

**AIR FORCE:** airforce.com

Peterson AFB in Colo Springs - peterson.af.mil - next to CoSp Municipal airport, cooperates with Cheyenne Mtn as NORAD headquarters, shifting focus to Space Force work

Schriever AFB - schriever.af.mil - under Space Operations Command and US Space Force. Operates and supports Defense satellites. Supports USAF

Air Force Mission: to defend the nation through the control and exploitation of air and space.

**A detachment of SERE at Air Force Academy to deliver combat survival training**

**Airman SERE Specialist - Survival, Evasion, Resistance & Escape**

Trains others how to survive arctic, desert, sea, jungle, and POW

Path: basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, SERE Specialist training orientation, Apprentice Course (5 1/2 months, become expert in environments and personnel recovery, wilderness response first aid, rough land evacuation, hand to hand combat. Must be able to instruct others. Training pushes the mental fatigue of an isolated person with lots of tasks to do. Travel to various biomes. Parachutist training.

Physical specs: includes 4 mile ruck with 60-65 pounds in <1 hour

Requires grit, integrity, honesty, respect.

Called "The Walking Air Force"

Considered "combat support" and trains every other AF member. A 3-week SERE training before they can be a pilot or on an aircrew or those at risk of capture. Also offer guidance/training to other branch special ops incl SEALs and Green Berets. Teaches them to escape and evade in various climate conditions. Basics of wilderness living, shelter building, firemaking, **map and compass navigation**, backpacking, finding food and water, basic wilderness medical and first aid, signaling to get rescued, POW resistance methods.

Subjected at times to short Temporary Duty assignments but mostly inside the continental USA

"Knowing I made a difference and potentially saved their life"

Long hours, extended trips, and the mission is always first.

Rigorous and highly selective training.

Considered special forces but less known. Unappreciated, not high-profile like pilots.

Teaching something he hoped they never have to use or need.

Possible TDY location: Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan - base mission is to train, advise, assist Afghan military who fight Taliban and ISIS. In 2013-2021 8-year window: 2013 mortar attacked by Taliban + rocket attack, 2015/2016/2019 suicide bombers, 2019 Pres. Trump visits troops for Thanksgiving, 2020 rockets fired.

## **BURN Treatments:**

Goal is to control pain, remove dead tissue, prevent infection, reduce scarring, and regain function.

Go to Burn Center if >10% of body, is very deep. May need skin grafts to cover large wounds. May need emotional support and months of follow-up care such as Physical Therapy.

Ultrasound mist therapy to clean and stimulate tissue

IV fluids to prevent dehydration

Morphine and anti-anxiety meds especially during dressing changes

Burn creams, ointments, dressings.

Scars, possibly surgeries, reduced mobility.

PT if large area and covers a joint (i.e. shoulder) - stretch the skin to keep joint flexible.

Neck burns may require a tube to help breathing (if throat swelling)

Plastic surgery/reconstruction to improve appearance of burn scars and increase flexibility of the joints affected by scarring.

2nd degree burns - penetrates epidermis into dermis. Mild or severe (how deep but not into the layer of fatty tissue. Blisters. Red and glossy. Very painful.

3rd degree burns - destroys epidermis and dermis and extends into fatty tissue or even deeper into muscle or bone layer (can be fatal depending on the part of the body), often destroys pain-sensing nerves so no pain (except usually have 2nd degree around the edges with pain there). Requires medical intervention. Looks dark red and leathery.

Skin grafts: let heal 2-3 weeks for wound to fill in from bottom and then place the graft. Lotion for 3-4 months. Avoid sun for 6 months. Donor site heals in 1-2 weeks, graft site takes 3-4 weeks to heal with limited activity to stretch or else risk injury to graft site. Grafts taken from thighs, buttocks, abdomen, or back.

Scars - "mature" scars after 6-12 months of healing. 3rd degree burns can take months or years to heal, skin graft to minimize scars.

Complications: infection, contractures that tighten skin so can't move joint, muscle and tissue damage, emotional problems if large disfiguring scars

Treatment at home: Cool compresses or cool tap water for 20 minutes to draw out the heat. **\*\*NOT ICE\*\*** Antibiotic + pain relief ointment. Keep moist. Surgical dressing with pain free tape that sticks to itself but not to you.

## CAMPS:

Children's Hospital Burn Center - has outpatient clinics with access to team including surgeon, OT, PT, psych, social worker, rehab.

Burn Camps program at Cheley. (Cheley.com - 3 camps, 1400 acres, cabins built 1920s at gateway to RMNP, Arapahoe & Roosevelt Natl Forests and Indian Peaks Wilderness - On Fish Creek Road in Estes Park) For survivors of explosions, cars, house fires. Program to help transition back to real life. "A rehabilitative medical specialty camp" Mtn. Bike, fish, horses, hike, rock climbing. PTs and Drs there. How will you take your story and support someone else? Can come back until 18. Can't erase the past because it's part of who they are.

Avid4.com - Avid4Adventure - a camp at the base of Pike's Peak to introduce K-12 to climbing, biking, hiking, paddling. Have day camps, 1 week in a tent expeditions, and resident in cabins camps. Other locations at Mt. Evans and Windy Peak

Camp Wounded Warrior - in Texas near a river - dedicated the full use of Lazy U Ranch in 2011. Became an active R&R retreat for warriors and families to rehabilitate. Works with Adaptive Sports Military Program and Hero's on the Water

OperationWeAreHere.com - supports kids of wounded veterans/military to help kids cope with stress and anxiety in a positive way

CampPatriot.org - outdoor programs help wounded and disabled vets

Kids of Our Heroes adventure camp

Operation Purple Camps hosted by National Military Family Association

\*\*\*SO he can get a job at one of these and/or buy a property to convert to this use