



# Space Observer

"Best in Air Force Space Command - 2002"

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 47 No. 48



## AMAZING RACE How sweet the sound

Pages 12-13

Photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Clendener

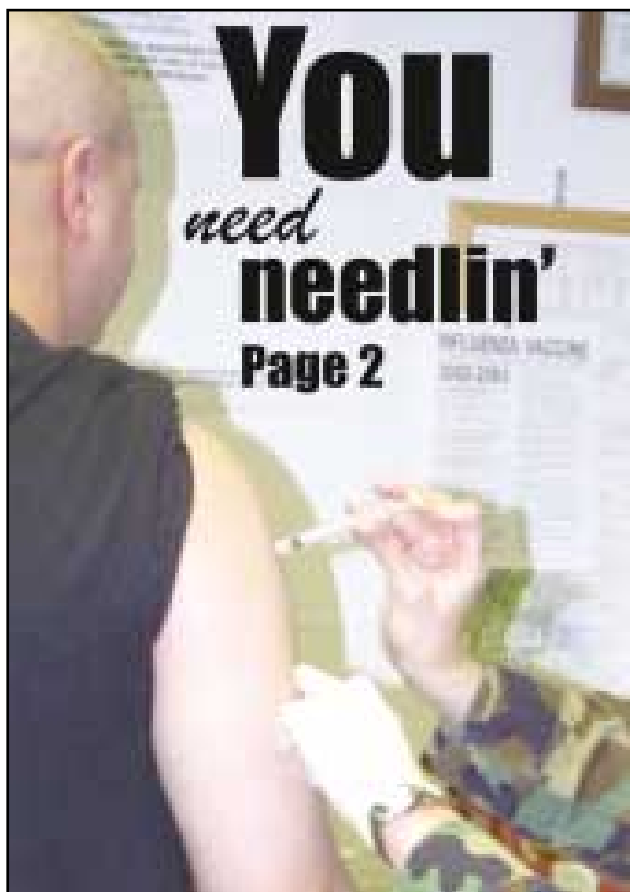


Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

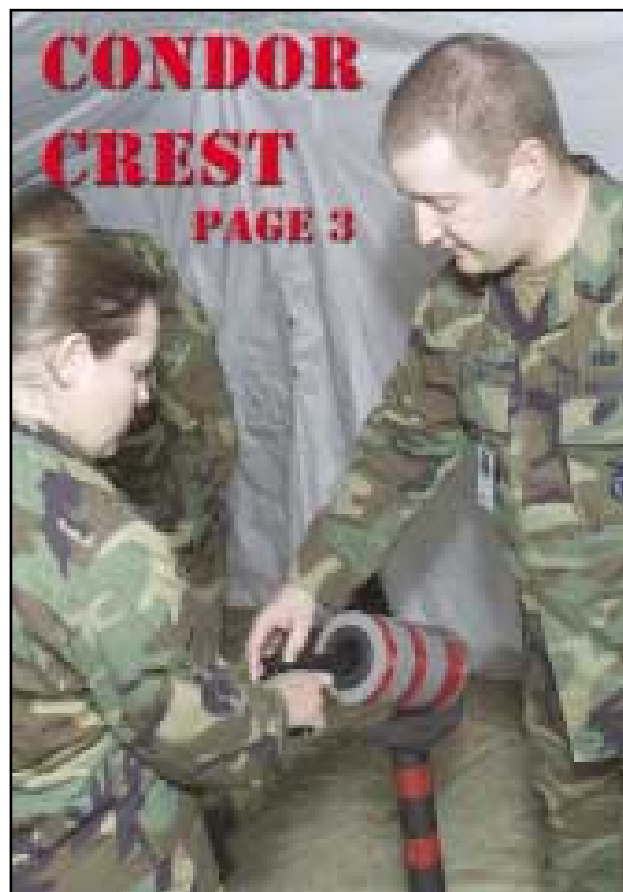


Photo by Robb Lingley



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeffrey Nabozny

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Snow Call 556-SNOW



# Officials urge flu virus protection

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – With flu season here and deadly outbreaks of the virus being reported across the country, Department of Defense healthcare officials are urging servicemembers, DoD civilians and family members to get vaccinated.

Dr. David Tornberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Clinical and Program Policy, advises that the “most protective” measure to prevent or lessen the harshness of the virus is to get vaccinated annually.

Officials from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the flu is caused by the influenza virus, which infects the nose, throat and lungs. The flu usually spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, sending the virus into the air.

Unlike other viral respiratory infections like the common cold, the flu causes severe illness and can be life-threatening to many people. Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion and body aches. Tornberg said while the vaccine is not 100-percent effective in preventing the flu virus, it is “100-percent effective in reducing” the severity of symptoms that many people will encounter.

“And for many people, it is an absolute

immunity against the virus,” he said.

Tornberg also suggested that people should take other preventive measures to protect themselves, such as avoiding being in close contact with anyone who may have the flu.

“The best way to prevent influenza is to wash your hands frequently, get a flu shot, and to avoid contact with persons who have influenza symptoms,” said Col. (Dr.) David Thompson, 21st Medical Group. “There is a new variant strain circulating this year that is not included in the vaccine. The vaccine still offers significant protection due to cross reactivity with strains that are included.”

Thompson said due to their immature immune systems, children under age eight need two doses the first year they get immunized against the flu.

Influenza is transmitted when an infected person coughs or sneezes and sends flu virus into the air, and other people inhale the virus, Thompson said. Influenza may also be spread when a person touches a surface, such as a door handle, that has the viruses on it and then touches his or her nose or mouth.

In addition, Tornberg said that people should minimize contact between their hands, mouths and eyes.

In El Paso County, there have been two deaths from the flu: an 11-year-old child died Dec. 4, and a 14-month-old child died Dec. 5.

## Helpful numbers

For more information about flu symptoms and prevention measures, call:

- Colorado Flu Line: 1-877-462-2911
- Peterson Clinic: 556-1118
- 21st Medical Group Flu Hotline: 556-FLUU
- El Paso County Flu Hotline: 578-3215
- El Paso County Department of Health and Environment Hotline: 575-8505 or visit [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org)
- Visiting Nurse Association: 457-4349
- Memorial Hospital Ask-A-Nurse: 444-CARE
- Penrose St. Francis Health Advisor Line: 776-5555

## Treating the flu

Symptoms of the flu include fever, sore throat, chills, headache, muscle aches, and sometimes nausea and vomiting, especially in children.

Call a doctor if any of the following symptoms are present:

- Difficulty breathing; fast, hard breathing
  - Irritability – unable to console
  - Fever that doesn't respond to over-the-counter medications
  - Decreased activity level – lethargy, listlessness
  - Dehydration – can't keep fluid down, vomiting, diarrhea.
- Treatment:
- See a physician
  - Stay home
  - Drink plenty of liquids
  - Get plenty of rest
  - Take medicine, either over-the-counter or a doctor's prescription
  - Avoid giving aspirin or aspirin products to children.

## CFC heroes



Photo by Roberta McDonald

Col. Diann Latham, 21st Space Wing Vice Commander, Tom O'Toole, 21st Logistics Readiness Squadron, Army Brig. Gen. Joseph Orr, Deputy Commanding General of Ft. Carson, and 1st Lt. Rick Vanschoor, 21st LRS, hold the Combined Federal Campaign Regional Excellence Award at the CFC awards ceremony Dec. 5. This year, Team Pete raised more than \$576,000 for the CFC. Team Pete's Heroes are Master Sgt. Chris Womack, Air Force Space Command Logistics and Communications, and Carol Anne Lopez, AFSPC Intelligence.

