



Christian Perspectives on Life in the Military

# COMMAND

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embolden      equip      encourage      engage



## OCF MINISTRY GUIDE

*get more info about:*  
**OCF Home Office, Council,  
Conference Centers,  
and Field Staff**

- also inside:*
- ★ Please Meet 1stLt Austin Krohn
  - ★ From Mid to Married to Mom



## Building Christian leaders, families, fellowships

This past August Lori and I celebrated our second anniversary as OCF's executive director. We praise and thank the Lord for calling us here to serve you.

We count it a huge blessing

to be part of OCF for the Lord captured me as a young captain through OCF at Maxwell AFB. After committing my life to Christ, asked what I wanted to achieve through my career, I responded, "Finish this race the Lord set before me, with my integrity intact and my family by my side, and know I ran my race with excellence." Looking back, I realize the Lord used OCF to successfully carry us into retirement.



DAVID WARNER

Executive Director

And now having seen the OCF ministry up close, we have a greater appreciation for this Fellowship that God has fashioned together for His purposes. OCF is poised to move forward as He leads, by coming alongside those still running their race in uniform. This is what I see ahead as we march toward 2020:

**Who are we?** For seven decades God has used OCF throughout the military society—all services, ranks, Christian traditions and denominations—to spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Our members are OCF, ministering as OCF to the military individuals and families God places around them, reflecting our Fellowship's Purpose: To glorify God by uniting Christian officers in biblical fellowship



### OCF is here to encourage you as you run your race

#### Need prayer?

<http://www.ocfusa.org/contact/request-prayer>

#### Is there an OCF group where I'm being stationed?

<http://www.ocfusa.org/find-ocf>

#### How can my installation set up a marriage retreat hosted by OCF's family outreach, Spiritually Smart Family conferences?

<http://www.ocfusa.org/resources/family-conferences>

#### Want books—military issues, marriage, parenting, purity, leadership, faith?

<http://www.ocfusa.org/resources/order-books>

#### Info on attending an OCF Conference Center?

<http://www.whitesulphursprings.org>  
<http://www.springcanyon.org/>

and outreach, encouraging and equipping them to minister to the entire military society.

**How do we achieve God's calling for OCF?** The Lord used OCF to ground my family and me in our faith, provide tools and support, and show us how to share our faith. So I believe our Fellowship is called to do four things:

**EMBOLDEN** your Christian faith and walk with a solid biblical foundation

**EQUIP** you to become the leaders, families, fellowships God's called you to be

**ENCOURAGE** you throughout your military career and life

**ENGAGE** you to Christ's calling, wherever He sends you

**OCF—the Body of Christ represented through the body of OCF.** Through local fellowships and great mentors, OCF eternally impacted my family. Because of their conference center experiences, our daughters made Christ their own. The "Body of OCF" diagram illustrates how the Lord uniquely designed the OCF field staff and lay leadership to come together, complementing one another, enabling our active duty members to serve and finish well.

**Academies & ROTC** prepare our OCF future leaders for a lifetime of Christian service: emboldened in their faith; equipped with tools to sustain them through the stresses of military service, and engaging the culture as they minister to their peers.

**Education Centers** are often the initial exposure to OCF at professional military education and training assignments. We equip and encourage members in their Christian faith and then send them out to operational assignments with a passion for

living out their faith.

**Family Ministry** through Spiritually Smart Family conferences equips and encourages marriages and families through training and wise counsel, a spiritual triage helping families stay strong in Christ despite high OPTEMPO.

**Regional Ministries** are field ministries in "centers of mass" with multiple military installations in near proximity. They help members engage in partnership with chaplains, local churches and other military para-church ministries. Through spiritual and professional excellence, they thrive by providing Christ-centered lay leadership.

**Conference Centers** provide a safe place to find spiritual and physical refreshment, serving as the Fellowship's "living water." OCFers are emboldened, equipped, encouraged and engaged to shine the light of Christ in service, witness, and leadership.

