

SPACE OBSERVER

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21ST SPACE WING COMMANDER'S CORNER



Be grateful in the New Year

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Happy New Year to the outstanding men and women of the 21st Space Wing and the Colorado Springs community!

Over the past four months, I had the privilege to serve as the commander of a forward deployed space squadron as part of a joint, coalition team at an austere location in Northern Syria. Our elite team of Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines continue to work by, with and through regional partners such as the Syrian Democratic Forces to militarily defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in support of Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). I am forever grateful to serve my country alongside such an amazing team – it's been the experience of a lifetime. This holiday season, I'd like to share some personal stories with you to help your New Year be just that much more enjoyable.

BE GRATEFUL

When I began my career at Minot AFB in the ICBM community, I made the mistake of allowing my attitude get in the way of my happiness, performance and well-being. I played the helpless victim and instead of focusing my efforts on doing a good job and helping others, I blamed all of my problems on external factors – the career field, my friends, my family, the -40 degree weather, the assignment. However, I had the power to change this, as evidenced in this Ralph Waldo Emerson quote: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

One February day, I was driving across North Dakota with our basketball



By Maj. Shawn
"Happy" Green

21st Space Wing

team to play against Grand Forks AFB and defend (translation: win) The Dakota Cup when I came across a huge billboard that simply said, "Be Grateful." One of my best friends had told me of this sign, so I pulled my truck to the side of the road, stared at it, and recounted why things had gotten so miserable. Legendary NCAA Coach John Wooden once said, "Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out." As soon as I decided to take control of my situation by changing

my perspective, my life drastically improved. In short, I decided to take ownership, hold myself accountable and lead.

As I reflect on that moment, I realize that the change began with me. Bestselling author Simon Sinek shares, "Leadership is a choice. It is not a rank." Regardless of our age, rank, position or title, each of us has the choice to (or not to) lead each and every day through our personal example, attitude and commitment to others. I've encouraged leadership at every level within the units I've served and on Team Pete, leadership does not just sit with the Wing Staff; it has many faces. It's seen by the server at the Deployed Family Dinner. It's seen by the gate guard who cheerfully says, "Welcome to Peterson Air Force Base" and checks your ID. It's seen by the spouse who pours their effort into the family and the children who help with chores around the house. It's seen daily by countless professional Airmen, on and off base, on and off duty.

Our Air Force culture is unique and I cherish the fact that I serve alongside people who believe in the same core values. In Miguel Ruiz'

See Grateful page 14

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In their words: Missile defense crew recounts intercontinental ballistic missile target flight test

Sgt. Zachary Sheely
100th Missile Defense Brigade

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Ground Based Midcourse Defense Element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System is the United States Anti-Ballistic Missile Safeguard, designed to intercept incoming enemy warheads in space that’s been in operation since 2004. In May, 2017, it achieved perhaps its greatest success to date in its toughest test yet.

Flight Test Ground based interceptor-15 showcased the system’s capabilities, as it was the first successful interception of a simulated Intercontinental Ballistic Missile target by a Ground Based Interceptor launched by the GMD system.

The test, which took place May 30, 2017, was the culmination of complex integrated planning by a number of military agencies and materiel developers. At its heart were five 100th Missile Defense Brigade soldiers operating the system inside a secure “node” at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado.

The 100th MDB, a multi-component Brigade consisting of active-component U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard soldiers in Colorado, California and Alaska, is the only military unit with a 24/7/365 mission of defending the homeland from ICBM attacks with Ground Based Interceptors.

GBI’s are solid-fuel, three-stage rockets, tipped with a kinetic exoatmospheric kill vehicle emplaced at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

Once a GBI is launched, it boosts the kill vehicle outside of the earth’s atmosphere to hit and destroy an enemy ICBM in the mid-course of its flight. This highly technical and precise process has often been compared to hitting a bullet with another bullet.

Redundant crews of five soldiers with the

100th Missile Defense Brigade at Schriever and the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely, Alaska, control the system and the unofficial motto of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade is “300 soldiers protecting 300 million Americans”

In no particular order, this is the story of FTG-15, from the perspective of five crew members, who executed the launch. Their last names have been withheld for security purposes.

“We got it,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel, readiness officer.

Daniel said that while his initial reaction was that of excitement once the crew realized that they had authored the successful intercept, their overall response was subdued.

“For us, it was just another day at the office,” said Daniel, who has served in multiple roles within the air defense artillery enterprise. “Being in a Patriot unit, you get live fire opportunities. Being a Joint Tactical Ground Station operator, you’re constantly seeing missiles launched and intercepts from other countries.”

“This is what I’m trained to do, this is my job,” said Daniel. “My job is to defend the homeland. I’ve had 100 percent confidence in the (GMD) system since even before coming out here.”

Skeptics have knocked the “lack of realism” of FTG-15. However, Daniel said while the crew was aware there would be a test launch, they were not privy to the exact nature of what they would face and when.

“For us it was completely realistic because while we knew the day it was going to happen, we didn’t know anything else,” Daniel said.

The missile defense crew Soldiers are the products of a rigorous training course led by instructors from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command’s Directorate of Training and Doctrine. They must achieve

90 percent just to be qualified to join a missile crew. Once assigned to a crew, they are immersed in an environment where daily training runs and no-notice evaluations to maintain gunnery-table certification from higher headquarters are the norm.

Daniel said that the crew on FTG-15 relied on their training and tactics, techniques and procedures. He said his crew performed flawlessly and any of the other missile defense crews would have achieved a similar result.

“The system that we have to ensure that we’re proficient works because I was able to do it, so I know that anybody else here would be able to do it,” Daniel asserted. “I’ve got 100 percent confidence in the system and all of our operators.”

“Testing is important, I’m glad we do test,” Jeffrey continued. “It helps build faith and confidence. It’s only going to help improve the system. As we see more complex threats, we need to create more complex tests. It would be a mistake to not continue testing, developing, and refining our system.”

Daniel said the achievement does not belong exclusively to the crewmembers on shift that day.

“This was a great success for this unit on so many levels,” he said. “You’ve got the fact that it was active duty and National Guard Soldiers together. You’ve got the achievement of the first ICBM target successfully engaged. You’ve got Warfighters on the console ac-

tually performing their wartime mission.

“We at the brigade can do this in our multiple training runs every single shift, but also when the homeland is affected.”

1st Lt. Alberto, current operations officer

1st Lt. Alberto has spent the entirety of his post-West Point Army career with the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and named his role in FTG-15 as the highlight of his career, thus far.

“I feel extremely fortunate to be part of this unit, to be part of that crew,” said Alberto. “It was a quiet confirmation of what we already knew to be true. The system works, our operators are trained and proficient. It was exciting. We were proud of ourselves, the crew, the system, and the developers.

“The reason that it’s exciting is not because we doubted it would work,” Alberto added. “The reason it’s exciting is because it’s not something that happens every day. It was a unique opportunity to test the system in a real way that validated what we knew it was going to do.”

Alberto described ground-based mid-course defense as a “system of systems,” which comprises a global network of space-, ground- and sea-based sensors. His role as the current operations officer is to communicate with and monitor the various GMD system sensors.

“Those sensors are feeding information to us,” said Alberto. “As (the threat) reaches each new sensor, we’re gathering more refined data, so we’re tracking where the threat missile is travelling and where it’s predicted impact location is. On test-launch day, I actually spoke with (Sea-based X-band Radar) and had (the crew) initiate their procedures for the launch.”