## Warfighter talks



Courtesy photo

Gen. Lance W. Lord, Air Force Space Command Commander, greets the Marine Vice Commandant, Gen. William L. Nyland, at his arrival Dec. 3 for the Marine-Air Force Warfighter Talks. The conference is held regularly to promote interoperability, communication, and understanding of the services' warfighting concepts of operations. This year's Warfighter Talks are examining Marine Corps and Air Force lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Published by Gowdy Printcraft, 22 N. Sierra Madre, Colorado Springs, 80903, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 21st Space Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 21st Space Wing Public Affairs Office, 775 Loring Ave., Suite 218, Peterson AFB, Colo., 80914-1294. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Space Observer is published every Thursday. For advertising inquiries, call Gowdy Printcraft, (719) 634-1593. Employees of Peterson Air Force Base who want to place a free classified advertisement should call 556-5241.

Articles for the Space Observer should be submitted to the 21st SW/PAI, Attn: Space Observer, 775 Loring Ave., Ste. 218, Peterson AFB, Colo., 80914-1294 or e-mail [space.observer@peterson.af.mil](mailto:space.observer@peterson.af.mil). Deadline for submission is 4:30 p.m. the Tuesday one week before publication. All articles, copy and announcements submitted will be edited to conform to AFI Series 35 and the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. For details, call the editor at (719) 556-4351 or DSN 834-4351.



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## A Moment in Time



■ Dec. 12, 1953 - Maj. Charles Yeager pilots the rocket-powered Bell X-1A to a speed of Mach 2.435 (about 1,650 mph) over Edwards AFB, Calif.

■ Dec. 15, 1964 - The first U.S. Air Force gunship, the AC-47 enters combat in Vietnam.

■ Dec. 17, 1903 - The first sustained, controlled, powered airplane flight is made by Orville and Wilbur Wright at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

■ Dec. 17, 1993 - The first B-2 Spirit bomber arrives at Whiteman AFB, Mo. The B-2 is the first “stealth” heavy bomber.

# Exercise Condor Crest



Photos by Robb Lingley

Staff Sgt. Daniel Lent, 21st Security Forces Squadron, makes sure Airman Stacey Brewer, 21st Mission Support Squadron, properly clears her M-9 pistol in the clearing chamber during the Exercise Condor Crest field training exercise Dec. 4. Members of Security Forces were present during the field exercise to evaluate participants for proficiency on the M-9 pistol and M-16 rifle.



ABOVE: About 100 Team Pete airmen participated in Exercise Condor Crest Dec. 4 and 5. They processed through a mock deployment line Dec. 3, then headed out to tents set up at Pete East to practice everything from the proper way to wear chem gear and treat a field injury to assembly and care of weapons. The exercise is designed to test and train airmen to survive and operate in a deployed environment.



LEFT: Capt. Matt Winfrey, 21st Space Wing Judge Advocate's office, dons his chemical protective gear during Friday's deployment exercise.



Staff Sgt. Jacob Triplett, 21st SFS, observes as Master Sgt. John Lamb, 21st Operations Support Squadron, attempts to assemble an M-16A2 rifle.



Airmen participating in the exercise learned to treat realistic wounds, like this moulaged head injury. Staff Sgt. Jerome Shell, 21st Maintenance Group, was the simulated patient.

## Jacket, pullover require nametags

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms and pullover sweaters.

Effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the

bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center

the badge a half-inch above the new nametag. An exception is when either men or women wear a command insignia. It is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag. Then, the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the airman is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the

nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For more information, call the military personnel flight at 556-4819 or the unit commander's support staff.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)





## MANDATORY BRIEFING FOR OFFICERS

All active duty Air Force officers are required to attend an Air Force Space Command briefing on the Chief of Staff's Officer Force Development initiative. Briefings are at 11 a.m. Dec. 15 and 8:30 a.m., noon, and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Peterson AFB auditorium, and 3 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Cheyenne Mountain TSF Auditorium. For more information, call Capt. Brad Smith at 556-4384.

## COMMITTEE SCHEDULES ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The 2003 21st Space Wing Annual Awards Banquet is slated for Feb. 19, 2004. Retired Chief Master Sgt. Bob Gaylor, the fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, is the guest speaker. The committee is soliciting prospective themes for this year's event. Though planning for the event has begun, several committee and subcommittee positions remain open. The planning committee meets weekly in the 21st Operations Support Squadron conference room, Building 845. Send theme nominations to [tyler.foster@peterson.af.mil](mailto:tyler.foster@peterson.af.mil). For more information or to volunteer, call the chairman at 556-1339.

## TOP THREE COUNCIL MEETS

The Pikes Peak Top 3 meets at 3 p.m. Dec. 18 in the Enlisted Club Buffalo Grill. This month, newly elected executive officer positions will be announced. Membership is open to all Team Pete master sergeant selects through chief master sergeants. Retirees sponsored by an active-duty top three member may also join as associate members. PPT3 actively supports enlisted causes and professional development through a variety of activities. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael McGraw at 556-6850.

## JPPSO CLOSURE

The Joint Personal Property Shipping Office is closed from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 18. For emergency assistance, call 330-5182.

## COMMON ACCESS CARD INFORMATION

The Common Access Card is the new identification card for active duty members, contract employees, and Department of Defense civilians created by the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Registry System/Real Automated Personnel Identification System. The system experiences many problems and frequently goes down.

Each card takes about 15 minutes to create when the system is running properly. Use of the Public Key Infrastructure will be mandatory in April. For information on wait times and system function, call 556-9214.

## CHILD CARE ORIENTATION

For people interested in running a family child care business from their home on base, the Family Child Care office offers an orientation class Jan. 21-23. For more information or to register, call the FCC office at 556-4322.

## WHOLE HOUSE RENOVATIONS RIBBON-CUTTING

Team Pete is invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating base housing's whole house renovations project at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 16 at 521-A McGuire St. A tour of the unit follows the ceremony.

## OLD UNIFORMS NEEDED FOR MOULAGE PATIENTS

The 21st Medical Group needs old uniforms and clothes for moulage patients to wear in exercise scenarios. Medical protocols require cutting the clothing and exposing the area experiencing simulated trauma. Though medical personnel may not do this every time for every patient, they need a stockpile of uniforms for occasions when this is necessary. For more information, call Master Sgt. O. K. Stoll at 556-1153, or Staff Sgt. Bella Smith at 556-1053.

## TOP 3 ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Pikes Peak Top 3 members can vote for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Ballots will be sent to members in good standing and must be returned to [victor.blake@afotec.af.mil](mailto:victor.blake@afotec.af.mil), or [michael.sansone@afotec.af.mil](mailto:michael.sansone@afotec.af.mil) by noon Dec. 17. Information on each nominee is posted on the PPT3 Web page on PeteCentral. New officers will be announced at the December meeting and take office in January.

## MILITARY SKI TEAM SEEKS SKIERS

The Front Range Military Ski Team is looking for skiers age 18 and older who have had some racing experience or are strong recreational skiers. The team is a member of TeamSki Inc., a weekend ski race group that sponsors seven weekend races at popular ski resorts. Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees, and family members are eligible to race on the Military Ski Team. For more information, call Dan Wilson at 554-9189.

## CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT CELEBRATION

The Mel Harmon chapter of the Air Force Association presents a centennial of flight celebration from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, 31001 Magnuson Ave. in Pueblo. Free activities include flight simulators, model rocket and Styrofoam airplane building, a scavenger hunt, and a paper airplane contest. For more information, call Teresa Tafoya at (719) 253-5604 or the museum at (719) 948-9219.

## ARMY ASTRONAUT SPEAKS IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Retired Brig. Gen. Robert Stewart, who flew on two space shuttle missions and was one of the first two men to walk untethered in space, speaks at the Association of the U.S. Army Pike's Peak Chapter's quarterly meeting, 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 at the Sheraton Hotel. For tickets, call 554-1939.

## FITNESS CENTER FINDS MISPLACED ITEMS

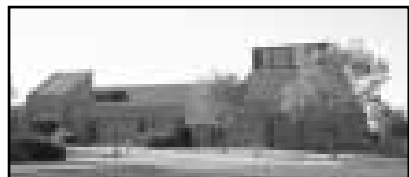
The Fitness and Sports Center finds customer items throughout the facility on a daily basis. Items not picked up within 14 days are distributed to local charities. If you have recently misplaced an item, stop by and check with the staff. For misplaced jewelry items, call Monica Schwartz at 556-4462.

## NORTH GATE CONSTRUCTION

Installation of new security gates at the North entrance to Peterson Air Force Base runs through January 17. All work will be accomplished from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. On a few occasions, one traffic lane will be closed for the day. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Gordon Wilkins at 556-4140, or 2nd Lt. Scott Sinclair at 556-6190.

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION BASE/POST SCHOLARSHIPS

The Military Officers Association of America opens its 2004 Base/Post Scholarship Program, offering individual one-time \$1,000 grants to 50 dependents of active duty personnel worldwide. Only dependent sons and daughters, under age 24, of active duty officers and enlisted military personnel, including members of the Drilling Reserves and National Guard, are eligible to apply. Apply by March 1 via the MOAA Web site at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Membership in MOAA is not a requirement for Base/Post Scholarship.



### Protestant

#### Worship Services:

Liturgical Service, 8:15 a.m.  
Traditional General  
Protestant Service, 11 a.m.  
Gospel Service, 12:30 p.m.

### Chapel Schedule

#### Catholic

Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m. (except Monday)  
Saturdays, 5 p.m.  
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.  
Reconciliation  
Saturdays, 4 p.m.

\*\*For more information -  
Call the chapel at 556-4442 for  
available chapel programs.

# Clear AFS responds to local fire



Greyson Watkins, Clear Air Force Station Fire Department, heads to the fire truck during a fire response Nov. 30. Clear AFS Fire and Emergency Services responded to a request for mutual aid for a house fire in Nenana, Alaska. Nenana is 20 miles north of Clear AFS on the Parks Highway. Clear firefighters responded with a structural pumper and a command vehicle in the chilly negative 5 F temperatures.



Photos by Master Sgt. Jeffrey Nabozny

Jack Kauffman, a firefighter at Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, examines a piece of wreckage from the house fire in Nenana. While the home was a total loss, Clear AFS firefighters performed overhaul operations in the structure to ensure the fire was completely extinguished, while helping see that no one was injured in the fire.

# 3D month

## Focus on prevention

December is national 3D month, focusing on Drunk and Drugged Driving prevention. With more people expected to travel on America's highways during this extended holiday season, the possibility of fatal accidents rises. Drivers impaired by drugs and alcohol greatly increase the chances of injuring or killing themselves or others. Here are some things to keep in mind before celebrating this holiday season.

- Designating a driver is the most responsible thing an individual can do. Remember, the designated driver is not the person who's the most sober. Call a taxi, take the bus, stay the night, or call Enlisted Against Drunk Driving at 55-NO-DUI (556-6381).

- Impaired driving is one of the most often committed crimes, randomly killing as many as 40 people a day.

- For those who insist on driving impaired, there will be no warnings. Violators can lose their license, time from their job, and money in high fines and court costs. They can also face imprisonment for repeat offenses, assault, and vehicular manslaughter.

- People refusing a blood alcohol concentration test can lose their license on the spot and have their car

impounded. They'll be spending their money on bail, court, a lawyer, and towing fees instead of on holiday gifts for family and friends.

- Impaired driving is usually associated with alcohol, but driving under the influence of illegal drugs, such as Marijuana, Ecstasy, PCP, and Special K can be just as deadly, as these drugs alter the user's sense of space and time – key skills while driving.

- Each year, nearly 1.5 million impaired drivers are taken off America's highways by law enforcement agencies because of tougher laws, sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

- While the number of alcohol-related holiday fatalities is at an all-time low – down 34 percent since 1995 – impaired driving is still a leading cause of death for people under age 30.

- Don't risk it. If you plan to drive, don't drink. Remember: You drink and drive, you lose.

For more information, call the Drug Demand Reduction Program office at 556-9147. To volunteer as an EADD driver, call Tech. Sgt. Bill Fields at 554-5764.

*(Information courtesy of Claudie V. Cleveland, Drug Demand Reduction Program Manager)*





# Team Pete lights up the holidays



Photo by G. Dennis Plummer



Photo by Joe Fischer

**ABOVE:** Col. John Bonapart, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center Director of Staff, celebrates the season by lighting the Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station holiday tree as Col. Dave Adams, 721st Mission Support Group Commander, and Col. Diann Latham, 21st Space Wing Vice Commander, applaud. The tree was planted in June as part of Earth Day and is the first holiday tree the installation has had in several years. **LEFT:** Children from Team Pete help Col. Diann Latham, 21st SW Vice Commander, light the Peterson AFB holiday tree Dec. 5.

# Enter the ICE age

## AFSPC Services offers Web-based customer feedback

Air Force Space Command has officially entered the ICE age with Web-based customer feedback. The Department of Defense's Interactive Customer Evaluation system is helping shape the future of customer service through technology. The interactive website allows customers to give direct and immediate feedback to facility managers about their products and services.

With just the click of a mouse, the system sends comments, suggestions, complaints, or compliments directly to the appropriate service provider manager for action. Users fill out their phone number or e-mail address to have the manager contact them directly. All users need is an Internet browser to access the ICE system from any computer, any time, and any place.

"ICE will be quicker and more convenient than the old hand-written comment card," said Warren Schroeder, 21st Services Squadron Director of Marketing. "Our managers will also be able to reply more quickly to individual comments."

To take the survey, log on to <http://ice.disa.mil> and click on Peterson Air Force Base. Select a category from the list and click on the info icon to see service provider information such as hours of operation, phone numbers, and upcoming events. Click on the service provider link to access the customer comment card to submit comments.

Managers use the feedback to continuously review, improve and provide the highest quality service possible. The system automatically calculates the customer service rating each week and reports trend data. After the system has been operational for 90 days, customers will be able to see those ratings.

ICE began as a joint project sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense Quality Management Office, Headquarters U.S. European Command, and the Army 6th Area Support Group. The primary purpose of ICE is to improve customer service by giving leadership timely information about service quality and by improving the speed, quality

and quantity of feedback from customers.

AFSPC Services squadrons are currently set up in the system, and people at Peterson Air Force Base will have the opportunity to provide feedback on any Services facility beginning Jan. 2.

"The ICE program will assist us in providing good customer service," said Col. Rosemary Norman, AFSPC Director of Services. "We want to hear from our customers on areas we need to improve upon or what we are doing well."

"Comment cards are a good method for customer feedback, but we feel that the interactive Website will be more customer-friendly and allow immediate response to our customers," she said. "It will also flow customer feedback up to base leadership."

