets were encouraged to ask ANY question regarding Mitchell Hall and they did. Following is a synopsis of topics we discussed:

- Lorna and I informed the cadets the current financial status of the Cadet Subsistence Fund and that the fund supports more than the three meals per day (pizza/sub parties, AOC funds, nutritional supplements, study snacks, etc.). We reviewed daily waste due to unopened pre-packaged products left on tables. Our goal was to inform them that they have an active role in how their money is spent.
- Cadets were informed of upcoming changes which included modification of recipes, new theme dinner buffets, elimination of undesirable meal items, increased portion sizes and purchase of higher grade name brand products.
- Roughly 50 percent of the meeting was dedicated to cadet questions, comments and requests. This was an eye opening experience for both Lorna and me. Cadets requested that we coordinate appropriate meals during the week of Physical Fitness Testing (PFT). Neither of us had been informed that the entire Cadet Wing had PFT during a specific week of the semester. It took me a minute just to figure out what PFT stood for. Here's just a small sampling of constructive feedback the cadets provided to us: breakfast menu and cooking techniques, selection of beverages at mandatory meals, increase menu selection for all meals, increase quantity and selection of fresh fruit.
- I feel comfortable saying that the cadets found the focus group valuable. Based on their input, we will continue holding Mitchell Hall/Cadet focus groups the second Wednesday of every month. From our viewpoint, the meeting was a huge success. We learned a great deal more about the cadets and it's evident that the communication has improved greatly. We now receive ICE comments with specific data that we can address.

On 26 September more than 100 cadets participated in the first Cadet Taste Testing of the year. Cadets sampled nine new products: **Garlic Bread**, Pot Roast, Fried Rice, Garden Vegetable Rice, Vegetarian Lasagna, Grilled Chicken Fettuccini, **Baked Chicken**, **Chicken Tortilla Soup**, and **6 oz Hamburgers** (boldfaced items will be added to the November menu). We concur with the cadets and believe that more items need to be added to the menu, so they

will also start having fresh cut fruit for breakfast, new bread rolls, pies and dirt pudding for dessert, as well as five new evening salad bar rotations.

The month did not go by without a couple of significant mistakes along the way. I'm embarrassed to admit that there have been two weekends when our hours of operation did not match the "schedule of calls" for breakfast. Our hours of operation fluctuate if it's a Blue or Silver Weekend and the word did not get passed to our weekend duty managers. My apologies to the cadets, we were wrong. Our internal communication problem has been fixed.

We are no longer passing our food contracting mistakes to be passed along to the cadets. Twice in the month of September, we sent our staff to Wal-mart to purchase bread products for a meal that was to be served in less than 3 hours (we were not going to serve chili dogs on wheat bread). Staff is now accountable and having to assist with solving the problems. Our real goal is to meet the challenges. Historically, the operation has reacted to mistakes by solving the immediate problem, but does not determine the root cause. Lorna and I share the same philosophy to find permanent solutions, so we may address new issues.

Our way ahead will continue to focus on food improvements and better communication with the cadets. We will be attending two Denver food shows this month and hopefully come back to USAFA with a number of new products. Our next food taste test will be held on 24 October and we hope to have even greater success than the September taste testing. We are committed to our customers: the cadets.

I'll be back in touch with all of you in November.

Sincerely,

Vicki Peterson

//signed//

Vicki Peterson

Chief, Cadet Support Flight

719-333-9579

## **De BERRY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR LIBERTY MUTUAL COACH OF THE YEAR**

Air Force head football coach [Fisher DeBerry](#) is under consideration for the Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award, given annually to the college football coach who best exemplifies responsibility and excellence on and off the field.

The Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year will receive a personal trophy, will be featured in a December 16 television special and will be recognized in a coach of the year exhibit at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind. Liberty Mutual will also award \$100,000 to support the winning coach's civic and charitable activities and \$20,000 for scholarships to the alumni association of the winning coach's school.

Air Force and other fans can vote for DeBerry or any other NCAA coach at [www.coachoftheyear.com](http://www.coachoftheyear.com) through November 5.

