

Peterson AFB: 21st Space Wing Town Hall Transcript

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21st Space Wing Commander, Col Thomas Falzarano

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyermann

21st Space Wing commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: All right good morning team Pete or good afternoon to some of our folks who are stationed around the globe right now. As I continue to remind you it's not just here at Peterson Colorado Springs it's 14 total time zones. So, we have folks in all various phases of the day right now as we always do and keeping us safe is America's first line of defense. So today, this morning, I thought we would take it to outside and we are outside at Lions park right now and to talk a little bit. If you listened to the governor's address yesterday talking about what's going to happen in the next few weeks and potentially opening some things up gradually and we're thinking about those same things here as we think about fitness and mental health and how do we balance this approach to COVID-19 and so I thought I'd have one of our top outdoor rec warriors come out here and Jake's out here with me and he's going to talk through some of the things that we have planned in the FSS front outdoor recreation some of the things we're soon going to make available for individuals and family in a safe manner and I think that's exciting. As we talked about in terms of you know the mental health and overall, just total person, we need to keep all these things in mind. So, Jake and team have been unbelievable already with the things that they've been able to do with the restrictions put in place. He's been here in the area for quite a while, so he knows the area. He's been only here on Peterson for about a year, a year and a half but before that for many of you, you know the Farish recreational area up in the mountains and the Air Force Academy runs, he ran that. He was up in the Air Force Academy outdoor rec department up there so he's got a lot of experience, a lot of experience with the area and brings a great wealth of expertise and providing all of us and all of you opportunities so with that let me turn it over and see what you got for us.

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyermann: Thank you, sir. I appreciate it. Hello team Pete. Good morning, afternoon, evening wherever part of the world we're at right now. As Colonel Falzarano introduced myself, I'm Jake Eyermann, outdoor recreation director here at Peterson Air Force Base. FSS understands that a big part of mental health and resiliency is to be getting outside, to be watching movies, getting to the gym. As we all understand right now that can be a bit of a challenge. A lot of day to day has changed for a lot of us and so what I'm excited to do is bring a handful of different activities, programming ideas etc. that we have here at Peterson to you guys and just make you aware and make your families aware, those folks in the dorms aware of all the programs and great facilities activities that are available during this challenging time to yourself and with that I'll throw it back to Col Falzarano.

21st Space Wing commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: Great. There's a lot of small things that are going on, on base and you may not notice them but I just want to put and I keep doing it every week putting a plug in for a for support squadron and how creatively they're thinking and so you may not notice for some of you. I have a little kid, so I guarantee I am not up at 3:45 in the morning, except when on one of them is sick. It happens from time to time. Valentina as I mentioned last week, was sick. Thankfully she's

all healthy now but at twice a day over at the fitness center we've got the lights on, on the track so you can get out and exercise. So, for those of you early birds 3:45 in the morning the lights will come on and you can get out there and run or have a, I can't say flag football game, that involves too many people but no touching and you'll score a touchdown every time. So, 3:45 in the morning the lights come on and then at 1910. 7:10 pm the lights come on again so you can get out there and exercise and workout. There's a lot of other equipment out there and stay energized. So, I encourage you to take advantage of that while we're working through opening up the gym. I'm going to have a briefing tomorrow by the way on that exact topic, on the gym and working through our appointment system and how we can get back those in uniform and our mission essential workers. We've got a lot of mission essential workers supporting North Comm and US Space Comm and Nurad and the Space Force and other organizations and so we're going to work through some of that. Hopefully, by the end of the week I'll have an announcement on next week on how we can see if we can do some of that stuff and I know everyone's excited about that especially the folks in small apartments or the ones in dorms that are even smaller. So, I want to provide that opportunity. We've also got some exciting things for the family going on. I know one of the things that was just started was the Peterson adventure challenge. I was looking through all the things, you had to do some interesting things on there. You had to go through and complete a bunch of them. Whoever completed the most got some prizes we're handing out through FSS. So, let me ask you about that Jake. I know that you've been involved in that and setting up the adventure challenges. Quite exciting.

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyer mann: You bet. The Peterson adventure challenge. So, what that looks like is it's a challenge that we started here on base. You can find it through 21FSS.com or 21 FSS Facebook and Instagram as well. Essentially what it is though, it's a 10 to 20 activity challenge. Everything from out of doors activities to team activities. Team as in those that are in your family, in your little unit that we're all hunkered down with right now. Just something fun, something to get us outside, break the monopoly that we're all kind of in right now. It's started this past Friday, went through this past, what we used to call weekends. We don't really have weekends anymore so it all kind of runs together it seems. Essentially it runs from Friday to Sunday. So, we've got our next one coming up this upcoming Friday. We ask that you complete these challenges, video, take a picture of them, post them to our 21 FSS Facebook as well as Instagram account using the hashtag pete adventure challenge. Hashtag pete adventure challenge. What that will do as the Col explained, that'll enter you into potential prizes for yourself if you are the sole individual utilizing and playing along but if we've got a handle of folks playing along we'll put you in a drawing for winning some great prizes here on base. I want to give a quick shout out to the crouch team, who is our first winner. I just saw some of their pictures on Facebook. They're awesome. I think I saw the Beatles cover of them walking maybe heavy road or something. They had a nice flag that they put together so again, looking to have some fun with this, guys. It's really an opportunity for us to, like I said, to get out of our routine that we've created at home, to have some fun here for a little bit.