Other base organizations can be added to the ICE system by contacting the Office of the Secretary of Defense Quality Management at (703) 588-8150, or by visiting their home page at <http://quality.disa.mil/>.

## Rodeo proceeds presented

By **Christie Bond**

*21st Space Wing Public Affairs*

Dust from the 2003 Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo has settled, but the bucks just rolled in.

Since World War II, proceeds from the rodeo have gone to local military family programs, and every performance has been dedicated to the men and women of America's armed forces.

The funds were presented to senior leaders from all the area installations during a ceremony last month. The Peterson Air Force Base portion of the proceeds was distributed as follows: Youth Center, \$500; Chapel Dorm Ministry Program, \$500; 21st Space Wing Enlisted Recognition Fund, \$1,000; Air Force Space Command Enlisted Recognition Fund, \$1,000; Caring Through Sharing, \$3,000.



Courtesy photo

**Bill Tutt, Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Chairman, presents checks to Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Mercer, Air Force Space Command Director of Plans, Col. Suzanne Vautrinot, 50th Space Wing Commander, and Col. Marlon Yankee, 21st Space Wing Director of Staff.**





**21st MSG STAGES  
OPERATION HOLIDAY KIDS**

There is just one week left in the 21st Mission Support Group's Operation Holiday Kids Toy Drive. Operation Holiday Kids partners with community agencies who serve children, putting gifts in hands that would otherwise go unfilled. Donation boxes are in buildings 350, 365, 982, 1324, 1376, 2, 626, 1038, the BX, Base Library, Fitness Center, Bowling Center, Silver Spruce Golf Course, Fire Department, and Aragon Dining Facility. Donations are accepted through the morning of Dec. 19. For more information, call Diane Coulson at 556-6127.

**COMMISSARY HOLIDAY  
HOURS**

The Peterson Commissary is open Dec. 21-23, and open until 3 p.m. Dec. 24. The Commissary is closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

**COOKIES FOR THE TROOPS**

The Pikes Peak Combined Spouses' Club needs donations of homemade cookies to put in gift bags for dorm residents. The cookies will be bagged Dec. 16 at the Mission Support Building. Volunteers are invited to come for the fun and to find out more about the PPCSC. Call Tara Bridges at 597-0380 to volunteer or donate cookies.

**SILVER SPRUCE HOLDS  
ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE**

The Silver Spruce Golf Course has its annual holiday sale through Dec. 24. Shop for gift items at great prices. For information, call 556-7414.

**HOLIDAY DOOR  
DECORATING CONTEST**

The Community Activities Center hosts a holiday door decorating contest. Winning doors receive an office party. Judging is Dec. 12. For more information, call Dave Seckman at

556-1737.

**SHAPE UP FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS PROGRAM**

The Peterson Fitness Center has a Shape Up for the Holidays program, in which participants must lose 5 pounds by Jan. 1. For details, call Mike Coats at 556-1515.

**SPOUSES' CLUB  
ORNAMENT SALE**

The Pikes Peak Combined Spouses' Club offers the 2003 White House Ornament from the White House Historical Association for \$16. The ornament honors President Ulysses S. Grant, featuring a porcelain figure on a rocking horse surrounded by a brass wreath. Call Sandy D'Angelo at 535-8127 or Kelly Brune at 260-6082 to purchase ornaments.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
CELEBRATIONS**

Swimming at the Base Pool from 4 to 6 p.m.; Food and prayer at the Chapel from 6 to 7 p.m.; Bowling at the Bowling Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**SERVICES HOLIDAY HOURS**

All activities closed Christmas and New Year's days unless noted otherwise.

■ **Aragon and Granite Dining Facilities:** open 6-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Christmas and New Year's days.

■ **Fitness Center:** open 4:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christmas and New Year's eves, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Christmas and New Year's days.

■ **Officers' Club:** closes at 2 p.m.

Christmas Eve; opens at 6 p.m. New Year's Eve.

■ **Enlisted Club:** closed Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Bowling Center:** closes at 4 p.m. Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Golf Course:** closes at 1 p.m. Christmas Eve.

■ **Aero Club:** closes at noon Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Aquatics Center:** closed Christmas Eve; closes at 1 p.m. New Year's Eve.

■ **Auto Skills Center:** closes at noon Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Community Activities Center:** closes at noon Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Outdoor Recreation:** closes at 1 p.m. Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Child Development Center:** closes at 1 p.m. Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Family Child Care Office:** closes at noon Christmas and New Year's eves.

■ **Youth Center:** closes at 2 p.m. Christmas Eve and 1 p.m. New Year's Eve.

■ **Financial Management Flight:** closes at noon Christmas and New Year's eves.

**ARMED SERVICES YMCA  
CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Join the Armed Services YMCA on Christmas Day for family fun in the heated indoor pool, and a free turkey dinner. This event is open to military families only. Seating is limited, so call 622-9622 for reservations.



# Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around Peterson are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base. These entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

*\*\* Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

## WHACK-Y MEMO – Nov. 26

Security Forces responded to the Commissary parking lot where a chagrined civilian had been involved in a mysterious minor vehicle accident. A mystery car had deposited a memory in the form of a few scratches and a note on an unsuspecting Grand Am. The note said, "Sorry I scratched your car," and included a name and telephone number. Thank goodness for the honesty and integrity of the hitter who didn't hit and run, and even proceeded to file an accident report with Security Forces.

## SHOPPETTE SMASHUP – Nov. 26

Security Forces responded to a minor vehicle accident at the Shoppette, where a retired military member and an AAFES Shoppette employee had an unplanned rendezvous. The retiree's pick-up truck sustained some scratches, while the employee's station wagon donned a driver's side dent and a broken turn signal. The offending driver was issued a citation for inattentive driving.

## GASOLINE GALORE - Nov 28

The Fire Department responded to the Transportation Fuel Pumps when a military mem-

ber reported a fuel spill. The innocent refueler was getting gassed when the fiendish fuel hose cracked, spraying about five gallons of gas on the gasser, GOV, and ground. Transportation disabled the faulty fuel pumps until they could be tested and repaired.

## YOU MEAN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RETURN THOSE? - Nov. 29

Security Forces ran a check on a civilian employee requesting entry at the West Gate and found that not only did she not have a current drivers' license, but she was also wanted for vehicle theft. Seems the obtuse operator decided to keep the car she'd rented from Thrifty Rental – in June. The Colorado Springs Police Department arrived on scene, arrested the five-month free-riding female, and gave her a free ride to the city jail.

## LI-SENSELESS LAD – Nov. 29

Security Forces at the West Gate ran a check on a civilian driving without a current driver's license. The check revealed a warrant for the wayward driver for failure to appear in court. A CSPD patrolman responded, issued the mindless motorist a summons for driving without a current driver's license, and gave him a free ride to jail.

## CLAMOROUS CANINE CAUSES CONFLICT – Nov. 30

A precocious pooch prompted a perturbed military member to file a complaint against his neighbor for failing to control their canine. The neighbor said he'd talked to the offending dog's owner about the problem, but she seemed unconcerned about the pesky pup's persistent pestering.

