An announcement was made Monday near the cadet chapel about the upcoming movie *Bring Me Men*, a film by independent production company SummitWorks LLC, which was green lighted by the Pentagon about the saga of the Academy's first female cadets.

"The Academy has been coordinating with the company, the Air Force and Department of Defense for about a year to get the script approved," said Academy spokesman Meade Warthen. "We look forward to working with the company as the film is shot on location here at the Academy and we are optimistic that it will show the Academy as a premier institution of higher learning that produces officers of character serving America in the world's greatest Air Force."

Riding on the coat tails of bringing an estimated $5 million to the state economy, there was no shortage of hope and praise at the briefings.

"*Bring Me Men* will chronicle the ordeals and triumphs of young Americans who voluntarily undergo the most rigorous challenges of military training, academic education, athletic competition and character development in the world's greatest Air Force," wrote Lt. Gen. John Regni, Academy superintendent, in a statement.

Work on the project began more than five years ago by writer Ms. Linda Morris and producer Mr. Frank Johnson.

"We did not shy away from the difficulties these women had to get through," said Mr. Johnson. "Women hadn't been allowed to apply before. It's about perseverance and setting sights on a dream and hanging on to the dream with all your heart."

Filming will start on the Academy in the spring and summer of 2008. The 1976 to 1980 story is the first motion picture to be approved by the Pentagon for filming at the Academy.

"Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power...that's our nation's asymmetric advantage and something no one else can do. We must ensure that we can provide our nation those capabilities now and in the future," General Moseley added. CORONA conferences are held three times a year and allow the Secretary of the

CORONA Fall concludes at Academy

Editor's Note: Due to the shortened Thanksgiving holiday work week, there will not be a Nov. 23 edition of the Academy Spirit. Any submissions for the Nov. 16 edition must arrive at Public Affairs by the close of business today. The Academy Spirit will resume publication on Nov. 30.
Freedom’s price: high but worth it

By Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis
Academy Command Chief

Editor’s Note: Veteran’s Day is Sunday and observed as a national holiday on Monday.

Vetern’s Day brings to mind striking images from times past reminding me what it means to serve our country, and the ultimate price we pay for freedom.

Many times, we overlook the true meaning of national observances based upon the sheer pace by which we work and play.

I recall stories from our greatest generation about their experiences in World War II; my uncle’s personal accounts from jumping into Normandy during D-Day while fate and enemy bullets randomly selected their buddies next to them, or my grandfather’s reflections of his marches through Malmedy while engaging the Wehrmacht in hand-to-hand combat.

I hear the names of 170 Air Force Academy graduates echoing across the Terrazzo as heroes who gave the last to-hand combat.

During D-Day while fate and enemy accounts from jumping into Normandy and play.

How can we express that gratitude? By proudly flying our nation’s colors or taking some time to attend Veteran’s Day parades and ceremonies in the local community.

Let’s not let our schedules drive us away from participating or forgetting our proud heritage, our tradition of honor or our legacy of valor. To all veterans -- past, present and future -- thank you for your service!

Character Corner

Respect

By Mike Krzyzewski, Duke University

When I hear the word “respect,” I think of treating everyone the same. I had the great privilege of being an assistant coach on the 1992 Olympic (basketball) team, the “Dream Team.” It had some of the greatest players of all time. Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. As part of that team, I learned a lot about the game, but I also relearned a lesson about respect.

After a team practice, I stood by myself on the sidelines drinking a soda. Michael Jordan walked over to me and said, “Coach K, I would like to do about a half hour of individual work and drink my soda. I think I made the right decision.

After our workout, Michael shook my hand and said, “Thanks, Coach.”

Michael Jordan just called me “Coach,” and said “please” and “thank you.” This was when he was at the top of his game and was one of the most recognizable faces, not only in sports, but throughout the world.

Michael Jordan had earned global recognition as a symbol of excellence. That day, I learned everyone on Michael Jordan’s team is treated with respect.

From Beyond Basketball

Character Counts airs Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on KAFA radio, 97.7 FM.

How do you feel about a movie chronicling the Academy’s first female cadets?

Cadet 3rd Class Nicole Harig
Cadet Squadron 32

“it’s important to showcase the start of women at the Academy, not only men. It changed the blueprint of the Academy and the kinds of officers we become.”

Cadet 3rd Class Kate Batchelder
Cadet Squadron 31

“It would be interesting to see a military movie about an academy with women. There are lots of stories that the first class of women have told, but to actually see it played with some of the most intense moments would be interesting.”

Maj. Melissa Cunningham
Academy Headquarters

“I’d see it if it is historically accurate. I am thankful they paved the way for others to follow.”

Don Hetman
Res. Chief Master Sgt.

“Having been a part of the Academy from 1965 to 1970, I would be interesting in the story of how the cadet wing adjusted to females in the wing.”

Lt. Gen. John Regni — Academy Superintendent
Maj. Brett Ashworth — Director of Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Ted Collette — Director of Public Information
Wayne Amann — Editor
Drew Morris — Graphic Designer

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Editor’s Clarification:

To clear up any confusion in the Nov. 2 Academy Spirit story, “Academy Mock Trial team speaks volumes,” forensics and mock trial are separate activities. The mock trial team is handled by the Law Department while forensics and debate teams are handled through the English Department. Mock trial deals with courtroom discussion. Forensics deals with debate and interpretive events.

Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis

I hear present-day stories of Senior Airman Jason Cunningnell selflessly sacrificing himself to save his comrades, even as he was dying, or Staff Sgt. Israel Del Toros’ drive and determination to recover from his wounds despite being burned over more than 80 percent of his body after an improvised explosive device attack on his Humvee in Afghanistan in December 2005.

Observations such as Veteran’s Day serve to remind us that freedom has not been and continues to not be free. It reflects the sacrifices of all generations. So, take some time to walk up to veterans you know or better yet, ones you don’t know; ask them about their experiences and, most importantly, tell them thanks. Pass on your thanks for the sacrifices they’ve endured and still endure for our country. It’s the common bond you and your families share with them, as well.

At this moment, we have thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen bravely deployed combating terrorism and evil, head-on, around the globe and away from home soil; thank them as well.