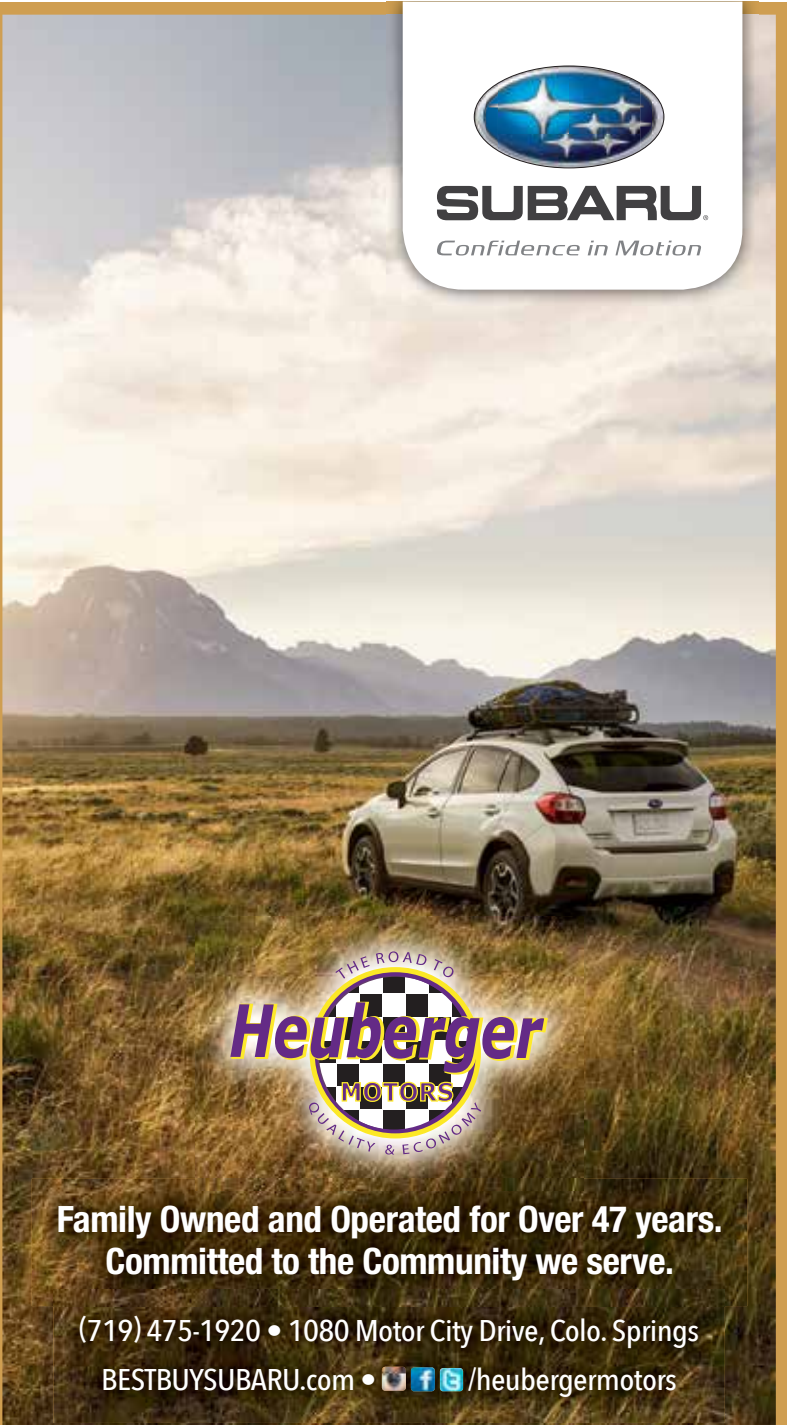
Alberto said there was never any doubt that the system would work.

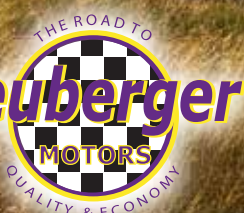
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COMMUNITY DINNER

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A2D2

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is looking for volunteers. If you are able to give some time on weekends for a good cause please call them at 719-552-2233.

The Phiz Biz

Vol. 17,
Issue 12, December 17

Courtesy of Aerospace and Operational Physiology
by SrA Benjamin Clark/SSgt Mark McHugh

Stay warm this winter!

Cold Myth Debunked



We were told when we were young to always cover our heads before going out in the cold. The conventional wisdom stated that humans could lose upwards of 50% body heat through our heads. The origin of this belief is believed to be a 1970s copy of the US Army Survival Manual. Scientific studies referenced in a British Medical Journal article, however, produced results contrary to the traditional advice.¹ Don't throw your hats away just yet, though! While the data do show that the actual amount of heat loss through the head isn't out of proportion compared with any other part of the body, there are some other factors to consider: core cooling as opposed to surface cooling, as well as other physiological reactions to cold exposure.

A Shred of Truth, and the Experiment

In a narrow sense, it could be considered true that in most situations we lose a large proportion of our heat by radiating it from the exposed skin of our necks, faces and heads. However, this is because those body parts are often the least likely to be covered, not because of any special properties of those areas. If you went out in the cold without clothes on another part of your body (not recommended), you'd lose just as much heat! To test the difference (or lack thereof), researchers conducted cold-water tests on a group of volunteers in 2006 to measure total heat loss (in kilojoules) from the head vs. the rest of the body. Their study, published in the Journal of Applied Physiology, debunked the old wives' tale that we lose most of our heat through our heads.²



The Results

The researchers (Praetorius, Bristow, Steinman and Giesbrecht) found that the head loses heat at approximately the same rate as other exposed areas (about 7% body area corresponding to around 10% heat loss). This was a far cry from the 50-75% heat loss warned of by the myth. What they found instead was that even though surface heat loss was proportional, core cooling dramatically increased when the head was exposed to cold. While they recommend further investigation, the research team hypothesizes a couple of possible factors that could explain this occurrence. First, exposure to cold induces peripheral vasoconstriction (effectively, this means that the blood vessels in your extremities contract, forcing blood inward towards the core). Blood vessels in the scalp, though, are an exception: when exposed to cold, they don't experience vasoconstriction, so circulation through the scalp returns cooler blood to the core at a greater rate. These effects, combined with a smaller thermal core size (from the vasoconstriction) further amplify the core cooling rate.³

A Side Effect

One outcome of the cold-induced peripheral vasoconstriction that people should be aware of is known as "cold diuresis" — the physiological processes that cause you to urinate more when it's cold. On one hand, the vasoconstriction from cold exposure can raise arterial pressure; your body attempts to regulate the increased pressure by getting rid of fluid (urination).⁴ Additionally, the cold leads to a decrease in production of a hormone called antidiuretic hormone (ADH), which tells your kidneys how much water to conserve. When there's less ADH being released into your system, your kidneys push water out (again, urination).⁵ All of this water loss can lead very quickly to dehydration depending on how cold it gets, your water intake and your level of exertion. As you get dehydrated, it becomes even harder for your body to regulate its temperature.

The Bottom Line

While you may not lose astounding amounts of energy as heat through your head in relation to the rest of your body, bundling up and wearing a hat in cold weather is a good idea — exposure of a bare head to the cold can lead to faster drops in core temperature, in addition to cold diuresis and other problems like dehydration. Stay safe and stay warm this winter!

