DUI Prevention
Card ensures military members get home safe, available today.
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'Holiday Letter From Your Family

Bowl selection
Falcons return to Fort Worth for the Armed Forces Bowl.
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Hockey update
Falcons fall to RIT in overtime.
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By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

Ribbon cutting ceremonies in the main lobby marked the opening of a newly renovated Academy Acute Care Clinic Dec. 4.

The 10th Medical Group commander, Col. Alan Berg, and Col. Jimmy McMillian, commander, 10th Air Base Wing, cut the ribbon during the ceremony.

"With changes directed by the Base Realignment and Closure legislation, we need to assure people that we're still here 24/7," said Colonel Berg. "The Acute Care Clinic is open to meet the non-emergent needs of Academy patients during the duty day and Colorado Springs TRICARE beneficiaries on evenings and weekends. It also has a limited number of beds to meet the Academy's key mission of supporting the cadets, cadet candidates and single Airmen in the dorms who may not have family in the local area. These beds can accommodate a small number of patients overnight for up to 48 hours."

"For longer treatments and for other beneficiaries, we would send them to Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson or to local area civilian facilities."

Colonel Berg added that there are support agreements with Memorial and 10th MDG opens Acute Care Clinic

Tell your friends …
… but not from your cell phone while driving. As of Jan. 1, 2009, anyone caught driving on the Academy while speaking on a hand-held cell phone will lose driving privileges for seven days. Academy leaders are implementing this policy as a safety measure to ensure drivers are not distracted from the task at both hands, driving.

Holiday luncheon
Calling all enlisted Airmen. The Falcon Club will host a Stripes Holiday Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday. The buffet lunch will include turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green-bean casserole, salad and dessert. This is free for club members and is $3 for non-members. Please RSVP to your first sergeant immediately.

Naughty or nice?
An antique REO fire truck from the 10th Civil Engineer Squadron led Santa through base housing during the 10th Air Base Wing Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Dec. 5. Passengers: Driver – Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Chaltry; Santa Claus – Kris Kringle; Beige coat in back – Airman 1st Class William Bannister; and BDU, coat in back – Airman Jessica Morehouse.

Vol. 48 No. 48 December 12, 2008
As a first lieutenant in 1987, I was approaching the entrance to the Osan Officers Club in Korea to have lunch with Maj. Jim Kelley. The club awning jutted out about 15 feet or so from the actual entrance into the building and as we walked underneath it on a cold February afternoon, the base commander was leaving the club and approaching us.

Major Kelley and I looked at each other in a perplexed manner wondering what we should do. Should we or shouldn’t we salute the Colonel since we were technically under the cover of the awning? I clumsily offered, “Sir, I’m not certain if it’s appropriate to salute you?”

The base commander, in a very wise and noble manner replied, “Lieutenant Sell, you can never go wrong by rendering a salute.”

I learned a valuable lesson that day and obviously one that still rings loud in my mind today. It also ties into what our new Secretary of the Air Force Mike Donnelly and Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz, are stressing 21 years later to all of us who wear the Air Force uniform. Simply, “It’s time to get back to the basics.” And whether your role is to fly fighter jets, work in acquisitions, pull a wrech out on the flight line, sit right watch in Afghanistan, or dispense drugs in one of our pharmacies, it’s our attention to detail and focusing on the basics which distinguishes us as Airmen in the U.S. Air Force and ensures we get the job done right. For me personally, the basics start with good order and discipline and perhaps more so — good manners and appropriate military protocol.

Take a moment and ask yourself these questions: Does my uniform look clean and kept? Do my ribbons need to be replaced? Are the bottom edges of my BDUs or ABUs worn and frayed? Is my hair trimmed? Are my boots or shoes polished?

Do you look like a crisp, sharp Airman who represents the very best of our uniformed services? If you think people don’t notice — think again. It’s noticed, people talk about it and it sets the tone of how people will remember you as an Airman and how you represent your flight, your squadron, your group, your wing ... your Air Force. It’s these basic steps and attention to detail that we practice each day that make us different from those around us. I would argue it sets the tone that earns the trust of the American public; that sends a resounding message to those we work with and those we lead ... without having to say a single word.

The difference between a sharp Airman and an average one is that the sharp Airman knows that rank should be on their right when walking with a higher rank. The sharp Airman won’t hurry to his car or wait in the doorway while exiting the building so he or she does not have to stand outside, face the sound of the music and salute after retreat. The sharp Airman will stand while speaking to the wing commander or the general officer if they are not seated at the table. The sharp Airman will stand when someone senior to them walks into their work area, look them in the eye and offer a hearty and sincere “Good morning, ma’am” or “Good afternoon, chief, what can I do for you?” and feel good about it.

There are probably some of you reading this saying, “C’mom, colonel, how does walking on the correct side of someone equate to getting the job done?” My answer to you is, this attention to detail and appropriate customs and courtesies creates an atmosphere of professionalism and high standards which are precursors to quality. Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Bob Gaylor once told this story: One day, he and his neighbor were out working in their yards, mowing their grass, pulling weeds, and edging the lawn on a typical hot and humid San Antonio afternoon. When finishing toiling in their yards, they met each other where their respective yards adjoined and took a much needed break. With their faces red and dripping in sweat and their bodies tired, they looked at each other and asked — why do we do this? They thought for a moment and said, “we do this because our name is on the mailbox,” he said. Your reputation, what you represent, how you carry and present yourself to others is the name on your mailbox. You do it because you care.

The demands on us who wear the uniform are many and always will be because not everyone is given the opportunity and privilege to serve in the world’s greatest Air Force. Is it realistic to expect we will never make mistakes? No. The expectation is to strive for perfection, pay attention to the details and challenge ourselves to improve every day, and my advice on the best way to accomplish this is to get back to the basics.

By Col. John C. Sell
21st Medical Group commander

Time to get back to basics

What was your best decision for the year 2008?