How can we express that gratitude? By proudly flying our nation’s colors or taking some time to attend Veteran’s Day parades and ceremonies in the local community.

Let’s not let our schedules drive us away from participating or forgetting our proud heritage, our tradition of honor or our legacy of valor. To all veterans -- past, present and future -- thank you for your service!
UCI Tip of the Week
By Maj. Matthew Alley
Inspector General, Chief of Inspections

It’s certain the unit compliance inspectors will want to see an accurate accounting of all of our Information Technology hardware assets.

Every Academy agency must have an equipment custodian assigned with the responsibility of managing and accounting for the unit’s computer systems equipment. Air Force Instruction 33-112, paragraph 11, outlines requirements for equipment custodians. This AFI provides Equipment Custodian guidance on labeling equipment, transferring IT assets between accounts, the Report of Survey process for lost, damaged or destroyed IT assets and working with the Equipment Control Officer.

Is your unit’s Equipment Custodian assigned in writing by the commander or designated representative? Have they received annual training? Is an annual physical inventory accomplished? Is all equipment properly labeled?

These are just a few of the requirements inspectors will be looking at. Now is a good time to open the instruction and ensure you’re in full compliance.

CORONA

Air Force, the Chief of Staff and senior Air Force civilian and military leadership to come together for frank, open discussions that will lead the Air Force into tomorrow.

Discussions and briefings at CORONA Fall centered on the three themes of mission, people and tomorrow.

Dr. John Hamre, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, provided a strategic perspective on Air Force organization for future challenges. He highlighted that the changing world requires an inter-agency, full spectrum response for national security.

Lt. Gen. Patrick Paimbault of the French Air Force shared lessons learned from the French Air Force in Africa to assist in standing up Africa Command. The general emphasized that tactical air mobility is one of the most important elements for any operation in the huge expanse of Africa.

Gen. Michael Hayden, director of the CIA, briefed leaders on recent developments in the intelligence community. Ms. Sue C. Payton, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, discussed current acquisition programs and emphasized that the focus on meeting both today’s urgent needs as well as the needs of tomorrow.

CORONA Fall also featured several Airmen who shared their experiences on the front lines. Master Sgt. John Melito spoke about Airmen’s efforts in building the Iraqi Air Force and the success of the first 58 Iraqi Airmen graduating from the Air Force indoctrination training.

Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, the Air Force vice chief of staff, concluded the conference by saying, “Our Nation is facing a complex and dangerous world with strategic challenges that require foresight and planning — not just reaction. During this conference we focused on how we can prevent future wars while still winning the war we’re in. We have to do both to fulfill our duty to this great nation.”

Time Out
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley is presented an autographed Air Force Falcon football jersey by senior quarterback Shaun Carney during a break in practice Nov. 1. The number 15 signifies Chief McKinley as the 15th CMSAF. Chief McKinley and other Air Force leaders were at the Academy last week to attend the CORONA Fall conference addressing current and future Air Force issues. Many of the conference attendees wrapped up their Academy visit by attending Saturday’s Air Force-Army football game.

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ACADEMY & BRIARGATE
International Week promotes multiculturalism, education

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

The Academy is staying ahead of the Nov. 12-16 International Education Week curve by honoring current and former international students and staff Nov. 4 to Saturday.

International Education Week is a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State, since 2000, to promote and celebrate multiculturalism and international education. Throughout International Education Week, campuses, embassies and communities are holding activities celebrating international education and diversity. With the Academy sending cadets world-wide for cultural immersion trips and operation Air Force programs, it would be unthinkable not to recognize it.

"People need to understand how we got to where we are today," she said. "I was naive when I walked in, but willing to accept the challenge," she said.

Col. Beverly Plosa-Bower, Class of '80, believes the story needs telling.

"It is an honor that the Air Force, the Assistant Secretary of Defense and the Academy are enthusiastic to bring this great story to the screen," a press release from SummitWorks said. "We look forward to working with the Air Force Academy, Mayor Lionel Rivera, the residents of Colorado Springs and the Colorado Film Commission during this production."

Ms. Karen Selva, Class of '80, told reporters "it doesn't matter if you're male or female, you were just trying to survive."

Col. Beverly Plosa-Bower, also Class of '80, believes the story needs telling.

"There are 52 four-year international students from 30 countries, including Serbia, which is participating for the first time."

Seven international officers are serving with the Academy faculty from Argentina, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the United Kingdom. In addition, 48 cadets and five officers from 20 different countries will visit the Academy as part of the reciprocal Foreign Academy Visit program. "International Week provides us the opportunity to recognize the unique contributions that international cadets make to the Academy and to celebrate the international coalitions and friendships we share," General Regni said.

Col. Beverly Plosa-Bower, Class of '80, informed news media that she feels willing to accept the challenge, "she said.

"I was naive when I walked in, but willing to accept the challenge," she said.

"People need to understand how we got to where we are today," she said.

"I was naive when I walked in, but willing to accept the challenge," she said.

Col. Beverly Plosa-Bower, Class of '80, informed news media that she feels willing to accept the challenge, "she said.
LAS VEGAS – The toughest firefighters in the world are tested their talents against time and each other this week, and Academy firefighters are in the thick of it.

The Super Bowl of firefighter competitions, World Firefighter Combat Challenge XVI, started Sunday and ended Thursday night in downtown Las Vegas.

The Academy team qualified for Wednesday night’s relay semifinals with a time of 1:17.55.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge puts firefighters through a timed course of five back-to-backbreaking tasks, testing their basic job skills, technique and stamina.

In order, the events are:

• Climb a five story tower carrying a 42-pound firehose,
• Host another a rope weighted by a 42-pound firehose up five stories, while leaning over the top of the tower.
• Hit a 160-pound steel Keiser beam with a mallet, to move the beam five feet horizontally.
• Run 140 feet, then drag a firehose 75 feet and hit a volleyball-sized target with water, and
• Drag a life-sized, 175-pound dummy 100 feet while walking backward, across the finish line.

Competitors wear 60 pounds of firefighting gear while running the course and most of the competitors at the world level finish the course in under two minutes.

