

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

NOVEMBER 2006

DENVER AIRPORT USO OPEN LATE FOR THANKSGIVING TRAVELERS

Thanks to cadet mom, Mrs. Andy Taylor, for checking with the Denver Airport USO to see if they could stay open later than their usual 8:00 am - 8:00 pm hours for those cadets traveling on 21 November. Hedy Margolis, the Director of Rocky Mountain USO, was kind enough to find volunteers who would stay until midnight so the cadets who had late departures would have a safe place to hang out.

The USO is located on the A Concourse next to the Continental President's Club, just over the bridge past Security. There is an elevator just outside the door that will take passengers to the trains so they can access other concourses.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND, CADET CHORALE IN NEW YORK CITY!

Wed - 22 Nov (all times EST)

- Early morning – Stellar Brass on FOX & Friends
- 1000 – Falconaires Jazz Ensemble & General Lichte -- Cardinal Spellman H.S. Bronx
- 1000 - Blue Steel rock band with Sabre Team -- Mamaroneck H.S.
- 2000 – USAFA Band Holiday performance at Carnegie Hall

Thu - 23 Nov

- Morning – Macy's Parade – USAFA Band, Cadet Honor Guard, Cadet Chorale, Cadet Sabre Team, AFRC Pipe Band (available 13-member team—total AF message for AF 60th)
- Evening – Cadets/Falconers/Marching Band and Gen Lichte and Gen Regni on David Letterman

Fri - 24 Nov

- Morning - Good Morning America with Wild Blue Country deployment band-- ABC studios--Times Square
- 1330 - Stellar Brass, Dr. Galema and Cadet Chorale (50 members) - St. Patrick's Cathedral

Sat - 25 Nov

- 1900 - Blue Steel & Wild Blue Country "Home for the Holidays" – Columbia Green Community College Hudson, NY

Sun - 26 Nov

- 1200 – USAFA Cadet Chorale recital and AFA Parents Luncheon – Hofstra U., Hempstead, NY
- 1500 – USAFA Band Holiday performance – Hempstead, NY (same as Carnegie Performance)

POLARIS YEARBOOK INFORMATION

2006 POLARIS yearbook order forms were mailed to the home-of-record of graduating seniors approximately one month before graduation. All products are available for preorder from anyone with exception of Family, Friends and Supporter (FFS) Yearbook Messages.

*Messages can be placed in yearbook for graduating seniors only.

POLARIS yearbook, \$70 plus S&H

“Story of Class” graduation DVD, \$60 plus S&H

Family, Friends and Supporter Yearbook Message, \$15 up to 70 characters and \$35 up to 140 characters

Order forms are also available by calling 719-333-4644 or online at <http://www.usafa.af.mil/34trw/cwmedia/>. These forms are then mailed or faxed to Cadet Wing Media, at anytime except with FFS message that must be completed and returned by due date. Customers are charged and products are shipped to customer in fall after graduation.

Each year the entire cadet wing, including recently graduated cadets, receive their POLARIS yearbooks. We anticipate POLARIS 2006, Commemorative Series Vol. 3, to be mailed directly from the publishing plant in late October/ mid November 2006 to our preorder customers and 2LT's; the remaining yearbooks will be distributed to the cadet wing.

The POLARIS yearbook depicts extraordinary events during the academic year at the Academy providing a treasured keepsake both for current cadets and alumni alike. Beginning in 2004 the POLARIS yearbook presented its first volume in a six-part series commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Each year a special 12-page section is dedicated to the rich and distinguished history of the U.S. Air Force Academy. This special section is not designed to be all inclusive, but rather identify various aspects of our half century of noteworthy milestones along the way.

We trust you'll enjoy tracking the events with us and encourage you to begin building your Polaris collectable set now.

The commemorative six-edition series will be available in a box set. For more information on this or any other products available through Cadet Wing Media, call 719-333-4644.

