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MIKE KAPLAN

Master Sgt. Jesse Chervinka and Jessie Rhom help a cadet process an Electronic Questionnaire for Investigations Processing, or e-QIP, form in the Foreign Language Lab here Jan. 12. Information Protection Directorate officials process between 650 and 700 cadet applications for top-secret clearance annually. Chervinka is the Academy military training NCO for Cadet Squadron 31. Rhom is the IP Directorate's personnel security chief.

Caring for Cadets

Info protection offers training, streamlined clearance process

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Editor's note: This is the first article in a series focusing on how various units at the Academy "Care for Cadets." Subsequent articles will appear in upcoming editions of the Academy Spirit.

The Information Protection Directorate here held briefings Saturday to help two-thirds of the Academy's seniors complete forms required for Office of Personnel Management top-secret clearance investigations, which the cadets will need for their careers after they graduate.

The briefings aim to familiarize cadets with the importance of protecting classified information and to answer any questions cadets may have about filling out electronic questionnaires for processing.

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Academy moves powered-flight airspace to avoid conflict

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff writer

Go East, young man. That's not quite the same advice offered to 19th-century settlers moving to Colorado, but none of them had to fly in airspace shared by two major airports.

New training areas for the Academy's powered flight airmanship pro-

gram took effect in December, moving operations several miles east of the previous areas.

The Federal Aviation Administration claimed the previous training areas, near the Interstate 25 corridor between Monument and Castle Rock, to create GPS-guided navigation routes for corporate aircraft, said Ted Goodlin, a next-generation imple-

mentation specialist with the FAA.

The airspace over Interstate 25 between Denver International Airport and Colorado Springs Airport is a busy corridor, Goodlin said.

"Finding the sweet spot on where to locate the satellite-based navigation routes is a difficult task," Goodlin added. "That's what generated the change."

Cadets spend five to 10 minutes longer flying to and from the new training areas because they're further east, said Lt. Col. Andrew Julson, director of operations for the 557th Flying Training Squadron, which oversees the powered flight airmanship program.

"We've lost some training time due

See Airspace Page 7

A group of adventure seekers, including four Air Force Academy graduates, have reached the six highest peaks in six continents.

They are now preparing for the big one: Mount Everest. If they reach their goal, they will make history.

By Amber Baillie • Academy Spirit staff writer

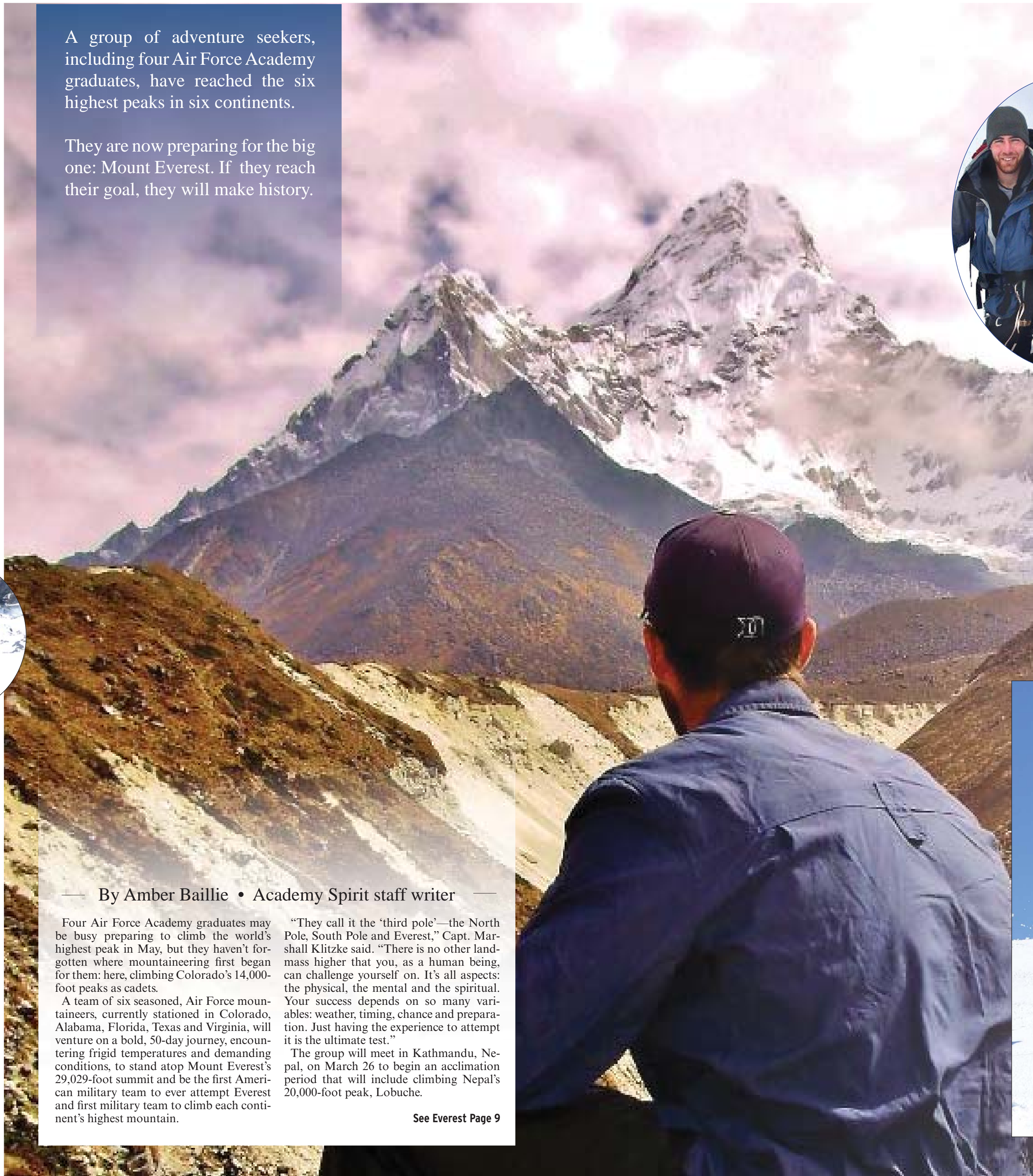
Four Air Force Academy graduates may be busy preparing to climb the world's highest peak in May, but they haven't forgotten where mountaineering first began for them: here, climbing Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks as cadets.