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For information in the event of a Peterson Air Force Base emergency, contact the Straight Talk line at (719) 556-9154.

SPACE OBSERVER

SCHRIEVER SENTINEL

Mountaineer

Road construction at Peterson AFB west gate



(Courtesy graphic)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Road improvements outside the west gate at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., are scheduled to begin the first week of Jan. 2018. Street lights will be placed at Stewart Avenue and Airport Road to help the flow of traffic during construction of a FedEx freight facility in February.

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COBRA DANE Radar: Protecting the continental U.S.



(Photo by Chief Petty Officer Brandon Raile)

EARECKSON AIR STATION, SHEMA, AK — The COBRA DANE radar is a single faced ground-based, L-band phased-array radar located at Eareckson Air Station, Shemya, AK. The primary mission of COBRA DANE is to collect radar metric and signature data on foreign ballistic missile events. Additional missions include collecting space surveillance data on new foreign launches and satellites in low-earth orbit. The radar has a 95-foot diameter phased array and the capability to track and record data on as many as 120 objects simultaneously.

By Robb Lingley
21st Space Wing

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The COBRA DANE radar, a single faced ground-based, phased-array radar at Eareckson Air Station, Alaska, is a large and powerful radar located on the island of Shemya, in the Alaskan Aleutian Islands, that can detect objects up to 2,000 miles away.

“Shemya Island crosses the 180 degree line of longitude, making it the easternmost continually inhabited settlement in the United States,” said Maj. Christopher Hill, 13th Space Warning Squadron operations officer. “There are no uniformed members currently stationed at Eareckson.”

Employed as an early warning system, COBRA DANE has the capacity to track 200 targets at a time and provide detailed information on them to North American Aerospace Defense Command headquarters.

“It can track objects in low-earth orbit that are

approximately the size of a golf ball,” Hill said.

In past decades there were upwards of 1,000 military members who supported various missions operated by the installation. Currently 29 contractors operate the COBRA DANE radar and 250 more contractors are employed at Shemya supporting both base operations support functions and COBRA DANE operations.

“COBRA DANE’s primary mission is to support U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Strategic Command by providing midcourse radar coverage for the Ballistic Missile Defense System,” said Hill. “The system detects Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Sea-Launched Ballistic Missiles, classifies reentry vehicles and other missile objects, and provides real-time information to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Fire Control for potential interception and elimination of threat missiles.”

Its secondary mission is to support USSTRATCOM’s space situational awareness mission by detecting, tracking, correlating, and characterizing man-made resident space objects,

primarily in the Low-Earth Orbit regime, including space debris and early observation of new foreign launches.

The radar, which is just a few islands away from Russia, stands 120 feet tall and has a 95 foot diameter. It became operational on Aug. 1, 1977, underwent a modernization in the early 1990s, and has had numerous upgrades since.

“Initially, the system supported three critical U.S Air Force missions, technical data collection for ballistic missile verification, early warning, and space surveillance,” said Hill. “Its missions and purpose have evolved over the decades as threats have evolved.”

COBRA DANE is an Air Force Space Command government owned facility with Raytheon, the company that developed it, providing the manpower. Currently, 13th SWS provides administrative oversight to COBRA DANE operations while the Air Force Lifecycle Management Center performs program management and sustainment.



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(Courtesy graphic.)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – 21st Space Wing Airmen rang in the New Year at midnight on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Jan.1, 2018. For Airmen stationed at the Wing's Geographically Separated Units around the world a family-friendly atmosphere was provided for Airmen to usher in the New Year.

GSUs usher in the New Year

By Robb Lingley
21st Space Wing

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.— Holidays for Airmen are a time to spend with friends and family. For those serving at Geographically Separated Units those times can be far and few between. For New Year's, GSUs hold events to provide a family friendly atmosphere for Airmen separated from them.

The 10th Space Warning Squadron at Cavalier Air Force Station, N.D., has a community center on base where they held various events. The building has a bowling alley, heritage hall, outdoor recreation equipment, and a small theater.

"For New Year's our unit had dinner, karaoke and throughout the night raffles for gift cards were drawn," said Tech. Sgt. Shawn Thompson, 10th SWS Non Commissioned Officer in Charge, Security Forces plans and programs "At midnight we had a short fireworks display provided by the 10th SWS

Unit Booster Club."

The 20th Space Control Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, had numerous New Year's events. Boardwalk celebrations and clock countdown events took place in many of the communities, as well as fireworks at Eglin AFB and surrounding towns. Additionally, an annual Pelican Plunge was held on Okaloosa Island where participants took a chilly dip in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Also part of the 20th SPCS is Detachment 2, Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia," said Maj. James Haskins, 20th SPCS operations officer. "There the Island Breeze Club hosted members for a New Year's Eve Countdown."

Personnel at 20 SPCS Detachment 3, Maui Space Surveillance Complex, Hawaii, enjoyed a special New Year's Eve luau and a fireworks cruise.

The Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, where 20th SPCS Detachment 4 is located, hosted a New Year's Eve Comedy Night.

Though they won't be able to spend the holidays with their loved ones Airmen will still be able to enjoy a family type atmosphere at 21st Space Wing GSUs throughout the world.

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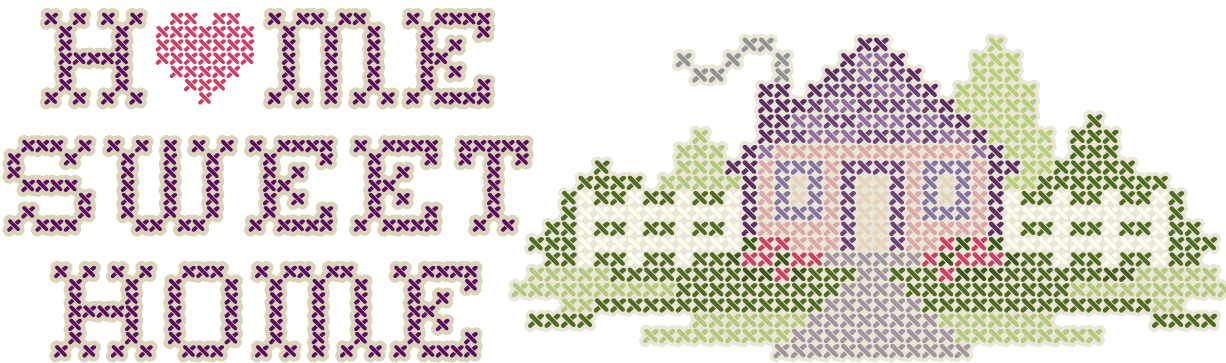


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FIND YOUR DREAM HOME!

in our Welcome Home section on page 17

Malcolm Grow legacy still strong in Air Force medicine

By Peter Holstein

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — A pioneer in flight medicine, Malcolm Grow was a strong proponent of an independent Air Force Medical Service. He was the first Air Force Surgeon General, when the AFMS came into existence in 1949. Grow was a pioneer of military medicine, and one of the earliest and most effective advocates for moving medicine out of the clinical, textbook setting, and responding to the real needs of warfighters.

Although he retired a Major General in the U.S. Air Force, Grow's first experience with combat medicine came in infantry, but not for the U.S. In 1915 while visiting Washington, D.C., Grow met Dr. Edward Egbert, who was the chief surgeon of an American Red Cross hospital in Kiev, Russia. Egbert's descriptions of wounded Russian soldiers with limited access to doctors moved Grow. He decided to travel to Russia to seek a commission in the Russian Army as a medical officer.

