



Soldier care

WTB Complex opens

A new Warrior Transition Complex opens near 673d Medical Group's DoD/VA Joint Venture Hospital
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Heritage

Women's History

JBER recalls women's many contributions to military service through U.S. history
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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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'Soldiers helping Soldiers' – AER campaign begins

By Army Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Winstead
U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs

The 2012 Army Emergency Relief campaign kicked off March 1 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson with a briefing to AER representatives from U.S. Army Alaska.

AER is a private, nonprofit organization which provides emergency financial assistance to Soldiers (active and retired) and their families in time of distress.

Established to ensure there was an agency available that could provide prompt financial assistance for Soldiers and their families during World War II, AER provides emergency financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans or grants. In addition, AER provides scholarships to children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers as well as financial support to widows and wounded warriors.

According to an AER news release, beginning in January 2012, AER added four new categories of assistance to include: family member dental care, basic furniture needs, rental vehicles and replacement vehicles. These additions were made to meet the changing needs of today's Soldiers and families. Based upon feedback from our AER officers worldwide, nine new categories have been added in the last two years.

According to the release, in 2011 Army Emergency Relief provided \$77.5 million in assistance to more than 64,000 Soldiers and their families. Under the streamlined Command Referral Program, company commanders and first sergeants have the authority to approve AER loans for their Soldiers up to \$1,500.

AER assistance is based upon a valid need and is flexible in re-

See AER, Page A-3



Logistics operation resupplies Combat Outpost Chergotah

By Spc. Erik-James Estrada
Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A joint airdrop operation between Task Force Spartan, the U.S. Air Force, the Afghan Border Patrol and local militia Arbici was conducted to resupply paratroopers of Task Force Blue Geronimo at Combat Outpost Chergotah, a first for the area, Feb. 28.

Paratroopers from Task Force Blue Geronimo conducted a drop zone survey two weeks prior in an effort to find a safer alternative method to re-supply Combat Outpost Chergotah.

"This particular drop sets up for future drops, especially for the rebuilding of the COP," said Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Botts, assistant operations for S-3, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), a native of Hermiston, Ore. "It really sets up the unit for success in being able to supply them with more equipment."

A C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft was used in the joint effort to test drop 20 bundles of container delivery systems consisting of water and meals ready to eat, using low-cost high-velocity parachutes.

"None of the parachutes failed making for an easy recovery," said 1st Lt. Casey Dschaak, platoon leader for 2nd Platoon, Comanche Company, Task Force Blue Geronimo, a native of Belle Fourche, S.D.

"This method allows for more supplies to get in here, definitely giving us more 'bang for the buck.' It's safer. You're not moving huge convoys out here on the roads and there's so many supplies that you're



ABOVE: Paratroopers from 2nd Platoon, Comanche Company, Task Force Blue Geronimo, recover supplies dropped from a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft near Combat Outpost Chergotah Feb. 28.

TOP: Sgt. Brian Castellion with 2nd Platoon, from Caledonia, Wis., (left) and Sgt. First Class Nathan Botts, assistant operations for S-3, TF Blue Geronimo and native of Hermiston, Ore., coordinate an airdrop mission outside Combat Outpost Chergotah Feb. 28. (U.S. Army photos/Sp. Erik-James Estrada)

able to store for future operations," added Dschaak.

Despite taking two rounds of indirect fire, the operation continued and there were no further incidents to jeopardize the paratroopers or the operation.

"I feel that the airdrop is safer, more expedient than a convoy because a convoy

has to get mission prepped," said Spc. Larry-Pablo Flores-Berrier, a paratrooper with 2nd Platoon, Comanche Company, Task Force Blue Geronimo, hailing from Las Vegas. "And on top of that, the road has many dangers, which can be IEDs, or anything, and that brings more complications, where as (the airdrop) took a max three hours."

Flagship: 90th Fighter Squadron receives new F-22

By David Bedard
JBER Public Affairs

Swooping down from an open Alaska sky, two 90th Fighter Squadron F-22 Raptor fighters – tail numbers 4090 and 4190 – flew above the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson flight line in formation and at speed.