A team of six seasoned, Air Force mountaineers, currently stationed in Colorado, Alabama, Florida, Texas and Virginia, will venture on a bold, 50-day journey, encountering frigid temperatures and demanding conditions, to stand atop Mount Everest's 29,029-foot summit and be the first American military team to ever attempt Everest and first military team to climb each continent's highest mountain.

"They call it the 'third pole'—the North Pole, South Pole and Everest," Capt. Marshall Klitzke said. "There is no other landmass higher than you, as a human being, can challenge yourself on. It's all aspects: the physical, the mental and the spiritual. Your success depends on so many variables: weather, timing, chance and preparation. Just having the experience to attempt it is the ultimate test."

The group will meet in Kathmandu, Nepal, on March 26 to begin an acclimation period that will include climbing Nepal's 20,000-foot peak, Lobuche.

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“There is no other landmass higher than you, as a human being, can challenge yourself on. It's all aspects: the physical, the mental and the spiritual.”

- Marshall Klitzke, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot and flight instructor at the Academy.



Everest

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Klitzke, 30, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot and flight instructor here, visited Nepal last fall to climb the 22,349-foot peak, Ama Dablam, with Capt. Kyle Martin, an Academy graduate stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Va., who will also scale Everest.

"So far it's been the pinnacle of my mountaineering," Klitzke said. "I feel like it's given me the credentials to go after Everest."

Klitzke's passion for climbing developed in 2001, while he was a cadet at the Academy, and began regularly climbing the state's "fourteens," skiing, camping and rock-climbing with friends.

"We were always in the mountains," Klitzke said. "Since then it's stuck with me. In mountaineering, everything just kind of slows down, you're very much in the moment and everything else in life just kind of fades away."

Capt. Colin Merrin, 28, a GPS satellite operations mission commander stationed at Schriever AFB, Colo., is another Academy graduate who will join the team. Merrin's resume of peaks include Mount Rainier, Mount Whitney, Mount Blanc and Mount Aconcagua.

"I want to climb Everest to be a part of something truly amazing," Merrin said. "Being an

avid mountaineer, this was an opportunity that I could not turn down. I had heard about the team for years and knew that it would be a tremendous honor to be a part of such an elite group of climbers tackling the highest mountain in the world, and most importantly, supporting the ideals that the 7 Summits Team represents."

The risky, ambitious quest is part of the U.S. Air Force Seven Summits Challenge, a tax-exempt organization created in 2005 by special operations pilot Maj. Rob Marshall. The organization strives to shed positive light on the Air Force by leading teams of Airmen to the summit of each continent's highest peak and honoring service members who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

"What we want people to learn is that anything they're good at, whether it's climbing a mountain, running marathons, playing music or designing Web pages, they can find a way to use their skills to make the world better, whether it be promoting the Air Force or promoting the charity," Marshall said.

The organization has raised more than \$60,000 for charities such as the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and the That Others May Live Foundation. The team has conquered six of the summits; Everest is the final mountain.