Col. John C. Sell
21st Medical Group commander

Airman 1st Class
Derek Harris
Academy Firefighter

Ana Garska
Academy Pass and Registration clerk

Spice Briggs
Air Force Federal Credit Union teller

Technical Sgt. Mark Tomlin
NCO in charge, promotions

“Getting back to furthering my education through college ... it wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be.”
The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board recently announced an increase in the 2009 elective deferral limit for regular Thrift Savings Plan contributions. The limit is now $16,500, up from $15,500 for 2008. In addition, contributions for the TSP catch-up plan will increase to $5,500, up from the $5,000 limit set for the last three years.

“TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider,” said Fran Campbell, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “It’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans.”

The plan gives investors the opportunity to lower their taxes each year they contribute. The taxes are deferred until the employee withdraws from the account after retirement.

“Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck, so you never have to think about it. That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate,” Ms. Campbell said.

She also said that investing in TSP is not limited to just stocks.

“People can choose safer government securities or invest in the lifecycle funds,” Ms. Campbell said.

Catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions and are separate from regular TSP contributions. For those who are eligible, catch-up contributions provide a way for individuals to secure their retirement if they began investing later in their careers.

To be eligible for catch-up contributions, civilian and military employees must be 50 or older in the year in which the first deduction from pay occurs. They must also be in a pay status and be able to certify they will make, or have made, the maximum “regular” employee contributions of $16,500 to a TSP or other eligible account by the end of 2009. Other eligible accounts include uniformed services TSP accounts or other eligible employer plans, such as 401Ks. To be eligible, employees cannot be in the six-month, non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal.

Catch-up contributions automatically stop with the last pay date in the calendar year or when the maximum catch-up dollar limit for the year is reached, whichever comes first. Eligible employees must submit a new election for each year they wish to participate.

Regular TSP contributions stop when an employee’s contributions reach the annual maximum limit and then automatically resume the next calendar year. With TSP, military members:

— Can contribute any whole percentage of basic pay, as long as the annual total of the tax-deferred investment doesn’t exceed $16,500 for 2009. As long as they contribute from basic pay, Airmen can also invest all or part of their bonuses, special pay or incentive pay. Members may enroll in December; however, requested actions will not update until Jan. 1.
— Who are currently enrolled and want to adjust their contribution for 2008 must contact their local finance office so adjustments can be completed by Dec. 20.
— Serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to $49,000 in annual contributions for 2009. The $49,000 total includes tax-exempt combat zone contributions and regular deferred contributions.
— Can enroll or change their regular TSP contribution amount through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site by filling out a TSP-U-1 Election Form at local military personnel flights and finance offices.
— Start catch-up contributions by filling out a Form TSP-U-1-C, TSP.

See TPS, Page 11
Minimize chances of getting flu

By 1st Lt. Stephany Watkins, RN
Academy Health Care Integration

With falling temperatures, winter and “flu” season have arrived.

Influenza, or the “flu,” is different from the common cold and can result in serious complications for certain individuals. Not to be confused with the “stomach flu,” influenza is a contagious respiratory disease caused by the Influenza Virus. Symptoms usually come on suddenly and may include fever, headache, fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and body aches—typically referred to as “flu-like” symptoms.

Influenza is caused by a virus, so antibiotics (like penicillin) do not treat it.

Treatment options for the flu include rest, drinking plenty of fluids, avoiding alcohol or tobacco use, and taking medications to relieve the symptoms. The best way to prevent the “flu” is to get an influenza vaccine each fall.

There are two types of vaccines that protect against the flu. The first vaccine is the “flu shot” which contains an inactivated (killed virus) that is given in a syringe through a needle, usually in the arm. The flu shot is approved for use among people 6 months of age and older, including healthy people and those with chronic medical conditions.

The second type of vaccine is a nasal flu spray referred to as LAIV for Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine. The nasal flu vaccine contains attenuated (weakened) live virus and is administered by a nasal sprayer. It is approved for use only in healthy people between the ages of 2-49 years. Healthy contacts of high-risk patients may also receive the nasal flu vaccine.

In addition to obtaining the flu vaccine, frequent hand washing is essential to minimize risk of infection and transmission. Be sure to wash your hands prior to any hand-to-face contact that includes eating, snacking, rubbing your eyes, putting in contact lenses, or applying make-up.

Should you develop a cold or any flu-like symptoms, sneeze or cough directly into a facial tissue, throw it away immediately and wash your hands thoroughly. If you do not have a tissue, sneezing into your elbow can reduce hand contamination.

When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. Alcohol-based hand rubs inactivate many different kinds of viruses, including the flu virus and the common cold virus. If using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, rub the product over all the surfaces of hands and fingers until the gel is dry. Finally, ensure that environmental surfaces are kept clean with a virus-killing disinfectant.

The following individuals are considered at high risk for complications of the flu per the 2008 Centers for Disease Control influenza guidelines:

— Children ages 6 months to 18 years
— Children and adolescents (aged 6 months—18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and, therefore, might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection
— Pregnant women
— People 50 or older with chronic medical conditions
— People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
— Adults and children who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma (hypertension is not considered a high-risk condition)
— Adults and children who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunodeficiency (including immunodeficiency caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV])
— Adults and children who have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration
— If you meet one or more of the criteria mentioned and are a TRICARE beneficiary, please visit the immunization clinic to receive your vaccination. The clinic is currently in the temporary facility to the right of the main hospital. Walk-in vaccinations are offered weekdays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. The pediatrics clinic offers walk-in vaccinations from 1 to 3:30 p.m.
— Additional influenza information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/
By Ken Carter
Editor

Dec. 19 will be a significant date in the lives of Academy military members who’ll be provided a new personal safety tool to employ if needed.

The much-anticipated Academy DUI Prevention Cards, which replaces the 333-RIDE program, will be distributed to all military members that day.

Academy leaders agree the implementation of this simple process will be efficient, logical, and, most importantly, could lead to saving lives.

Active-duty members should carry the card at all times in a wallet, purse, cell-phone case—wherever it’s easily retrievable if needed.

“The DUI Prevention Card is not designed to be an individual’s primary plan for a night out on the town,” said 10th Air Base Wing Commander Col. Jimmy McMillan. “Furthermore, one cannot use the card to travel to another bar. Its only intended use is to help our military people get home safely.

