



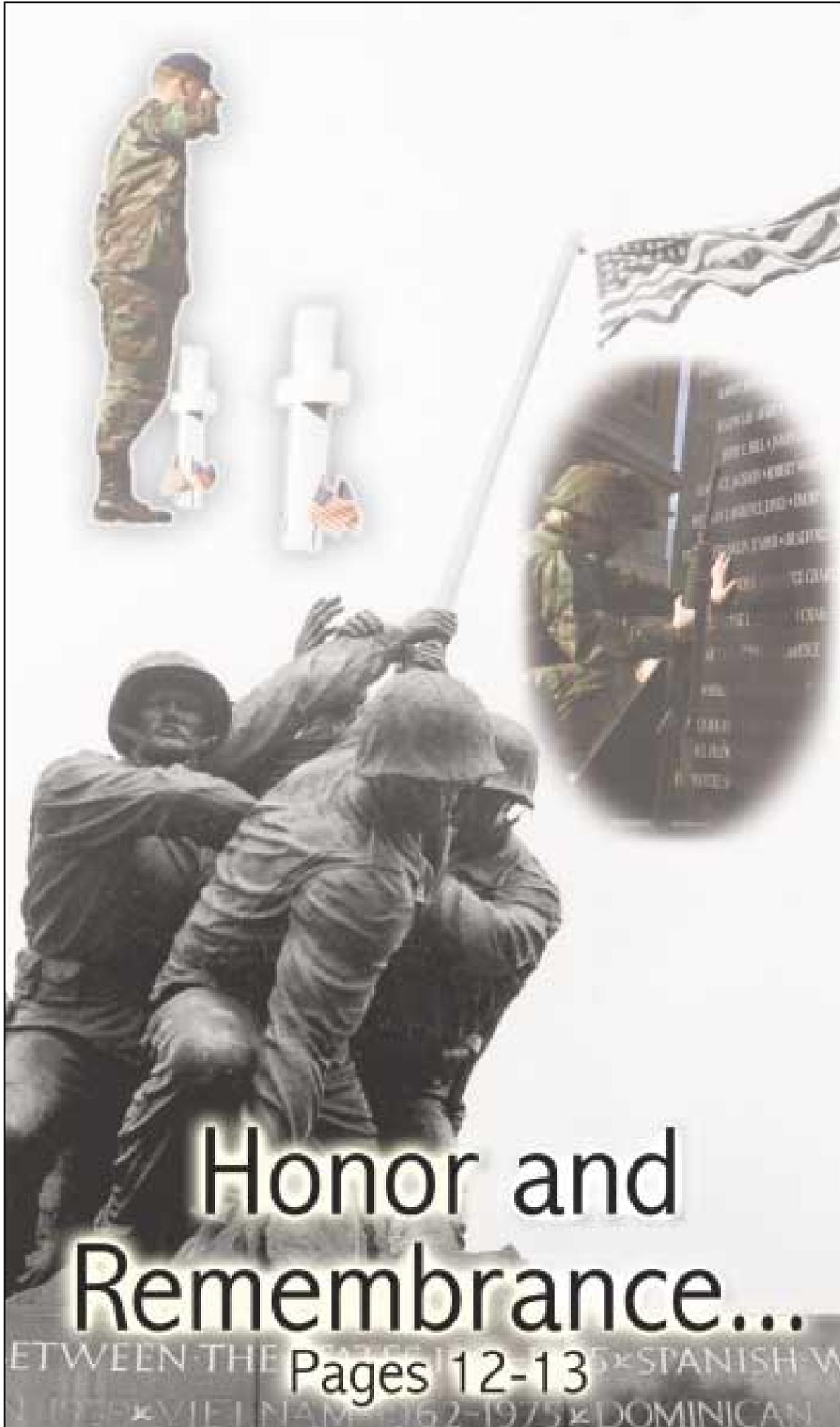
Space Observer

“Best in Air Force Space Command – 2002”

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2003

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

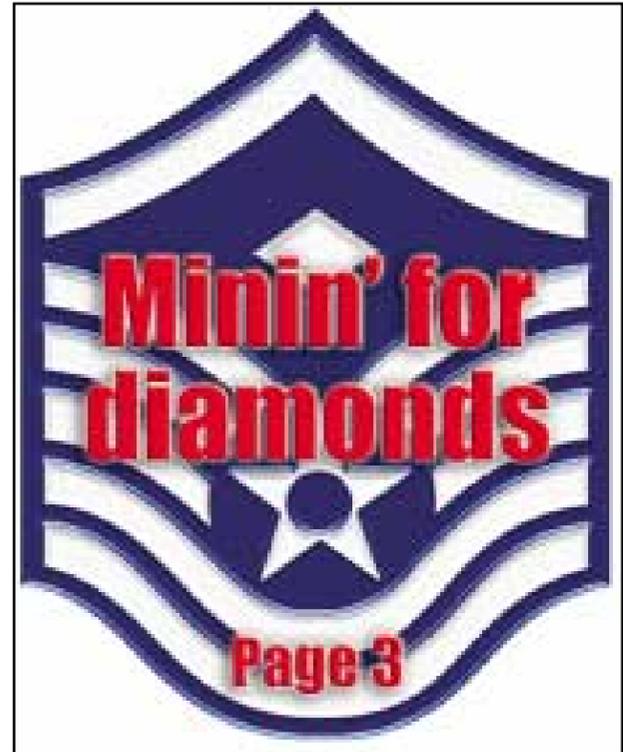
Vol. 47 No. 45



Honor and Remembrance...

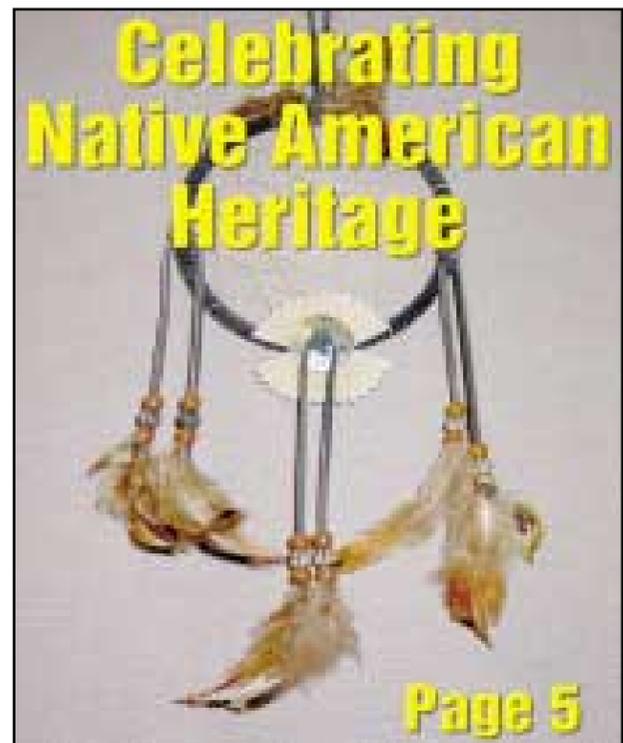
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Graphic by Staff Sgt. Josh Clendener



Minin' for diamonds

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Celebrating Native American Heritage

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Courtesy photo



SnoFest!!!