21st Space Wing commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: Yeah, it's a great initiative and I appreciate the amazing, we have some amazing innovative airman across the wing, especially in the services and support area. That innovation, you really see it when times are a little bit tougher and it comes shining through. Every week I'm amazed by the things that keep getting put together and one of the thing that I talked about, the gym, and I talk about that quite often but opposite of the gym maybe is food, pizza and beer or maybe it's you going to the gym, you're working out, you need pizza and beer. I don't know

or maybe you're eating too much pizza and beer and you need to go to the gym. I don't know what it is. It's a chicken and egg thing. So, we continue to do over at the hub, used to be the club, call it the hub now and we continue on Wednesdays and Fridays to do Wednesdays is pizza and beer over there. They'll deliver to your car and Fridays is wings and pizza and beer so if you want to have a family activity on the weekend you can do that and then starting right now on Tuesdays and Thursdays our hub, club FSS food truck is going to be out and it's going to be over at the bowling alley. So, I know a lot of our folks in the medical warriors are excited by that because they're all kind of cooped up over there in the trailers. We got trailers and construction. All sorts of things going on and they continue to do amazing things, but you know it provides a food options for them, provides a food option for anyone who's on the base, mission essential personnel. So, all the street tacos and the other great food initiatives, I encourage you all to get over and take a look at that. A great opportunity over there as well.

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyermann: If I can add on that sir, I know over at the hub as well they've got brand new growlers that they've created as well with the new Peterson hub logo that are free. So essentially, when you pay for the fill of the beer, five to 15 dollars you get a free Peterson hub growler that you're getting now which is a great add, a great value. For the food truck I know I rode my bike over here, but I know I'll be going over later today to get some six-dollar nachos. I know Chef Kirk and the team are doing a killer job over there at the hub and with the food trucks.

21st Space Wing Commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: They have. I was over there last week and coining all the staff at the hub who from day one, right when North Comm and some of our other crews wanted to provide a safer meal option, they were right in there. They volunteered, they have been one of those other groups of mission essential folks that you might not think about them as mission essential right, but they are. They are around the clock, seven days a week 24 hours a day they are over there providing food options and so we appreciate the work that they are doing over there. You know, that's some of the adult, well pizza is for everyone and beer should be on the adult side but we've definitely...we also have some things that are geared toward the little ones and children in the families too.

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyermann: Handful of family friendly activities that we're putting together here at Peterson on based. One of the first things I wanted to introduce is over at our Silver Springs golf course. We've got from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily is going to be...we've got a new game called fling golf so it's essentially similar to kind of a lacrosse stick. So we just got those in right before this whole shut down happened and so really excited to have those out there just sitting right outside the clubhouse there available for yourself and families to use so try out that fling golf in addition to that are par 3 course has been converted to the new foot golf I know colonel here is a big foot golfer, I've heard.

21st Space Wing Commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: Well, you know, I may hit the golf ball with my foot once or twice.

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyermann: Maybe once or twice. Fair enough. So, we've got that the foot golf great family activity, something that you don't have to have quite the coordination maybe of being able to swing the club so get the kids out there and get the family out, par 3, a lot of fun. In addition to that we've got putt putt and horseshoes also at the golf course so keep in mind too, the golf course the clubhouse itself, is closed so a lot of these activities are all going to be outside of that but with the golf course clubhouse closed the course itself is still open for open rec golf so individuals that want to get out and try a round of golf help yourself head on out there to the golf

course through that eight to six time frame. We still ask that you kind of maintain that social distance that's appropriate but if you ever wanted to try and try your hand at it go play around be sure to fix your divots please, please fix your divots on the greens too. Scott and the team do a great job maintaining that course, but I know I took my daughter out last week, an opportunity my four-year-old...an opportunity that maybe i wouldn't have normally had being a little bit too competitive or a series of a golfer that I am. So, I was able to get my kiddo out there and had a great time so encourage folks to take advantage of that golfing opportunity.

A couple other things we've got coming up for the kids, we've got the second-hand story time daily on Facebook so 21 FSS Facebook page. Our library team has done a great job creating content for our youth and so we've got authors and celebrities reading daily at 12:00 noon on Facebook so definitely check that out. Same thing, I know my kiddo's been taking advantage of all the fantastic offerings that the library has had. Also, on Facebook Instagram we've got...we're going to be hosting a new thing for you to participate and post fun photos of you and the family. Today is dress like your favorite Disney character day so I expect to see the Moana's out there. I expect to see the frozens, all that, so maybe some lion kings.