“Anyone who has consumed alcohol, and his or her primary transportation plan has failed through, can contact Yellow Cab Company of Colorado Springs at 719-550-9300 (number is listed on the card) for a free ride home,” said Command Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis. “Simply show the card, along with a valid military ID, to the driver for a free, safe ride home.”

The chief encourages members to retain DUI Prevention Cards for future assistance to get and stay on the safe side.

“As we approach the holidays and related festivities from now through New Year’s, the biggest gift we can all hope for is everyone’s continued safety through this family time and into 2009,” Chief Davis said.

Each card identifies the Academy account number to be charged for the service. Therefore, members are asked to keep them secure and to not share them with unauthorized users.

“There are no negative consequences for those who’ll use the card, quite the opposite,” Colonel McMillan said. “It’s a sign of maturity and good judgment not to drive when your primary designated driver plan fails through.”

The free DUI Prevention Card program is made possible through many generous community donations.

By Ken Carter
Editor

December 12, 2008

NORAD seeks Santa Trackers

Courtesy NORAD/USNORTHCOM Public Affairs

When the North American Aerospace Defense Command stood up in 1958, it assumed an unusual mission from the Continental Air Defense Command - tracking Santa around the world! To pull off that mission, NORAD is recruiting 1,000 Santa Trackers to help relay the jolly old elf’s whereabouts on Christmas Eve to children around the world.

The tradition of tracking Santa started purely by accident.

“It was a Sears advertisement in the local paper that started it all,” said Maj. Stacia Reddish, NORAD Tracks Santa program manager. “What started off as a misprinted number and a telephone call into the CONAD Command Center has grown into the world’s largest Santa tracking operation.”

“To continue the tradition, NORAD needs 1,000 volunteers to answer phone calls and e-mails from around the world. According to Reddish, last year 1,012 volunteers answered 94,743 telephone calls and 10,326 emails from children around the world.

The NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center: The NTS Operations Center is located at the Leadership Development Center, Bldg. 910, on Peterson Air Force Base. The Operations Center is a fun, festive place - complete with snacks and beverages. Volunteers are invited to bring their families - a special room for younger children will be available. If you are interested in becoming a NORAD Santa Tracker, please go to http://www.norad.mil/volunteer.doc and fax (554-3165) or email the registration form to enccpnts.amb@northcom.mil.

What NORAD Santa Trackers need to know:

• Being a NORAD Santa Tracker is a fun family activity.
• No experience is required.
• Anyone who has access to Peterson AFB and who is at least 14 years old can volunteer.
• Shifts are two hours long and begin at 4 a.m. Dec. 24.
• The last shift ends at 3 a.m. on Christmas Day. For questions concerning volunteering contact Capt. Angie Young at 719-554-7264. Volunteers should sign up by Monday.

“Even though the Web site, www.noradsanta.org, garnered 10.6 million unique visitors last year, it is the telephone call into the Operations Center that started it all; that is why we continue the tradition of taking the telephone calls on Christmas Eve. Many kids like to talk to Santa in person.

The DUI Prevention Card provides back-up plan

Editor

Exclusively serving Colorado since 1997

DUI Prevention Card provides back-up plan
Wanna make an Air Force commercial?

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Senior leaders are asking Airmen to get behind the camera and submit a video for the next Air Force advertising campaign. The contest has begun and runs until Jan. 9. Airmen are encouraged to create a video depicting what their unit or they do to support the Air Force mission, as well as highlight why people should join the Air Force. The videos potentially will be used for the next recruiting and retention advertising campaign, according to Keith Lebling, the contest manager.

The contest is divided into two categories: Professional Team and Individual Airman. The Professional Team category is intended for organizations or Airmen who produce broadcast-quality videos as part of their normal duty responsibilities. The Individual Airman category is for Airmen not assigned to an organization such as that, and the video must be produced using privately owned video and editing equipment.

"This was an idea that came out of the last CORONA senior leader meeting," Mr. Lebling said. "Our Airmen are extremely creative and have a lot of great ideas, so why not give them a chance to come up with an idea for the next recruiting and retention commercial?" Once submitted, the videos become the intellectual property of the Air Force and there is no guarantee they will be aired on television, Mr. Lebling added.

In addition, Mr. Lebling said videos should not have an embedded soundtrack or background music, although suggestions are welcome. Also, videos that violate Air Force code of ethics standards will be eliminated from the competition.

For more information, call the Air Force Public Affairs Agency at (703) 696-9148.

Clinic

From Page 1

Penrose-St. Francis hospitals permitting Academy surgeons to perform more complicated surgeries there.

Asked if the 10th Medical Group can surge beyond these beds, Colonel Berg assured that some limited expansion is capable to meet small-scale contingencies.

"There is a lot of construction and renovation at the 10th Medical Group," said Maj. Brian Barnett, flight commander of the Acute Care Clinic.

"Some people wonder why the change," said Colonel Berg. "By the time all renovations are complete, we will have invested over $45 million during the current decade, to modernize the facility and make it a great place to work and to receive healthcare. With our healthcare partners at Fort Carson and in the community, high-quality health-care is assured to our patients either by us or through us."

The Acute Care Clinic came from ideas by the hospital staff after it was announced three years ago that the hospital would become a clinic.

"We think the new Acute Care Clinic is a huge improvement," said Major Barnett. "Enhancements to the medical treatment under the current renovation project will continue to improve our ability to provide the highest quality and safest care available."

Dr. Jay Straight examines Army (retired) Chief Warrant Officer James Berry in the new Acute Care Clinic.

Photo by Dave Shleschiede
December 3, 2035 – Colonel Bailey Smith, a 2009 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, is commander, Air Force Cyberspace Operations for Northern Command. In this role, he is responsible for network defense operations for the entire Northern Command area of responsibility. Additionally, his command responsibility includes a team of 34,000 active duty, guard, Reserve, Department of Defense civilian, and contractor personnel and a $780-million annual budget.

Due to the increasing sophistication of known and unknown domestic and foreign threats, Colonel Smith focuses the Northern Command Cyberspace Operations Team on proactively identifying threats to Northern Command computer information systems, neutralizing those threats, and maintaining network security to enable uninterrupted Northern Command cyberspace operations in support of DoD and national objectives.