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Photo by Joe Fischer



The 21st Space Wing welcomes commanders and leaders representing its 48 worldwide units as they gather for the 21st SW Leadership Conference next week.



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Straight Talk Line 556-9154

Answering call for first sergeants:

Diamonds in the rough

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

Each year, the Air Force needs 250 master sergeants to step up and wear the diamond. For the last few years, though, the service has come up short on volunteers.

"I believe the Air Force has the finest first sergeants in the Department of Defense. We've maintained this status through an all-volunteer program," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray wrote in his Oct. 20, 2002, Enlisted Perspective titled "First Sergeants: Filling the Vacancies."

"Our only failure has been in getting enough volunteers to fill these critical requirements," he said.

Recently, Murray announced that 400 of the Air Force's top master sergeants with less than 17 years in the service would be identified as eligible candidates.

These senior NCOs have great records, and won't have a problem making the shift into being a "first shirt," said Chief Master Sgt. Brian D. Gauthier, 21st MSS First Sergeant. "They are already

doing great things and will continue to do so."

With the current first sergeant manning levels dipping below 90 percent, Murray said it's projected down to about 86 percent if something doesn't change in the Air Force.

"That's wrong," Murray said during an enlisted call here recently. "We would not let a squadron go without a squadron commander, and where we have authorized first sergeants, we shouldn't let a squadron go without a first sergeant."

He acknowledged that commanders don't let the first sergeant billet go vacant for long.

"They have to pull a master sergeant or a senior or chief out of hide to do dual jobs," he said. "... We're not going to do that."

After years of review and inputs from the field, the Air Force has changed the way it manages first sergeants to stem the decade-old trend.

"The changes have successfully spread our critical

first sergeant manning across the Air Force. The next step is to fill the vacancies," Murray said.

Volunteerism is still a crucial element in filling the first sergeant void. So, of the 400 who receive the notices, those who indicate they are volunteers will lock in a seat for themselves at the month-long First Sergeants Academy.

"It's important to understand that we are not creating two separate application processes," Murray said. "The new first sergeant selection program will accommodate individuals who volunteer for first sergeant duty as well as those selected for first sergeant duty."

Although the new program eliminates the formal shadow and boarding programs in order to streamline the process and ensure all candidates receive timely, fair, and equal consideration, Team Pete still has an informal shadow program.

The candidates shadow experienced first sergeants for about two weeks,

said Senior Master Sgt. Neal E. Thatcher, 21st Security Forces Squadron First Sergeant. During that period, they'll observe the first sergeants in their element – interacting with the commander, supervisors, and their airmen.

Under the new system, first sergeants can return to their previous career field after three years, Gauthier said.

"I believe it helps the units that they are assigned to after they go back to their previous career field," he said. "It gives the individuals some breadth of experience as they work in other types of squadrons."

In a message intended for the 400 identified, but applicable to any current or soon-to-be senior NCO, Murray said, "We need you to step up to this challenge. I assure you that it will expand your horizons and give you opportunities to lead that will enhance your leadership as a senior NCO."

"Along the way, you'll develop leadership and management skills that will prepare you for even greater challenges, and give you invaluable experience to take back to your career field at the end of your first sergeant tour," he said.

"Expand your horizons," Thatcher said. "Take the challenge."



The new Air Force Uniform

... Know the facts



visit

<http://www.af.mil/uniform/#>

Your link to frequently
asked questions,
letters, and photos.

1st Space Control Squadron tracks Japanese rocket launch, re-entry

By Master Sgt. Ramon Duron III
Space Control Center Flight Chief, Bravo Crew

The Oct. 30 launch of the Japanese SERVIS-1 satellite was the focus of operations for the 1st Space Control Squadron at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo.

The 1st SPCS operates the Space Control Center as part of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. The 1st SPCS mission is to detect, track, and identify all man-made objects launched into space.

The launch was a challenge to the SCC for two reasons:

- it was a non-historic launch for this satellite, and
- the SCC is the primary agency to build and provide accurate element set data to the entire Space Surveillance Network upon initial launch and detect from the sensor network. Furthermore, another SCC mission is to provide re-entry assessment prediction data to national and international agencies as a "heads up" notification of objects re-entering the earth's atmosphere, as was the case for a SL-19 rocket body over the western coast of Greenland.

Amazingly, the 12th Space Warning Squadron at Thule Air Base, Greenland was at the front line of this launch and all events, which proceeded

afterward. Initially, the 12th SWS was tasked to provide space track data as part of new foreign launch processing for the SCC. Metric observation data received by three phased arrayed radars at Thule, Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, and Royal Air Force Fylingdales, in the United Kingdom, further assisted the SCC to produce and publish the first element set for the SERVIS-1 satellite.

The SCC continued to collect data and was able to determine the re-entry assessment prediction for SL-19 rocket body. It's rare for a radar sensor to be involved in every phase of the new, foreign launch process. However, Maj. Michael D. Gresham, Capt. Dominick Young, and Staff Sgt. Michael St. Romain, the 12th SWS crew on duty, had to be at the top of their game when they provided re-entry assessment data to the SCC for final confirmation of the SL-19 rocket body 105 nautical miles off the coast of Greenland.

What made this event even more interesting for the crew were the numerous visual reports from the local Inuit population who live in nearby villages close to Thule Air Base. Many witnessed firsthand the SL-19 re-entry as it streaked across the twilight of the Greenland sky.

The 21st Space Wing is at the tip of the spear of the Missile Warning and Space Control mission of 14th Air Force and Air Force Space Command.



NORTH GATE BOLLARD MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED

The 21st Civil Engineer Squadron will accomplish bollard repairs and maintenance from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at the North Gate. Civil Engineers will close down one lane at a time to ensure safety of workers. Slow down and be mindful of workers safety at all times. Direct questions to Master Sgt. Thomas O'Neill at 556-1882.