## BACK AND BONK - Dec. 1

Security Forces responded to the Education Center where a minor vehicle accident had taken place. Seems the backing bonker managed to back up 10 feet to smack his maroon Chevy pick-up into a parked green Chevrolet Astro van. The pick-up sustained a lifted bumper, but the van was more ill-fated. The drivers' side door was dented and doomed, as it was rendered inoperable.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE #1 – Dec. 2

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and American Medical Response responded to the Base Exchange where a civilian was complaining of lightheadedness. The AMR team transported the woman to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE #2 – Dec. 2

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to the first floor hallway of Building 1840, where a civilian contractor was complaining of fainting and difficulty breathing due to an allergic reaction to vinegar. The vinegar victim declined transport to the hospital.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE #3 – Dec. 3

The Fire Department and AMR responded to the Federal Aviation Administration control tower where an air traffic controller had fallen down a flight of stairs. AMR transported the controller to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

## UPS SMASHED TO SMITHEREENS – Dec. 3

Universal Power Supply equipment valued at \$20,000 was damaged at Building 660 when a civilian contractor was unloading the equipment. A witness said the calamity came about when the truck accelerated and turned right while the jinxed gentleman was unloading the package. The UPS fell to the ground, resulting in extensive damage.

## SHOES ALMOST WALK – Dec. 4

An AAFES store detective detained a daft damsel for shoplifting shoes. Seems the Imelda Marcos wannabe didn't want to cough up the \$64 for the footwear. Think the looting lady foresaw the high price of her fashion faux pas? The CSPD responded and issued the pilfering princess a summons for shoplifting.

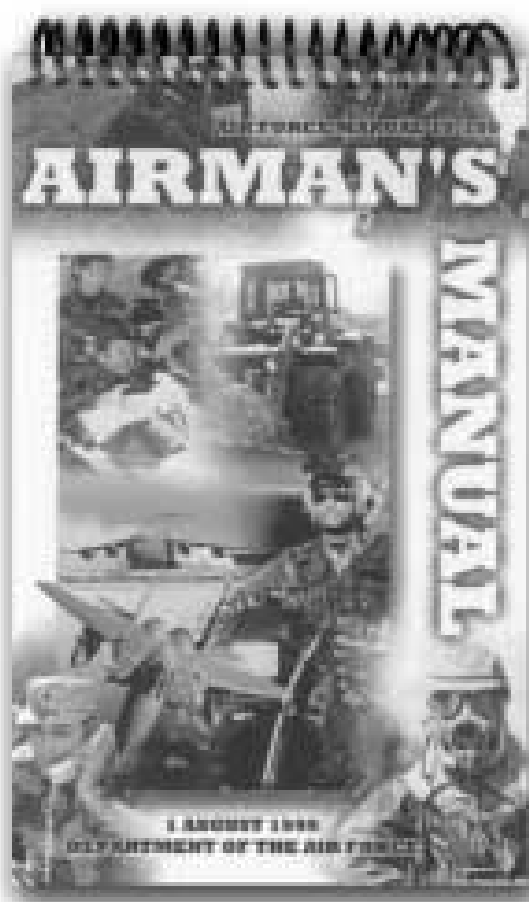
## ALARMING TRENDS CONTINUE:

In addition to these entries, there continue to be too many illegitimate alarm activations on base. Among those noted by Security Forces this week were two from individuals who enabled duress activation accidentally, and two who entered improper PIN numbers.

*\*\* If you have any information on a crime, report it to Security Forces at 556-4000.*

## Airman's Manual

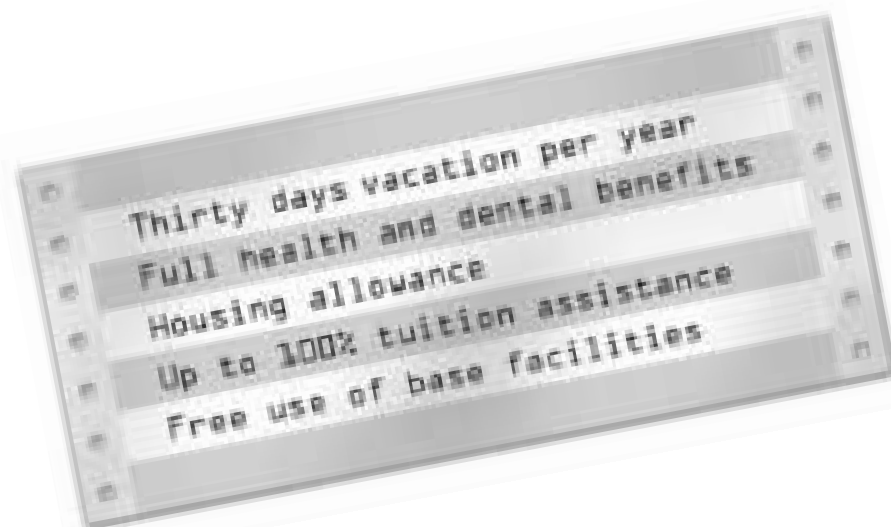
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# WarFit an Amazing Race

**Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen**  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Many organizations across Peterson have active group WarFit programs. Some head to the Fitness Center to play volleyball, while some go there and do timed pushups and sit-ups. Space and Missile Systems Center Detachment 11 and Electronic Systems Center Detachment 5 are two organizations participating in the program. Together, the two detachments make Team Colorado.

Each month, the units come together on the third Thursday for a group WarFit day. Their events typically range from football or basketball to soccer or volleyball. This month, Team Colorado is kicking it up a notch.

They developed and organized a race adapted from the television reality game show "The Amazing Race." In the television version, teams race around the world competing in various athletic and mental challenges. Building on that premise, the members of Team Colorado designed a course that took teams around Peterson to compete in a wide variety of challenges.

"The Amazing Race has what they call 'detours and roadblocks,'" said Capt. Josh Johnson, SMC Det. 11 Program Manager in emerging programs. "At a detour, a team must choose between one of two tasks to complete in order to advance to the next leg of the race. A roadblock is a task that only one of the two teams has to complete."

"We kept the detour concept exactly the same for our race, but since we have six teams with 20 members each, we had to modify the roadblock into a task that all team members had to accomplish," he said.

The first step in preparing for the race was planning and laying out the course. Most of the events were planned to take place indoors to minimize team exposure to the elements in case of inclement weather.

"I was amazed at the overwhelming cooperation from all the base agencies I talked to," Johnson said. "Once I explained what we wanted to do, everyone thought it was a great idea. A few people were huge fans of the TV show and were really excited about the concept."

After nearly a month of asking permission, making reservations, building race props, and training task monitors, the race was ready to go.

"All six of our teams showed up at the Fitness Center and met at the

starting line in the center of the track," Johnson said. "Once we started the race, teams competed in a number of events, racing from point to point trying to get back to the Fitness Center as fast as they could."

Once the race started, participants received their first detour and either beat feet to the Bowling Center where they bowled for strikes and spares, or they were off to the Officers' Club to play waiter.

"At the O Club, the teams had to disassemble 32 place settings, move four tables across the room and then reset all the tables exactly as they were on the opposite side of the room. They weren't allowed to leave until everything was perfect," Johnson said. "Once they finished that, they were off to the Base Auditorium for their first roadblock which was an Air Force trivia challenge followed by push-ups."

The teams were given tests on Air Force-related subjects. Once teams answered 10 questions correctly they were allowed to proceed to the pushup phase of the challenge. However, if they were wrong, a penalty was added to their race time. Once the teams answered their questions, they received their second detour and were off to the parade field for a puzzle construction challenge or the Base Exchange for a scavenger hunt.

"At the Parade Field we had 4-foot by 8-foot puzzles that the teams had to find blindfolded. Once they found all the pieces they could assemble the puzzle," Johnson said. "At the BX, we had a scavenger hunt right in the middle of the store. They had to look for things like cookbooks, paint thinner, and balloons. Once they located all the items on their list, they received their second roadblock, which sent them hunting for rooms in the dorms, followed by sit-ups."