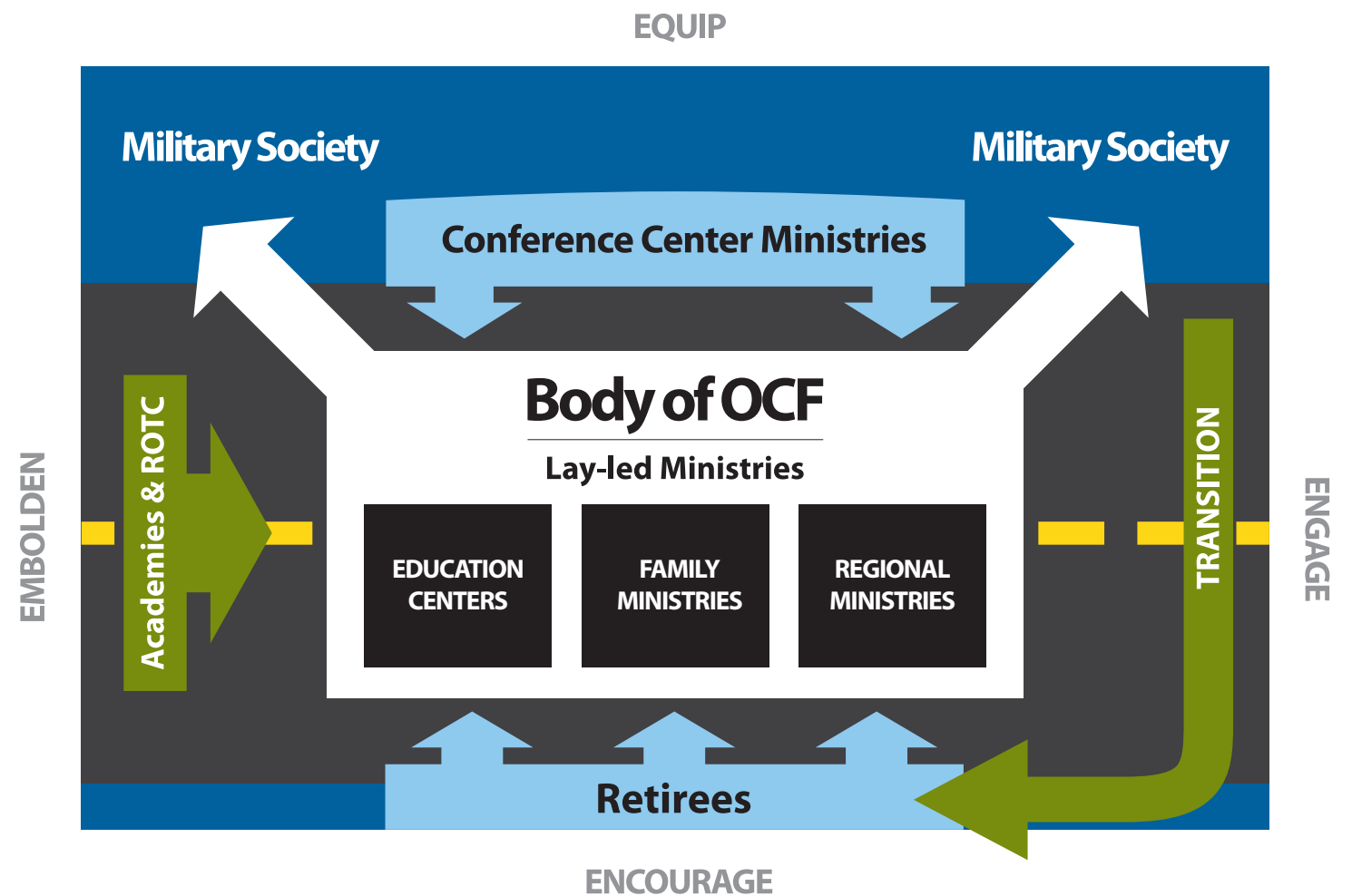
**Lay Leaders** equip and encourage members to seek and pray for opportunities to make a difference through outreach and service.

**Retirees and Veterans** bring the skills, gifts, and wisdom gained through years of military service. They are invaluable to our active duty members, families, and ministries for wherever they have engaged ministries have flourished and younger members have grown.

### The way forward

To fulfill our full ministry potential, these areas require our prayers and attention as we march toward 2020:

**Reach the next generation for Christ.** We must determine how best to reach and minister to the



junior and company grade officers, including the use of focus groups.

**Increase ministry capacity.** As OCF completes its Growing & Building Campaign, attention switches to enhancing our lay-led leadership, including expanding the number of ministry staff we

have in the field.