MPF CUSTOMER SERVICE WEDNESDAY HOURS CHANGE

Due to increased training requirements, the Peterson Military Personnel Flight Customer Service counter will be open 9:45 a.m.-5 p.m. on Wednesdays. Customer Service hours will remain 8 a.m.-4 p.m., with the exception of Wednesdays. If you have questions, call the Chief of Customer Support at 556-4819.

CAR WASH MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED

The base car wash is closed for maintenance until 8 a.m. Saturday. Since the maintenance is related to repairing or replacing the cement floor of the car wash stalls, having the work done on time depends on weather conditions. For more information, call the Auto Skills Center at 556-4481.

EDUCATION FAIR SCHEDULED

The Peterson Education Center holds an Education Fair from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 20, in the Education Center, Building 1141. Representatives from Webster University, Pikes Peak Community College, DeVry University, Colorado Christian University, Regis

University, and many others will be on hand. For information, call the Education Services Office at 556-4064.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING HELD AT BASE AUDITORIUM

Suicide Prevention training will be at 8 and 9 a.m., and 1 and 2 pm., today and Friday in the Base Auditorium. These are the last Suicide Prevention training sessions for the year at Peterson. For more information, call the Life Skills Center at 556-7804.

TOP THREE COUNCIL MEETS

The Pikes Peak Top 3 meets at 3 p.m. Nov. 20 in the Enlisted Club Buffalo Grill. This month, nominees for executive officer positions will speak, and all members will be given opportunities to lead and excel. Membership is open to all master sergeant selects through chief master sergeants who are assigned to Team Pete. Retirees sponsored by an active-duty top three member are also welcome to join as associate members. Pikes Peak Top 3 actively supports enlisted causes and professional development through a variety of activities. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael McGraw at 556-6850.

TOP THREE TAKES NOMINATIONS FOR ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

The Pikes Peak Top 3 is taking nominations for the positions of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The newly elected officers take office in January. Pikes Peak Top 3 members may nominate other PPT3, to include master sergeant selects, who are members in good standing. Nominees must submit a short statement regarding why they would like to hold

the position, and their vision for the PPT3. Nominees and their statements will be posted on the PPT3 Web page on PeteCentral. Send nominations to *victor.blake@afotec.af.mil* or *michael.sansone@afotec.af.mil* by noon Friday. Nominees must attend the next PPT3 meeting at 3 p.m. Nov. 20 in the Enlisted Club.

PERSONAL SAFETY AWARENESS BRIEFINGS PLANNED

Bill Cain, a representative of the National Crime Prevention Task Force, will present Personal Safety Awareness briefings Monday-Wednesday at the Peterson Auditorium, and Building 313 at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station. Briefings at the Peterson Auditorium are 8 and 10 a.m., and 1 and 6 p.m. Monday; 6 p.m. Tuesday; and 8 and 10 a.m., and 2 p.m. Wednesday. The Cheyenne Mountain AFS briefings are 8 and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

AF CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

The Air Force Customer Service Center offers customers a single phone number for personnel and pay-related questions. Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, retirees, and Department of Defense civilian employees can dial 1-800-616-3775 for assistance with personnel records, pay inquiries, technical support for virtual MPF and myPay Web sites, benefits and entitlements counseling, and employment information. This single number asks a few quick questions, and automatically transfers callers to the appropriate center. AFCSC also offers customers a single Web site, www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst/ where people can access personnel and pay self-service applications, and seek answers to questions.



Chapel Schedule

Protestant

Worship Services:

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

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.



'I'm an American Indian'

By Staff Sgt. Felicia Beyale

21st Mission Support Squadron

I'm an American Indian from the Navajo Tribe. I joined the Air Force in 1989, when I was 19 years old. My family includes seven older sisters, and five older brothers. Yes, this makes me lucky number 13, and the youngest.

My ancestors come from Lukachukai, Ariz. There is a proud lineage of military heroes from my ancestors who were Navajo Code Talkers during World War II, and some who were radio and communications technicians during the Vietnam Conflict. I was proud to join my brothers in arms, and I have been to various bases around the world. Some natives in other countries always seem to mistake me for their own homeland race (i.e. Panamanian, Korean, Turkish). But when I tell them I'm American Indian, they are always surprised.

I'm the only female from my family who enlisted in the military. When I first joined the Air Force, I knew I upset my family. They wanted me to go to college and maybe be one of the first to get my degree.

I asked my Mom when I came back home from my first assignment, "What do you think now?"

"I am sad that you aren't home with me," she said. "But I'm very proud of you, and what you do for us. You touch so many lives, more than if you stayed home protected by your family. When you touch someone's life and make a difference you pass along a little of yourself. I will always be proud of you, no matter if you joined the Air Force or not."

I always thought she would never understand why I joined the Air Force, or approve of my choices in life. She gave me hope and love to press on when times were rough.



Courtesy photo

An example of a Native American Wedding Shield.

I talk to my nephews and nieces about the choice I made to join the Air Force, and I try not to influence them one way or another. Then I realize I influence anyone I meet who is not in the military, by the way I look,

talked, and act. My younger niece helped me realize this when she saw me for the first time in my service dress uniform.

We have to remember where we come from, and who we are, when we put on our uniform in the morning. I'm not only proud to be in the Air Force, but I'm also proud to be Navajo.

Integrity was instilled in me before I came in the military by my culture. Mom always said, "Keep your word, and talk the truth no matter if it hurts. People will respect you for your honesty and truthfulness."

Service before self; that sounds a lot like what my grandmother said to me. "Keep your family needs before your needs, some day your children will be taking care of you." Excellence in all we do, almost the same as the words of my grandfather. "You will be judged by your work, you are a reflection of your work. So when it is half done you not only make more work for you, but for others."

There are several American Indians serving in the Air Force locally, and though November is recognized as Native American Heritage Month, we don't need a certain month – or even some event – to recognize all the different nationalities' contributions to the military.

We are the most diverse Air Force in the world. We have all different kinds of American Indians, and the only way we differ is by the tribe we are from. I look at as if we come from different squadrons and wings but we have one mission – protection for our homeland and our country's people.

We don't see the difference when we do our daily tasks, we wear the same uniform, and we even speak the same language. We come together to make our future safe and secure for our family and friends. 