“Two minutes of this would compare to 10 to 15 minutes of strenuous work on a working fire,” said Academy team captain Roy Dalton.

The challenge not only includes the tasks firefighters could face on a working fire, but has several direct parallels to the tasks they could face fighting a fire on the Academy, he added.

“Take Sijan Hall, Vandenberg Hall, Fairchild Hall and the dorms at the prep school area. Those cadet dorms are six stories, so we could well be hauling hoses up to the top floor if we have to fight a fire in Fairchild Hall,” said Dalton. “From training for this competition, we have the confidence that we can grab those ropes and hoist a hose up, if we need to.”

Other events also inspire confidence in the team, which consist of Dalton and fellow firefighters Hans Barkley, Lance Gore, Pat Kraft and Staff Sgt. Danny Arens. The Keiser sled simulates the force needed to make it through that event, said Dalton.

Each member of the Academy’s firefighter combat challenge team has at least three world firefighter combat challenges under their belt. Before starting competition in 2000, the Academy Fire Department had zero corporate knowledge in how to run the event. With the stability and experience of the current team, they’re now able to combine technique with strength and endurance to become consistent world-class competitors.

“Learning how to run the course is more vital than being in top shape. You still need to be in great physical shape, but mastering the moves allows you to go longer and use less energy when you do things the right way,” said Dalton.

The advantages of running the world firefighter challenge spread beyond the five-man firefighter team and their alternate, said Academy Fire Chief Ernst Piercy.

“If you take the whole firefighter challenge competition out of the equation, the value to me is the other firefighters that watch them and train with them – and at the end of the day I end up with a better trained workforce that’s more fit to fight,” said Chief Piercy.

No matter how fit the firefighters are, the course is so physically demanding most competitors only run it once per day.

So what do you do with the rest of the day, besides catch your breath?

If you’re the Academy team, you help event coordinators by working as ‘road crew’ for the events. Once a competitor runs a 42-pound hose up five flights of stairs, somebody has to get that same firehose back to the starting point at ground level, in order for the next competitor to run the course. On Wednesday, it was the Academy firefighters who were sweating behind the scenes to make that happen.

“They bring a lot more to the equation than just running the course. They’re ambassadors for the Academy and Air Force.”

Other military firefighters are making their mark on this year’s challenge as well. Besides the Academy, the Air Force is represented by Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Fort Rucker, Ala.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; and Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

Results from Wednesday night’s semi-finals round and Thursday night’s finals were not available at press time.
The Academy will observe the Great American Smokeout on Thursday to motivate installation tobacco users to quit for one day.

"Are you thinking about quitting?" asked the HAWC staffer. "Perhaps you want to, but have some hesitation. We want to help you use the Great American Smokeout to make that commitment to quit. Even if you are not ready to quit now, you can use the day to get prepared for the day when you will quit for good."

Tobacco tool kits to quit will be available at the HAWC Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The package of materials helps people work through the reasons why they use tobacco and the reasons to quit. The toolkit will help make a final quit plan.

"As part of your plan you will want to quit for one day along with thousands of individuals across the nation," said the physiologist. "Quitting for even one day will help raise awareness of your tobacco habits and help identify the resources you need to help you quit."

HAWC staff members will be at the South Gate on Thursday from 6:30-8 a.m. holding up signs promoting a tobacco free day as well as encouraging the Academy community to be fit.

"We will give out a stress light bulb and a stress cigarette pack that reads 'Crush the Habit' and 'Smoking isn't A Bright Idea," said Ms. Hawkes. "We will give out the HAWC tri-fold on our tobacco cessation classes."

This year’s theme is "Be Fit, Be Ready, Be Tobacco Free!"

The HAWC will have tables at the base exchange and commissary this month to educate the community on the health problems associated with smoking or chewing tobacco.

Data shows that 24 percent of active duty members use tobacco products. The odys of trying to stop cold-turkey are gone. Chantix is the newest drug helping smokers kick the habit. Chantix was approved by the FDA in May 2006. Studies have shown it to work better than Zyban, another drug used by smokers. It’s an effective way for smokers to win the war against smoking without having to resort to taking nicotine in other forms. It is not a nicotine replacement.

Last year marked the 30th anniversary of the Great American Smokeout. This milestone and the 2007 Great American Smokeout provide an opportunity to showcase how far this special day has come in helping smokers quit.

In 1976, smoking was allowed in many public buildings and enclosed places like offices, stores and movie theaters. Now, smoking is not permitted in any government buildings except possibly bowling alleys where there is now a smoking room with ventilation.

Active duty folks can smoke in uniform but only in "Designated Smoking Areas" and chewing tobacco is not allowed when in uniform.

"There is a lot of help available to support becoming tobacco free," Ms. Hawkes said. "And the HAWC stands ready to help you."

People can get posters, adopt a smoker contract, adopt a dipper contract, enter a kids poster contest and more at https://kx.afms.mil/healthpromotions/.

For more information, call the HAWC at 333-3733.
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Skydivers raise the bar at nationals

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Academy parachutists took the plunge with hundreds of other sky divers in September during the U.S. Parachute Association’s national skydiving championships in Ottawa, Ill. They were up against some of the country’s best parachutists.

“Everyone did an outstanding job,” said team coach Bill Wenger. “It was by far the best overall performance that the team has had at the nationals.”

The Academy’s cadet team members at the event included Cadets 1st Class Zach Alexander, Tadd Lahners, Chris Oppenlander and Erik Towal. They along with camera operator Master Sgt. Ted Burgess with the 306th Flying Training Group, competed in intermediate category of the 4-way event. Five staffers with the 98th Flying Training Squadron, including Steve Archuletta, Maj. Matt Cunningham, Master Sgt. David Fremin, Tech Sgt. Kevin Vance and Tech. Sgt. Frank Zientek on camera also competed in the 4-way intermediate category.

The cadet group finished fourth in the intermediate division and staff finished second in the intermediate.

Steve Archuletta finished second in the 2-way open division for the canopy formation event and Coach Wenger first in men’s accuracy event and fourth overall for the open division.

The coach’s gold medal was the first in an open event for the Academy.

“We did pretty well,” said Cadet Oppenlander of his team’s performance.