Arriving in Russia, Grow received a commission as a Captain in the Russian Army. He served briefly at a military hospital near Saint Petersburg, but soon took the long train ride west towards the front lines. His experiences there gave him a true appreciation for the hardships faced by common soldiers, and the need to develop innovative solutions for complex medical problems on the fly. These experiences would help shape the rest of his career.

Grow evacuated wounded troops and treated them within 100 yards of the front lines. As trench warfare raged, he saw firsthand the horrors of gas attacks, and how bleak Russian winters affected troops on both sides. Grow also participated in an air reconnaissance mission, giving him an early appreciation for the value of flight, both as a weapon and for the strategic advantage of observing enemy formations.

Grow returned from Russia in 1917 following the Bolshevik Revolution. When the U.S. joined the war later that year, Grow had experience with combat medicine that few American physicians could match. He was appointed a Captain in the Medical Reserve in December 1917, holding several posts during the rest of the war, although none compared to his experiences on the Russian front. Once the war ended, Grow received his commission in the regular Army Medical Corps in 1920, and held several positions, before enrolling in the School of Aviation Medicine at Brooks Field in Texas in 1928.

Unlike many of his peers in the Army Medical Corps during this time, Grow kept his focus on field medicine. With battlefield medicine experience far beyond most officers, Grow knew how delivering care in a field setting differed from traditional clinical settings. This separated him from many of his peers in the Medical Corps, giving him a different vision than other future leaders of military medicine.

“During World War II, Grow engaged in strategic planning for some of the largest operations of the war, including Operation TORCH, the Allied invasion of North Africa.”

Once he completed the Aviation Medicine courses, his first assignment was as base surgeon at Fairfield Air Depot, Patterson Field, Ohio. Building relationships with test pilots at nearby Wright Field, Grow began tackling some of the thorny medical issues affecting them, like carbon monoxide poisoning, extreme cold, and redesigning flight clothing to meet the pilot's needs. This began Grow's long association with research and development relating to aviation medicine and technology. Grow's thorough understanding of these issues fueled his drive for an independent AFMS to address problems unique to flight medicine.

As Grow's career progressed, he ascended through the ranks and left a legacy of solving flight medicine problems. In 1935, as chief of the medical service division in the office of the Chief of the Army Air Corps, he fought to establish the Aeromedical Laboratory at Wright Field, which became the hub of U.S. aeromedical research and development.

As the world went to war again in the late 1930's and early 1940's, Grow again helped a future U.S. ally in their efforts, aiding British medical staff solve health problems experienced by their pilots during the Battle of Britain. Seeing the strain that near-constant sorties placed on fliers, Grow advocated for rest and recreation centers to help

them relax and relieve stress. Grow's connection to front line soldiers and aviators helped him find new solutions to little-understood medical problems.

During World War II, Grow engaged in strategic planning for some of the largest operations of the war, including Operation TORCH, the Allied invasion of North Africa. However, his primary contribution came in the research and development field, where he cemented a reputation as an innovator and advocate for the safety and well-being of aviators.

Grow's experience on Russian battlefields in World War I left him all too familiar with treating shrapnel wounds. Realizing that many of the injuries sustained by aviators were from low-velocity fragments, Grow helped design body armor and helmets that saved the lives of countless aviators. He contributed to specially heated clothing, boots, gloves, and hats for gunners exposed to the elements at high altitude, decreasing cases of frostbite. Grow again focused on the mental health of aviators, implementing a system of regular downtime, and special training for medical officers to recognize when a flier needed time off from flying missions.

After the war, Grow became the U.S. Army Air Surgeon in January 1946. He turned his innovative and front line-focused perspective to the still new discipline of aviation medicine, becoming a tireless advocate for an Air Force Medical Service distinct from the Army Medical Corps. Grow had an understanding of the unique medical problems posed by combat flight and the benefits of light, airborne hospitals with their own logistics requirements.

However, when the Air Force split from the Army in 1947, the medical service stayed with the Army. Grow continued to advocate, arguing that the difference in medical organization between the Army and the Air Force required a separate medical command. In 1949, his argument was finally successful. The Air Force Medical Service came into being in June 1949, and on July 1, 1949, Grow became the first U.S. Air Force Surgeon General.

Although Grow only served briefly in the position, retiring from the military just a few months later in November of 1949, his legacy in the AFMS, and in U.S. military medicine was secure. Even today, after nearly 70 years as an independent medical entity within the Air Force, the AFMS still prioritizes many of the values Grow espoused. Care for the warfighter, mental health, and innovation remain staples of the AFMS, a testament to Grow's contributions to American military medicine.



(Photo courtesy of Air Force Medical Service History Office)

Malcolm Grow in 1917 as a young captain in the Russian Army during World War I. Before the U.S. joined the war, Grow traveled to Russia to provide medical care to a Russian Army facing a critical shortage of qualified doctors. Grow returned to the U.S. once it joined the war, and served a long, distinguished career, before retiring a major general in the U.S. Air Force, and becoming the first Air Force Surgeon General.



(U.S. Air Force photo)

Maj. Gen. Malcolm C. Grow, the first Air Force Surgeon General and longtime advocate of an independent Air Force Medical Service, remains a legacy in Air Force Medicine to this day.



(Photo courtesy of Air Force Medical Service History Office)

Col. Herbert B. Wright (left), the Chief of Professional Services, U.S. Army 8th Air Force and Brig. Gen. Malcolm C. Grow, at the time, Surgeon of the U.S. Army 8th Air Force, examine a heating bag Grow helped develop to keep fliers warm during high-altitude missions.



Photo by Senior Airman Robert Volo

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — A ground-based interceptor launches by the ground-based midcourse defense system out of Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., May 30. Soldiers of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) executed the launch — the first successful intercept of an intercontinental ballistic missile — from inside a secure node at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado.

Missile

From page 3

“We don’t want to overemphasize it because this is the expectation,” Alberto said. “This is a no-fail mission. The unit was supposed to do this, and we did it. We look forward to doing more tests with more complex scenarios.

“This test put the 100th Missile Defense Brigade on the map,” he added. “We were more under the radar before, but this reassures the rest of the military community, the nation, and world that we have this ability and this ability works. The American people can count on us.”

Staff Sgt. John, future operations officer

Staff Sgt. John served as a combat engineer for five years, including multiple deployments, and also served on the Patriot system. He said when he was assigned to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, neither he nor his air defense artillery brethren had heard of the unit.

“When I got orders to this unit, nobody knew what it was,” said John. “I got here and in-processed at Fort Carson. I had to ask around for about a week before I found out where this unit was and what it did.”

John echoed the sentiments of Alberto, and said that the test — coupled with increased

ICBM testing by North Korea — has helped to boost awareness of the GMD mission and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade.

John described a large group of people in the room for the flight test May 30, including materiel developers and Missile Defense Agency personnel, but the crew remained solely focused.

“For the crew, we saw it and we engaged the threat,” said John. “We got to watch the intercept and see it was successful. It was pretty cool.

“I guess I had never really thought about what an actual intercept would look like,” he said. “It was really cool to see just a huge ball of infrared fire. I expected it to work. I guess I never really questioned if it would work or not. I just expected it to work and it worked. The technology is constantly improving.”

Maj. Jeremy, deputy director

“This is the best version of the system ever in place to meet the current threats,” said Jeremy. “We’re always upgrading not only the software and hardware, but also the tactics.”