The Great American Smokeout

By Col. (Dr.) Kenneth Hoffman

TriCare Population Health Programs

The third Thursday in November has traditionally been the "Great American Smokeout," a day when millions of Americans stop smoking for at least a day. Each year, millions of Americans try to quit, and for each quitting attempt, many are successful. Although many depend on sheer willpower to quit, many more are more likely to succeed in permanently quitting tobacco with help from others, to include an interested health care provider.

Nicotine is an addictive drug. No one started smoking with the intention of becoming an addict. Smoking has been part of our culture and many people start because their friends start, or they want to be "grown up" and part of a lifestyle where smoking is important. Early on, smokers realize nicotine aids concentration, decreases appetite and improves one's mood. If there was nothing pleasant about nicotine, it would not have the potential to become addictive. At some point, most smokers realize they would have been better off not smoking and each year, perhaps 70 percent of all active duty smokers want to quit. A good percentage of those try to quit. They find quitting is not so easy. Many are accustomed to smoking more than 10 cigarettes per day, perhaps smoking within five minutes of getting up in the morning.

There are specific times when the urge for a cigarette can be overwhelming. Without a smoke, the individual becomes highly stressed, irritable and unable to concentrate. At some level, smokers may come to realize that smoking is out of control. When the urge strikes, it becomes an obsession, and use becomes compulsive. These components; symp-

toms of withdrawal, out of control use and obsessive-compulsive use are what define nicotine has one of the most addictive drugs we have today. Many non-smokers do not appreciate the struggle it takes many smokers to permanently quit.

We want smokers to quit. Nicotine addiction adversely impacts readiness and the military's mission. In a field setting, a lit cigarette becomes a beacon in the dark and cigarette butts can be an important clue to enemy intelligence. Nicotine withdrawal decreases tolerance to stress, decreases the ability to concentrate, increases personal irritability, and can disturb the sleep cycle needed for optimal performance. Tobacco smoke itself decreases the amount of oxygen and increases the amount of carbon monoxide in the blood so that personal endurance is decreased. Most smokers already realize these facts and are willing to quit if this can be accomplished successfully.

Our health care team can help all smokers successfully quit. While simple brief advice might help a small but significant number of smokers, we know that through the use of additional counseling, positive social support, stress management, nutritional counseling, nicotine replacement therapy, and anti-craving drugs, we can help a far greater number.

All of these options are currently available to our military health care beneficiaries through our medical treatment facilities and health promotion programs.

Although I am addressing smoking for the Great American Smokeout, we are concerned about the use of all tobacco products. The Military Health Care system wants all tobacco users to successfully quit. Call the Peterson HAWC at 556-4292 for more information.



Give the gift of life

By Master Sgt. Kristin Clark

First Term Airman's Center

On Tuesday, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the first floor atrium of the Mission Support Center, the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program will recruit volunteers to join the National Marrow Donor Registry and possibly become a life-saving bone marrow donor for a critically ill patient.

Registration is simple, free, and usually takes about 15 minutes.

Your bone marrow type will be entered into the National Marrow Donor Registry. You will remain in the registry until age 60 and will be contacted if you ever become a preliminary match for a patient. Marrow donations from DoD personnel are performed at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and there is no cost at any time to the government or the donor.

Each year, more than 30,000 adults and children are diagnosed with leukemia or other fatal blood diseases, and more than 70 percent must search for a matching donor outside of their immediate family.

To date, the National Marrow Donor Program has enabled more than 10,000 unrelated transplants, using donors from the more than 4 million registered. The DoD share of these figures is nearly 800 transplants, and almost 300,000 registered.

The odds of patients finding a lifesaving match improves as more potential donors are added to the registry. The DoD Marrow Program is one of 92 donor centers supporting the National Marrow Registry.

For more information, contact me at 556-9158, or e-mail kristin.clark@peterson.af.mil.

Interested people can also visit the DoD Marrow Program's Web site at www.dodmarrow.org, or call 1-800-MARROW-3. Consider giving the gift of life, and come out to register!



What veteran in your life most inspires you?



“My grandfather – a World War II veteran.”
Master Sgt. Michael McGrady,
21st Operations Group



“Colonel Allen E. Fellows, U.S. Air Force, disappeared with his O-2A observation plane over Laos on March 20, 1968, and was declared Missing in Action in 1973. He is only in my life by way of a faded, scratched red metal bracelet, but the ultimate sacrifice of Col. Fellows and his family inspire me in countless ways.”
Master Sgt. Kristin Clark,
First Term Airman’s Center



“My uncle Bill inspires me. As a young Marine, he fought at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. He inspires me to never, ever, give up!”
Tech. Sgt. Phillip Wickham,
21st Mission Support Squadron



“My uncle, retired Master Sgt. Dwight Ingram. He’s the reason I do what I do.”
Airman 1st Class Donald Ingram,
21st Civil Engineer Squadron



“My dad – he’s the reason I’m in the Air Force.”
Maj. Helene Wilson,
17th Test Squadron



“My grandfather was in the Army Air Corps, and I wanted to be in the military to support my family and give something back. I guess it’s a family tradition.”
Senior Airman Frank E. Fountain,
721st Security Forces Squadron



“(Army) Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He was in command in Japan when the Korean War broke out. I made the Inchon landing with the Marines, and I think that saved hundreds of lives. Also, (Marine) Gen. Louis (“Chesty”) Puller. When we were trapped in the Cho San Reservoir in North Korea, he saved hundreds of lives by being a tough, disciplined leader.”
Lt. Col. Merrill W. Harper,
U.S. Army retired



“My Grandpa inspired me the most. He was in the Navy during World War II. His brother was a pilot who was shot down over Germany, and his father was in World War I.”
Senior Airman Sean Robbins,
21st Space Communications Squadron



Program offers business opportunities to veterans

By Army Sgt. 1st Class
Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Veterans Affairs loan program, long known for helping veterans get their own home, is now helping them obtain their own business. Veterans can now go from “defending the American dream to owning it,” said Don DeBolt, president of the International Franchise Association, which sponsors the Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative program.

“It’s the one way we can focus attention to our veterans who are leaving the military and would like to have their own slice of the American dream and would like to have their own business to operate,” he said. “The beautiful thing about franchising is that there are no glass ceilings, there are no barriers to success.”

VetFran was first introduced in the early 1990s, and officials have since worked to attract and educate members of the armed

forces about the opportunities through business ownerships and franchising, DeBolt said. VetFran officials work closely with the VA to offer franchise opportunities for retiring veterans transitioning back into civilian life, he said.