**Leverage Retirees and Veterans.** As our Fellowship members retire or separate from the military, OCF seeks to instill a vision in their hearts for how they can continue reaching the next generation for Christ.

**Tell the story—our stories.**

As we embrace our legacy and tell the old, but compelling stories again, we need to recognize that this post 9/11 generation also has their own stories to share of God's love and redemption, and through the telling will become the spiritual giants of the future.

### Answering the call

Although the times and membership have changed, OCF's Purpose, Vision, and God's power and calling have not. Though deployments and cultural changes increasingly affect military membership and practices, and challenge OCF's ministry, now is the time to harness our strengths and gifts to face the challenges and seize the opportunities.

Now is the time to review and enhance OCF's efforts to embolden, equip, encourage, and engage—Christian leaders together, witnessing and sharing the love of Christ to the military society. I am filled with joy in knowing that OCF is already accomplishing these things, comforted in knowing the Lord has knitted us together, and confident that He is shaping us for His purposes. As we share this journey together, it's an honor to pay this blessing forward to the next generation! 🙏

*please meet*

# 1STLT AUSTIN KROHN

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**CAME TO OCF:** Through OCF leaders at SPIRE my freshman year. Attended OCF functions regularly and became an official OCF member my senior year.

**INVOLVEMENT IN OCF:** Represented US-AFA OCF chapter as the CIC, and later served as OIC of the University of Maryland's ROTC chapter. Now attending an OCF Bible study at Vance AFB, OK.

**WHY OCF FOR ME:** The tangible presence of Jesus at the OCF groups I've been a part of and OCF's presence across the globe. The OCF members I've known are like family in their desire to know God, worship Him, and dig into Him and His Word. OCF brings a great continuity as you move forward in your military career.

**WHERE BORN:** Fullerton, CA—or so I'm told!

**ALMA MATER:** United States Air Force Academy, class of 2010...LUKE!

**HOBBIES:** Photography, hiking, running, and reading. Usually not all at once.

**FAVORITE FLICKS:** Anything epic, moving, nerdy, or funny: Braveheart, Amazing Grace, and Star Wars—the original trilogy, of course. And because I grew up with three sisters, I can appreciate sappy movies as well.

**WHAT'S ON MY IPOD:** Beethoven, Fireflight, John Williams, and Caedmon's Call, to name a few across the spectrum.

**MILITARY BRANCH AND WHY:** Air Force. We have airplanes.

**WHY A MILITARY LIFE:** I'm not quite sure, although I wanted to serve and fly before I was old enough to understand why. And there's the adventure it brings, the chance to do things few dream of, and the community that treats you like family. As I've grown, God has been good to show me His purpose in it.

**WHAT'S ON MY BUCKET LIST:** Fly on a vacation tour around the country, have a family, run a marathon, and go to a World Series game—preferably one where the SF Giants are playing!

**MOST MEMORABLE/EXOTIC PLACE YOU'VE VISITED:** Memorable? Israel. Exotic? Oklahoma—just kidding...

**FAVORITE DUTY ASSIGNMENT:** I've only had two duty assignments, but being stationed near Washington D.C. prior to Vance was incredible.

**BEST ADVICE GIVEN YOU:** "Don't overthink things so much." Too many people on too many occasions have told me this, and they're all right.

**QUIRKY HABITS:** I often feel the need to organize everything. And I actually enjoy political and church doctrine debates. And I write in cursive—and have been told that's quirky.

**LIFE BIBLE VERSE:** "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30, NKJV)

# From Mid to Married to Mom: Always Focused on the Rock

by JACQUI KILPATRICK

I have my husband to thank for getting me involved with OCF. Or maybe it's OCF I should thank for getting me involved with my husband!

During our junior year at the U.S. Naval Academy, my then-company mate and future husband invited me to a weekly OCF meeting, where I found several of my track teammates also attending. He continued inviting me, so we would meet up after dinner and walk together to the planetarium.

We officially started dating one month after attending an OCF retreat at White Sulphur Springs, married fifteen months later, and were then both assigned to the same duty station upon our commissioning. But because of our conflicting schedules, during the first two years of our marriage we were together less than six months.

Everything changed when my husband was given the opportunity to pursue his dream job. But I had no idea what I was in for. He would come home day after day, bruised and beaten up, utterly exhausted from the harsh training necessary for his job. The truth of his extreme occupation began to slowly sink in with me. Not only were the dangers very real, things would only get tougher.