Jeremy, a former Paladin cannon crew-member, first joined the 100th Missile Defense Brigade in 2006 at Fort Greely, Alaska, as part of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion.

“It’s been very rewarding to see how the system and the organization has changed,” said Jeremy.

The total number of emplaced ground-based interceptors increased to 44 in 2017, due in part to the success of FTG-15, Jeremy

said.

“We’ve gone from a limited number of GBIs at the onset of the program to now having 44,” said Jeremy. “That was a big thing about FTG-15 -- to validate that the interceptors could destroy a target. Because of the success of that intercept, we went from 36 to 44 this year.”

Jeremy said that May 30 was special because of the rarity of the opportunity for the GMD system to launch a GBI.

“It was an exciting day,” said Jeremy. “Just like any other Soldier, you train, train, train, and some Soldiers never get the chance to actually do their job. For us it was a chance to actually engage and destroy an ICBM. It was very rewarding and we felt honored to be able to do that. Because we train so much, we weren’t worried. It wasn’t a stressful situation. It was second nature.”

Although the 100th Missile Defense Brigade is a National Guard unit, Jeremy was the only Guardsman on the crew during FTG-15.

“We are standing watch 24/7 to protect the homeland,” said Jeremy. “It doesn’t get any more ‘National Guard’ than that.”

Lt. Col. Jeffrey, director

Lt. Col. Jeffrey, executive officer of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, is a U.S. Army veteran of 24 years, most of which he has spent as an air defense artillery officer.

On May 30 he was the director of the crew during the launch.

The Missile Defense Element conducts the

operational piece of the GMD mission for U.S. Northern Command. The MDE crew director has direct communication with higher headquarters and is entirely responsible for the actions of the crew.

While that may seem like a heavy responsibility, Jeffrey said it’s a part of the job.

“It’s expected,” said Jeffrey. “It’s something I can handle. It’s something I feel comfortable with. With the amount of training and preparation that we do, we build that faith and confidence in each other and build that relationship with (higher headquarters).

“We know how to do it. Based on the crew and our training, I have a lot of faith in the system.”

Jeffrey said that the overall test record of the GMD is not a fair judgment of the system’s current capabilities, and FTG-15 proved that.

“Look at the most recent test,” he said. “Look at the threat that we put this last one up against. Now we have a more advanced GBI and EKV. The basic construct is the same. The concept is the same, but the equipment and details are much more advanced.

“Testing is important, I’m glad we do test,” Jeffrey continued. “It helps build faith and confidence. It’s only going to help improve the system. As we see more complex threats, we need to create more complex tests. It would be a mistake to not continue testing, developing and refining our system.”

Please do not pet

By Steve Kotecki

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Most people generally know the tasks the military working dog performs throughout the military. Whether it’s working security, conducting patrols or aiding security forces, MWD’s are synonymous with life in the military. But what most people on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., might not know is how to act around the dogs here and their handlers so that everyone remains safe.

“I’ve seen people do some crazy things around the dogs,” said Staff Sgt. Chelsea Boe, 21st Security Forces military working dog handler.

“People will pet the dog even after seeing the Do Not Pet sign,” she continued. “In the airport, people usually don’t pay attention and can accidentally kick the dogs.”

It’s these kind of interactions that can frustrate the handlers, as well as, the dogs and could lead to a dangerous encounter.

“There’s never been an accidental bite here on Peterson, and that’s in part due to the training of the handlers,” said Boe.

When the dogs are out and around Peterson AFB, it’s the attention and actions of their handlers that keep everyone safe.

“The dogs definitely respond to our emotions,” Boe said.

“If I’m having a bad day, the dog will have a bad day. If we get frustrated, the dogs get frustrated.”

What the handlers find is that a lot of people don’t know how to act around the dogs, whether it’s through fear or ignorance, sometimes their own actions can cause an unsafe situation.

“I think a lot of people view our dogs like their own dogs they have at home, which isn’t the case,” said Senior Airman Karissa Fitzpatrick, 21st Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler.

“These are highly trained dogs that are bred for their intelligence as well as aggressiveness, but at the end of the day they’re still animals,” Fitzpatrick said. “If they’re uncomfortable or feel threatened, they’re going to react to that.”

A few good rules of thumb for how to when military working dogs are around are as follows:

-Do NOT pet or approach the dog.

-Do NOT make any sudden moves, especially when near the handler. The dogs are trained to react to threats to themselves or their handlers. Any sudden moves may startle the dog and cause it to react as if threatened.

-Do NOT allow children to approach or pet the dog. Most military working dogs don’t spend a lot of time around children and are not socialized towards them. A child screaming, waving hands or running at a dog can be a highly stressful event for the dog and could cause the dog to feel very threatened.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Steve Kotecki)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Senior Airman Karissa Fitzpatrick, 21st Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and her dog Dano conduct a vehicle check at the East Gate Commercial Vehicle Checkpoint at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on Dec. 22, 2017. Military working dog handlers are responsible for checking vehicles coming onto base for prohibited items.

-Do NOT ask the handler what the dog’s job is, it’s a matter of operational security and shouldn’t be discussed.

Throughout the year Security Forces will hold demonstrations with the dogs so that a better understanding of their work comes about. Following these general guidelines allow the MWD handler and the dog itself to work more efficiently without incident.



By Robb Lingley

21st Space Wing

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — 2017 brought forth numerous memorable events at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. These are some of the notable events that took place.

- Communities along the Colorado Front Range, including Peterson AFB and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, suffered severe wind damage Jan. 9. Roofs at Peterson AFB were severely damaged as well as two hangars on the flight line. Cheyenne Mountain AFS sustained winds up to 102 mph that damaged outside buildings and at least 40 vehicles.

- Members of Air Force Space Command and the Australian Defense Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt, Western Australia, March 7, to commemorate the C-Band Space Surveillance System reaching full operational status. The radar operates as a dedicated sensor node for the Space Surveillance Network.

- April 6, Col. Doug Schiess, 21st Space Wing commander, accepted the Omaha Trophy award from Gen. John E. Hyten, U.S. Strategic Command commander and Strategic Command Consultation Committee members. The Omaha Trophy recognized the 21st SW as USSTRATCOM's premier unit for global operations.

- April 7, Team Pete members honored Staff Sgt. Austin Bieren, a 21st SW security forces Airman. Bieren died in a non-combat related incident March 28, while deployed in support of combat operations.

- Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson visited Peterson AFB May 22. Wilson met with Airmen who execute space control operations in support of Air Force Space Command and combatant commander priorities.

- June 23, Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, along with Heather Wilson, secretary of the Air Force, visited Peterson AFB, where they were greeted by Gen John "Jay" Raymond, Air Force Space Command commander and Col. Doug Schiess, 21st SW commander. Pence and Wilson also visited Schriever AFB and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station where they were briefed on how space plays a role in military operations.

- Col. Todd Moore assumed command of the 21st Space Wing during a change of command ceremony July 11, at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Col. Doug Schiess relinquished command after two years as commander.

- Aug. 8 honored the 75th anniversary of 1st Lt. Edward Peterson's crash as he lifted off from the runway at Colorado Springs Army Air Base in 1942. Peterson was taking his Lockheed P-38 out for a test flight when the engine failed and the plane crashed and burst into flames. The base was later named Peterson Army Air Base and renamed Peterson AFB in 1976.