A significant reason that Air Force senior leadership rewarded Colonel Smith with this position was his demonstrated commitment to lifelong development and contributions. How did Colonel Smith achieve this level of responsibility? A simple look back in time will show the beginning of his development.

June 2005 – Like others admitted to the Class of 2009, Basic Cadet Bailey Smith entered the Air Force Academy with limitless potential, but lacked the required skills, knowledge, and responsibilities required of effective Air Force officers. However, the Academy team worked hard to develop a combination of classroom and military experiences designed to point Cadet Smith in the direction of lifelong development and contributions.

As one of the Academy’s five Responsibility Outcomes, Lifelong Development and Contributions involves internalizing the Air Force core values of Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do by focusing on commitment to developing ourselves, our wingmen, and our organizations. The nation requires well-rounded officers who are dedicated to improvement of self, their teams, and their organizations.

The Academy provides a variety of experiences to cadets that help prepare them for this outcome.

In their first year, cadets take the First Year Experience seminar that teaches them strategies for success including self-awareness, study skills, and time management. Another cadet experience is Vital Effective Character Through Observation and Reflection, or VECTOR. VECTOR is a 12-hour program that gives cadets a strong foundation in leadership and followship through a combination of presentations, reflective-writing exercises, and multimedia presentations.

In their second year, cadets take the eight-hour Respect and Responsibility workshop. R&R helps enhance cadet understanding of human relations and diversity issues by placing them in unfamiliar situations, such as the adventure-based learning ropes course, which includes a series of activities involving emotional and physical risk.

Cadets gain additional experiences as they enter their third year. Leaders In Flight today, LIFT, is an eight-hour program where cadets discuss servant leadership, teamwork, and negotiation.

As one of the Academy’s five Responsibility Outcomes, Lifelong Development and Contributions already well on the way to a career that exemplifies Lifelong Learning and Development.

May 2009 – As a member of a diverse group, Lieutenant Bailey draws on the array of cadet experiences and uses those to drive the flight to perform better organizationally.

May 2019 – Major Smith has applied the lessons learned from the Academy, earning a Master of Management Information Systems degree. Combined with military professional development courses at the beginning and intermediate levels, Major Smith is already well on the way to a career that exemplifies Lifelong Learning and Development.

May 2028 – Lieutenant Colonel Smith regularly meets with subordinates, discussing ways they can improve, encouraging them to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and to take actions to improve themselves. Colonel Smith’s Airmen regularly win individual base wide recognition. More importantly, Smith’s team seeks ways to improve the organization – a key outcome is the Outstanding rating on the Operational Readiness Inspection.

Through the combination of the programs highlighted above, Academy cadets are provided foundational experiences that help them generate new ideas and gain valuable skills. As a result, our future officers will be dedicated to the continual improvement of themselves, their teams, and our Air Force.
Readiness training keeps medics on top of game

By 10th Medical Group

The 10th Medical Group closes from 1 to 4:30 p.m. for training the first Thursday of each month to accomplish critical wartime and contingency readiness training.

Monthly readiness training ensures Academy medical personnel receive relevant, up-to-date deployment and disaster response instruction, skills guidance and experience. It also includes coordinating USAFA’s medical response efforts with on- and off-base agencies as part of the National Disaster Medical System capable of treating casualties resulting from a homeland terrorist attack, major accident or natural disaster.

Additionally, exercises are periodically scheduled by the Academy’s Inspector General to test disaster response procedures and readiness and deployment operations. The medical group makes every effort to minimize impact on patients during these exercises and training sessions; however, the time investment required to ensure realistic and relevant training will occasionally affect normal clinic hours.

During the monthly scheduled training period, patients can expect the main clinic to be closed. However, the Acute Care Clinic, cadet clinic, dental clinic, main clinic pharmacy, Community Center Pharmacy and lab will be open with minimal staffing to meet any urgent needs. Written prescriptions from off-base providers will be filled but may generate longer than normal wait times.

The TRICARE Service Center will also be open. If you feel you are experiencing a medical emergency with threat to life, limb, or eyesight, please call 911, or go to the nearest emergency room.

For a same-day appointment in the Acute Care Clinic for an acute illness, call 457-CARE (457-2273).

Patients are encouraged to plan clinic visits with these changes in service hours in mind.

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Holiday letters, packages to Airmen increase

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — Postal workers of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing here doubled their workload for this holiday season and expect to double it yet again in the coming weeks.

The holiday season for postal workers begins in the middle of November and generally goes through the middle of December.

“We’re currently moving two and a half times the volume of our normal mail load,” said Scott Vann, the 380th AEW Post Office site lead. “By the end of next week, it’ll easily be three to four times more.”

The post office here serves a smaller customer base than some of the larger bases in the area of responsibility, yet it handles one of the busiest mail routes in Southwest Asia, Mr. Vann said.

“We’ve handled nearly a million kilos of mail this year,” said Oneris Barett, a postal contractor.

“We take our job to heart. Getting letters and packages to the 380th community as quickly and efficiently as possible means they’re morale will be higher and they can focus on the mission,” said Mr. Vann who hails from Dahlonega, Ga.

Some members who are on extended deployments have their mail forwarded to the deployed location. This allows them to handle personal finances as well as staying in touch with loved ones. The post office contractors offer services not typically found at other post offices, such as helping people package items, providing free packing materials and offering a touch of the holiday spirit to the desert atmosphere.

“We try and help people out,” Mr. Kirsch said. “Just the other day we helped someone in the parking lot build a shipping crate for a large picture frame. It means so much to see the look on peoples’ faces when they receive a hand-written letter or a box from home.”

The 380th AEW postal service team’s fast turn-around time and additional services don’t go unnoticed by neither the customers nor the leadership here.

“Staying in touch with families, keeping up on personal business ... it’s all a part of maintaining mental preparedness and well-being,” said Chief Master Sgt. Kent Smith, the 380th AEW command chief. “If you’re well mentally, it shows in your duty performance and in the success of the mission. Mail is an essential part of that well-being.”