“We were all hoping to medal but missed it by one spot.”

Cadet Lahners also felt the team performed well.

“We were disappointed that we didn’t medal but we got beat by teams legitimately better than us,” he said. “We learned an immense amount about performing under pressure, which I think was the most valuable part of the whole thing.”

Cadets also competed last month in the Gauntlet wind tunnel competition in Eloy, Ariz. Cadets had mixed reactions about the event.

“It was an amazing experience. The dives constructed for the event were much more technical and difficult than the dives will be at the collegiate competition,” said Cadet Yeagley. “Some of the best coaches and fliers in the world were at the event and offered all kinds of advice and coaching.”

Cadet Oppenlander of his team’s performance.

“I can sometimes get bored in the tunnel, but I never get bored when I’m jumping.”

In preparation for the Collegiate National Championships over the winter holiday break, cadets will compete at a regional competition this weekend at Fort Bragg, N. C., sponsored by the Army parachute team.

At 11,000 feet in the air teamwork for parachutists becomes paramount.

“The senior competition team is the tightest knit group of guys at this school hands down,” Cadet Yeagley said. “We have a blast no matter what the dive-flow is.”

Cadet Lahners also said differences don’t stand in the way of the overall good of the team.

“We fight and bicker like any close group who spends an inordinate amount of time together would,” he said. “We have team meetings on a fairly regular basis, where we sit and get everything out that we’re tee’d off about, then define and see how we are meeting goals.”

Cadet Oppenlander’s take on team work varies only slightly from the others.

“It’s like being in a relationship, except my teammates are moodier than any girl I’ve ever met,” he said. “It takes a lot of time and commitment, and you have to be willing to sacrifice a lot for the team.”

Call for your FREE
Academy skydivers perform the 4-way maneuver during competition at the U.S. Parachute Association’s national skydiving championships.

He said open sky and wind tunnel competitions both have advantages and lessons, but he, nonetheless, prefers the air.

“The tunnel is great for training, instant feedback and is much more concentrated,” said Cadet Oppenlander.

“But there is nothing to compare with jumping. I can sometimes get bored in the tunnel, but I never get bored when I’m jumping.”

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Call for your FREE
Academy spirit staff
Cadets a hit at historic air and space expo

By Lt. Col. Lynanne George and Maj. Todd Nathaniel
Department of Astronautics

The first “live fly” air and space expo was held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual X PRIZE Cup competition at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., Oct. 26 and 27.

It was the largest event in the history of southern New Mexico and attracted an estimated 85,000 visitors from around the world.

The Academy’s Department of Astronautics sent five FalconSAT, FalconOPS and FalconLAUNCH cadet program representatives there to display and discuss their senior capstone projects. Twenty-eight Space Club cadets also attended.

The cadets display booth featured small satellite models, rocket parts and educational tools to help explain their projects to visitors. Media representa-
tives and an estimated 6,500 youth from across the state visited the event center and Academy booth. The cadets were popular with the students and were asked to sign hundreds of autographs.

Second Lieutenant Chase Scully, a 2007 Academy graduate stationed at Holloman, visited the Academy booth and was impressed.

“I know as a grad that any increased visibility for the great things we do at the Academy is awesome,” the grad said. “I heard a lot of great things about the booth, and I enjoyed seeing the display.”

The Ansari X PRIZE, known to many as the “original” X PRIZE, was the $10 million purse for a private company to reach space and repeat the feat within one week’s time.

Unlike past X PRIZE events held at White Sands, this year’s event was combined with an air show. It was the first “live fly” air and space show in the nation.

Cadets watched as AWACS, B-1, F-4, C-5, KC-10, F-15, F-16, F-22, V-22, B-25, P-51 and C-130 aircraft took turns in the sky and then they took tours of the aircraft and interacted with the crews on the ground.

“Almost had the C-130 crew convinced to give us and our bus a quick ride home,” said Cadet 4th Class Matt Masters.

This was also the final public aerial demonstration of the F-117, which is being retired from the Air Force inventory.

Cadets 1st Class Dean Milner and Liz Bupane represented the FalconSAT program, a one-year long senior capstone program involving the design, fabrication, testing, launching and/or operation of a real satellite in space.

“It was a great experience to talk with other people with the same goals and aspirations we have and to see what other institutions are doing with their space technologies,” Cadet Bupane said.

“The greatest part about the trip was explaining to kids what we do and seeing their growing interest,” Cadet Miller explained. “The scariest part was answering questions from really smart people who already knew the answer.”

Cadet 1st Class Paul Caruso represented the FalconOPS program, which gives cadets a chance to learn how to operate and fly satellites they launch as part of the FalconSAT program.

“I was surprised how many universities and private companies do what we do on a regular basis—build, launch and control satellites,” Cadet Caruso said.

“We’re fortunate to have DoD funding and launch vehicles to make the program possible.”

Chief Engineer Cadet 1st Class Jacob Rohrbach and propulsion team member Cadet 1st Class Jared Thompson represented the FalconLAUNCH program, which launches a cadet-built sounding rocket every year, with a goal of reaching 330,000 feet, with a 5 kg payload to perform near-space research.

“As a senior in the Astro program I have a responsibility to motivate and inspire kids to pursue science and engineering,” Cadet Rohrbach said. “This TDY allowed me to do that.”

“I intend to go back in a few years and watch future Astro cadets with a sign in front of their booth that says ‘First undergrad to space,’ while Embry-Riddle is still trying to catch up,” Cadet Thompson said. “Sharing the Academy experience and the FalconLaunch/Sat program with others was worth every minute of the trip.”
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Perioperative Nurses: Leading the way in safe patient care

By Capt. Arnie Gish
10th Medical Group

Anyone having surgery at the 10th Medical Group can count on an operating room nurse being there to help them through their surgical experience. One of an OR nurse’s most important roles is to ensure patient safety. The importance of this role is recognized during the 2007 Perioperative Nurse’s Week, Nov. 11-17.

The purpose of this celebration is to enhance public knowledge on the broad spectrum roles of OR nurses. This year’s theme is Perioperative Nurses: A Legacy of Leadership in Safe Patient Care.