These were some of the memorable events that happened in 2017. Stay tuned for more in 2018.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dennis Hoffman)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — An Airman with the Peterson Air Force Base's Honor Guard renders a salute as Honor Guardsmen transfer the remains of Staff Sgt. Austin Bieren, of Umatilla, Ore., April 7, 2017, at Peterson AFB, Colo. Bieren was assigned to the 21st Space Wing as a security forces Airman and died in a non-combat related incident while deployed in support of combat operations March 28, 2017.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dennis Hoffman)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson engages with Airmen at the 16th Space Control Squadron during her first base visit as SECAF to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., May 22, 2017. Wilson spent time meeting Airmen assigned to Air Force Space Command's



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dennis Hoffman)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Vice President Mike Pence alongside his wife, Karen, and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson land at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., June 23, 2017. Pence and Wilson visited Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station for a closer look at how space plays an integral role in military operations.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dennis Hoffman)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Lt. Gen. David J. Buck, Commander, 14th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Air Force Space Command; and Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., passes the 21st Space Wing guidon to Col. Todd Moore, incoming commander, during the 21st SW change of command ceremony in hangar 140, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., July 11, 2017. Before taking command of the wing, Moore was Air Force Element commander at Royal Air Force Menwith Hill.



(Photo courtesy of Peterson Museum)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — 1st Lt. Edward Peterson poses with an airplane circa 1942. While serving as a pilot in the Army Air Forces, Lieutenant Peterson was killed in a plane accident at Colorado Springs Air Base, which was subsequently renamed in his honor.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dennis Hoffman)

CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE STATION, Colo. — Vice President Mike Pence speaks with Col. Doug Schiess, 21st Space Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Mark Bronson, 21st SW command chief, during his visit to Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., June 23, 2017. It has been 34 years since the last visit by the vice president of the United States.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rose Gudex)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The entire roof of a hangar next to the flightline lifted off the structure and blew over the rest of the building during a wind storm Jan. 9, 2017. Damage to the natural gas lines caused officials to restrict movement in the area to keep the personnel safe.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dennis Hoffman)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Col. Doug Schiess, 21st Space Wing commander, accepts the Omaha Trophy from Gen. John Hyten, U.S. Strategic Command commander, and Mogens Bay, Strategic Command Consultation Committee, on behalf of the 21st SW during a ceremony in the auditorium on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., April 6, 2017. This was the first time the 21st SW received the award since its inception in 2008.

Air Force medicine in the Korean War



(U.S. Air Force photo)

A U.S. Air Force H-5 returns with a patient during the Korean War.

By Peter Holstein

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va.— The Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) became independent from the U.S. Army in 1949, just four years after the end of World War II. The Korean War, just a year later, was the first opportunity for the new medical arm of the U.S. Air Force to demonstrate its value in a wartime situation. Many of the lessons learned and process developed in that conflict are still vital to the AFMS mission today.

When North Korean troops invaded South Korea in June 1950, Far East Air Forces (FEAF) had only about 85 medical personnel. Within two months, heavy U.S. and United Nations casualties almost overwhelmed the meager Allied medical resources in the Far East. FEAF medical personnel soon increased to more than 600.

Early in the war, the U.S. Army and Marine Corps preferred evacuating most casualties by rail and sea. The war soon showed that aeromedical evacuation, proven valuable in World War II, was ideal for evacuating all U.S. casualties. Army and Air Force helicopters, and Air Force C-47s and C-54s, evacuated most of the Korean War's casualties.

Evacuating casualties from the warzone by air reduced the casualty death rate by 50 percent from World War II, less than 10 years previous. Today, Air Force aeromedical evacuation assets are still the primary way to move casualties from warzones for care, and have contributed to the highest survivability rate of any conflict in history.

In the summer of 1950, to cope with the rush of casualties, Air Force H-5 rescue heli-



(U.S. Air Force photo)

A U.S. casualty of the Korean War arrives in Japan aboard a U.S. Air Force C-47, July 1950.

copters went into action as front-line medical craft. Air Force C-47 transports carried aeromedical crews into forward airstrips under enemy fire, saving many American lives. The Air Force's 801st Medical Air Evacuation Squadron was one of the first units to receive a Distinguished Unit Citation, evacuating more than 4,700 casualties from the Chosin Reservoir.

At the start of the war, the Air Force did not have full responsibility for aeromedical evacuation. Army and Marine units were responsible for forward medical evacuation with their own aeromedical helicopters. The

Air Force supplied longer-range aeromedical evacuation. In December 1953, however, the Air Force began organizing and staffing aeromedical staging facilities in forward combat areas.

To complete the increased medical mission during the Korean War, the AFMS began building hospital facilities at each Air Force base around the world. The first major USAF hospitals completed were at Elmendorf, Travis, Andrews, and Lackland Air Force Bases. The size and scope of these facilities vary to this day, depending on the medical requirements of each conflict.

The Korean War also showed the Air Force's need for better field hospitals. Medical facilities in Korea were clinically adequate but not standardized, and often built out of shell buildings and Quonset huts. In August 1953, the AFMS tested a standard 50-bed field hospital, which a C-119 could fly 1,000 miles overland to deploy. In 1955, the Air Force procured the first airborne medical assemblages, containing 36 beds. In the decades to come, the AFMS continued to develop ways to modularize and tailor portable medical assemblies to meet the precise needs of each deployment.



(U.S. Air Force photo)

The U.S. Air Force C-54 and the U.S. Air Force H-5 await their next aeromedical evacuation mission during the Korean War.

Area Chiefs of Staff meeting focuses on future developments



(U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Davidson-Beebe)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Colonel Eric Dorminey, 21st Space Wing vice commander, meets with Mike Jorgensen, a civilian member of the Area Chiefs of Staff, on Peterson AFB, Colo. Dec. 20, 2017. The members of ACOS meet monthly to discuss relevant developments in the local area.



(U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Davidson-Beebe)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, COLO. - Fred Brooks, 21st Civil Engineer Squadron environmental element chief, speaks at the Area Chiefs of Staff meeting on Peterson AFB, Colorado Dec. 20 2017. ACOS discussed the Air Force Community Partnership program and its benefits to the local area.

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21ST SPACE WING COMMANDER'S CORNER



Grateful

From page 2

book, The Four Agreements, he encourages us to simply always do our best, similar to our core value of Excellence in All We Do. He states, "Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret." I agree, whole-heartedly.

No matter where you may be or how you may celebrate this year's New Year, I encourage you to make the best of it. Have fun. Tell stories. Celebrate in this moment and remember those who have passed. Text or call that old friend or family member that you miss—I promise you, they'll love to hear from you.

Be grateful.

OPPORTUNITY.

It's my privilege and honor to serve as part of such a phenomenal team. Our joint team's strength stems from its diversity, which offers a multitude of flexible warfighting capabilities and individuals with a very particular set of skills--skills which make us a nightmare for people like ISIS (Shout out to Liam Neeson in Taken!). Our unshakeable coalition is comprised of people of all races, genders, upbringings, walks of life and backgrounds united under the unified OIR focus of "one mission, many nations." It's been gratifying to see the impact of our contributions as part

of a greater cause, as the Syrian Democratic Forces have liberated the ISIS capital of Ar Raqqa.

Within our unit, we possess a variety of backgrounds, varying levels of experience and a wide range of Air Force Specialty Codes to include operators, satellite communications/radio frequency technicians, aerospace ground equipment, cyber, engineers and security forces. In today's multi-domain battlespace, we represent the face of the modern-day space warfighter. We remain postured to deliver the fight, 24/7, and focus on disciplined operations, innovation, collaboration and integration so that our unique space situational awareness capabilities are effectively employed in support of theater operations.