Piloting Tail Number 4190, Lt. Col. Joseph Kunkel, 90th FS commander, glanced over at his wingman before dramatically breaking formation in a swift starboard turn.

Finally, Kunkel touched the Air Force's newest jet down on the tarmac and taxied the jet to the 90th FS hangar apron where Airmen of his command awaited the arrival of their new top F-22.

After flying more than 2,100 miles from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to Joint Base Elmendorf-

Richardson with two other F-22s, F-22 Tail Number 4190 assumed its place as 90th Fighter Squadron's flagship Wednesday in a brief ceremony at the 90th FS headquarters, replacing Tail Number 4090 in the vaunted role.

Kunkel said a fighter squadron's flagship is important, because it stands as a symbol and rallying point for the command.

"A flagship is pretty special," the Hebron, Neb., native explained. "I don't think of it as my flagship. I think of it as the squadron's flagship, because it's the jet that represents the squadron."

"Whenever we go somewhere, that jet goes with us," Kunkel continued. "And instead of there being a simple tail number, it's going to have '90th Fighter Squadron,' so when we roll into town, everyone

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Air Force Staff Sergeant James Lacina, 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, welcomes Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Kunkel, 90th Fighter Squadron commander, Wednesday after Kunkel landed the squadron's new flagship at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)

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Daylight saving time

Avoid being late and enjoy an extra hour of daylight. Remember to set clocks forward an hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday.



Air Force women trace history to World War II

Commentary by Martha Lockwood
Defense Media Activity

The Air Force's acceptance of women into the force dates back to long before the first "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978.

In 1942, the U.S. Army Air Corps took the unheard-of step of forming and employing two women's aviation units. That same year, a unit of flight nurses who had not yet quite finished their training, were sent into North Africa on Christmas Day following the Allied invasion in November of that year.

And the history of women – civilian and military – was forever changed.

WASPS, WAFS and a willingness to serve

Originally, the idea of using women pilots was first suggested in 1930, but was considered "unfeasible," according to information maintained at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Then, in mid-1942, an increased need for World War II combat pilots, favored the use of experienced women pilots to fly aircraft on non-combat missions.

Two women's aviation units – The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron and the Women's Airforce Service Pilots were formed to ease this need. More than 1,000 women participated in these programs as civilians attached to the USAAC, flying 60 million miles of non-combat military missions.

These two units were merged into a single group, the WASP program in August 1943, and broke ground for U.S. Air Force female pilots who would follow in their footsteps decades later.

Of the more than 25,000 women who applied for pilot training under the WASP program, 1,830 were accepted, 1,074 were graduated, and 916 (including 16 former WAFS) remained when the program was disbanded in December 1944. WASP assignments were diverse – as flight training instructors, glider tow pilots, towing targets for air-to-air and anti-aircraft gunnery practice, engineering test flying, ferrying aircraft, and other duties.

Although WASPs had the privileges of officers, they were never formally adopted into the USAAC. In November 1977 – 33



Four F-15 Eagle fighter pilots from the 3rd Wing step to their respective jets July 5 for the fini flight of Maj. Andrea "Gunner" Misener, 19th Fighter Squadron, pictured far left. To her right are Capt. Jammie "Trix" Jamieson of the 12th Fighter Squadron, Maj. Carey "Mamba" Jones, 19th FS, and Capt. Samantha "Combo" Weeks, 12th FS. The 12th FS inactivated in 2006 and the 19th FS relocated to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Keith Brown)

years after the WASPs program was disbanded – President Jimmy Carter signed a bill granting World War II veterans' status to former WASPs.

"Winged Angels"

It was a slightly different story for flight nurses who were members of the military from the beginning. As it was with so many advances and innovations resulting from World War II, the USAAC radically changed military medical care, and the development of air evacuation and the training of flight nurses were advanced to meet this need.

After the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, the need for flight nurses exceeded the supply, and women who had

not yet finished their training were called into action and sent to North Africa on Christmas Day. Finally, in February 1943, the first class of Army Nurse Corps flight nurses graduated.

Unlike their stateside-stationed counterparts in the WASPs, flight nurses (nicknamed "Winged Angels") in the Army Nurse Corps served in combat. They were especially vulnerable to enemy attacks because aircraft used for evacuation could not display their non-combat status.