Mike Ruzza offloads the daily mail truck to Oneris Barett while he inspects the package for damage Monday at an air base in Southwest Asia.
‘It’s kinda the Wild West out here’

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

The son of a retired Air Force chief master sergeant spent time in Southeast Asia bombing Iraq and Afghanistan before being assigned to the Academy in 2006.

Major Bryan Lee is back in Iraq and will spend the holidays there as director of operations for Iraq’s King Air Military instructor training teams. He’s now teaching Iraqi pilots of former Mig 21s, 23s and 25s — the same people who once tried to shoot him down — how to fly and employ the King Air 350EF extended range intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft.

Home stationed as an instructor pilot and flight commander at the 306th Flying Training Group’s 1st Flight Training Squadron in Pueblo, Colo., the airplanes are all Iraqi owned and he is essentially in an Iraqi Air Force squadron.

“I talked the Iraqi squadron commander into naming it Iraqi Squadron 87 since it’s the year I graduated high school,” said Major Lee. “I have a great relationship with the Iraqis which is, by far, the most difficult thing to do with the language and cultural barriers. But we have become great friends.”

The U.S. Air Force is running a program there called the Coalition Air Force Training Team. “The Coalition Air Force Training Team is essentially trying to stand up the Iraqi Air Force,” the 17 year Air Force officer said. “I am trying to stand up an Iraqi King Air 330 ISR squadron with six airplanes and about 30 members.”

The Iraqis have 10 pilots, only four are currently trained in the King Air the other six are all students who Major Lee and two other American instructor pilots are working with. One of the American IP’s with him is U.S. Navy the other is an Air Force F-16 pilot.

Major Lee arrived in Iraq on a one year tour in September.

“One of the most challenging parts is teaching students. But while teaching them, we’re doing real missions for surveillance. Doing real combat missions with students who are new can be tough,” he said. “It’s kinda the Wild West out here when it comes to flying. Guys who need a lot of structure wouldn’t last long; we have to make decisions with no guidance or rules just do what is smart and safe.”

He has a 12-year-old son and friends awaiting his return in Texas.
Holiday cheer: just what the doctor ordered

By Ken Carter
Editor

It’s beginning to look a lot like … another holiday season with many American military men and women serving in the far corners of the globe and apart from loved ones. Many could benefit from a musical uplift, according to one prepared to brighten their days with some original seasonal lyrics.

In the interest of honoring military members at home and abroad over the holidays, a Colorado Springs resident has made her original Christmas songs, written specifically to honor and encourage our troops, downloadable at no cost at: www.RedWhiteAndBlueChristmas.com

Dr. Pat Boone is also offering free CDs of her recording studio handbook to anyone who might be in remote areas of the world, or without a computer connection.

“When I realized there were Christmas songs about reindeer, snowmen, Santa, etc., but there was not a Christmas song to specifically honor, encourage, recognize and appreciate our military, our ‘Defenders of Freedom,’ I was inspired to write these,” Dr. Boone said.

Knowledge of the challenges that come with the profession of arms is not foreign territory to Dr. Boone. “My father, who is deceased, was in the Army in World War II, and my niece’s husband is in the Air Force presently stationed in Washington,” she said.

“In 2007, I wanted to do something to lift up our men and women in uniform. ‘Writing, recording and giving away the gift of Christmas songs is in my way of showing appreciation for all that they do, and of being a voice for others who feel the same way.’

Apart from singing in church and school choirs, this is the vocalist’s only musical project to date.

Being a psychologist by profession and a former hospital chaplain and counselor, Dr. Boone says she is familiar with the despair that can come from a feeling of aloneness and helplessness. “Sometimes just the kind act of a perfect stranger can make a difference,” she said. “In both songs entitled A Christmas Letter From Your Family, the words are not random, but are meant to send love, encouragement and hope to those in our military.”

Colorado Springs statistics in 2007 showed 18,800 active duty military and 18,000 retired military, not including their families. By producing Christmas Songs to honor our military, she not only recognizes them, but has also involved local musicians, including members of the Air Force Academy Band. She also applauds Rick Greene at North Star Studios and Brad Hartman at SpeakOut Productions, for making the CD possible.

For Dr. Boone, who recognizes the benefit to the “Service Before Self” approach says the focus is to stay on our men and women in the military, both active duty and retired, especially those who are away from home during the holidays, on both domestic and foreign soil. “They are the heroes of my songs and will always be my personal heroes. I don’t think we can ever do enough to honor the sacrifices they have made for us.”

To contact Dr. Boone, visit: www DrPatBoone.com or call toll-free 877-377-2826.

TSP

From Page 3

Catch-Up Contribution Election.

— Start contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money into investment funds) by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at 877-968-3778 for employees in the U.S., Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada. Others can call 404-233-4400 or log onto their TSP account at http://www.tsp.gov.

For general TSP questions, call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775 (press 1, press 1, press 1, and follow the prompts).

With TSP, civilians:

— Can contribute any whole percentage of their basic pay or a whole dollar amount each pay period to a regular TSP account. This amount is subject to the $16,500 annual maximum for 2009.

— Air Force-serviced civilians may submit regular TSP enrollment elections or changes at any time. Contributions will automatically continue into 2009 for those already in TSP, so it is not necessary for employees to submit an election unless they wish to change the amount of their bi-weekly contributions. The contribution on pay date Jan. 9, 2009, will apply toward the 2009 annual maximum.

— Who are covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System and who are eligible for agency matching contributions must contribute at least 5 percent of their basic pay every pay period in order to receive maximum matching contributions throughout the entire year. Once the maximum contribution limit of $16,500 is reached, employee contributions and agency matching contributions will be suspended for the remainder of the year.

— Can make regular TSP enrollments, changes or catch-up contribution elections submitted between Dec. 7-20 will be effective Dec. 21 and reflect on pay date Jan. 9, 2009. Election submitted between Dec. 21 and Jan. 3 will be effective Jan. 4 and reflect on the Jan. 23 pay date.

— When submitting catch-up contribution elections, employees need to designate a whole-dollar amount to contribute each payday rather than the annual maximum of $5,500. Do not designate an amount that exceeds net pay or payroll will not withhold any TSP contributions.

