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Active shooter: SFS Airmen learn skills to respond

BY MONICA MENDOZA

21st Space Wing Public Affairs staff writer



FORT CARSON, Colo. -- Airmen from the 21st Security Forces Squadron recently emerged from a five-day, 48-hour intense training course as certified active shooter instructors.

The SFS members attended the instructor course, taught by a private Washington-based company, at Fort Carson Army Installation's Range 60 - a "town" of blown out buildings, burned out vehicles and dusty courtyards. The Airmen and Department of Defense police were able to conduct building searches, medical assistance and other scenarios they have faced or will face, the course instructors said.

Tech. Sgt. Edward Satterfield, 21st SFS, organized the event, which included 20 other Airmen and DoD police from across Air Force Space Command. The company, Active Shooter Training, is owned and run by a former Marine who is a sheriff's officer in King County, Wash. The company has taught active shooter training since 2001 and started working with the military in 2007, said Nick Minzghor, Active Shooter Training owner.

"What we specialize in is the stuff that happens after the bad guy is dead - mass medical, command and control, search procedures and multi-team response," Mr. Minzghor said. "Our scenarios go from the point when the call comes in, to when the SWAT arrives, which could be one hour later."

In the course, the Airmen and DoD police learned techniques necessary to plan and implement thorough, on-going training for their squadrons, Mr. Minzghor said. Their instruction also included policy implementation and course development.

The training, held May 2-5, gave the 21st SFS additional

An Airman enters a building during an Active Shooter Instructor Course May 2-5, 2011 at Fort Carson Army Installation's Range 60. Airmen from the 21st Security Forces Squadron became certified active shooter instructors, along with 20 other active duty and Department of Defense police officers, after a five-day, 48-hour training course put on by a Washington-based private company. The 21st SFS certified active shooter instructors provide on-going training for the squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Monica Mendoza)

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Medical Group closed

The 21st Medical Group including the Pete East Refill Pharmacy is closed May 27-30 for Memorial Day. For all medical emergencies call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. When requiring after hours acute care contact the 556-CARE line and choose the USAFA Acute Care clinic. Beneficiaries are reminded that if you require refills on your medication; pick them up by May 26.

North gate closed

The north gate will be closed May 27-30 for the Memorial Day holiday and family day. The west and east gates will have normal operating hours.

Assistive technology gives wounded warriors second chances

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA HINES
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- Despite restricted abilities, this year's athletes participating in the 2011 Warrior Games here will boast strength, speed, stamina and a whole lot of will power as they strive to reach higher and celebrate each other the best way they know how, through the power of sport.

Because of the world of assistive technology, the term used to include technology which helps rehabilitate, adapt and improve quality of life for people with disabilities, many have been introduced or re-introduced to sports they otherwise would not have approached before.

After surviving injuries sustained from a free fall jump, 19-year-old Matthew Pirrello, a sophomore at Ohio University and Air Force ROTC cadet, became an amputee above his right knee. The challenges of adapting to a prosthetic leg, designed specifically for him, have not kept this young cadet from pursuing his goals. New designs in prosthesis have given above-the-knee amputees the ability to face small obstacles many take for granted.

There was a time when above-the-knee am-

putees couldn't go down steps foot over foot, but with the new developments in prosthetics, the ability to move more easily is becoming a reality, Cadet Pirrello said.

This advancement is due to a cylinder within the prosthetic leg, which compresses to adjust for weight distribution and allows for more fluid movement. This means going down a step is smoother, whereas before a person with a prosthetic leg had to take one step at a time, now they can go from step to step and the prosthetic leg will bend and move with the person's own movement.

Over time the microprocessor within the prosthetic leg will learn and adjust to Cadet Pirrello's movement as it learns his body and weight distribution, and he, in turn, learns to move with it, making even greater adjustments in the future.

"When you're walking and it's bent, if you put pressure on it, it will sense you're putting all this weight on it and will stiffen up, it's not just going to give out on you. It's the most secure leg, I've never fallen with it" said Cadet Pirrello.

Another advanced feature is the ability to change the modes of the prosthetic leg.

"If you bounce on the toe three times, it'll



Matthew Pirrello, a sophomore at Ohio University and Air Force ROTC cadet, poses for a photo after finishing wheelchair basketball practice May 12, 2011 at the United States Air Force Academy. Cadet Pirrello will be competing in swimming, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball at the 2011 Warrior Games in Colorado Springs. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Airman 1st Class Jessica Hines)