The closer his graduation approached, the more I realized my need to prepare myself for what's ahead. I felt God prompting me out of my fears to search through His Word for His promises of comfort and hope, such as Psalm



Photo contributed by Jacqui Kilpatrick

Officers' Christian Fellowship members from USNA's 2008 graduating class celebrate their military and spiritual commissionings.

*We've been through a lot in our four short years of marriage, but it's been exciting to look back and see how God has been a part of it all.*



#### About Jacqui

Jacqui, a 2008 USNA graduate, served as the CIC officer on the USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) and USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44). Now separated from the Navy, she resides with her husband in California, where they are expecting their first child this month.

18:2: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

We've been through a lot in our four short years of marriage, but it's been exciting to look back and see how God has been a part of it all, especially in the last two years. God poured out countless blessings on my husband in the pursuit of his dreams, making it through the arduous training without any major injuries or setbacks. I couldn't be prouder of him!

But with that joy comes the burden of my heart—what if I lose him? While I do trust his abilities and training, it's much more important that I trust God through this—His plan for our lives.

It doesn't mean I won't struggle with fear. A prayer poem I wrote from searching the Bible for God's truth and promises helps me stay focused on Him concerning my husband. It's only in Him that we truly have nothing to fear.

Go to "As Seen in Command" to read Jacqui's poem: [www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org)



**HOME OFFICE STAFF & DIRECTORS**



For nearly seventy years, Officers' Christian Fellowship has served Jesus Christ in the military society with His love.

**Front (l-r):** Eric Holmertz, resource development associate director; **David Warner**, executive director. **Back row (l-r):** Susan Wallis, ministry assistant; **Marci Morris**, ministry support and member care director; **Josh Jackson**, web and graphic designer; **Dean Millard**, finance director; **Debbie Millard**, ministry support administrator; **Dot Grant**, donor and link-up administrator; **Becky Binuya**, head bookkeeper; **Mike Tesdahl**, chief of staff/interim resource development director; **Karen Fliedner**, associate editor; **Michael Edwards**, communications director. *Not pictured:* **Joyce Baerg**, member care administrator; **Chris Blake**, field operations director, and **Coreen Wells**, resource development coordinator.

**SPRING CANYON CONFERENCE CENTER**



Dean and Sue Rizzo

Dean, a 1984 USMA graduate, served eleven years of active duty and is now inactive Army Reserve. Since 2002 he and Sue, who have four children, have served as directors at Spring Canyon, "a Christ-centered sanctuary and spiritual training ground for military families, groups, and individuals where the presence of God transforms lives."

God and His beautiful creation are ever-present at Spring Canyon, where year-round ministry for His people takes place. Family vacations, weekend getaways, training seminars, and hosting group retreats round out the camp experience, while opportunities including whitewater rafting, mountain climbing, and rappelling heighten the ministry experience. "Our staff and programs refresh, equip, and inspire our guests in the name of Jesus Christ."

- Summer, winter camps
- Specialized programs: *Rocky Mountain High* and *Father/Teen Adventure*
- Year-round outdoor programs
- Hemingway Operations Complex
- Retreats: Church, chaplains, ROTC, USAFA, OCF groups

**WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER**



CDR Clay and Marty Thomas, USN (Ret.)

Clay, a Naval Academy graduate, served over twenty-one years before retiring in 1989. He and Marty raised four children in God's beautiful Allegheny Mountains, and have served Christ for twenty-three years at White Sulphur Springs "preparing a welcoming and refreshing oasis for God's people so they may come away from their normal routines and get a heavenly perspective on their military calling."

God is using OCF's eastern conference center to bring biblical truth into the lives of active-duty and retired military individuals and families. Teaching, discussions, fun and challenging activities, balanced with prayer, fellowship, and quiet reflection are all facets of the ministry. "Come let us and our wonderful staff serve you in the love of Jesus Christ."

- Summer, winter camps
- Specialized programs: *Allegheny Outback!*, *Junior AO!*, *Youth/Parent Adventure weekend*, and *Camp Caleb*
- Retreats: ROTC, USMA, USNA, OCF groups, chaplains, church

**OCF COUNCIL**



OCF Council is our governing body, partnering with the OCF Home Office to develop and execute strategic vision and direction in Building Christian Leaders...Families...Fellowships for a Lifetime.