There are several ways an OR nurse works to ensure a patient’s safety. Among them are:

Patient Education. A vital component to keeping patients safe is keeping them informed. Before surgery an OR nurse will speak with a patient regarding pre-surgery and the success of the surgery.

Positioning. Proper positioning is vital for patient comfort, safety and visualization of the surgical site. To make sure a patient is comfortable and secure, an OR nurse is committed to placing them in the correct position with proper padding so they can have a successful surgery and speedy recovery.

Patient Advocate. The OR nurse is knowledgeable about what to expect both during and after surgery.

Communication. The OR nurse will verify pertinent medical concerns, allergies and the surgical consent with a patient. Extra precautions are taken to confirm the correct surgical site. For example, if surgery is on the right knee, the surgical site will be verified at least six different times before incision.

Knowledge of the Procedure. The OR nurse will be confident and familiar with the procedure being performed. The nurses ensure the most appropriate instruments and current technology are employed to maximize patient comfort and the success of the surgery.

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Mr. Noelle Johnson, 10th Medical Group operating room nurse, performs a pre-operative interview with a surgical patient.

Photo by Joel Strayer
Cadets give nine-year-old VIP treatment

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Ryan Hanna, 9, can’t quit talking about it.

“The Academy’s newest Cadet for a Day was feted to tours, demonstrations, a bonfire, victory over Army and a slew of new friends from Cadet Squadron 28 who served as his hosts during his visit Nov. 1 to 3.

Ryan’s visit, sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, was Cadet 1st Class Erik Gonsalves’ eighth Cadet for a Day event.

“Each is different and amazing in its own special way,’ he said. “Ryan was quieter and more reserved than some of the others but he opened up and wouldn’t stop talking, which was nice to see.”

Cadet Gonsalves especially noted Ryan’s visit to Academy Fire Station 3.

“It was nice giving somebody with his condition some power because throughout his sickness a lot of that power and strength has been taken away, but firing the high pressure hose really gave him strength, “ he said.

Ryan’s mother, Ronda, said he especially remembers “that dog Rocky.”

The newest addition to Cadet Squadron 28 also led cadets into Mitch’s during noon meal formation.

With football on the Academy’s main menu during the weekend, Ryan shared the limelight with other cadets for a spirit bonfire, a squadron tail gate party, the proverbial bus ride with Falcon football players and VIP treatment from the Wings of Blue on the playing field.

“I liked everything, like the airplanes and football game,” Ryan said.

The young math and guitar aficionado shared his experiences with his friend Brandon.

“I told him I got to fly a plane, get neat stuff and go to the football game,” he said.

“He thought it was pretty cool.”

Maggie Appenzeller, volunteer with Make-A-Wish, said Foundation children frequently are home schooled and miss out on school activities while children enjoy.

“It was appropriate for him to be in a school situation,” she said of his experiences at the Academy. “He got a field trip like he’s never gotten.”

Ms. Hanna agreed.

“The main thing is these kids have missed out on so much. It’s great they get to do something special,” she said.

“He also got an opportunity that most people will never have.”

“The Academy is a favorite destination for Make-A-Wish kids, and the Foundation is appreciative of what the cadets do.

“It’s one of the highlights of the year to be with the cadets,” Ms. Appenzeller said.

“They give up their time and are just super terrific people.”

Ms. Hanna was also impressed with the cadets.

“They were fantastic, and they made him feel like he belonged,” she said and added their planning and coordination were superb.

Ms. Hanna also said she felt comfortable when Ryan and the cadets ventured off by themselves.

“They watched him closely, so safety was their first concern,” she said.

She found that especially true during the noon meal formation.

“They were really watching out for him.”

Cadet 2nd Class Christy Wise has been a Make-A-Wish volunteer for six years.

“I want to give back,” she said. “I love children, and it’s nice to be a fairy godmother.”

Cadet for a Day Ryan Hanna gets geared up for a practice run at parachuting with the 98th Flying Training Squadron.

helped host other Cadet for a Day events.

“It is one of the best programs we have here at the Academy,” she said. “The cadets love being a positive influence in a child’s life, and it is fun for them, while the kids have a great time too.”

Cadet Gonsalves felt the same way.

“On a personal level, I gain such a unique perspective from these kiddos because they come here ill and have fun with the tasks that we consider boring and tedious,” he said.

“I am fortunate, blessed and honored to be involved in the lives of these fearless children. I think we can all learn a great deal from each one of them.”

Ms. Appenzeller has been a Make-A-Wish volunteer for six years.

“I want to give back,” she said. “I love children, and it’s nice to be a fairy godmother.”
The IG: Your one-stop complaint shop

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

The Inspector General office stands ready to keep the Academy on its toes and lend a hand.

Its mission encompasses compliance with Air Force mission requirements, testing emergency response capabilities and fielding complaints from individuals.

“We are focused on helping the commander and not a substitute for commanders,” said Col. Jeff Thompson, Academy Inspector General.

“We are another avenue of addressing issues where other avenues don’t exist.”

The IG office provides commanders with an outside look on how mission elements are performing with the aid of self-inspections and staff assistance visits.

“We are helping commanders assess where they are,” Colonel Thompson said.

The granddaddy of Air Force inspections, the Unit Compliance Inspection, falls due for the Academy in March 2008 when representatives from the Air Force Inspection Agency based on Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., and the Air Education and Training Command on Randolph AFB, Texas, will visit the Academy.

The Academy earned an “excellent rating” for the last UCI in 2005.

Major Matthew Alley, IG chief of inspections, said mission elements are working hard to get their houses in order.

“So far, it is going pretty good. We have a good effort going forward to rectify deficiencies before the inspection,” he said. “We expect to be prepared and ready to shine.”

Mission elements are preparing for the UCI with self-inspections and staff assistant visits to provide an overall view of checklists and compliance.

“It gives them an idea of where they stand and what they need to work on,” Major Alley said.

The IG also performs readiness exercises throughout the year. Although the date of an exercise may be announced, the nature of the exercise will not.

Exercises for Academy emergencies fall into categories of national disasters, major accidents, readiness, mobility and response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats.

Exercises involve testing emergency plans, response recovery and the ability to continue the mission.