The VA “is very high on finding business opportunities for former military (members), and franchising is one of the areas (identified) to look at,” DeBolt said.

Businesses participating in VetFran have agreed to help veterans acquire franchises by providing “best-deal” programs and financial incentives not otherwise available to other investors, DeBolt said. Veterans can acquire business franchises with down payments of 10 percent or less of the initial franchise cost.

A wide range of franchises are available including food services to hotel and automotive services. VetFran has 113 companies participating in the program, DeBolt said.

“There is a large menu in franchising. We’d like to think that there is something for everybody,” he said, “not only in terms of their skill sets, their interest and their passions, but also from their pocketbook standpoint.”

Veterans can find franchises for a few thousand dollars in initial investment to a few million dollars, “if you’re interested in a Ritz Hotel,” DeBolt said.

Veterans must realize that owning their own business is a real possibility – that “where there is a will, there is a way,” he said. But he also suggested that before making a decision to own a business, veterans must take a personal inventory of their business interests.

“They need to know their skills sets, what they feel passionate about. They need to know the interests and desires of their families, what their families would be supportive of,” he said.

To learn more about franchise opportunities, visit the VA’s Center for Veterans Enterprise Web site at www.vetbiz.gov.

Now showing: Nov. 10 edition of AFTV News

SAN ANTONIO – The Air Force contribution to firefighting efforts in California headlines the latest edition of Air Force Television News. Tech. Sgt. Pachari Lutke and Staff Sgt. Melissa Allan report from the fire lines in two separate parts of the state, focusing on active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard troops who battled the raging wildfires from the air and on the ground. Air National Guard and Reserve firefighting units from four states, as well as active-duty airmen from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Vandenberg AFB, Calif., took part.

Staff Sgt. April Lawrence is in Monterey, Calif., to report on the increased emphasis on graduating Arabic linguists at the Defense Language Institute. Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger goes to New Jersey to cover exercise Eagle Flag and focused on security forces learning how to handle hostile situations in foreign countries.

Staff Sgt. Marty Rush attends an air show at Edwards AFB, Calif., and watches a B-1 Lancer crew from the base set or break some 50 records. Staff Sgt. Joy Josephson-Spann provides an update on crews testing the CV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft.

Senior Airman Abby Pilmaier examines the changing role of Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, following the end of Operation Northern Watch. Staff Sgt. Kevin Dennison attends a football game at the Air Force Academy where a group of the famed Tuskegee Airmen was honored in special ceremonies.

Staff Sgt. Joe Wallace reports on a test program at Scott AFB, Ill., that takes a different approach to caring for mildly ill children. And, Allan is on hand as famed Food Channel chef Emeril Lagasse brings his utensils to McGuire AFB, N.J., to videotape his Thanksgiving cooking program before a group of hungry airmen.

Air Force Television News is a production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil. The program is also offered with closed captioning. Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to: afvnews@afnews.af.mil.

(Information courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Armed Services YMCA announces guidelines for annual essay contest

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The armed Services YMCA Essay Contest 2004 seeks readers who can write about why they love to read for its annual contest.

Co-sponsored by Lockheed Martin, the essay contest promotes reading among children and teens of the uniformed services (active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired), and civilian (DoD and Coast Guard) families. Winning essays will receive U.S. Savings Bonds.

One \$500 first place and one \$100 second place bond will be awarded in categories for first and second grade; third and fourth grade; fifth and sixth grade; and seventh and eighth grade. Students

in two high school categories, ninth and 10th, and 11th and 12th, will be awarded \$1,000 bonds for first place, and \$200 bonds for second place.

In addition, there are two \$100 bonds for essays of honorable mention.

Students are asked to write about why they like to read. Grade eight and below should submit entries of 300 words or less. They may write about why reading is their favorite thing to do.

High school students (ninth through 12th grade) should write essays of 500 words or less. Mailed entries must be postmarked by March 12, 2004.

All entries submitted by e-mail should be sent no later than March 8, 2004. With every entry, there should be an official essay contest entry form. Entries received after the dates specified above will not be eligible for judging.

Send mail entries to "Armed Services YMCA, Attn: Essay Contest, 6359 Walker Lane, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22310. E-mail entries should be sent to kspooner@asymca.org. For additional information, go to www.asymca.org or e-mail questions to kspooner@asymca.org, or call 703-313-9600 ext. 10.

(Information courtesy of Armed Services YMCA)

21st Mission Support Group stages Operation Holiday Kids 2003 program

The men and women of the 21st Mission Support Group are initiating the fourth annual Operation Holiday Kids. The purpose of Operation Holiday Kids is to reach out to young lives in Colorado Springs who are in need. OHC partners with agencies who serve children to put gifts in hands that would go unfilled.

Your contribution of a new toy or a new piece of clothing will positively impact children in need. Last year the 21st Space Wing donated more than \$6,000 in gifts to local agencies.

When you place your gift in one of the Operation Holiday Kids boxes, you place it in the hands of a child.

With your support, Operation Holiday Kids can perpetuate the 21st Space Wing's legacy of caring for our local community and its children. If you are interested in donating, donation boxes are located in the following locations: Buildings 140, 350, 365, 605, 982, 1324, 1376, The Base Library, the Fitness Center, the Bowling Center, the Golf Club, Federal Building, and the Aragon Dining Facility. Donations will be gladly accepted through December 19.

If you have any questions on how you can assist, call Diane Coulson at 556-6127.

(Information courtesy of 21st MSG)

Open for business



Photo by G. Dennis Plummer

From left, Tannis, Tayah and Troy Carrington cut the ribbon for the new Military Family Resource Center at the Southeast YMCA on Jet Wing Drive. The Carringtons are stationed at Ft. Carson.

The MFRC grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was held Nov. 7, and the center opened Monday, providing information and referral to the community as part of the Air Force Family Support Centers and Army Community Services outreach programs.

The MFRC is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-11 a.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 4-7 p.m. A second center may be set up at the Briargate YMCA.

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.

FAULT-FREE FENDER BENDER – Oct. 30

Security Forces responded to the Military Personnel Flight parking lot after receiving a call from a military member who witnessed an unusual minor vehicle accident there. It seems an uninhabited and apparently uninhibited Jeep rolled toward a sitting Suburban. No damage was found on the Jeep, but the surprised Suburban sustained a dent to its rear bumper.

