

# JROTC cadets to receive awards and scholarships

By Kevin Jenkins

kevin@thespectrum.com

ST. GEORGE — More than two dozen of Washington County's U.S. Air Force JROTC cadets will be honored at an awards ceremony tonight that will include the presentation of four scholarships to graduating high school seniors and speeches by a retired four-star general and local dignitaries.

The awards ceremony is open to the public and provides insight into what the high school JROTC program is about, said retired U.S. Air Force Col. Glenn Whicker, the program's senior aerospace science instructor.

"The purpose is to build citizens," Whicker said. "There's no

military obligation whatsoever. In fact, only about 10 percent of JROTC cadets pursue a military career."

National veterans organizations will present the majority of the awards to cadets selected from among the 207 members of the JROTC unit, but a few awards will also be presented by non-military organizations as well, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Utah Masons, Whicker said.

The program begins at 7 p.m. in Dixie High School's



Oaks

auditorium. The keynote speaker will be Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Robert C. Oaks, who served as commander of Air Training Command and United States Air Forces in Europe and is an emeritus general authority of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"In the past, we've had one- and two-star generals come and speak, but this is the first time

See CADETS, Page C2



Dixie High School student Kaydn Ence, a cadet in Washington County's JROTC program, flashes a thumbs up while sitting behind the pilots of a KC-135 Stratotanker during an in-flight refueling mission of the 151st Air Refueling Wing of the Utah Air National Guard last month. PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN WHICKER

# Cadets

Continued from C1

we've had a four-star general," Whicker said. "His subject will be ... success requires hard work. You can't just slop your way into success."

For the 32 graduating seniors, perhaps the most prestigious award is the \$50,000 scholarship granted to Pine View High School cadet Justin Zook.

Zook was accepted to the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Rhode Island for a one-year term of study.

"(The scholarship) is competitive," Whicker

"If he does well, he'll be the (Naval) following

have pro-  
ours of com-

munity service thus far this year, and will next appear in a color guard ceremony when U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar dedicates the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas on Monday at the Tuacahn Amphitheater, Whicker said.

They also have participated in 13 real-world "Curriculum In Action" events during the school year, including a recent flight with the Utah Air National Guard for an in-flight refueling mission over the Nevada desert.

"I think one of the beauties of this whole thing is we get cadets from all the schools to come into one program here, where they'll be able to mix with people who, in sports, are their rivals," Whicker said. "I think that's a great thing."