The last exercise on the Academy focused on a tornado scenario and tested command and control defined by the new National Incident Management System.

“We did very well,” Colonel Thompson said.

Got a complaint and don’t know where to turn? “Someone may not feel comfortable with command,” Colonel Thompson said. “Every complaint will be analyzed, and 100 percent will receive a case analysis.”

The IG responses to complaints could involve a full investigation, seeking out an appropriate agency such as legal, dismissal, referral or transfer to another base.

“They may not get the answer they wanted but they will get a fair look,” Colonel Thompson said.

In 2006 the Academy IG fielded 230 complaints, 150 directly from the Academy and 70 through members of Congress.

Examples of complaints include issues involving repramands, the Cadet Honor Code, administrative processes and medical evaluations.

Reprisals for making a complaint or restrictions against making a complaint aren’t just no-no’s. They are illegal under the Federal Whistleblower Act.

“Everyone has a right to see the IG, a congressman or anyone in the chain of command,” Colonel Thompson said.

He also said filing an IG complaint will not be reflected in personnel records.

There is also a cloak of privacy for those registering complaints.

“We do everything we can to protect an individual’s anonymity,” he said, but stressed IG communication is not privileged, as is the case with chaplains and lawyers.

Master Sgt. Bill Fields, IG superintendent, said anonymity is especially vulnerable if a complaint investigation uncovers illegal conduct.

Sergeant Fields manages congressional complaints, which come through congressional offices or the Secretary of the Air Force congressional liaison branch.

Congressional comes from cadets, parents, permanent party, anonymous sources and people from other bases.

“It’s every issue you can think of,” he said and added most issues are settled at the command level.

Sergeant Fields would encourage anyone with an issue to first go to commanders.

“We have a lot of great commanders on base. Give them the opportunity to know what the concern is,” he said. “They usually have the solution.”

Colonel Thompson said the door to the IG, nonetheless, is always open to anyone.

“If you are debating, come see us, and we will try to help,” he said. “If it’s important to you, it’s important to us.”

Head `em up ... move `em out ... PCS

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

In days of old, mule teams and wagons served as moving vans for the military.

Today’s Defense Department JPPSO Defense moves have come a long way from pioneer days—and the later mountains of paper work and long lines of just a few years ago.

Technology—with e-mails, cellular phones, FAX machines and Internet information sites—is just one avenue of addressing issues where other avenues don’t exist.

“I see a difference between now and then,” said Sharon Goodson, deputy chief with the regional Joint Personal Property Shipping Office, who has been helping DOD members move for more than 31 years.

“Technology has driven changes to make more information available to the customers,” she said.

A toll-free number, for example, helps customers track movement of their goods en route.

Another example of technology used to ease moving is if an Airman were in Iraq and needs to arrange for shipment of his family’s goods to a new duty station, it can be done primarily using technology.

Also in place are better controls for quality for moving companies and easier claims processes as well.

The Families First program is phasing in full replacement value insurance for goods at no cost to customers. It is now in effect for moves involving state-side and overseas. By March 2008 it will also cover storage items.

Military moving customers also have other higher entitlements such as weight allowances.

Department of Defense customers still have the option of packing and moving goods themselves with a personally procured move or, with authorization, privately contract with a mover.

Attitudes have also changed along with technology and methods.

“It’s about more concern for the family, more customer-oriented,” said Denise Hales, chief of the Academy’s JPPSO service center in the community center. “Everyone is more caring than before.”

The Academy service center manages outbound moves of personal property for all service branches, graduating cadets, exchange cadets and civilians.

Ms. Hales estimates her service branch handles between 2,000 and 2,500 moves a year.

On-base and on-post customer service centers are on all major military bases in the Colorado Springs area for outbound moves.

As the military ranks have shrunk in numbers, the number of household goods shipments has not.

“We have not seen a reduction in recipients,” Ms. Goodson said. “Some tours are getting longer, but we also have more short tours.”

Some things never change. That includes moving choices.

Moving customers still need to do a lot of planning and scheduling, especially for spring and summer when the number of moves more than doubles.

“People don’t realize they can’t wait until the last minute,” Ms. Hales stressed. Moving customers need to plan at least a month out for a date to move in the spring and summer and 10 days during the winter.

Overseas moves require even more time.

Tips and procedures for moving are online at http://afmove.hq.af.mil.

“Come see us first,” she said before scheduling such tasks as setting dates for quarters cleaning and plane tickets.

“It’s stressful, even when movers come in and pack everything,” she said. “Many don’t realize all that is involved. It’s a big job, and they need to be prepared.”

Tips and procedures for moving are online at http://afmove.hq.af.mil.

Ms. Johnson said cell phones and e-mail addresses have made waiting for inbound goods less stressful when property owners are given a window of time for delivery.

“The main issue is communicating,” she said. “And time saved is less expensive for the government.”
Ground pounding
Falcons ride record-breaker Hall over Army

By Wayne Amann
Academy Spirit Editor

The way Air Force’s Chad Hall gains ground would normally make an infantry soldier proud.

Instead, the Falcon z-back broke the spirit of some future ground troops when he ran wild for 275 yards, leading the bluesuiter to a convincing 30-10 win over inter-service rival Army, before a season-high, near-capacity crowd of 46,144, Saturday at Falcon Stadium and a national viewing audience on College Sports Television.

It was the first home win over a service academy opponent for the senior class. The victory also improved Air Force to 28-13-1 all-time against Army, including 17-3 at home. The Falcons have won 17 of the last 19 meetings in the series.

Hall set a new Academy single-game rushing record in the process, breaking his own school mark of 256 yards he logged on Oct. 13 at Colorado State. Hall’s new standard is the second highest in the history of the Mountain West Conference.

“Fantastic effort, I wish we had him for a couple more years,” Air Force head coach Troy Calhoun said of the senior’s performance. “It’s not that hard to get him involved (in the offense). He is our one guy who can make more than what’s there, because he makes somebody miss. If he doesn’t get run down, he might get more chances.”

Hall carried the ball a career-high 34 times, caught a team-high three passes for 19 yards and returned three punts for 39 yards. He accounted for 333 of the Falcons’ 581 all-purpose yards, a new Air Force individual record.