TRUCULENT TRESPASSER TRUCKED AWAY – Oct. 30

Security Forces contacted the command center and stated a quarrelsome quack was at the Visitors Center despite being told not to return there. The cantankerous civilian turned belligerent, was taken into custody, then escorted to the Security Forces building where she continued to cause trouble. The Colorado Springs Police Department was contacted and arrived on scene, but not before she threatened a Security Forces member repeatedly and tried to kick and bite him. (How dumb do you have to be to threaten a guy with a gun, while in a building filled with people who also have guns, while more people with guns are on their way from downtown?) CSPD issued the bonehead a summons for harassment and trespassing.

CAN YOU SEE ME NOW? POW! – Oct. 30

Security Forces responded to the Post Office parking lot, where a military member was involved in a minor vehicle accident. Attempting

to exit the parking lot, the driver inched his car onto Paine Street while trying to see around a parked car that was obstructing his view. The creeping car continued on its path and collided with an oncoming vehicle, scratching its right rear fender, bumper, and wheel hub. The offending vehicle sustained one 4-inch-wide scratch.

DOUBLE WHAMMY – Oct. 31

Security Forces detained a retired military member at the North Gate who had no proof of valid car insurance, and whose registration had expired in May. The CSPD arrived on scene and issued a summons for driving on expired plates and insurance. Before being released, the delinquent driver was also awarded an Armed Forces Traffic Ticket for failure to provide proof of current insurance and registration.

I BRAKE FOR TUMBLEWEEDS – Oct. 31

Security Forces was notified of a minor motor vehicle accident that occurred adjacent to a hangar on the flightline. The civilian, driving a company truck, decided to stop and pick up tumbleweeds. Apparently one weed was making a run for it, so the tumbleweed treasurer backed his truck up to detain the tumbling tumbleweed ... and backed right into a van. No damage was done to the truck, but the van's front bumper was not as fortunate.

MEDICAL RESPONSE #1 – Oct. 31

Security Forces, American Medical Response services, and the Fire Department responded to Dormitory 1156 when a military member walking to her room slipped on a patch of ice, landing on the elbow on which she recently had surgery – OW! AMR transported the agonizing airman to the Air Force Academy Hospital for further treatment.

CASH AND CARRY – Nov. 2

A military member contacted Security Forces and stated that \$520 had been stolen from his dorm room sometime the night before. The newly destitute dorm dweller had placed the cash on top of his dresser – why, he couldn't say – then proceeded to the day room to watch television, unaware he hadn't locked his door. In a sitcom stupor, the moneyless member didn't realize another had carried off with his cash until he awoke the next morning.

MEDICAL RESPONSE #2 – Nov. 2

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR

services responded to Dormitory 1156, where a military member was complaining of hip pains. AMR arrived on scene and transported the individual to the Air Force Academy Hospital.

LOOPED LADIES LONG FOR LAWYERS

– Nov. 3

A military member wisely contacted Security Forces stating he'd been verbally harassed by two female military members in his dormitory. When the patrolmen arrived on scene the harassed human reported two boozers verbally assaulted him and threw beer bottles at the door to his room. The two drunken debutantes were advised of their rights and both requested lawyers.

MEDICAL RESPONSE #3 – Nov. 4

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR services responded to the base Thrift Store, where a civilian was complaining of back pains. AMR arrived on scene and transported the individual to Memorial Hospital.

IT'S MY TURN – OOPS, NO IT ISN'T – Nov. 4

Security Forces was dispatched to the intersection of Stewart Avenue and Vincent Street after a vehicle crashed into another while trying to cross Stewart. Minor damage was done to both automobiles – including multiple scuffmarks and a crack on the front bumper, a dented fender and a jettisoned hubcap. The cruiser who created the crash was cited for improper turning movements.

DENT DAMAGE DONE – Nov. 5

Security Forces responded to the parking lot of the base dining facility where a dependent family member reported her green, four-door Acura TL had been damaged. She stated that sometime between 7:20 and 11:55 p.m., the rear driver's side door of her car received three dents – each one an inch in diameter. The second dent had traces of white paint on it. Call 556-4000 if you have any info on this hit and run.

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 four from individuals who enabled duress activation accidentally, one who entered an improper PIN number and another who used an improper procedure to activate an alarm.

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

WELCOME TO THE AIR FORCE

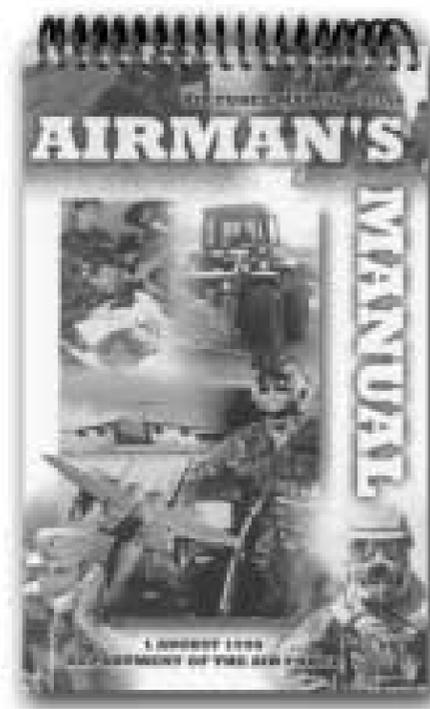


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Honor, remembrance

Parade pays tribute to Vietnam's veterans

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Servicemen and women from all local military installations showed their pride Saturday at the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Colorado Springs. The parade began at 9:30 a.m. at St. Vrain Street, and continued south along Tejon Street to Vermijo.

"We had a lot of support from around the base, especially from the 302nd Airlift Wing, who let us use one of their hangars as a place to work on our float," said Tech. Sgt. Donald Finley, 21st Space Wing Safety Office. "A lot of volunteers took time out of their busy schedules to help this all come together."

Several area military units, represented with floats and flights in formation, were cheered by thousands of veterans and spectators who braved the morning air to watch the parade.

"I think it's great that we were able to be so successful in showing the local community our pride, and I felt a great deal of pride from having so many people come out for the parade," Finley said. "It shows that they really appreciate us for what we do."

The theme for this year's parade "Vietnam, Welcome Home" paid special tribute to Vietnam War veterans.

"There was a lot of thought that went into the float we built, and how it was created to honor our veterans," he said.

"A lot of veterans gave us a 'thumbs-up' as our float passed by. That wasn't something we were expecting, but it showed that we'd done what we set out to do."

"Our vision was for us to be able to show that – even though we're from different units and squadrons – we all represent Team Pete," Finley said.