Former British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli once remarked, "The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his time when it comes." In the space career field, the time is now. Across the battle space, there is an increased reliance and dependency on space capabilities as part of the fight. As many Knights undergo their advanced training cycles, I challenge them focus and get ready for the fight. On deployment, I was fortunate to integrate with a Marine Corps Commander who used the following questions as part of his command philosophy, which apply to our team, as well: "Are you ready to deploy tomorrow? If not, what do you need to accomplish to get there?" Whatever it is, do it.

WARRIOR MINDSET.

"Being a warrior is not about the act of fighting. It's about being so prepared to face a challenge and believing so strongly in the cause you are fighting for that you refuse to quit" ~ Richard 'Mack' Machowicz,

Navy SEAL

More than ever, space is a warfighting domain. Our operations are in the fight and we are here to stay. We play a vital role and we don't merely support warfighters -- we perform operations as warfighters. Thank you to all of those who participate in space operations; your role is vitally important. Thank you for fighting against complacency and for staying mentally sharp with a warrior mindset, whether that's in a deployed or home-station environment.

CHEERS, AND THANK YOU.

Thank you. What you do matters and I'm humbled to serve alongside our Airmen. I'm grateful to call my brothers and sisters in arms my Air Force Family and it's comforting to know that I have such an outstanding support system. Thank you for leading one another, celebrating traditions, and starting new ones.

I sincerely wish you a Happy New Year filled with laughter, good health, loving friends and family, and unforgettable memories. As you reflect back on last year's victories, challenges and key milestones, I wish you all the best in making each day better than the last. Pay it forward. To those of you on shift working the holiday, thank you for keeping us safe. Lastly, I wish you well in bracing the overwhelming surge of January gym-goers, unpredictable bowl games, Colorado winter driving conditions and unforeseen challenges that the upcoming year will bring. Come back hungrier than ever to crush it in 2018.

I invite you to raise a glass and celebrate this holiday season with two words in mind-- Be Grateful.

Cheers.

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THE *List* OF THINGS TO DO AROUND COLORADO SPRINGS

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ART EVENTS

After School Art Club, focusing mostly on drawing and painting with basic supplies included. Ages 7 and older. Wednesdays, 3:15-4:45 p.m. \$20/class. Alvarez Art School, 2418 W. Colorado Ave., Studio J, 337-2863, alvarezschool.com.

First Friday Art Walk — Pueblo, monthly art celebrations encompassing multiple locations in and around Pueblo's Creative Corridor. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Union Avenue, Pueblo, 719/242-6652, Susan@PuebloArts.org, PuebloArts.org.

First Friday ArtWalk, a visual monthly walking tour featuring exciting exhibits, accomplished artists and new trends in 14 art galleries along Colorado Avenue between 23rd and 27th Streets. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Free. Old Colorado City, 520-9494, facebook.com/ArtWalkOCC.

First Friday Downtown, featuring gallery openings, meet-the-artist events, performances and cultural activities throughout the area. Free artist- or curator-led walking tours available. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Downtown, various venues, 886-0088, claire@downtowncs.com, downtowncs.com/firstfriday.

Tao of Metal Art Show, original, vintage and industrial art. First Friday of every month, 6 p.m. Tao of Metal, 220 S. Sierra Madre St., 229-6841, taoofmetal@gmail.com, taoof-metal.com.

ART EXHIBITS

Academy Art and Frame Company, 7560 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academy-frame@gmail.com, academyframesco.com. Featured artist Renee Reiko Campbell, showcasing Campbell's diverse works, from photography to acrylics to combinations of her mediums. Through Feb. 7. Artist reception, Jan. 19, 4-8 p.m. *10th Annual High School Ceiling Tiles Competition*, featuring high school students from different schools, who created 4'x4' tiles to hang from the ceiling. Voting can be done in-store or on AAFC's Facebook page. Through Feb. 14. Featured AAFC Artist: Michael Malta, exhibiting his specialty: realistic oils and watercolors. Through Jan. 6.

Arati Artists Gallery, 2425 W. Colorado Ave., 636-1901, deed@aurawoods.com, arati-artists.com. *Two New Artists*, welcoming oil painter Jerry Thompson Gwynn and watercolorist/acrylic painter Joan Judge. All month long, Arati will participate in a "\$100 and under" sale. Through Jan. 30.

Art 111, 111 E. Bijou St., 471-3438, art111.springs@gmail.com. *Mi Barrio*, an urban/cultural art show by Brandon "BAM" Miera and his son Rodan "READ" Miera, exhibiting together for the first time. Through Jan. 5.

Bella's Bakery and Bistro, 3 E. Bijou St., 493-5084, bellasbakeryandbistro.com. *Classic Wall Art*, photography and artwork by Robin Schneider, including landscapes and more, framed and ready to hang. Ongoing.

Boulder Street Gallery Artists, 206 N. Tejon St., 636-9358, boulderstgallary@gmail.com, boulderstreetgallery.com. January Featured Artists, featuring watercolorist Martha Lancaster and painter Jack Malloch, with guest artist Susan Marion. Opening reception, Jan. 5, 5-8 p.m. Through Jan. 31. Meet and chat with BSG artists any Saturday afternoon.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Explorations in Encaustic*, featuring works by Sheary Clough Suiter, exploring the complexity of encaustic, a paint made from beeswax and damar resin. Through Jan. 28. First Friday reception, Jan. 5, 5-8 p.m. FAC Legacy Series: *Adolf Dehn and the American Land*, featuring the work of modernist Adolf Dehn, an important figure in the history of the FAC and who taught at the Broadmoor Art Academy in the 1930s. Through March 18. Jennifer Steinkamp: *Judy Crook*, with elegant projections of trees, which will fill the walls of an otherwise darkened gallery, immersing the viewer in a serenely unnatural, yet natural landscape. Through Jan. 21. *Postcommodity: A Very Long Line*, demonstrating "the dehumanizing and polarizing



RECREATION & OUTDOORS

Tuesday Walkers, a walking group for seniors. Tuesdays, 8 a.m. Senior Resource Development Agency, 230 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/545-8900, srda.org.

constructs of nationalism and globalization through which borders and trade policies have been fabricated." Through Jan. 7. Raven Chacon: *Lightning Speak*, diverse works ranging from sculptural sound installations, to site-specific performance and collaborative projects. Through Jan. 7. Steven Durow: *Heartland*, a new series of large-scale sculpture; ethereal, introspective works that investigate his alternately idyllic and traumatic childhood. Through Jan. 21.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Canon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, marketing@commonwheel.com, commonwheel.com/pottery-by-the-pound.html. *Pottery by the Pound*, the annual sale of Commonwheel Artist Co-op members' studio inventory. Beautiful pottery seconds and other art items available at discounted prices, many items sold by weight. Through Jan. 28.

COPPER (Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region), 121 S. Tejon St., #111, 634-2204, info@culturaloffice.org, peakradar.com. *GLOCASE*, the first public group show of artwork by GLO, a support group for women and female-identifying folk of color in Southern Colorado. Through Feb. 19.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, info@cottonwood-centerforthearts.com, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Magpie's Nest*, an exhibit of work that suggests the collecting habits of magpie and the nesting habits of humans in winter. Through Jan. 6.