**Front row (l-r):** Andy Halvorson, Jon Shine, Jamie Vandiver, Kim Hawthorne, Blair Watkinson, Cathryn Rimmer, Chris Wallace, Jim Karr, Stephen Hoffman. **Middle row:** Elijah Ward, Mel Spiese, David Ruth, Anthony Gray, John Hoyman, Sarah Smith, Steve Aden, Greg Lane. **Back row:** David Warner, Jim Coggin, Dan Forman.



UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK



LTC Tom and Cheri Austin, USA (Ret.)

Tom is a USMA graduate who retired from active duty in 1995. He and Cheri, who have six children and six grandchildren, endeavor to "develop a biblical worldview in our Christian cadets, helping them mature into leaders serving their nation and Lord as Army officers."

Twenty-three ministry couples assist them with ministry to nearly 400 cadets: individual and small group meetings, weekend socials, and special events for cadets' parents—largely taking place at the OCF Fellowship House.

The Austins' other outreach opportunities include supporting the chaplains at the installation on a regular basis and teaching Bible studies: Cheri at PWOC and Tom at the USMA Prep School.

- Retreats
- Annual spring break mission trips: Haiti, Eastern Europe
- Saturday Night Alive
- Annual Christmas Party
- Easter dinner
- Specialized evenings: plebes, firsties, etc.

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY,  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND



CDR Bryan and Sherri Burt, USN (Ret.)  
also Thomas, AJ, and McKenna

Bryan, a 1988 Naval Academy graduate who came to the Lord through the OCF ministry there, retired in 2008 after more than twenty years in the Navy. Bryan and Sherri, who have three children, have ministered to the USNA midshipmen the past four years as OCF field staff reps.

"We're blessed to serve here. Our desire is to help midshipmen become more Christlike, help them develop a servant's heart toward the military while learning to lead like Christ."

Opportunities for mids to grow in Christ include fellowship with one another and leading Bible studies. During a recent retreat four accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior while many others were strengthened in their relationship with Him.

- Retreats
- Missions trips: Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Joplin, MO
- Friday night dinners
- Boating, cookouts, ice cream socials
- RMH during the summer
- Christian concerts, programs, speakers

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY



CDR Hank and Betsy Teuton, USCG (Ret.)

Hank is a USCGA graduate who served over twenty-five years before retiring in 2004. Hank and Betsy have shared their "Shepherd's Fold" home since 2010, a welcoming setting for "expanding the corps of Christian officers who are prepared for a lifetime of spiritual leadership within the Coast Guard."

Emphasizing the disciplines of prayer, Bible study, evangelism, and one-to-one discipleship, the Teutons and their ministry teams link cadets with mentors to encourage spiritual growth. As they mature, cadets are encouraged to seek out and lead ministry opportunities with classmates, "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12, NKJV).

- Cadet-led Bible studies, mid-week vespers service
- Friday Night Fellowship (FNF)
- Retreats (41 years—Vermont)
- Community service projects
- Christmas caroling event
- Campouts, pizza parties, ice cream socials, etc.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



Lt Col Steve and Rita Wade, USAF (Ret.)

Steve, a Miami University graduate, served twenty-two years in the Air Force before retiring in 2004. He and Rita, blessed with four children, have been at USAFA since 2003 "to be used by God at every assignment for kingdom purposes."

Assisted by a twenty-three member team which disciples and encourages cadets while helping them know God better, ministry at USAFA is about developing and deploying cadets with a larger vision of serving the Lord as officers and have a Kingdom impact wherever they are stationed.

Cadets are well prepared to lead small group Bible studies with their peers, having learned in OCF how to live in Christian community that serves others in their place within the military society.

- 3 annual retreats
- Bible studies, Monday night meetings
- Pre-marriage counseling
- One-on-one discipleship
- Open house for parents, Christmas events, *Rocky Mountain High*



**MAXWELL/GUNTER AFB, ALABAMA**



Col Mike and Mary Martin, USAF (Ret.)

Mike, a University of Georgia graduate, entered full-time vocational Christian ministry in 1997 following his Air Force retirement. He and Mary, who have two children, feel "privileged to be spiritual touch points" since 2001 at Maxwell/Gunter AFB, a response "to God's clear call into military ministry."