"I think we accomplished that." ✈️



Photo by 1st Lt. Julie Tucker

Staff Sgt. Cindy Compoc, left, Air Force Space Command Judge Advocate's office, and Senior Airman Kashya Chavies, 21st Civil Engineer Squadron, put finishing touches on one of the 21st Space Wing parade float displays.



Photo by G. Dennis Plummer

Parade participants by the hundreds showed off their colors in dozens of different ways. Thousands lined the streets of downtown Colorado Springs, cheering and showing their support for the military.



Photo by G. Dennis Plummer

A formation, made up of members from throughout Team Pete marches in Saturday morning's Veterans Day parade in downtown Colorado Springs.



Photo by G. Dennis Plummer

Airman 1st Class Katherine Beall, 21st Aeromedical Dental Squadron reflects against a panel of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. The parade's theme "Vietnam, Welcome Home," honored veterans of the Vietnam War.

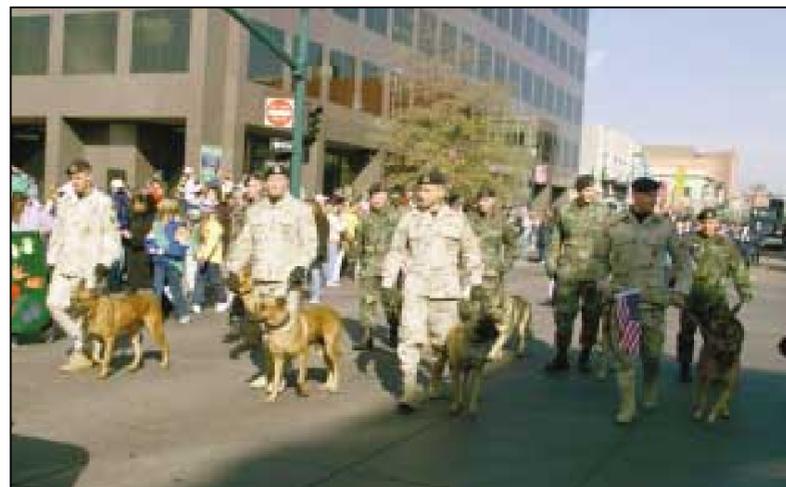


Photo by G. Dennis Plummer

A group of Security Forces members, led by Military Working Dog teams, marches down Tejon Street Saturday.



Photo by G. Dennis Plummer

Several displays by veterans organizations added to the sense of pride felt by parade participants and spectators alike. Thousands of spectators lined the streets.



Photo by 1st Lt. Julie Tucker

Staff Sgt. Owen Freeland, 21st Space Communications Squadron, secures a panel from a replica of the Vietnam Memorial to Team Pete's Veterans Day float.



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

This Week

Today

- Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m., in Building 350, Room 1016.
- Play Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the Youth Center.
- Mongolian Barbecue, 5-7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Reservations recommended.

Friday

- Small Business Seminar, 8 a.m.-noon, in Building 350, Room 1016. There is a \$15 per person fee for materials.

Saturday

- Thunder Alley, 8:30 p.m., at the Bowling Center.

Sunday

- Sunday Brunch, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Officers' Club.

Monday

- Career Status Bonus/REDUX, 1-3 p.m., in Building 350, Room 1016.

Tuesday

- Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., in Building 350, Room 1016.

Wednesday

- Stress Management, 1-4 p.m., in the Peterson Health and Wellness Center.
- Mongolian Barbecue, 5-7 p.m. at the Officers' Club. Reservations recommended.

Nov. 20

- Community Activities Center trip to Hammond's Candy Factory in Denver. Register with Vicky or Olivia at 556-1733.
- UNISERV TSP, an overview of the Thrift Savings Plan for the uniformed services, 1-2:30 p.m., in Building 350, Room 1016.

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

Front Range bases head to mountains

1st Lt. Michaela Herring
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

For the 14th year running, military members along the Front Range will get the opportunity to unwind in pristine mountain settings and enjoy Colorado's famous deep powder. SnoFest!!! 2004 will be held at Keystone, Colo., Jan. 30 through Feb. 1.

Military families from far and wide are heading to the hills.

SnoFest!!! is hosted by the youth, marketing, Community Activities Center, and Outdoor Recreation Center staffs at Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever AFB, Buckley

AFB, F.E. Warren AFB, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and Fort Carson. Participants will be treated to a range of activities including ski and snowboard racing, tours of neighboring towns, fabulous parties and free Tops in Blue performances.

A wide variety of lodging is available at deeply discounted prices. Keystone has blocked off hotel rooms, studios and one-, two- and three-bedroom condos.

Participation is expected to be at record levels this year, so it is important to book your rooms as soon as possible. Beginning Jan. 7, discounted prices and room-availability will be limited.

Lift tickets and ski

rentals will also be discounted for SnoFest!!! 2004 participants. Lift tickets are \$31 for adults, \$19 for children. Children 4 and under ski free.

Lift tickets can be purchased in advance at the Peterson Community Activities Center. Tickets can also be purchased at Key-

stone in the Silverthorne Room at the Mountain House Lodge. Discounted ski rentals are available at the Outdoor Recreation Center.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the Peterson Community Activities Center at 556-1733 or 1760.



Photos by Joe Fischer

Above: A competitor speeds down the slopes at SnoFest!!! 2003. An estimated 3,000 people packed Keystone Ski Resort to participate in the weekend's festivities.

Left: The Cardboard Derby featured awards for most creative Cardboard Derby racer, closest to target, best engineered, and best of show.

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

Saturday

Brunch:

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

Sunday

Brunch:

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

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

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

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

Education yields big dividends

By Maj. Phlecia Bursey

21st Mission Support Squadron Commander

Have you taken a good look at the education office lately? No? Why not? Though there isn't any new paint on the walls or new furniture – what you will find is a benefit far greater. Those of you who haven't been to the education office are missing out on the potential for something much more valuable – the opportunity to strengthen your education and brighten your future.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car, but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad." I'm not condoning theft, but rather, making a case for success – particularly when it improves our air and space force.

Education is a booming business. In Fiscal Year '03, Peterson Air Force Base spent \$2.9 million on more than 5,200 tuition assistance enrollments. This year, we will spend \$3.5 million. So why does the Air Force put so much emphasis on education? It's simple – it benefits both our mission and our people.

According to the Air Force Recruiting Service, surveys show education is the No. 1 reason people join the Air Force. This is precisely why Congress is so willing to fund these programs. A Basic Military Training survey revealed that about 81 percent of enlisted members desire at least a bachelor's degree.