To spread catch-up contributions evenly over the year, divide the total contribution (up to $5,500) by the number of pay dates remaining in the year. There are 26 pay dates in 2009 for employees who submit their catch-up contribution election between Dec. 7 and 20.

— Air Force-serviced civilians enroll or submit regular TSP contribution elections, as well as catch-up contribution elections if eligible, by using the Employee Benefits Information System Web application or the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team’s phone system. EBIS can be found on the Air Force Portal and on AFPC’s “Ask” Web site by entering “Employee Benefits Information System” in the search function.

— Can reach the BEST phone system by dialing 800-616-3775. Overseas employees need to dial a toll-free AT&T direct access number for the country they are in, then 800-616-3775. When the phone system answers, press “2” for Air Force-serviced civilians, then “2” again for BEST benefits and entitlements, and follow the prompts. AT&T direct access numbers can be found at http://www.business.att.com/bcidial_guide.jsp.
WASHINGTON – Air Force Academy graduates will pilot two upcoming space shuttle missions. NASA announced the crews for space shuttle missions STS-130 and STS-131 Dec. 5, which include the Academy’s latest astronauts and one Colorado Springs native.

The STS-130 mission will deliver a third connecting module to the International Space Station and a seven-windowed cupola to be used as a control room for robotics. Marine Col. George Zamka will command the shuttle Endeavour during STS-130, targeted for launch in December 2009. Colonel Terry Virts, Jr., Class of 1989, will serve as the pilot. Mission specialists are NASA astronauts Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Behnken, Nicholas Patrick, Kathryn Hire and Stephen Robinson. This will be Colonel Virts’ first trip to space. He was born in Baltimore and considers Columbia, Md., his hometown. Colonel Virts holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master’s degree in aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The STS-131 mission will deliver research and science equipment, a new sleeping area and supplies to the station in a logistics module carried in the shuttle’s payload bay. Navy Capt. Alan Poindexter will command the shuttle Atlantis during STS-131, targeted for launch in February 2010. Air Force Lt. Col. James P. Dutton, Jr., Class of 1991 will serve as the pilot. Mission specialists are NASA astronauts Rick Mastracchio, Clayton Anderson, Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger, Stephanie Wilson and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Naoko Yamazaki. Dutton, Metcalf-Lindenburger and Yamazaki will be making their first trip to space. Colonel Dutton joined NASA in 2004. His hometown is Eugene, Ore. He has a bachelor’s degree in astronautical engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master’s degree in aeronautics and astronautics from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Colonel Dutton’s crew also includes a Colorado Springs native. Metcalf-Lindenburger was born in Colorado Springs and considers Fort Collins her hometown. She was selected as an astronaut in 2004, and has a bachelor’s degree in geology from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash.

Long-distance wishes
Gloria Otwell stands with Ms. Josie Rivera who wanted to say thanks to those assigned throughout Colorado Springs but who are serving away from home and loved ones this holiday season. Ms. Rivera did so by donating more than 1,000 cards, like these being signed by members of the Academy Admissions staff, to be sent to deployed members. “The military is making above normal sacrifices defending me and our country,” she said. “My wishes are to bring them joy and let them know we appreciate them very much.”
Uniformed elves spread holiday cheer

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Santa’s getting some help this year packing his sleigh.

The First Sergeants Association is adding some sparkle to the holidays for needy young sters through its annual Angel Tree project, a part of its Operation Warm Heart. Toys placed under the Community Center Chapel’s Christmas tree will be sorted and on their way to new homes next week.

The deadline for donations is Sunday.

“It’s fun to play Santa Claus,” said Master Sgt. Dawn Kottke, the Non Commissioned Officer in Charge for the Academy’s Operation Warm Heart.

She expects more than 200 toys will be distributed to children who otherwise may have little or nothing under their own trees.

Operation Warm Heart, of which Angel Tree is a part, also provided Thanksgiving meals for about 70 families last month and will do likewise for Christmas.

“It has surprised me, with the economy, how generous people have been,” Sergeant Kottke said.

Warm Heart stands by all year long as a helping hand to the Academy family. It has helped Airmen and civilians with emergency funds for needs such as food, rent, daycare and air fare for family funerals.

This year, the Academy and Colorado Springs communities have been generous to Warm Heart. Among other donors, the Aleut Company has contributed $5,000, commissary baggers $500 and chapel congregants more than $2,000 through special offerings.

The program is also now receiving support as a member of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Needs for holiday help have changed this year. Sergeant Kottke said with the influx of young Airmen arriving here, the needs for active-duty members have increased slightly.

Contributions to the designated 501(3)c non-profit charity are tax deductible and welcomed all year.

They may be sent to:
Operation Warm Heart
P.O. Box 538
USAF Academy, CO 80840

The gift of second chance

By Ann Patton
Academy Spirit staff

Horses gave Lonnie Aragon a second chance in life, and now he is giving one to a wild mustang.

The Mustang Heritage Foundation handpicked the assistant manager of the Academy Equestrian Center as one of only 13 trainers in the country invited to participate in the foundation’s Mustang Magic Trainers Challenge Jan. 23-24 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The event, produced by the foundation in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, will be held in conjunction with the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.

All the horses will be up for adoption for qualified owners after they complete the competition events.

Mr. Aragon traveled to Texas the end of September to pick up his newest training challenge. It was luck-of-the-draw on what trainer got what horse. Mr. Aragon drew a red roan.

On the road home to Colorado, the mustang received his name—Chance.

During a difficult time in his life, Mr. Aragon was offered the opportunity to train horses, especially mustangs.

Now he wants to give back.

“Mr. Aragon was offered the opportunity to train horses, especially mustangs,” Mr. Aragon said. “He didn’t have a mean bone in his body and is going to make somebody a nice horse.”

Chance’s easy-going nature, however, hasn’t gotten him off the hook when it comes to training.

“He’s a real people horse,” he said. “He doesn’t have a mean bone in his body and is going to make somebody a nice horse.”

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He has been on the Equestrian Center staff for seven years and also trained another mustang, “Pino,” last year for competition in the Extreme Mustang Makeover, also in Fort Worth.

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During a difficult time in his life, Mr. Aragon was offered the opportunity to train horses, especially mustangs.