Maxwell/Gunter is home to literally every level of Air Force developmental education, with airmen attending school there anywhere from five weeks to a full year.

The Martins' wide-ranging gamut of ministry opportunities with the Maxwell chapel includes the religious education program, leading worship, and serving on the Protestant Advisory Council. Mary also leads a women's study using a devotional that underlines "God is who He says He is, even in the hard times" accompanying the military life.

- Senior mentor breakfasts
- Bible studies
- Mentoring
- SOS class-specific fellowship
- Picnics and other activities



**QUANTICO, VIRGINIA**



LtCol Bob and Kelly Plantz, USMC (Ret.)

Bob, who played varsity football at the Naval Academy, served in the Marine Corps for over twenty years before retiring in 2008. He and Kelly, who have five children, have been at Quantico since 2011, helping Marines "to better integrate their faith in Jesus Christ with their profession."

The "Crossroads" of the Marine Corps as the primary education center for all Marine officers, Quantico is also home to numerous headquarters and other units. The OCF ministry there is strategically positioned to unite, train and equip, and then send out officers and their families to serve as ambassadors within the Marine Corps.

Bob and Kelly are dedicated to prayer, small group Bible fellowships and workplace studies, and biblical leadership.

- Retreats at White Sulphur Springs
- Spiritual commissioning ceremonies
- Biblical leadership studies and couples studies
- Conferences
- Great fellowship at picnics, pizza parties, other gatherings

**PENSACOLA, FLORIDA**



CAPT Mike and Arden Patterson, USN (Ret.)

Mike is an Ohio State University graduate who retired from the Navy as a captain in 2002 after thirty-one years of active duty. He and Arden have two children and five grandchildren, and are "engaged in the most gratifying activity of our lives: the opportunity to shape the hearts and minds of Naval aviators and their spouses in ways that count for eternity."

All Navy and Marine aviators, including many USAF and USCG counterparts, pass through the portals of Pensacola—the cradle of Naval aviation. "We are in an ideal position at this location to cultivate a passion for military ministry by fueling the Navy with leaders who are on-fire and equipped to shine the light of Christ throughout the military society."

- Bible studies
- Beach and pool parties (between hurricanes!)
- Bike rides, cook-outs
- Outdoor concerts
- Year-round activities

**FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS**



LTC Tom and Jean Schmidt, USA (Ret.)

Tom graduated from USMA, serving twenty-five years before retiring in 1995. Tom and Jean, who have three children and eleven grandchildren, inspire "Christian officers to new levels of leadership and biblical service in their careers as Christ's disciples."

They also assist OCF in locations such as Hawaii and Korea.

Fort Leavenworth is an "Army university" with over 1,500 officers coming through to attend a ten-month course. Working with the Fort Leavenworth chapel community and assisted by others, "the mission of our ministry is 'Bring In, Build Up, Send Out.'"

Military members are invited to fellowship groups, with seminars and retreats to fortify their faith and encourage service. Then they are sent out worldwide to season the military, leading and serving others as Christ modeled.

- 50+ weekly neighborhood study fellowships
- Specialty-group Bible studies
- Discipleship breakfasts, mentoring
- Send out celebrations, BBQs
- Retreats



**FAMILY OUTREACH MINISTRY,  
PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON**



Col Larry and Bobbie Simpson,  
USAF (Ret.)

Larry, a University of Kentucky graduate, served twenty-seven years in the Air Force before retiring in 2003. He and Bobbie, who have three children and two grandchildren, "love our work—the high calling and privilege of equipping and encouraging our military and their families."

For the past six years the heart of their outreach has been helping couples grow together spiritually, remain close, and withstand the military life's unique challenges. Through *Spiritually Smart Family* conferences, seminars, and workshops, they provide the spiritual tools to help marriages and families thrive.

As Puget Sound reps, they mentor, partner with chaplains and other ministries, and encourage local Bible studies—all some of the ways their OCF ministry "allows us to pay God's grace forward."

- Annual Puget Sound OCF Picnic
- Half-marathon fundraiser
- Armed Forces Day community concert
- Retreats—marriage renewal and teambuilding
- Community service projects

**FORT HOOD AND SOUTH TEXAS REGION**



Col Aaron and Joyce Zook, USA (Ret.)