If the team reaches the summit, they will mark history as the first military team to climb each continent's highest mountain and the first U.S. military team to conquer Everest, Marshall said.

"You're not going to find anybody on our climb that isn't in excellent shape and passionate about this," Marshall said. "The trip requires lot of money and time. They're all experienced climbers and two thirds of the team are Academy grads."

Marshall, a 2001 Academy graduate, said it was through his participation in the Academy's mountaineering and explorer's club that heightened his love for climbing. He conquered 27 peaks as a cadet.

"The Academy's sports and clubs try to teach positive, life-long habits and outlets for exercise and health," Marshall said.

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Far left: Air Force pilot and Academy flight instructor, Marshall Klitzke, reflecting on his experience after climbing the 22,349 foot-peak, Ama Dablam.

Left: Special operations pilot and leader of the Everest team, Maj. Rob Marshall, skiing with an Air Force flag from the summit of Australia's highest peak, Mt. Kosciuszko.

Inset above: Capt. Marshall Klitzke, left, and Capt. Kyle Martin, right, on the summit of Pisang Peak in Nepal. Both Academy grads will climb Everest in May.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: MARSHALL KLITZKE AND ROB MARSHALL

Outstanding Squadron of 2012 to march in Inaugural Parade

By 1st Lt. Brandon Baccam
Academy Public Affairs

The “Raptors” of Cadet Squadron 22 will represent the Air Force Academy when they march in the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade Monday in Washington.

Led by Cadets 1st Class Josh Williams and Erin Doran, CS 22 will march through the National Mall before an anticipated audience of more

than 500,000.

Williams, the Academy’s Cadet Wing commander, and the other cadets will march alongside various commanders from the active-duty Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

“Representing the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Wing (and) all of my friends and family back home in the Inaugural Parade is a tremendous honor and privilege,” Williams said.

The following cadets, all members of the Cadet Wing Outstanding Squadron of 2012, will march in honor of President Barack Obama’s inauguration:

Cadet 1st Class Bryan Anderson
Cadet 1st Class Evan Boone
Cadet 1st Class Douglas Brown
Cadet 1st Class Logan Burch
Cadet 1st Class Kyle Casci
Cadet 1st Class Erin Conley
Cadet 1st Class Erin Doran
Cadet 1st Class Benjamin Fischl
Cadet 1st Class Anthony Gray
Cadet 1st Class Kimberly Jackson
Cadet 1st Class Cory Johnson
Cadet 1st Class Justin Juedeman
Cadet 1st Class Paul Kim
Cadet 1st Class Theodore Kruczek
Cadet 1st Class Alyssa Manwaring
Cadet 1st Class Connor Mckinney
Cadet 1st Class Jacob Mijares
Cadet 1st Class Meaghan Moore
Cadet 1st Class Mark O’hair
Cadet 1st Class Cole Patten
Cadet 1st Class William Suis
Cadet 1st Class Alexandra Prusko
Cadet 1st Class Yasmin Sarmiento
Cadet 1st Class Michael Seis
Cadet 1st Class Kevin Sober
Cadet 1st Class Andrew Svecz
Cadet 1st Class Tyler Vincent
Cadet 2nd Class Ford Carty

Cadet 2nd Class Chavez Chavez
Cadet 2nd Class Beau Davidson
Cadet 2nd Class Stephanie Deangelo
Cadet 2nd Class Adrianna Dong
Cadet 2nd Class Zachary Eagle
Cadet 2nd Class Christian Erneston
Cadet 2nd Class Glen Hanson
Cadet 2nd Class Timothy Holm
Cadet 2nd Class Christopher Hu
Cadet 2nd Class Nathan Lunn
Cadet 2nd Class James Millar
Cadet 2nd Class John Neilan
Cadet 2nd Class Shaun Peterson
Cadet 2nd Class Angelica Phillips
Cadet 2nd Class Rami Outaishat
Cadet 2nd Class Spencer Rutter
Cadet 2nd Class Stephaney Saari
Cadet 2nd Class Joseph Suwabe
Cadet 3rd Class Courtney Beck
Cadet 3rd Class Kiara Davis
Cadet 3rd Class Ryan Haas
Cadet 3rd Class Christine Haight
Cadet 3rd Class Aaron Hartmann
Cadet 3rd Class David Horney
Cadet 3rd Class Blake Kidd
Cadet 3rd Class Andrew Miller-Bissell
Cadet 3rd Class Jahan Rafie
Cadet 3rd Class Akil Romany
Cadet 3rd Class Derek Sargent
Cadet 3rd Class Jacob Snow
Cadet 3rd Class Richard States
Cadet 3rd Class Alma Stuhldreher
Cadet 3rd Class Weston Umano



Cadet Squadron 22 at last year’s graduation ceremonies at the Academy.