“I just ran behind the big guys” the modest Hall said.

“I beat my guy off the line and the ball was thrown a little short,” Armstrong said. “So I held up, got a little eight yarder, iced the game and significantly improved Air Force’s bowl chances at 7-3 on the year. NCAA Division I teams are bowl-eligible with six wins.

For their performances, Hall and Harrison were named the Mountain West Conference Offensive and co-Special Teams Players of the Week respectively.

Harrison’s three field goals were a career high. He averaged 42-yards on two punts and his seven kick offs resulted in four touchbacks and an average starting field position of 42-yards on two punts for 39 yards. He accounted for 333 of the Falcons’ 581 all-purpose yards, a new Air Force individual record.

“I just ran behind the big guys” the modest Hall said.

“At the beginning of the year everyone was doubting our offensive line because they’re young. But, they’ve stepped up big time. They made holes, I read them and ran behind them. They’ve been playing great and it shows.”

With the game tied, 3-3, after one quarter, the Air Force passing game showed up when quarterbacks Shaun Carney, who completed 9-of-13 passes for 105 yards, lofted a 48-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver Spencer Armstrong, who reacted well to the ball. It was his first TD catch of the season after missing the first five games of the campaign with a torn hamstring.

“I beat my guy off the line and the ball was thrown a little short,” Armstrong said. “So I held up, got a little extension on him, was able to get the ball without him looking and walked in the end zone.”

Army (3-6) knotted matters at 10 later in the second quarter on a 2-yard touchdown reception by tight end Ernie Bernal.

On the Falcons next possession Carney capped a 15-play, 80-yard drive with a 5-yard touchdown run :52 before halftime.

The Air Force defense pitched a shutout in the second half, keyed by five sacks for 42 yards. It limited the Black Knights to 181 total yards including a scant 17 rushing.

A 1-yard Hall touchdown run in the third quarter and a field goal by Harrison before halftime, keyed by five sacks for 42 yards. It limited the Black Knights to 181 total yards including a scant 17 rushing.

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Trailing 4-3 with momentum in Army’s corner, Air Force rallied for back-to-back-to-back wins to claim their annual inter-service dual meet, 6-4, before a packed house in the Cadet Gym’s Upper Boxing Room Nov. 2.

Decisions by Andrew Catoire, Chris Johnson and Cory Tintzman, making his collegiate debut, got the bluesuiter program back on track after two previous sub-par cards against Navy and Army to open the season.

“The word was out we were not in shape,” said Air Force head coach Eddie Weichers who admitted he was not a happy camper.

The Falcons went 2-7 against Navy at Annapolis on Sept. 28. Senior Brian Navin won a 158-pound decision and sophomore John Doeseckle won a referee stopped-contest in the third round for the only victories.

Four weeks later, Air Force went 1-5 against Army and Navy at the annual Service Academy Showcase at the Detroit Athletic Club. Senior Daryn Nelson picked up the Falcons lone win with a 160-pound referee stopped-contest in the third round.

Air Force shook off those two team outings and started strong here when junior David Simon, using an effective right hand, won a 135-pound split decision over Chad Moran to open the 10-bout card with the visitors from West Point.

Junior Austin Almand, relying on a relentless attack and started strong here when junior David Simon, using an effective right hand, won a 135-pound split decision over Chad Moran to open the 10-bout card with the visitors from West Point.

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Falcon sophomore Seth Gunn mixes it up with Army’s Dan Hogan in the 144-pound fight. Gunn won a unanimous decision giving Air Force a 3-1 lead in the 10-round bout.

From a team standpoint, Weichers agrees.

“I fed off the crowd,” Catoire said. “They enabled me to land some big-time blows.”

Page scored his first career goal at the 5:06 mark from Matt Charbonneau and Kozlak. Charbonneau took a shot from the right point that was saved by Laker goalie Ryan Zapolski. Page took the rebound and shot from behind the goal line on the left side that caromed off Zapolski and went in for the Falcons’ first lead in the series.

“It’s an unreal feeling, the three freshman goals. It happened real quick,” Page said. “None of us knew what was going on. We’re just playing for each other.”

Just 47 seconds later, Kozlak scored his first career goal from freshman Derrick Burrett and Brandon Quinn (ringside) on a delayed penalty. Burnett controlled the puck behind the Mercyhurst net and waited as Kozlak was the extra skater coming off the bench. Burnett fed Kozlak who was racing down the slot for a 4-2 advantage.

“A lot of guys got opportunities they hadn’t had before,” Kozlak said. “We worked hard and good things happened to us tonight.”

The Falcons out shot the Lakers, 43-18, including 15-4 in the decisive third period.

The win improved Air Force to 4-2 overall and 2-2 in the AHA while Mercyhurst fell to 1-6-1 and 1-2-1 in league play.

“With three of our key veterans out plus overcoming a 2-0 deficit, with the freshmen scoring three of the goals, it was a very gratifying win, Air Force head coach Frank Serratore said. “You hate to say must wins this early in the year, but you can’t give up four points (two points per win) at home.”

Falcons 6
Army 4

By Wayne Amann
Academy Spirit Editor

Last season, Air Force sowed the seeds with its first ever NCAA Hockey Tournament appearance. Saturday the Falcons started to reap the fruits that come with attracting players to a winning program.

Back-to-back-to-back third period goals in a 2:15 span, by freshmen Matt Becker, Blake Page and Scott Kozlak, triggered a five-goal outburst which propelled the bluesuiter to a 6-2 win over Mercyhurst College and a split in their Atlantic Hockey Association weekend series at the Cadet Ice Arena.

The Lakers won, 5-3, on Nov. 2.

“We took it as an opportunity to come out and fly and show we’re a good class and we can pick up the slack if we need to,” Becker said. “We had to show we’re the team we were last year, even better.”

The fresh trio stepped up in a big way after injuries sidelined senior forwards Josh Schaffer and Josh Print plus junior forward Mike Phillips.

Becker, playing his first career game in place of the injured Schaffer, scored his first collegiate goal at the 3:38 mark of the third period to tie the game at 2-2. Josh Frider took a shot from the right point that was saved by Becker put back the rebound. Jeff Hajner also assisted on the play.