Now he wants to give back.

“They helped me learn how to make the right decisions about who I am,” he said.

Chance was gathered from a herd of wild mustangs by the BLM a year and a half ago near Twin Peaks, Calif.

The 3-year-old, a relatively large mustang at 15 hands tall from the withers, has settled amicably into his temporary Academy home. He seems to enjoy following Mr. Aragon around between training sessions and has demonstrated a kind of horsey sense of humor.

“He likes to play with anything he can get his mouth on,” Mr. Aragon said. “He doesn’t have a mean bone in his body and is going to make somebody a nice horse.”

Chances’ easy-going nature, however, hasn’t gotten him off the hook when it comes to training.

“It’s like building a brick wall. I try to not to miss any bricks,” he said. "I can’t cheat.”

Mr. Aragon uses positive reinforcement in the form of a pressure release method of training. Horses are descendants from horses the Spanish first brought to the Americas.

Their population is managed and protected by the BLM.

For Mustang Magic, trainers will be scored in body condition and the horse course score representing both in-hand and riding competitions.

For Mr. Aragon, it is more than a competition.

“Everything in life is taking a turn for the better, ” he said. “My job is to build these horses and then let go so they can better someone else’s life. It’s what I do.”
Falcons tapped for Armed Forces Bowl

By Dave Toller
Athletic Communications

Air Force has been selected to play in the 2008 Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas, at 11 a.m. (CDT) Dec. 31. The Falcons will take on Houston from Conference USA.

This marks the second straight year Air Force has been selected for the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, as the Falcons played California from the Pac-10 last season. This season’s bowl is the 19th in Air Force history and the Falcons have posted an 8-9-1 overall mark. Air Force’s last bowl win came in 2000 at the Silicon Valley Bowl against Fresno State, 37-34. This year’s game against Houston is a rematch from earlier this season, when the two teams played in Dallas Sept. 13. Air Force won that game, 31-28, in the first-ever meeting between the two schools. The game was originally scheduled to be played at Houston, but was moved to Dallas due to Hurricane Ike.

Air Force will be playing in the same bowl game in consecutive years now for the third time. The Falcons played in the Independence Bowl in 1983 and 1984 and the Liberty Bowl from 1989 to 1992. This season also marks the first time Air Force has played a regular-season game and bowl game in the same stadium in back-to-back games. The Falcons concluded the 2008 regular season at Amon G. Carter Stadium against TCU, losing 44-10.

Women’s flag football

NEW YORK — While America’s top Division 1 college football teams square off in nearly two dozen bowl games, the top intramural flag football teams in America — including a team from United States Air Force Academy — will travel to New Orleans from Dec. 28-31 to compete in the 2008 Singlebox ACIS Football National Championships — the largest collegiate football program in the nation. More than 1,500 students from over 100 colleges and universities from around the country are expected to participate.

The Academy team, known as Lady Birds earned their trip to the national championship competition by finishing second at the Regional Championship Tournament held in November at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The team includes: Ashley Alexander, Jessy Barbree, Michelle Bosch, Angela Etapa, Page Grant, Yvonne Johnston, Cynthia Lete, Carolyn Price, Katie Schuler, Amber Sells, Elizabeth Smith, and Christy Wise.

Women’s basketball

DENVER — Rollin’ to an 84-42 win over Air Force in women’s basketball action Wednesday night at Magness Arena. The loss drops the Falcons to 3-6 on the season, while the Pioneers improved to 3-4. The game was close early, but Air Force went cold midway through the first-half and never recovered. Brook Cultra’s layup at the 7:22 mark gave the Falcons a 20-18 lead. Air Force then sputtered the
Beck Earns Co-MWC Player of the Week Honor

By Nick Arseniak
Athletic Communications

Air Force guard Raimee Beck earned co-Mountain West Conference Player of the Week honors for her stellar three-game performance from Dec. 1 through Saturday. Beck was joined by TCU’s Helena Sverrisdottir as the co-players of the week.

Beck led Air Force to a 2-1 record last week, averaging 25.3 points per game. The Blackfoot, Idaho, native shot 65 percent from the field (26-for-40) and 69.6 percent from three-point range (16-for-23), while pulling down an average of 7.3 rebounds per game as a shooting guard.

In the win against Barry (57-43), she scored 21 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had two steals. Beck went on to score a career-high 30 points in a 68-47 victory over North Carolina Central in the Air Force Classic, finishing the first Falcon to reach 30 points in a game since 2002. She was 8-for-8 from behind the three-point arc, tying a school record for the most three’s in a game and shattering the previous mark of 4-for-4.

Beck tallied 25 points in the 56-66 loss to Miami (Ohio), in a game and shattering the previous mark of 4-for-4. Beck finished with 25 points, 23 coming in the second half, also making the score 41-32.

In the second half both teams went on a four-minute scoring strike until medics Terrance Tyler finally made a pair of buckets and a free throw tying the game at 24 apiece.

Hospital then went on a 17-8 run, Mike Davis had two buckets and a free throw. Micah Yarbrough hit a three followed up by another basket by Tyler making the score 30-26.

Beck kept the 10-point lead throughout the second half to hold on to the victory.

Terrance Tyler led the medics in scoring with 30 points, 23 coming in the second half he also made 9 out of 10 free throws.

Mike Davis followed up with 14 points. Comm’s scoring leader was Jeremy Marshall with 23 points and Joshua Harris chipped in with 11 points, 9 coming in the second half.

In Tuesday action in the over 30 basketball league, 306th FTG helped their chances to get in the post-season tournament with a 51-33 win over NSSL.

Leading the flightline scoring was Doug Applegate with 15 points, followed by Ed Lombard with 13. NSSL was lead by Shawne Urban with 10 points and Rico King with 8.

Beck’s first career weekly honor and Sverrisdottir’s third.

Intramural, Over 30 hoopsters do battle

By Dave Castilla
Intramural Sports Director

Hospital and 10th Comm Squadron tied for 1st place, along with the Fire Dept, battled for the top rung in the intramural basketball program Tuesday.

Hospital finished strong in the second half to defeat Comm Sq 68-57.