ABC will air a special one-hour program, hosted by Hall of Fame broadcaster Keith Jackson, profiling the 10 finalists on Saturday, Dec. 9 (2-3 p.m. EST). The winner will be showcased on a one-hour ABC special hosted by Jackson on December 16.

DeBerry is in his 23rd season at the Academy. The winningest service academy coach of all-time, DeBerry has a 167-103-1 career record. He's guided Air Force to 17 winning seasons since taking over in 1984 and has been conference coach of the year three times. DeBerry was the national coach of the year in 1985 after leading Air Force to its first of two 12-1 seasons which is the best mark in school history.

## **Lou Sagastume Wins 300th as Falcons Down UNLV, 1-0, in Overtime**

Freshman [Steve Noller](#) scored the game's only goal with 49 seconds remaining in the first overtime period on 29 September to lead the Air Force men's soccer team to a 1-0 victory over UNLV at Cadet Soccer Stadium. With the victory, Air Force head coach [Lou Sagastume](#) posted the 300th win of his career, just the 25th coach in NCAA Division I history to reach that plateau.

"It was an exciting way to get the 300th," said Sagastume. "I'm really proud of the way my team played tonight. Hopefully, this will give us some much needed momentum as we continue league play."

## **AFA Fencers Earn Medals at New Mexico Open**

The Air Force Academy fencing team traveled to Santa Fe, N.M., on Sept 16-17 to compete in the 2006 New Mexico Open. The Falcons have always had great results at this tournament and this past weekend was no different. The Falcons Earned four gold medals, one silver medal and five bronze medals The highlight of the event was a clean sweep in the saber event, three sophomores finished in the top four

## Falcons Earn Conference players of the Week

In the past month 10 Falcons have earned "Conference Player of the week" awards. Our Football teams lead the way with five awards, Cross Country has had two selections; while Ice Hockey, Volleyball and Men's Soccer each have scored one award.

## October Sport Schedules

	VOLLEYBALL	OPP	LOCATION	TIME
Fri	10/20/06	New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.	7:00 p.m.
Sat	10/21/06	TCU	Fort Worth, Texas	7:00 p.m.
Tue	10/24/06	Northern Colorado	USAF Academy, Colo.	7:00 p.m.
Sat	10/28/06	Wyoming	USAF Academy, Colo.	7:00 p.m.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Fri	10/20/06	UNLV	USAFA	7:00 p.m. MT
Sun	10/22/06	TCU	USAFA	11:00 a.m. MT
Fri	10/27/06	New Mexico	USAFA	4:00 p.m. MT

## MEN'S SOCCER

Fri	10/20/06	Sacramento State	USAFA	5:00 p.m. MT
Sun	10/22/06	San Jose State	USAFA	1:00 p.m. MT
Sat	10/28/06	Denver	Denver, CO	11:00 a.m. MT
Fri	11/03/06	New Mexico	Albuquerque, NM	7:00 p.m. MT
Sun	11/05/06	UNLV	Las Vegas, NV	2:00 p.m. MT

## FENCING

Sat	10/21/06	Falcon Open	USAFA Cadet Gym	10:00 a.m. MT
Sun	10/22/06	Falcon Open	USAFA Cadet Gym	10:00 a.m. MT

## ICE HOCKEY

Fri	10/20/06	Bentley	USAFA, Colo.	7:05 p.m. MT
Sat	10/21/06	Bentley	USAFA, Colo.	7:05 p.m. MT
Fri	10/27/06	Alabama-Huntsville - Lightning Hockey Classic	Tampa, Fla.	5:05 p.m. ET
Sat	10/28/06	TBA- Lightning Hockey Classic	Tampa, Fla.	TBA

## CROSS COUNTRY

Sat	10/21/06	Air Force Open	Colorado Springs, Colo.	10:00 AM
Sat	10/28/06	Mountain West Conference Championships	Salt Lake City, Utah	10:00 AM

	FOOTBALL	OPP	LOCATION	TV	TIME
Sat	10/21/06	San Diego State	San Diego, Calif.	mtn.	5:00 p.m. PT
Sat	10/28/06	BYU	USAFA, Colo.	Versus	12:00 p.m. MT