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Holiday dining changes

The High Country Inn dining facility will be open to retirees and enlisted Airmen and their immediate family members with ID cards for a limited time during the upcoming holidays while Prep School students are gone. Dependent ID card holders must be accompanied by their sponsor. Nov. 20-25 and Dec. 19-Jan. 2, breakfast will be offered from 7-8 a.m., lunch from noon-1 p.m. and dinner from 5:30-6:30 p.m. There will be no breakfast offered Nov. 20 or Dec. 19 and no dinner offered Nov. 25 or Jan 2. On Thanksgiving and Christmas, the traditional meals will be served from noon to 1 p.m., including several culinary displays provided by the dining facility culinary team. All meals will be a la carte at low fees. Please make reservations for the meals you plan to attend by calling Ray Hoock at 333-9831 or Tim Dunn at 333-4730. After the holidays, the High Country Inn will resume normal operations and the dining facility will not be open to retirees and enlisted Airmen.

Petra's Perks

Petra's Perks, the newest addition to Arnold Hall’s food and drink fare, will open Wednesday at 6 a.m. Located between Subway and Godfather’s pizza, the shop will offer four flavors of Starbucks coffees and eight flavors of Tazo Tea, plus hot cocoa, muffins, bagels and a large variety of packaged snacks including candy, nuts, chips, pretzels and cookies. Two tables outside the shop have seating for eight.

Coat Drive

The outdoor recreation center will hold a coat drive for the Marian House Soup Kitchen. The drive will kick off with coffee and cookies on Tuesday at 10 a.m. and run through Nov. 17. Donated coats must be clean and serviceable, and will be distributed to local individuals in need. Drop offs can be made during hours of operation at both the community center and cadet area outdoor recreation centers. For more information, call Chuck Allifuts at 333-4961.

GIS Day slated

The Academy will present an International Geographic Information Systems Day Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Exemplar Area on the 3rd floor of Fairchild Hall between the lictinaries. The event will feature a cross section of exhibitors form the military, government and industry who will display how they collect, analyze and exploit spatial information.

Money matters

The Academy Airmen and Family Readiness Center’s Personal Financial Program Manager presents Lunch Money, Thursday from noon-1 p.m. To sign up, call 333-3444.

America Recycles Day

To commemorate America Recycles Day, the 10th Civil Engineering Squadron will hold an electronic recycling event through November. Each Wednesday and Thursday in November, electronic items can be taken to Bldg. 8125 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for recycling. Some recyclable items are personal computers and components, televisions, DVD or CD players, stereo and speakers and VHS players. For more information, call Jeanie Duncan at 333-0812.

Sound tech sought

The cadet chapel needs a qualified sound technician to set-up musical equipment and provide technical support for contemporary protestant services. The applicant must have experience setting up and operating high tech soundboards, speakers and band equipment. This is a part-time position generally on Wednesday and Thursday evenings plus Sunday mornings. A statement of work can be reviewed by calling Staff Sgt. Brian Marts or Tech. Sgt. David Johnson at 333-7851.

Survey says

All Academy people and visiting professors are invited to take a Housing Requirements and Market Analysis Survey at www.airforcehousingsurvey.net. The password is acad2289. The survey collects factual information regarding the current housing situation in the community and the housing preferences of Academy people. The survey is confidential and the information will be used in conjunction with a detailed analysis of the local housing market to determine if there is sufficient, suitable and affordable housing available in the community. The survey is open to on-base or off-base residents, accompanied or unaccompanied. For more information, call Judy Dickson, at 333-3539, or Kelly Sieber at 333-9269.

Clinic eyes patients

The 10th Medical Group optometry clinic has resumed primary eye care for Tricare-enrolled family members, and retirees younger than age 65. The optometry clinic is staffed with three optometrists and technicians. To schedule an appointment, call the central appointment line at 457-2273.

Live theater

The Academy BlueBards Production Team presents "Prophecy and Honor, The Trial of Billy Mitchell" by Joe Moore, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m., in the Arnold Hall Theater. General admission is $6. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or the door by cash or check only. For more information, call 333-4497.

Cog Railway special

The Pikes Peak Cog Railway presents a military appreciation event today-Monday. Trains will run at 9:20 a.m. and 1:20 p.m. for $14 for adults and $7 for children of all military ID cardholders. The special price is a significant savings. To reserve a spot, call the Cog Railway at 685-5401.

A Veteran's Salute

The 5th Annual Veteran's Salute is Saturday at 2 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church at 2505 N. Circle Dr. in Colorado Springs. The event will include remarks from Congressman Doug Lamborn, a POW MIA ceremony, a medley of military songs, a 21-gun salute and the playing of TAPS. There will also be exhibits from Schraver and Peterson Air Force bases and Fort Carson. The event is free.

Free fee for military

In honor of Veterans Day, on Sunday military veterans plus active duty members and their families will be admitted free to public lands managed by the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture.

Deck the Halls

The Colorado Springs Chorale presents Deck the Hall, a family Christmas Musical, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center. Tickets range from $16 to $48 and a $2 military discount is offered. To purchase tickets, contact the Pikes Peak Center box office at 520-7469, www.ticketswest.com, or any Tickets West outlet.
Order now for holiday delivery and support America’s Forgotten Heroes. Help us recognize those who gave so much to our country.

Our First Edition, 100% American-Made-and-Produced Holiday Ornament benefitting the Forgotten Heroes Campaign is now available for purchase. This limited quantity, special item benefits veterans whose service to the country has gone unrecognized. The Forgotten Heroes Campaign provides public ceremonies for the presentation of earned but never received awards, citations and ribbons.

For $20.00 and a nominal S/H charge, you will receive a single timeless keepsake ornament featuring all 5 service branch logos.

(Above: Closeup photos of branch logos. Each ornament features all 5 logos.)

Order today and receive your ornament(s) in 6 to 8 weeks. Make your check or money order to: Forgotten Heroes Campaign and remit to: Forgotten Heroes Campaign Attn: Tom Bock C/O American Legion Dept. of Colorado 7465 E. 1st Avenue Suite D, Denver, CO 80230.

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