Comm’s Jeremy Marshall and Kevin Brown scored 17 of team’s first 24 points giving them a 5-point lead over the medics 24-19 at half time.

In the second half both teams went on a four-minute scoring strike until medics Terrance Tyler finally made a pair of buckets and a free throw tying the game at 24 apiece.

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Legal office closure
The Academy Legal Office will be closed Jan. 7-8, 2009, and resume normal operations Jan. 9. For questions, call 333-3940 or 333-3642.

BINGO
The Academy Community Activities Center will host a BINGO event tonight in the downstairs ballroom (Bldg. 5136). Military personnel, family members and accompanied guests and government civilian employees are all welcome. Call 333-0389 for more information.

Volunteer opportunity
Anyone interested in being a volunteer track and field official at Academy indoor and outdoor meets for the 2009 season should contact scott.tiving@usafa.edu or call at 719-333-3013 or toll free at 1-800-379-1455 extension 3013. If no answer, leave a message.

A&FRC offers options
The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host the following classes. Contact the A&FRC at 333-3444 for any questions and/or registration.

Group pre-separation counseling
Held every Monday (except during TAP week); 2 to 4 p.m.

Separating or retiring from the Air Force in a year or less? This mandatory briefing assists you in identifying benefits and services associated with your transition and beyond.

Medical records review
Monday — 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Individuals within 180 days of retirement or separation can have the Disabled American Veterans review their medical records.

Mock interviewing
Tuesday — 9 a.m. to noon

Are you preparing for your next career move but feeling a little rusty on your interviewing skills? Know what to expect on your next interview. Mock interviewing with real HR representatives!

Resume writing
Wednesday — 9 a.m. to noon

Learn different types of resume and cover letter styles and how to improve your own.

Newcomer’s orientation
Thursday — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mandatory orientation for all newly assigned Academy personnel. Spouses are welcome to attend. This event is held at the Milazzo Center.

Troops to teachers
Thursday — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This workshop provides information for military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher.

Water aerobics
The Academy Fitness & Sports Center offers a 10-punch card for water aerobics. The cost is $30 and the card does not expire. Water aerobics classes are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:05 p.m. Improve muscular strength and endurance and increase overall aerobic conditioning with zero impact on the joints. For more information, call 333-4522.

America recycles
The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron will hold an electronic recycling event through January. Each Wednesday and Thursday electronic items can be taken to Bldg. 8125 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for recycling. The event is free to all participants. Some recyclable items are personal computers and components, televisions, DVD or CD players, stereos, speakers and VHS players. Call Jeannie Duncan at 333-0812 for more information.

Ski rental
Season ski rentals from the Academy Outdoor Recreation Center require an appointment for a fitting. Call 333-4753.

Volunteer program
There are several on-base organizations in need of volunteers. Contact Jeannie Lopez at 333-3168/3444 for more information.

Dance classes
The Academy Community Activities Center offers ballroom dance classes Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and salsa dance classes Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Call 333-2928 for more information.

Community

CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:
Sunday
Confession - 9:15 a.m.
Mass - 10 a.m.
Wednesday
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 9:30 p.m.
Confession - 5:30 p.m.
Mass - 6:30 p.m.
Weekday
Mon., Tues. and Thurs. - 6:45 a.m.

Protestant Services:
Sunday
Traditional, liturgical - 9 a.m.
Contemporary - 11 a.m.

Jewish Services
Friday
Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.

Buddhist Worship
Wednesday
Traditional Mahayana Service - 6:30 p.m.

Muslim Prayer
Friday
Salat ul-Jumman - 12:30 p.m.

Community Center Chapel

Catholic Masses:
Saturday
Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.
Mass - 4 p.m.
Sunday
Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Religious Formation - 10:45 a.m.
(September - May)
Tuesday-Friday
Mass - 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Services:
Wednesday
Wednesday Night Live - 6 p.m.
Fellowship followed by Religious Education (September - May)
Saturday
Contemporary - 6 p.m.
Sunday
Traditional - 8 a.m.
Gospel - 11 a.m.

Peganism/Earth-centered Spirituality:
Contact Tech. Sgt. Longnorl at 333-6178
Robert.Longnorl@usafa.edu

CADET CHAPEL

Protestant
Sunday
Regular worship schedule
9 a.m. — Traditional
11 a.m. — Contemporary
Dec. 21
10 a.m. — Combined Protestant Worship
Dec. 24
7 p.m. — Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 28 —
No Worship Service
Jan. 4
10 a.m. — Combined Protestant Worship

Catholic
Sunday
10 a.m. — Third Sunday of Advent Mass
Dec. 21
10 a.m. — Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass
Dec. 24
5 p.m. — Christmas Eve Mass
Dec. 28 —
No Catholic Mass
For more information on other services, please call (719) 533-6165.

COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL

Catholic
Saturday
6:30 p.m. — Christmas Concert

Community activities

CADET CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:
Sunday
Confession - 9:15 a.m.
Mass - 10 a.m.
Wednesday
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Jewish Services
Friday
Sabbath Service - 7 p.m.

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Wednesday
Traditional Mahayana Service - 6:30 p.m.

Muslim Prayer
Friday
Salat ul-Jumman - 12:30 p.m.

All Other Faiths
Call 333-2636 for more information

COMMUNITY CENTER CHAPEL

Catholic Masses:
Saturday
Reconciliation - 3:30 p.m.
Mass - 4 p.m.
Sunday
Mass - 9:30 a.m.
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Earn a Master’s or Bachelor’s Degree from TUI

“I received my masters and PhD from TUI while being deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo, Africa, and Iraq. I am so grateful to TUI!”

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TUI is an accredited university specializing in flexible ‘No-Cost’ education programs that lead to long-term civilian careers for active-duty military personnel.

- Specialized teaching methodology designed for active-duty military personnel.
- Flexible programs geared to accommodate deployments, PCS and extensive TDY.
- High-quality and fully accredited bachelor’s and master’s programs,
- No Cost to you means full military tuition assistance of $4500 per year.

Classes start November 11 and January 12

Business Administration  •  Computer Sciences  •  Health Sciences  •  Information Technology  •  Education