The final detour of the race was a Frisbee disc throwing challenge or a stretcher-carry task.

"The teams had to move 11 Frisbee (discs) from one end of the base picnic grounds to the other end, without running or walking with the Frisbee (disc) and without dropping the Frisbee (disc)," Johnson said. "This challenge proved fairly difficult for the teams considering the wind on Thursday. Once they had all 11 Frisbee (discs) at the end point, they headed back to the Fitness Center to cross the finish line."

"The stretcher-carry task involved each team first receiving instruction on how to properly use a stretcher, then two team members had to use the stretcher to rescue the rest of their teammates. Once a team member was rescued, they were allowed to help rescue other team

members. After all the team members were rescued, the team headed for the finish line," he said. "Whenever we do our unit WarFit, we want to make it fun and interesting so our people look forward to coming out," Johnson said. "We also wanted to pull off something really big since this was our last WarFit event for the year."

The unit WarFit program is only a starting block to get people in the mindset they need to work out and to have fun doing it.

"There are a number of people who benefit from the program," said Capt. Ali Highsmith, SMC Det. 11 Program Manager of MILSTAR Terminals. "The benefit of these events is it brings out the competitive nature of our people. Everyone seems to enjoy going out and competing against their peers and supervisors. It gives them bragging rights."

Although the WarFit program and the monthly unit events are mandatory for military members, Team Colorado encourages their Department of Defense civilians to come out and participate as well.

"The premise of WarFit is to build esprit de corps, increase morale, and instill the benefit of fitness into our daily lives," said 1st Lt. Brenda Burge, SMC Det. 11 Automated Communications Management System Program Manager. "We know when a warfighter is physically fit, they are also mentally prepared to handle the day-to-day stress of accomplishing the Air Force mission. We believe fitness is the key to that mission accomplishment, so we don't draw the line between military member and civilian. We want everyone to come out and get in shape and have a little fun."

With fun and competitiveness being the starting point for Team Colorado, the rest seems to flow rather smoothly.

"The bottom line is, you don't have to be bored when you go to the Fitness Center to get in shape," Johnson said. "With a little imagination and planning, you can put together something that everyone will have fun participating in."



Lt. Col. Brian Shimmel celebrates as Staci Waters grades the Yellow Bellied Marmots' Air Force Trivia test.



The Yellow Bellied Marmot and Black Mustang teams begin their Amazing Race at the base gym.



The Orange Crush team captain, 2nd Lt. Luke Grogan, celebrates winning the last place rubber chicken award.



Race participants use clues to find items during the scavenger hunt at the Base Exchange.



2nd Lt. Aaron Landenberger of the Orange Crush team wracks his brain to complete the Air Force Trivia test.



The Gang Green team celebrates as Col. Louis Johnson presents them with the first place trophy.



1st Lt. Brenda Burge verifies that the Red Bloodhounds team has found all the items in the BX Scavenger Hunt.



# A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

## This Week

### Today

- Aeroba-Thon all day. To participate, donate a child's gift. Call 556-1515 for details.
- Cheyenne Mountain 5K Fun Run, begins at 11:30 a.m. in front of the TSE. Sign up by race time.

### Monday

- CSB/REDUX course, 1-3 p.m. in the Family Support Center, Room 1016. Focuses on the new military Thrift Savings Plan, Career Status Bonus, REDUX, and retirement planning.

### Tuesday

- Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016. Required for all sponsors of military and civilian employees.
- Resumé Writing, 9-11 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016.

### Wednesday

- Stress Management for the Holidays, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Health and Wellness Center
- Thrift Savings Plan, 1-2:30 in the MSC, Room 1016.

### Dec. 18

- Play Group, 10:30 a.m.- noon at the R.P. Lee Youth Center
- Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. in the MSC, Room 1016.
- Interviewing class, 1-4 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016. Designed to help people develop and refine their interviewing skills.

### Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

## This Week

# Slicing up SnoFest!!! Mountains

By 1st Lt. Suzy Kohout  
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

Get out those skis and snowboards and sign up for the Commander's Cup team and individual races during Keystone's SnoFest!!! weekend, Jan. 29 to Feb. 1.

Registration for all SnoFest!!! racers must be completed by Jan. 21. Registration information may be picked up at installation Information Ticket and Travel or the Outdoor Recreation offices. The racing begins Jan. 30.

"For two days, skiers, snowboarders, and combined teams can challenge themselves to the NASTAR slalom course, and racing is free with the help of our sponsor," said Keith Henderson, Peterson Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation Adventure Director. "It's a great time for beginners to advanced skiers and riders."

Commander's Cup race skiers and snowboarders can sign up for two different races: the Broken Tip team and the individual ski and snowboard competitions.

The Commander's Cup team consists of racers who must be assigned to the same squadron, unit, or organization. Each team must have at least one snowboarder and only five teams can be registered from each military installation. If teams do not have a snowboarder, they will receive a 15-second reduction from the overall team score.

The Broken Tip team consists of an installation or major command commander, three hand-picked team members and one snowboarder. Only one



**SnoFest!!! will take place at Keystone Resort, which is located 90 minutes west from Denver International Airport. Take Interstate 70 west through the Eisenhower Tunnel to exit 205. Turn left, and continue six miles east on U.S. Highway 6. Go to Mountain House Base Area.**

team will be registered from each installation or major command.

The individual ski and snowboard racers include four categories: cadets, teens, youth, and adult open races.

All eligible services customers, who include active duty, civilian employees, reservists, retirees, and family members, may compete.

Trophies will be handed out to the first, second, and third place racers in the Team ski or the Broken Tip team races as well as the individual ski and

snowboard competitions. The Commander's Cup trophy will be handed out during the evening SnoFest!!! party. The fastest time out of two runs will be counted toward individual and team scores.

Race day check in is at Mountain House Silverthorne Room is from 8 to 9 a.m. both race days.

For more information or registration and schedule forms, stop by or call Outdoor Recreation at 556-4867 or the ITT office at 556-7671.

## ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

### Today

#### Lunch:

- Herbed Baked Chicken
- Southern Catfish
- Stuffed Cabbage Rolls
- Mixed Vegetables
- Peas
- Mashed Potatoes
- Sweet Potatoes

#### Dinner:

- Cornish Hens
- Jaegerschnitzel with Mushroom Sauce
- Roast Loin of Pork
- Carrots
- Corn Combo
- Potato Halves
- Orange Rice

### Friday

#### Lunch:

- Mexican Baked Chicken
- Stuffed Green Peppers
- Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce
- Peas and Carrots
- Spanish-Style Beans
- Steamed Rice
- Macaroni and Cheese

#### Dinner:

- Sweet Italian Sausage
- Lasagna
- Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
- Broccoli Polonaise
- Cauliflower
- Mashed Potatoes
- Italian-Style Baked Beans

### Monday

#### Lunch:

- Baked Chicken
- Simmered Knockwurst
- Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce
- Broccoli Polonaise
- Carrots
- Sauerkraut
- Mashed Potatoes
- Steamed Rice

#### Dinner:

- Roast Turkey
- Baked Canned Ham
- Fish and Fries
- Succotash
- Herbed Green Beans
- Tempura
- Vegetables
- Cornbread
- Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes

### Saturday

#### Brunch:

- Cajun Meatloaf
- Crispy Baked Chicken
- Ribeye Steak
- Broccoli
- French-Style Peas
- Glazed Carrots
- Mashed Potatoes
- Baked Potatoes