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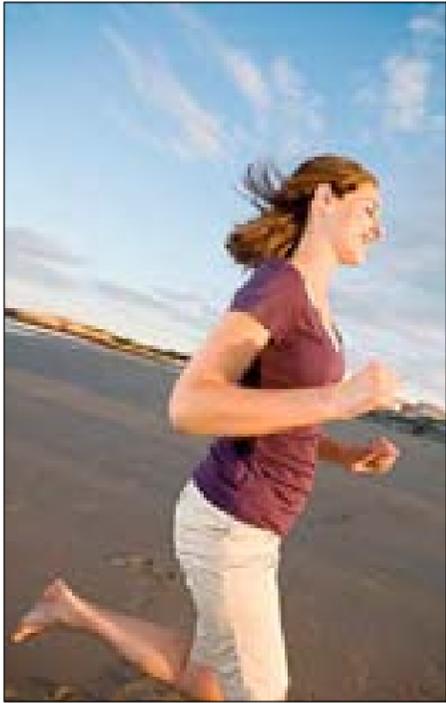
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CALENDAR / BASE BRIEFS



Courtesy photo

Running club

The Peterson Running Club meets at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday behind the bowling center. For information call Les Stewart at 556-3210 or e-mail leslie.stewart@peterson.af.mil.

Master sergeant release party

There is a master sergeant release party at 3:30 p.m. May 20 at The Club.

Free lithos

The 21st Space Wing Public Affairs Office has a limited number of Air Force lithograph sets available. Pick up a free set at Building 845, room 219.

Teen summit

The 2011 Joint Reserve Component Teen Leadership Summit is open to 14-18 year old family members of current military serving in the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve. Airfare, transportation while at the summit, camp registration fees, meals and lodging are covered by grant funding. Application deadline is May 20. Additional information, including instructions for teen applicants and adult volunteers, is available at <http://www.georgia4h.org/jointreservesummit>.

Diversity Day

The 21st Space Wing Equal Opportunity Office is hosting a Diversity Day celebration

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 at The Club. The fair will showcase cultural diversity in the area, enhancing the understanding of differences to achieve a common goal: unity. The event features 30 booths with ethnic and cultural artifacts, food tasting, entertainment and more. For information, call 556-7691.

Military spouse appreciation day

The Peterson AFB Airman and Family Readiness Center is having a military spouse appreciation day from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. May 24 in the Building 350 atrium. All military spouses are welcome, and there will be activities for the children. The event features free food, prizes, activities, crafts, beauty treatments and fun. RSVP by May 23 to Mr. Mel Castile, Melvin.castile@peterson.af.mil, or call 556-6141.

Find a federal job

The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host a "Ten Steps to a Federal Job" class to help job seekers navigate the federal job employment system. Class time is 1 to 4 p.m. May 25 at the A&FRC, Building 350, room 1203. To register, call 556-6141.

Running club

The Peterson Running Club meets at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday behind the bowling center. For information call Les Stewart at 556-3210 or e-mail leslie.stewart@peterson.af.mil.

CAMO closed for holiday

The Capital Asset Management Office, formerly known as the Housing Office, is closed May 27-30 for the holiday weekend, and reopens for normal operations May 31.

Preseparation counseling

The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers preseparation counseling from 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday in Building 350, room 1203. Preseparation counseling is mandated by congress for all separating and retiring active duty members, and the counseling must be accomplished no later than 90 days from date of separation. The purpose of preseparation counseling is to ensure all active duty separating service members have the opportunity to be made aware of the transition services and benefits available to assist them and their spouses in adjusting to civilian life. Call Sherri Kitchens at 556-6141 for information.

Active shooter:

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instructors to maintain continuity in its active shooter training program, Sergeant Satterfeld said.

"What we are hoping to do is get all the other individuals in the unit trained up, that way everybody uses the same tactics," he said. "With how things are today, you may never be with the person you were with yesterday during training. So, if we get everybody together we will all know the basics of how we will set up and how we will enter into a facility."

Fort Carson's Range 60 provided the 21st SFS and the other Airmen and trainees with a realistic setting. In one scenario, teams of five were sent into a courtyard, where civilians were screaming, the enemy was down, and there was a wounded person in need of medical attention.

"They have to tactically approach, keep their 360-coverage and make sure no bad guys are around while they deal with the medical problem," said Doug Deppa, an Active Shooter Training instructor.

The 21st SW has incorporated active shooter scenarios into its quarterly exercises for the past year, ever since the Nov. 5, 2009 shooting on the Fort Hood Army Installation in Texas.

Master Sgt. Jason Smith, Air Force Space Command training and standardization and evaluation superintendent, said the Active Shooter Training course employs the most common sense approach to preparing for a possible active shooter, either in a deployed location or at a home base.

"Our expectation is to be able to get more specifics on what we should do with our active shooter teams," Sergeant Smith said. "Above all, we want to neutralize an active shooter if that situation were to actually occur."



A five-member team enters a building during an Active Shooter Instructor Course May 2-5, 2011. Airmen from the 21st Security Forces Squadron became certified instructors, along with 20 other active duty and Department of Defense police officers, after a five-day, 48-hour training course put on by a Washington-based private company and held at Fort Carson Army Installation's Range 60. The 21st SFS certified active shooter instructors provide on-going training for the squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Monica Mendoza)

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