21st Space Wing Commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: More appropriate with the drive-in movie theater tomorrow. It's Frozen 2.

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyermann: Exactly. Frozen 2 coming up tomorrow so we definitely ask you guys to participate in that. So that's today's theme on Tuesday. Wednesday we got purple up day. So, wearing purple support our military children during military month. I think Colonel will talk about that here shortly. Thursday take a walk day. Get outside guys take a walk go out by yourself, get out of the dorms, get out of the housing for a little bit and take a walk around the neighborhood with the family on Thursday and then Friday excited for crazy hair day, I know that Colonel's going to be participating in that as well. So, look forward to seeing everybody's fun photos on Instagram and Facebook. Please post those. Have some fun with it guys.

The last thing I kind of wanted to touch on that FSS is putting together is our family movie night, drive in movie night. So, we had one a couple weeks ago that we started out and it was just a great response, really well attended. So, looking forward to build on that. We're going to be hosting that at the youth parking lot the youth center parking lot. Parking opens at 7:30 PM and then the movie starts at 8pm. So, the parking is limited, I was going to say seating is limited. Parking is limited as we're keeping appropriate distance between spaces, we're asking folks to stay in and around their cars as well. A couple things to note for that drive in movie, the facility will not be open and there's no restrooms available, so just ask that you just plan accordingly with that but otherwise I look forward to having you guys out there. It should be a beautiful night we're really looking forward to hosting everybody out here.

21st Space Wing Commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: and that's maybe one of the positives that you can take from this whole corona virus timeframe and that may be one of the things that we say, boy you know a drive in movie theater at Peterson is really kind of cool during the summertime and maybe families want to continue that. So that's something we're looking at. Maybe we will change the venue so you can have a little bigger area and bring your food and your chairs and sit outside. It looks great outside. We might take away something positive and learn from it.

21st FSS Outdoor Recreation Director, Mr. William Eyermann: I think a lot of us are seeing this time as an opportunity to kind of think outside the box and maybe we kind of got into that routine whether it's as a family or professionally you know. So, this is an opportunity even as programmers within FSS, we're seeing opportunities to maybe try some new things and hopefully we'll be able to carry those on once we do get passed this whole pandemic stage.

21st Space Wing Commander, Col Thomas Falzarano: That's great, you know. I appreciate your story about getting out there to the golf course and I've done the same thing with my kids and once again, we're looking at maybe there's...maybe there needs to be a balance to something like the golf course too, where I've seen a lot of families out there, you know, kids and they're not so worried about what their score is but they're out there just having a little family activity together and folks aren't worried about rushing through and how fast they can complete the course. They're just outside having a good time. So, we're looking at ways to continue that. I've had several questions on the golf course. At some point here maybe in the next few weeks, we will start to get back to some carts and some pay for play structure and some reduced rates. We may have significant specials for folks in uniform as we go forward and so we can kind of keep up some of the activity.

In addition to that, as you mentioned, Jake mentioned purple up day. So, tomorrow is purple up day. We can't really gather in groups so we're going to do that virtually online. I made an attempt, I don't know, I'll have to go check out Facebook to see if my kid's pictures with the purple shirts are on their but if they're not...if they didn't public affairs will help me out, but I got some purple shirts for my three little ones over at the BX. I don't know if they're still over there, but they had a supply of purple shirts and I encourage everyone to just post some fun pictures and have a good time with it and your kids enjoy it. We need to of course we need to emphasis to our kids how important they are, and I know personally...I know those of you who have young children or children of all ages, I know that they're going through a stressful time too and if they hear about this corona virus and some of those things are scary for kids and they're in the house. I took a drive yesterday to get some get some take out with the family and one of my sons, one of my five-year-olds, I've got two of those, he was kind of a little bit nervous about being out in the car, out driving around and so I just encourage everyone to keep that in mind as we go forward here. This is going to be an adjustment period for them too. So maybe purple up day having a little fun and taking a picture is a way to kind of remind them of how important they are and how much we care about them...how much we care about all of our airmen. I hear 302nd behind me here. They're flying today. We've got airmen around base who are working every day. We've got people volunteering every day. People...a lot of airmen are working harder than they've ever worked before and those are civilian airmen and military airmen. So, as we go forward, and we start opening up outdoor rec, providing some rentals for folks...by the way we're going to do it in a safe manner and buy the sanitized equipment but I encourage all of you to take advantage of those opportunities and expand, get out of the house and get back to a healthy balance. As we close here, as I always say, especially sitting next to Jake, an outdoor rec team, I'm proud to serve alongside you and all the rest of the team and I know that you vouch for this statement because this is part of what you do every day, that both you and I and the rest of the team want to make sure that all of our airmen, across the wing and across the world are without a doubt, 100 percent built to last. Thanks Knights.