### Tuesday

#### Lunch:

- Salisbury Steak
- Onion Lemon Fish
- Yakisoba
- Spinach
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Simmered Pinto Beans
- Mashed Potatoes

#### Dinner:

- Barbecued Beef
- Cubes
- Paprika Beef
- Pork Chop Suey
- Cauliflower
- Corn on the Cob
- Lima Beans
- O'Brien Potatoes
- Steamed Rice

### Sunday

#### Brunch:

- Parmesan Chicken Breast
- Sauerbraten
- Tuna and Noodles
- Cauliflower Combo
- Fried Cabbage
- Peas
- Steamed Rice
- Au Gratin Potatoes

### Wednesday

#### Lunch:

- Caribbean Jerk Chicken
- Beef Porcupines
- Chicken Enchiladas
- Mexican Corn
- Peas with Onions
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Steamed Rice

#### Dinner:

- Country-Style Steak
- Pita Pizza
- Fried Chicken
- Cabbage
- Fried Cauliflower
- Mashed Potatoes
- Oven-Browned Potatoes

# Air Force releasing new fitness instruction

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – One of the most noticeable changes to the Air Force's new fitness program is that it will be defined by an operational rather than a medical instruction.

The change shows that senior leaders consider fitness an important part of operational readiness, said Maj. Lisa Schmidt, the Air Force chief of health promotions operations.

"As we support the aerospace expeditionary force and the environments we now deploy to, fitness becomes a readiness issue," Schmidt said. "If a person is fit, they are going to be able to tolerate austere environments, the fatigue and the temperature changes."

The full text of the Air Force's new fitness instruction will be available to the force before Jan. 1, she said. The planned release comes less than five months after the service's highest ranking officer told airmen there would be changes in the way the Air Force looked at physical fitness.

"The amount of energy we devote to our fitness programs is not consistent with the growing demand of our warrior culture," wrote Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper in his July Sight Picture. "It's time to change that."

Besides making physical fitness a readiness requirement, the new instruction also puts an emphasis on commander

involvement in unit fitness programs.

"If you look at the July Sight Picture, General Jumper says fitness is a commander's responsibility," Schmidt said. "This instruction puts more responsibility on the commander, not the medical community."

Among other things, the instruction requires unit and squadron commanders to implement and maintain a unit physical-training program and to offer the program at least three times a week.

The instruction also details methodology for conducting fitness evaluations. Schmidt said the instructions for conducting the push-up and crunch portions of the evaluation should be no surprise to airmen. They are the same instructions that have been used at the end of the cycle-ergometry test for the last two years.

"The only change is that the push-ups and crunches will be evaluated for one minute, instead of two minutes," Schmidt said.

The instruction also specifies how to conduct the aerobic portion of the test. Airmen will run on an outdoor course approved by the wing commander. During inclement weather, an indoor running track may be used. Treadmills will not be authorized for fitness evaluations.

The new fitness instruction takes effect Jan. 1, and will make obsolete the current fitness and weight-management instructions, Air Force Instruction 40-501 and AFI 40-502.

# ROWC offers friendship, fun

By 2nd Lt.  
Jennifer Whitaker  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Spouses of retired officers can find friendship and fun through the Peterson Retired Officers' Wives' Club.

The club currently has more than 300 members in the Colorado Springs area, with 150 regularly in attendance at their luncheons held at the Officers' Club every other month.

Elizabeth Haase, ROWC vice president, said all spouses of commissioned officers, retired or not, are eligible to join the club.

"I think we all enjoy the camaraderie," Haase said. "They seem to enjoy talking about old times, their children and grandchildren, and getting together, getting gussied up, and getting out of the house."

She said the club helps its members have a more active social life.

The ROWC holds five luncheons each year between September and May, with a special holiday-themed meeting in

December. This month, the Sunrise United Methodist Church hand bell choir performed holiday music for the club.

Various agencies, like the Army Air Force Exchange Service and Coldwater Creek, put on fashion shows for the ROWC twice per year. Members of the club act as models for the shows.

AAFES provided the fashions, decorations, and sets for the ROWC's most recent fashion show luncheon. Haase said the event was a big success.

"People were stunned with what the BX has to offer," she said. "There really is a lot available at comparable prices to what you'd find in other stores."

The next ROWC luncheon is Jan. 28 at the Officers' Club. The theme is the "Red Hat Society," and Bonnie Wiley from the Institute of Learning in Retirement will speak on the opportunities retired people have for education.

People interested in joining the ROWC should call Ginny Markl at 448-2229.



## Local, State court jury duty mandatory for personnel

By Capt. Andrew Dunnaville  
21st Space Wing Legal Office

Imagine my shock when I received a summons for jury duty in Colorado. While most service members know we are required to serve on military courts-martial, here in Colorado you may also be required to serve as jurors in state and county courts. This law applies to all military members, even if they hold an out-of-state driver's license, pay income taxes to another state, or are not registered to vote in Colorado.

While Colorado's laws on exemption from jury service are limited, people who have recently served as panel members on a court-martial may be exempted from jury service. If you wish to serve as a panel member on a court-martial, contact your commander or the Peterson legal office at 556-4871.

Federal law exempts general officers, commanders, operating forces personnel in training, and personnel stationed outside the United States from

serving on state and local juries. Federal law also exempts soldiers and airmen from jury duty when such duty unreasonably interferes with their military duties, or adversely affects the readiness of their unit.

While you are on active duty, if you receive a summons to state or local jury duty, you should immediately inform your commander. If your commander decides you should not be exempt, you must serve on a jury. If the commander decides that you should be exempt, the commander will forward a request for exemption through the appropriate channels.

Jury duty service cannot be charged against leave, and members may receive and keep reimbursements for transportation costs and other fees. However, all fees paid to members for jury service must be made payable to the U.S. Treasury.

If you have any questions about jury service or have been summoned to serve on a jury, call the Peterson legal office.

### Jury duty guidelines

The state of Colorado has established the following guidelines for people called to jury duty:

Juror qualifications:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must reside in the county or municipality from which summoned
- Must be a citizen of the U.S.
- Must be able to read, speak, and understand English.
- Must not have appeared at a

courthouse for juror service for five days or more in the past 12 months.

- Must not have sole responsibility for the daily care of a permanently disabled person living in the same household, where juror service would cause substantial risk of injury to the health of the disabled person.
- Must not have a physical or mental disability that would affect ability to serve as a juror.

### Juror fees

- Employed jurors are paid by employers for the first three days of juror service.
- Unemployed jurors may as the court for reasonable expenses for the first three days of juror service.
- The state pays county and district court jurors \$50 per day

after the third day of actual juror service. Military members may receive and keep reimbursements for transportation costs and other fees. However, all fees paid to military members for juror service must be made payable to the U.S. Treasury.

# Chanukah: *The eight-day holiday of miracles*

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)  
Michael Tinnon  
[21st Space Wing Chapel](#)

With the approach of Chanukah, sincere wishes for a happy and inspiring Chanukah. The message of Chanukah is important and timely to all Jews, but even more so to Jews living in surroundings with comparatively little Jewish vitality and activity. It is precisely in such circumstances that Chanukah offers many a useful lesson.

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, recalls the victory – more than 2,100 years ago – of a militarily weak but spiritually strong Jewish people over the mighty forces of a ruthless enemy that had overrun the Holy Land and threatened to engulf the land and its people in darkness.

The miraculous victory – culminating with the rededication of the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and rekindling of the Menorah which had been desecrated and extinguished by the enemy – has been celebrated annually ever since during these eight days of Chanukah, especially by lighting the Chanukah Menorah, as a symbol and message of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness.


