

BOWL NEWS

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Quotes from Admiral Michael Mullen Chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

"It truly is great to be here. It is even greater to have two service academies playing bowl games the same day. These games are watched worldwide. These are great institutions, and there is outstanding interest from football fans everywhere in these bowls.

"I just came back from a week overseas, and the personnel over there have been following football closely. From the Pentagon throughout all bases, we are very proud of the Air Force and Naval Academies - and the athletics teams. When we speak to the academies' student-athletes, we try to remind them whom they represent. We remind them how proud we are of them. That was my recollection of the advice our superiors gave us at the Naval Academy - be aware of what you represent. Most of the time in college athletics, our service academy teams come in routinely as underdogs, but they realize how hard they need to work to be successful.

"While I was in Afghanistan recently, I spoke with a captain who had played center for the Air Force football squad. We talked about the **Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl** and my trip to Fort Worth. Our academy teams know that their mission is serving the country, and the people who surround them, their teammates and classmates are making a difference in the world.

"I had a chance to speak with Air Force's 15 seniors who will be graduating from the Academy in six months and reminded them they need to grow where they are planted. They will be figuring what they need to do next, and they will have a great future. We tell our graduates to keep their options open and make life decisions based on that.

"I have had a great time with the people in Fort Worth and am looking forward to a fine football game."

Admiral Michael G. 'Mike' Mullen, the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, accepted the **2009 Great American Patriot Award** on behalf of the men and women of U. S. Armed Forces. Armed Forces Insurance Chairman Col. Tom Dials (U. S. Army, Ret., www.afi.org), the sponsor of the award and the Official Insurance Partner of the **Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl**, presented the award for the U. S. Armed Forces to Admiral Mullen.