Aaron served thirty years in the military, twenty-six as an officer after graduating from OCS in 1984, and retired in 2007. He and Joyce, who have two sons and two grandkids, are the newest OCF field staff reps as of 2011, helping "transform the hearts of those in the Fort Hood and South Texas Region for eternal purposes."

This ministry is the backdrop for a "tremendous Bible-based, Christ-centered experience" of support and encouragement to OCF leaders at Fort Hood, Joint Base San Antonio, Goodfellow AFB, Corpus Christi, Kingsville, Del Rio, and Texas A&M. From chapel ministry opportunities of praise nights and home life groups to varied OCF functions, the Zooks say, "Howdy from Texas—home of all things western. Come enjoy the fellowship!"

- Bible studies
- Retreats, regional training conferences
- Picnics, dinners, discipleship luncheons
- Golf and Walk-a-thon
- Praise nights, prayer summits

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS/  
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**



CH(MAJ) Mark & Deb Benz, USA (Ret.)

Mark served twenty years of active duty before retiring in 2005. He and Deb, who have five children and one grandchild with a second on the way, have seen in their OCF work, "our Lord working in so many ways, drawing His Body together, helping it work as a functioning 'body' building itself up in love and maturity as a 'temple' for others to see that there really is a living true God in our midst."

"Bringing the Body of Christ together while pooling resources for more effective ministry to the whole military community," is their focus of working with other ministry partnerships including Navigators, Military Ministry of CRU and Cadence. With assistance from team leaders and local fellowships, they also oversee the NCR's OCF groups and activities.

- Initiate and establish partnerships
- National Capital Region
- Interact with chaplains, congregations
- Retreats, banquets
- Bible studies

**OCF FIELD STAFF AT-LARGE**



Col Bill & Judy Hudspeth, USAF (Ret.)

Bill has been involved in OCF since his USAFA days, serving as a local OCF rep at numerous places throughout his thirty-year career before retiring in 1996. He and Judy, who have one son and three grandchildren, have been frequent travelers to exhort, encourage and teach for OCF since 1997.

"Delighted to be ministering in the Lord's will for us at this season of our lives," these "we'll go anywhere, once" circuit riders are widely involved at many diverse locations. They've had leading roles this past year with OCF's leadership training and conferences in the Seattle, San Antonio, Norfolk, and Washington, D.C. areas. They also visit groups as requested to fill in for field staff or provide assistance.

- Weekly Bible study in Washington, D.C.
- OCF leadership training
- White Sulphur Springs volunteers
- NCR events



NCR photo

### National Capital Region banquet

Eighty-four OCFers and guests attended a National Capital Region banquet where OCF Executive Director Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), (left), spoke on "OCF For a Lifetime...Running Your Race For Jesus." CH(MAJ) Mark Benz, USA (Ret.), who oversees NCR, is pictured with General Warner. The Fairfax/Burke OCF group coordinated the event.

### OCF MINUTE

#### New Council Class of 2015, constitution change proposal

At its October meeting, the OCF Council confirmed the membership's selection of the Class of 2015. Starting a three-year term on the twenty-two-member Council in January are:

- 1LT Alysa Angel, USA
- RADM Rick Breckenridge, USN
- Col Scott Fisher, USAF
- COL Rich Goldsmith, USA (Ret.)
- LCDR Chad Tidwell, USN
- Capt Kate Veseth, USAF
- LTC Colin Wooten, USA

Council Officers for 2013 are: MG Jim Coggin, USA (Ret.), president; Col Kim Hawthorne, USAF, vice president; Maj Blair Watkinson, USAF, secretary, and LT Andy Halvorson, USCG, treasurer.

The Council has also been working on two proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. Members will be asked to vote in early 2013 to ensure:

- Full compatibility between the Constitution and Bylaws—that wherever a governing function is discussed, the language is consistent and not conflicting in both documents.

- The Constitution contains only governing principles, core values and ministry distinctives that are unlikely to change over time.

These "largely housekeeping" changes require an affirmative vote of the full membership. More details will follow as voting draws near.

#### OCF celebrates 70 years in 2013

OCF will turn 70, and use a special logo to commemorate this milestone.