It is a timely and reassuring message, for the forces of darkness are ever present. Moreover, the danger does not come exclusively from outside; it often lurks close to home, in

the form of insidious erosion of time-honored values and principles that are the foundation of any decent human society. Needless to say, darkness is not chased away by brooms and sticks, but by illumination. As Sages have said, “A little light expels a lot of darkness.”

The Chanukah Light reminds us in a most obvious way that illumination begins at home, within oneself and one’s family, by increasing and intensifying the light of the Torah and Mitzvot in the everyday experience, even as the Chanukah Lights are kindled in growing numbers from day to day.

But though it begins at home, it does not stop there. Such is the nature of light that when one kindles a light for one’s own benefit, it benefits also all who are in the vicinity. Indeed, the Chanukah Lights are expressly meant to illuminate the “outside,” symbolically alluding to the duty to bring light also to those who, for one reason or another, still walk in darkness.

What is true of the individual is true of a nation, especially the great United States, united under God, and generously blessed by God with material as well as spiritual riches. It is surely the duty and privilege of this Nation to promote all the forces of light both at home and abroad, and in a steadily growing measure.

Best wishes for a joyous and spiritually uplifting Chanukah. 

## Chanukah at a glance

### When is it?

Chanukah, or Hanukkah, is an eight-day celebration that begins on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month of Kislev, which usually falls during the month of December.

In 2003, Chanukah is celebrated from sundown Dec. 19 through sundown Dec. 27.

The year 2003 translates to the year 5764 on the Jewish calendar.

### What is it?

Chanukah means “rededication” in Hebrew. The holiday commemorates an event that occurred 23 centuries ago, marking the survival of Judaism.

### What is its history?

During a second century conflict, the Syrians tried to establish political and religious conformity by “Hellenizing” the Jews, forcing them to adopt Greek dress and customs, and decreeing the Temple in Jerusalem, the national house of worship, would become a temple to Zeus.

A small band of soldiers led by Judah Maccabee staged a successful rebellion against the Syrians and rededicated the Temple. Chanukah celebrates the restoration of religious freedom and the preservation of Jewish customs.

The “Festival of Lights” refers to the legend of a miracle that occurred

during the rededication of the Temple. When the Jews sought to rekindle the menorah in the Temple sanctuary, they found only enough purified oil to last one day, yet miraculously, the small portion of oil burned for eight days – the length of time required to purify new oil.


### How do people celebrate it?

During the eight days of Chanukah, a candle is lit each night to commemorate the miracle of the oil in the Temple. Nine candles are arranged in a candelabra called a menorah – one for each night, plus the shamus, the candle used to light the others.

Families gather at nightfall to rekindle the menorah flames, rededicate themselves to their faith, and share in festive meals. Blessings are sung or recited as the candles are lit. Each night of Chanukah may feature songs or readings, games and gifts ranging from gelt, or money, to candy to other small presents.

One Chanukah tradition, especially for children, is playing the dreidel game with spinning tops.

It is customary to eat fried foods on Chanukah because of the significance of oil to the holiday.

(Information courtesy of [pressroom.Hallmark.com](#)) 



# No matter where you are – you are what you wear

By Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Regardless of our duty location, service, or career field, our uniform is our statement to the world that we are proud members of the profession of arms.

“Uniforms provide a means to identify our people – in time of war and peace,” said Chief Master Sgt. Vance M. Clarke, 21st Space Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant.

As soon as we are issued our first uniforms in basic training, the standards for wearing them are drilled into us. As we progress through the ranks, we expand our knowledge of uniform wear and shoulder the responsibility to enforce the standards outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

The very word “uniform” means “always the same, without variation or fluctuation, being the same as others, and consistent in appearance.”

Still, there are those among us whose eye for detail needs corrective lenses.

During this time of year, the most readily available examples of a lack of uniformity are found on the ever-present pullover sweater, cardigan sweater, and lightweight jacket.

When the cold weather hits, folks dig out their sweaters, lightweight jackets, etc., slap on their metal insignia and go off merrily on their way. For every

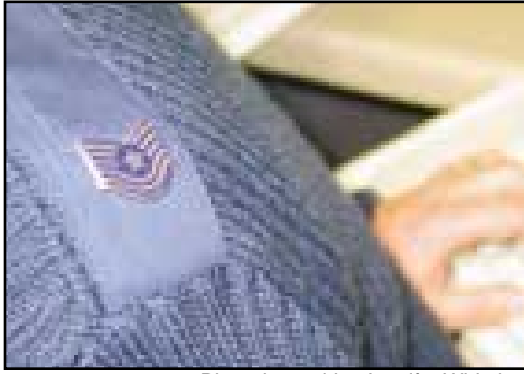


Photo by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Whitaker

**Page 33 in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel, offers illustrations for placement of metal rank insignia.**

person I see, be they airmen, NCO, or even senior NCOs, it seems there is a different placement for their insignia. Some are right; others are seemingly oblivious to the proper placement of their insignia.

Occupational badges are another fine example. The AFI is simple to understand. They are centered a half inch above the top row of the ribbons or above the top edge of the pocket when ribbons are not worn. Yet we see officers and enlisted alike who place their badges haphazardly – from flush with to 1 inch above.

“We have a wide range of requirements for uniform wear,” Clarke said. “We have many different uniforms that require many nuances of wear of appropriate accouterments. I believe most people are either ignorant of their infractions, or they hurried a little too quickly getting ready.

“Or, they might be like me and often forget which side is which and put the name tag on the wrong side of their shirt!” he said. “But, many know and don’t take the time to do it right. Supervisors and other leaders must ensure we take the time to keep our people professional.”

Even from his deployed location in Southwest Asia, the chief emphasizes the value of proper uniform wear.

“We represent America to our foreign partners,” he said. “We represent the fighting force we have in Iraq and in other hostile areas around the globe.”

And, he said, regardless of where we are stationed, “Each of us is the Air Force to those we come in contact with.”

“Our dress and appearance standards are just as important as all our other standards,” Clarke said. “Wearing the uniform properly reflects the discipline and order we have in our military.

“The public and other military members have a right to expect all of us – from airman basic to four-star general – to wear our uniforms in accordance with the standards set forth.”

Wearing the uniform properly is, perhaps, the simplest of tasks we are expected to perform day in and day out.

“If we cannot get this right, what else will we falter in?” Clarke said. “Military life is different than any other profession. The public has high expectations of us and our appearance is a

small part of our total ‘war fighter’ image.

Some may argue that these “nit-noid details” don’t really matter; others may agree.

“What small details, rules, or regulations should we allow to go away?” Clarke said. “Whatever we don’t follow is wrong. We are not at liberty to choose what rules we follow.

“If we were, we would have little order or discipline,” he said. “We have worked for years to become professionals. Wearing our uniform correctly is part of that professionalism.

“I believe all of us have a responsibility to point out and help correct discrepancies,” the chief said. “I appreciate it when a young airman or a general points out a string, or collar that is bent, or button undone.

He said he takes it as a sign of someone wanting to help him be the total and complete professional he strives to be.

I’ll keep stopping people to educate and correct them. I’ll continue to do so tactfully and professionally knowing a little “honey” will gain more compliance than a lot of “vinegar.”

I’ll do it for Chief Clarke and every other military professional who toils away at their desk, on the flightline, or in harm’s way. I’ll do it out of respect for them and the airmen who came before them.

I’ll do it because I’m proud to wear this uniform – properly. Are you?