What leads so many to seek a better education? There are two basic motivations, professional growth and personal growth. On the professional side, continuing education contributes to the development of technical, administrative, managerial, and leadership skills. These skills are important tools needed to operate in today's ever changing and complex Air Force.

Air Force members who take advantage of educational opportunities today will have a better shot at transitioning smoothly into the civilian labor force of tomorrow.

The technology and innovation required to do our jobs continually grows and demands our best mental and physical skills. Education provides individuals with updated skills, knowledge, and abilities to keep ahead of the game.

On a personal level, education enriches lives. It provides students with greater confidence as well as fresh perspectives on how to enjoy life to the fullest. Put simply, education prevents personal and professional stagnation.

It also makes cents – lots of them. Employers, including the Air Force, need the brightest and best people in order to remain viable, and they will compensate people well to get them. Look at most of today's senior enlisted members and the officer corps. Their success is, in great part, a product of the education they received, and how they applied it. Their educational achievements have contributed directly to their professional and personal success.

Members possessing a rich, diversified background of Air Force experience and educational knowledge almost always continue their success even after an Air Force career. Recent publications show

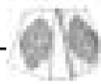
many of today's civilian employers increasingly demand better-educated and more highly skilled individuals. At the same time, the current demographics indicate the educated labor pool is declining. Where demand for educated labor exceeds, the available supply, organizations have to pay more to get and retain well-educated employees. They also have to spend more on training to grow some of their own (something we do a phenomenal job of in the Air Force).

Air Force members who take advantage of educational opportunities today will have a better shot at transitioning smoothly into the civilian labor force of tomorrow.

If you are among the 81 percent who started the Air Force with an education goal, you need to know that Peterson AFB offers enormous educational opportunities. There are a wide variety of programs on and off base.

To start the process, you only need to call the Education Center at 556-4064 to set up an appointment with a counselor or education technician. First-rate counselors in Building 1141 will inform you about all degree programs and tuition assistance opportunities available. In addition, take time to ask about Professional Military Education programs. PME is a fundamental part of your Air Force career and another educational opportunity.

The Air Force and the nation need people who are willing to accept the challenges of the future and make effective decisions that benefit us all. Author e.e. cummings summed it up best, "It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are." Giving people the opportunity, knowledge, and skill we can all reach our goals. The Education Office should be your starting point. Make your investment today.



Falcons trounce Knights 31-3

By John Marshall
Associated Press Sports Writer

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry takes pride in beating the other two service academies.

Still, it pained him to look across the field and see what Army is going through.

Joey Ashcroft hit three field goals, and Marchello Graddy recovered three fumbles, leading Air Force to a 31-3 win over Army on Saturday that extended the nation's longest losing streak to 12 games.

"We want better for them," DeBerry said. "There's something special between the schools because we're always going to be hinged and hooked together. That's why I think it bothers me."

Army (0-10) had six turnovers and just 199 total

yards to match the worst start in school history. The Black Knights have won once in 22 games and haven't beaten Air Force on the road since 1977, a span of 13 games.

"We got ourselves to where we are 0-10," Army coach John Mumford said. "Now we have to work out of it."

Air Force (7-3) had 372 yards rushing to beat Army for the seventh straight year, and win for the first time since Oct. 11 against UNLV. Air Force lost to Navy on Oct. 4, but can still earn a share of the Commander-in-Chief Trophy if Army can beat the Midshipmen Dec. 6.

"It was a good win for our team, a win we desperately needed," DeBerry said. "I can't tell you how relieved and happy I am, because the last 28 days have stunk. We're not used to going this long without a win."

Graddy gave Air Force plenty of chances with fumble recoveries on three straight possessions in the second quarter – a team record – but the Falcons had trouble capitalizing.

Graddy fell on a fumbled snap early in the second quarter at Air Force's 26-yard line, but Air Force settled for Ashcroft's 24-yard field goal after reaching Army's 7.

Graddy next recovered a fumble by Recardo Evans at the Falcons' 49-yard line, but that drive ended with Ashcroft pulling a 40-yard field goal to the right.

Reggie Nevels fumbled three plays later, and Graddy recovered it at Army's 23. This time, the

Falcons gave the ball to Steve Massie five straight times and he bulled in from one yard out to put Air Force up 13-0.

"You turn the ball over as much as we did and there's no way you can win," said Army's Zac Dahman, who was 9-for-27 for 63 yards with two interceptions.

Ashcroft also hit a 31-yard field goal late in the first quarter and added a career-long 59-yarder at the end of the half to put the Falcons up 16-0.

Army had four turnovers and just 94 yards in the first half, but finally got something going its first drive of the third quarter.

Mixing runs with short passes, the Black Knights moved 57 yards in 10 plays to reach Air Force's 8.

Army had five chances from there – Air Force was called for a roughing penalty – but had to settle for Anthony Zurisko's 22-yard field goal after Nevels fumbled the snap on third down from the 2.

The momentum didn't last long.

Air Force answered with a 15-play, 80-yard scoring drive, capped by Darnell Stephens' 5-yard run and a 2-point conversion.

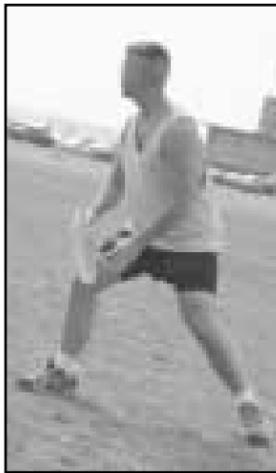
Matt Ward made it 31-3 just 15 seconds later, recovering his own fumble in the end zone the first play after William White fumbled the kickoff. Ward was stripped around the 3, but the ball bounced back into his arms and he fell into the end zone.

"That was tough," Army linebacker Brian Hill said. "That's the time when you have to dig in and stop them. They were in our territory and, to their credit, took advantage of it."



'Ultimate' fun

Left: Tony Tingle and David Parker, U.S. Northern Command, battle for possession of the Frisbee disc during a game of Ultimate Frisbee at the Fitness Center recently. The unit plays Ultimate Frisbee at 11 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday as part of their WarFit effort. Anyone who wants to play is welcome to join in.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Whitaker

Above: Ken Lewter, U.S. Northern Command, sets up to catch the Frisbee disc as Max Rees, USNORTHCOM, shakes off a defender.
Left: Marine Maj. Jon Donigan prepares to fling the disc during a recent game of Ultimate Frisbee at the Fitness Center.