#### OCF/Valor Midwest ROTC Retreat

**When:** Presidents Day weekend, 15-17 Feb 2013

**Where:** Pine Lake Camp, Iowa

**Cost:** \$50 for cadets/midshipmen/\$75 for others

- For more information, check "As Seen in COMMAND" at the OCF website: [www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org).

### IN HONOR OF

The OCF Honor Fund gift is a meaningful way to honor or remember someone special in your life while also supporting the ministry of Officers' Christian Fellowship.

#### CDR James E. Whiting, USCG (Ret.)

By CDR & Mrs. Frank Cole, USCG (Ret.)

By Mr. Arthur Miles

By CDR & Mrs. John Kennedy, USCG

By Mr. & Mrs. Norman Jepsky

By Mr. & Mrs. Rick Nations

By Mr. & Mrs. Mark Rosenstein

By Mr. Sidney Rosenthal

#### LTC Gil Roesler

By CPT Vanessa Roesler & James Kline

### BIRTHS

#### Taylor Ann and Arthur James Athens,

born 1 November 2012, daughter and son of **CPT Arthur and Emily Athens, USA**, Louisville, KY.

#### Benjamin Phillip Bailey, 29 July 2012,

son of **LTC Shaun and LTC Jennifer Bailey, USA**, Fort Knox, KY.

### WEDDINGS

#### 1stLt Katelyn Riley, USAF, married

**Capt Brett Dorey, USAF**, 18 August 2012. Their home is Alamogordo, NM.

#### 1LT Claire Heid, USA, married 1LT

**Kevin Dieterich, USA**, 1 September 2012. Their home is Tacoma, WA.

### TAPS

#### Joyce Allen Patrick, 15 September

2012, wife of **Col Robert Patrick, USAF (Ret.)**, Hartland, WI.

#### CDR Jim Whiting, USCG (Ret.), 5 Octo-

ber 2012, husband of **Karen Whiting**, Grasonville, MD.

## Veterans Memorial Lodge construction under way

by **DEAN RIZZO**  
Spring Canyon Director

They served their country with honor, men and women in the combat of wars including the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

More than a dozen of these veterans participated in the Veterans Memorial Lodge (VML) groundbreaking ceremony at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center on 13 October.

VML is part of OCF's current Growing and Building capital campaign, a \$3.5 million project of two new buildings and improvements at Spring Canyon. Slightly less than 5,000 square feet, VML will have eight private rooms—four accessible for disabled people—and a large meeting area.

OCF's Executive Director, Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), reminisced how VML "commemorates" the vision of OCF's first executive director, Cleo Buxton, of providing a place where military members and their families could "vacation with a purpose," while being encouraged and equipped for life in the military society.

A longstanding prayer of all Spring Canyon directors—Larry and Kay Banning, George and Dot Meadors, Tom and Sarah Hemingway, Ben and Terry Jordan and currently Dean and Sue Rizzo—has been to double Spring Canyon's ministry capacity with additional lodges. The groundbreaking gave OCF opportunity to celebrate all the Lord is doing and commit to the pursuit of His vision for OCF and its two conference centers.

Christina Brandenburg is the archi-



Kim Hawthorne photo

At the VML groundbreaking (left to right): OCF Council President Jim Coggin, architect Christina Brandenburg, OCF Executive Director David Warner, project manager Joe Orosz, and general contractor Matt Young.

tect and Matt Young of Uncommon Angles, Inc., is the general contractor of the \$750,000 VML project, with an anticipated July 2013 completion date.

- Contact OCF today on how you can partner in the Lord's work toward completing the Spring Canyon phase of the Growing and Building capital campaign:

**Phone:** (800) 424-1984

**Online:** [www.ocfusa.org/donate/](http://www.ocfusa.org/donate/)  
capital-campaign/commitment

#### Capital Campaign update

Even though we are now at 57 percent of our goal for Spring Canyon, we are asking the Lord for new energy to complete these projects. After eleven years of war, we need to support our military families who are growing weary in their sacrifice, service, and leadership. Thank you for your prayers and financial participation in this exciting opportunity!

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*"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Matthew 4:16).*

## Wise men still seek Him.

Merry Christmas from OCF! We are praying for God's peace and blessings in your lives as we remember and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To watch a special video message from OCF Executive Director David Warner and the OCF Home Office staff, scan the QR Code with your smart phone, or go to the OCF Facebook page.