Cadet 4th Class Javier Arana
Cadet 4th Class Rebecca Bates
Cadet 4th Class Vaughn Campbell
Cadet 4th Class Sage Cunningham
Cadet 4th Class Anthony Franze
Cadet 4th Class Jaclyn French
Cadet 4th Class James Gan
Cadet 4th Class Connor Hagan
Cadet 4th Class Grant Hamilton
Cadet 4th Class Stephen Keisler
Cadet 4th Class Christian Lehman
Cadet 4th Class Marshall Leipprandt
Cadet 4th Class Sherry Meadows
Cadet 4th Class Sara Menke
Cadet 4th Class Andrew Phillips

together,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Linnington, Joint Task Force — National Capitol Region commander.

Nearly 5,000 service members are expected to participate in inaugural events, and more than 2,000 are scheduled to march in the parade.

Other Air Force participants include the Air Force Band, Air Force Honor Guard and Air Force Color Guard.

The parade is scheduled to start at 2:30 p.m. (EST), Monday.

Everest

From Page 10

“It’s been 12 years since I graduated, and I’m taking exactly what I learned from the Academy and getting ready to climb Mount Everest. If the Academy’s main goal is teaching and generating leaders, then I think mountaineering is one of the best opportunities to exercise leadership skills and learn to be a good follower.”

Marshall also plans to honor his tradition of doing push-ups on the summit.

“My goal is to see how many I can do in a minute,” Marshall said. “I started doing push-ups on Colorado fourteeners as a cadet. It’s fun to think that I’ve done them on every mountain peak since being a freshman.”

The team’s physical preparation for Everest has included regular gym training and heavy backpacking each week. Marshall said he’s also encouraged the team to swim, to get a full body work out and practice controlled breathing to prepare them for the use of bottled oxygen on Everest.

“The incline in Manitou is my personal beast,” Klitzke said. “I try to do that about twice a week and climb fourteeners. I’m pretty lucky with the elevation in Colorado Springs already being pretty high.”

Marshall, 34, will lead the pack up Everest. He said the group will move at a slower pace to improve their chances of getting as many people as possible to the summit.

“You can climb Everest at a faster pace, but from our research, we are giving ourselves the best chance to acclimatize and the optimal amount of time to reach the top,” Marshall said.

Marshall is aware of the risks that come with mountaineering. In 2008, when Marshall’s team climbed North America’s highest peak, Mount McKinley, the group was tent bound for seven days after being caught in a heavy blizzard.

Being patient, reading the weather correctly and making the right risk management decisions will be important, Marshall said.

“I think the biggest risk we’re going to face on Everest is, ‘How do we manage our team’s schedule to

avoid crowds but still give ourselves the best chance to get to the summit?’” Marshall said.

Klitzke said he hopes his mission to the top of the world will empower cadets.

“Hopefully they will see beyond their four years here, see what’s available and what they can accomplish in the Air Force and outside of it. It’s amazing when you set big goals and tackle them — what you can bring yourself to do.”

It’s important for people to know that the Air Force is comprised of people who pursue their passions with an interest of improving themselves, Merrin said.

“Climbing Everest doesn’t necessarily change the world, but it creates an awareness that we are capable of outstanding feats,” Merrin said.

On the team are:

- **Capt. Andrew Ackles**, 29, a TH-1H instructor pilot, from Ashland, Ore., stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala.
- **Maj. Rob Marshall**, 34, a V-22 Osprey pilot, from Mercer Island, Wash., stationed in Amarillo, Texas
- **Capt. Kyle Martin**, 29, a T-38 Talon pilot, from Manhattan, Kan., stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Va.
- **Capt. Marshall Klitzke**, 30, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot from Lemmon, S.D., currently an instructor pilot at

the Air Force Academy.

- **Capt. Colin Merrin**, 28, a GPS satellite operations mission commander from Santee, Calif., stationed at Schriever AFB, Colo.
- **Staff Sgt. Nick Gibson**, 36, a reserve pararescue man and physician-assistant student from Gulf Breeze, Fla., stationed at Patrick AFB, Fla.

For more information on the team and U.S. Air Force Seven Summits Challenge, visit: www.usaf7summits.com.



ROB MARSHALL

Members from the Royal Australian Army and Air Force stand on the summit of Australia’s highest peak, Mt. Kosciuszko in Oct. 2011. USAF 7 Summits Challenge carry American and U.S. Air Force flags to the top of every mountain they climb to honor military heroes.