G44 Gallery, 1785 S. Eighth St., Suite A, 720/951-0573, galleryg44.com. *Materia+*, featuring the contemporary encaustic work of artist Michele Renée Ledoux. Opening reception, Jan. 5, 5-9 p.m. Through Feb. 10.

Gallery 113, 1251/2 N. Tejon St., 634-5299, gallery113cos.com. "A true co-operative gallery with an eclectic mix of local fine artists — including painters, photographers, potters, jewelers, stained glass artists, and more." Ongoing.

The Gallery Below, 718B N. Weber St., 347/961-4789, jonb@thegallerybelow.com, facebook.com/thegallerybelow. *Rattle Cans*, the first showing of the new work of local artist Connie Greisz, an expression of her love of her newest medium — spray paint. Opening reception, Jan. 5, 6-9 p.m. Through Jan. 31.

GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, gallery@uccs.edu, uccs.edu/goca. *Iconoclasm*, featuring the work of two Colorado-based artists, Jonathan Dankenbring and Corey Drieth, exploring minimalism across media, including solo works and a collaboration. Through March 17.

Ivywild School, 1604 S. Cascade Ave., 633-4240, themodbo@gmail.com, ivywild-school.com. *New Art by Teri Homick*, an exhibit of beautiful, ethereal work, all done in alcohol ink. All art will be for sale. Curated by The Modbo. Opening reception, Jan. 4, 5-7 p.m. Through March 31.

Kreuser Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 464-5880, kreusergallery@gmail.com, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Energy*: Third Annual Photography Invitational, a joint show hosted by The Bridge Gallery, TwentyOne8, Kreuser Gallery and The Commons, featuring more than 25 of the community's amazing photographers. Opening reception, Jan. 5, 5-8 p.m. Through Jan. 26.

Manitou Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, manitouartcenter.org. *Lucere*, a photographic documentary of local artists by Abigail Kreuser. Through Feb. 28. Opening reception, Dec. 15, 5-8 p.m. *Trivium/Quadrivium*, artwork by Nathaniel Baker, including metal sculpture, laser-cut etchings, illustrations and more. Through Feb. 10. *1st Amendment Gallery*, including works that promote free speech through artistic expression. Ongoing.

Pikes Perk Coffee & Tea House, 5965 N. Academy Blvd., 522-1432. *Pikes Peak Pastel Society Show*, featuring the artwork of members Marlene Kort, Pat Geonetta and Kris Olson. Opening reception, Jan. 5, 6:30-8:45 p.m., with music by Zoe Anderson and The Beatitudes.

Plaza of the Rockies, 121 S. Tejon St., 260-6637, michaeljpach@gmail.com, facebook.com/plazaoftherockies. *Photopalooza at the Plaza*, an eclectic display featuring photography from members of the The Colorado Photography Learning Group. Opening reception, Jan. 5, 5-8 p.m., includes light snacks and music by the Sarah Groh Trio. Through Jan. 31.

Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, mail@sdcs-arts.org, sdc-arts.org. Billy Schenck: *The Myth of the West*, with subject matter spanning genres from western landscape to cowboy pop, exploring the collisions between wilderness and civilization, the individual and community, nature and culture. Through Jan. 7. *Western Traditions*, featuring a selection of paintings about the history and traditions of people of the American West, chosen from the 425-plus works that now make up the Francis King Collection of Western Art. Through Jan. 20.

The Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo@gmail.com, themodbo.com. *Small Works X*, featuring more than 500 small artworks by nearly 150 artists, exhibited for the 10th year at The Modbo and S.P.Q.R. Fridays, 1-6 p.m. and Tues-

days-Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; through Jan. 5.

Zeezo's, 112 N. Tejon St., 633-2571, spicastolfus@gmail.com, zeezos.com. *Return of the 14 Jedi/Sith*, celebrating another *Star Wars* film with the return of artist Spica's prints, representing characters from the popular franchise. Through Feb. 15.

AUDITIONS & ENTRIES

Colorado Creative Co-op, has openings for artists in the following categories: 3D art, wall art, and fiber. Email for an application. Ongoing. Colorado Creative Co-op, 2513½ W. Colorado Ave., 337-7288, cccsubmits@gmail.com.

Ormao Dance Company, is looking for technically trained, intriguing movers over the age 19 to participate in its Audition Class, which will include modern dance technique, phrasework and guided improvisation. The Audition Class will entail a one year contract. Participants must be able to attend weekly company classes, rehearsals and scheduled performances. Sun., Jan. 7, 1-3:30 p.m. \$15. Ormao Dance Company, 10 S. Spruce St., 471-9759, ormaodance@gmail.com, ormaodance.org.

Palmer Divide Photography Group, inviting photographers of all levels to submit their original photography for consideration in the 2018 *Visions of Light Photography Exhibition*. Through Jan. 15. \$35/three photographs; \$10/each additional entry. Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, info@trilakesarts.org, trilakesarts.org.

The Bridge Gallery, is accepting applications for membership from local professional artists. Prospective members should have a high-quality body of work. Ongoing. The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgertgallery.com.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Currently Speaking Toastmasters, "open to anyone looking to improve public speaking, interpersonal and leadership skills. Come improve your communication and leadership skills in an environment that is fun, friendly, and dynamic." Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Colorado Springs Fire Station 14, 1875 Dublin Blvd., 5481.toastmastersclubs.org.

D&D Encounters, GMs and players are needed for the weekly Encounters sessions or an ongoing campaign every third Saturday. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Free. Petrie's Family Games, 7681 N. Union Blvd., 522-1099, petriesmarketing@gmail.com, facebook.com/PetriesGames.

Ella Mae Bransom Sickle Cell Association, gatherings to work for the improvement of the quality of health and life of local families and individuals affected by sickle cell and related diseases. Go online for more info. First Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m. Southeast YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive, 596-7308, facebook.com/EllaMaeBransom-SickleCellAssociation.

Fencing Classes, available for children, teens and adults at Front Range Fencing Club. Includes use of all equipment needed during the beginning four week class. Mondays-Thursdays. \$100/four classes. Chinook Trail Elementary School, 11795 Grand Lawn Circle, 339-5495, frontrangefencingclub@comcast.net, frontrangefencingclub.com.

Lifetree Café, enjoy stories, fascinating people and lively conversation. Share your thoughts about compelling topics and hear the thoughts of others. Snacks and beverages available. Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Free. Third Space Coffee, 5670 N. Academy Blvd., 465-1657, thirdspacecoffee.org.

Lucky Scooter Gang, a chance to get involved with Colorado Springs' premier modern scooter club through weekly get-togethers, group rides and rallies. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Sportique Scooters, 1834 E. Platte Ave., 442-0048, facebook.com/groups/LuckyScooterGang.

Pikes Peak New Horizons Band, a band organization for adults 40 and older who would like to continue to play musical instruments. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Awakening Church, 3445 Oro Blanco

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Eastern Plains • \$150,000
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Eastern Plains • \$156,000
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19271 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$156,000
Land

19751 Good Life View
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Land/Under Contract

18165 Prairie Coach View
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Land/Under Contract

18166 Prairie Coach View
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Land

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7847 Hidden Pine Drive
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7854 Pinfeather Drive
Mesa Ridge • \$354,500
New Construction

6627 Cottonwood Tree Drive
Banning Lewis Ranch • \$359,900
New Construction/Under Contract

7804 Pinfeather Drive
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7864 Pinfeather Drive
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