INFORMATION ON SUMMER LEAVE

- Typical rising 3-degree summer involves one period of Operation Air Force (visit to a base), one period with 10 days of Global Engagement (expeditionary skills training) and 10 days of an airmanship or space program and one period of leave.
- Cadets are given the opportunity to put in a summer leave preference; however, there are ~1,300 rising 3-degree cadets and not all of them will get their first leave preference.
- Most cadets will learn what period they have in late March, but if a cadet has indicated there is a once in a lifetime event that they must attend (i.e., immediate family retirement, wedding, promotion ceremony) they will get answer in January.
- Other things that can dictate leave periods are requirements like: surgeries, summer academics and NCAA rules.

LETTER FROM MITCH'S MANAGEMENT

Dear Parents,

October proved to be a very productive month for the Mitchell Hall Team. I'm proud to share that we continue to make great improvements and those positive changes are being recognized by the Cadets. Here is an email we received from one cadet, "*I think you have done an outstanding job at improving the cadet outlook on Mitch's. You have impressed me with your service-oriented attitude and willingness to take suggestions on what works and what does not. The leadership in other areas of the academy should take a lesson from your example.*" Cadets now take the time to seek us out on the dining room floor and identify poor products to us; they are helping us solve the problems.

As I'm sure you all are aware, Colorado Springs was hit with the worst winter storm since 1997. All four military installations in Colorado Springs closed on Thursday, 26 Oct 06. Driving conditions were brutal and news broadcasts advised all citizens to stay at home. However, the dedicated staff at Mitchell Hall braved adverse conditions to ensure the cadets received hot meals. Staff members volunteered to spend the night in the facility on Wednesday, 25 Oct 06 to ensure that employees would be present in the event the blizzard hit as forecasted. 30 of the employees ended up working a double shift since there were a significant number of staff members that could not make it to the Air Force Academy. The Mitchell Hall inclement weather plan incorporates a cadet contingency that is comprised of 60 cadets that have received "*food service basic training*". On Friday, 27 Oct 06 a contingency of 12 cadets assisted Mitchell Hall staff with preparing the breakfast meal starting at 0430. Our thanks to those 12 cadets that supported the Mitchell Hall mission! On both Thursday and Friday, cadets were extremely appreciative to the front-line workers and thanked them for making the sacrifice and being here to serve them. Again, that mutual respect and appreciation is being fostered by both sides.

In October, the Mitchell Hall management team attended two regional food shows in Denver. It had been four years since staff had attended these shows. This is the one time of year when manufacturers showcase their new products and attendees have an opportunity to sample items and ask questions. Mitchell Hall has tremendous buying power and the manufacturers recognize the operation and aggressively seek to have their products served to the Cadet Wing. As a result of the show, we will be introducing new Pillsbury biscuits, increase variety of Tropicana Twister fruit juices, sliced cheese for sandwiches, increase variety of sauces for wings, and more.

We held the second Mitchell Hall/Cadet focus group on 11 Oct 06. Again, there were representatives from all 40 squadrons. We are working with Cadet Wing Leadership to have the representative of the focus group be a job within each squadron. Continuity is critical for success. The two major topics of discussion were breakfast menu options and concern over food waste. The focus group meetings continue to build the foundation for communication and mutual respect.

The second taste testing of the 2007 Academic Year was a hit with cadets. More than 200 cadets participated in the evening buffet on 24 Oct 06. Cadets sampled 20 products which ranged from whole wheat pastas to Italian sausages; 14 of the items will be incorporated to the core Mitchell Hall menu. It will take six weeks for items to be introduced to the menu due to

planning and procurement requirements. The next taste testing is scheduled for breakfast on Saturday, 2 Dec 06 and will be solely dedicated to breakfast products.

We held the first new and improved "Birthday Meal" for cadets on 31 Oct 06. I believe that a quote from one of the cadets will provide the best description of the evening. "Tonight you had the new burgers for dinner, with sesame seed buns, and I just wanted to make sure you knew how much we all appreciated them, as well as all of the special sides you put out tonight (candy bars, chips, soda). It is a dinner like tonight's that makes a really bad day a good deal better."

Our primary focus continues to be dedicated to improving food quality, which incorporates vendor accountability. We are also working on customer service and building the rapport between our wait staff and cadets. We are committed to our customers, "the cadets". Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Otherwise I'll be back in touch with all of you in December to share our progress.

Sincerely,

Vicki Peterson

//signed//

Vicki Peterson

Chief, Cadet Support Flight

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719-333-9579