

## GRADUATION WEEK INFORMATION FOR HANDICAPPED GUESTS

For all handicapped guests attending events during Graduation Week, please note that USAFA does not issue handicapped parking passes. Individuals are asked to bring their own state-issued handicapped passes with them in order to access the handicapped parking lot in the Cadet Area (north of Stillman Field) or the handicapped lots at the stadium on Graduation Day. Disabled guests should bring or rent any walkers, wheelchairs, breathing support or other special-needs or medical equipment they require. Please see the list of local companies offering rental of durable medical equipment, including oxygen, below. Inclusion in this listing doesn't constitute a recommendation from the 10th Medical Group. It does, however, indicate that these are reputable companies who provide equipment and supplies to TRICARE beneficiaries.

Throughout your visit, please be prepared with comfortable walking shoes and water, since bus wait times may sometimes be longer than expected. Although handicapped shuttles will be available throughout the cadet area, there may be extensive walking required from bus stops to your final destination. Guests with serious medical conditions such as anemia, heart disease or pulmonary disease should consult their doctor about the need for portable oxygen or preventive medication and the advisability of traveling to the Academy. Please make sure to consider this when bringing elderly or infirm guests to the Academy.

**HANDICAPPED ACCOMMODATIONS:** On Monday and Tuesday of Graduation Week, specially equipped handicapped shuttle vans will transport disabled guests from the handicapped parking area (north of the parade field) to locations throughout the Cadet Area. For the Graduation Ceremony at Falcon Stadium, special seating is available for wheelchair and handicapped guests (the row at the top of the "L" sections of the stadium, accessible via Gates 3 or 4). Please remember that this is an outdoor stadium; the ceremony will take place rain or shine, so be prepared for any sort of weather. Note that there are no elevators in the stadium and no indoor seating available. Once the ceremony begins, guests will not be allowed to leave the stadium until after the Thunderbirds performance; keep this in mind when making travel plans following the ceremony.

Hearing-impaired guests may ask their cadet to work through their squadron's graduation representative to request sign language interpreters for the cadet parades or the graduation ceremony, if required.

If you have any concerns about handicapped support during Graduation Week, please email [special.events@usafa.af.mil](mailto:special.events@usafa.af.mil).

**HIGH ALTITUDE HEALTH CONCERNS:** The Air Force Academy Cadet Area is approximately 7,300 feet above sea level. At this altitude, it is possible to contract an illness known as acute mountain or high altitude sickness. The common symptoms of this disorder include headache, malaise, nausea, vomiting and shortness of breath. Most cases of acute mountain sickness are mild but the altitude may exacerbate other existing medical conditions. High altitude sickness usually resolves within a few days once an individual has had a chance to adapt to the increased elevation. The best way to avoid illness is to allow yourself to acclimatize: try not to over-exert yourself in the first days after your arrival and make sure to drink sufficient fluids to avoid dehydration. Don't go sightseeing at higher elevations (i.e., up in the mountains) until after you have been in Colorado Springs for a few days. Alcohol consumption may worsen these symptoms; if you must drink, make sure to do so in moderation.

### **Local Companies Providing Oxygen, Walkers and Wheelchairs (no government endorsement of listed companies is suggested):**

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| 1. Roth Medical<br>4715 Town Center Drive<br>Colorado Springs, CO 80916<br>719-520-1414 or 719-321-6226      | 4. Apria Healthcare<br>6325 Corporate Drive<br>Colorado Springs, CO 80919<br>719-262-2600 or 719-310-2653 |
| 2. CareMax<br>373 Inverness Pkwy., Ste 207<br>Centennial, CO 80112<br>888-419-3057 (has a local distributor) | 5. Major Medical<br>405 N. Union Blvd.<br>Colorado Springs, CO 80909<br>719-475-1236                      |
| 3. Preferred Homecare<br>1049 Elkton Drive<br>Colorado Springs, CO 80907<br>719-548-9220                     |   |

# Grad Ceremony Seating