These same aircraft were also used to transport military supplies. In anticipation and preparation for almost any emergency, flight nurses were required to learn crash procedures, receive survival training, and

know the effects of high altitude on a vast array of pathologies.

Of the nearly 1.2 million patients air evacuated throughout the war, only 46 died en route. About 500 USAAC nurses (only 17 died in combat) served as members of 31 medical air evacuation transport squadrons throughout the world.

When President Harry Truman signed The National Security Act of 1947, creating the Department of Defense, the U. S. Air Force became a separate military service. At the time, a number of Women's Army Corps members continued serving in the Army but performed Air Force duties.

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Assistant secretary of the Army reflects on Women's History Month

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — March is Women's History Month and an assistant secretary of the Army said the observance is a recognition of the value that women have had in society all along.

"There have been periods in our history where women have not been as in front of the decisions – but behind the scenes women have had a tremendous role," said Katherine Hammack, the assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment.

"It's always interesting to me to walk into the halls of the Pentagon and see the Women's Army Corps and see the contributions that they made in previous wars," she said. "Women have made contributions all throughout history."

This year, the theme for Women's History Month is "Women's Education – Women's Empowerment."

An engineer by trade, Hammack said early on in her career, she was one of only a few women in her profession.

"When I went through engineering school I was one of three women in the engineering department," Hammack said. "It was interesting to be a minority in that situation. But after a while, people forget whether you're a man or a woman, and you're just a fellow student getting an education."

Hammack said opportunities for women in the private sector and the Army have increased from when she started out. A woman today, she said, is limited primarily by her own aspirations.

"There are way more opportunities available to women today than there were in the past," she said. "I think if you have an education that's going to serve you well, I think women are capable of almost any role now. I think in the past – a paradigm, it was my mother's generation, where women were nurses or teachers, if you had a job. Nowadays, a woman can be anything that she has interest in



Sgt. Yanira Lopez, 98th Maintenance Company, keeps watch Aug. 30, 2011, during convoy lane training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army photos/Percy G. Jones)

being. I don't think there are any limitations to what anyone can do."

Hammack, who said she has no background with the military prior to being appointed in her current position, said she was surprised at how women in the Army are accepted in the positions they are in, and in the leadership positions they hold.

"I think the role has changed in that now (women) are seen as just as fellow members of the Army doing our jobs," she said. "I don't think if you're a man or woman it is looked on quite as closely as it may once have been. I think that's what surprised me most about becoming part of the Army family is how many women are in the Army doing phenomenal jobs."

From Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the first female Army four-star general, all the way down to Army privates, Hammack said she is impressed with the leadership capabilities she

has seen in women in the Army, and in the work women are doing.

"I've seen women at every echelon doing phenomenal jobs," she said. "In theater I rode with women in the MRAP (mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle). And so women can do just about any job that's put forward to them. So I think the role of women in society and the Army has changed over the last decades."

That women and men are integrated as they are in the Army, and that leadership positions and job opportunities are open nearly equal to both genders is a benefit to the Army, Hammack said. She said that studies have shown that the "IQ of diverse teams" was better than the IQ of homogeneous teams when it came to decision making.

"When we talk about diversity, we can talk about women mixed with men, we can talk about different cultures, different experi-

ences, different age groups," she said. "But when you have a diverse team, you are going to have a better resulting decision. I think it's very important that we all think about diversity when we're building teams and making decisions."

The formula for success is the same for women as it is for men, Hammack said: hard work and education.

"You have to work hard, you have to take on responsibility, and you have to complete tasks," she said. "I've seen those people who don't get ahead, or those people who say 'it's not my job,' or those people who aren't willing to complete a task and who get it halfway done and pass it off to someone else. So I think for anyone to get ahead and succeed, you have to be able to take on that responsibility or maybe see where there is a need and work to fill that need."

Equally, if not more important

to success, Hammack said, is a life-long commitment to learning.

"I think life is a continuous learning process," she said. "When you go and get a degree, no matter what degree it is, you are learning from the teachers, from the text books, and also from the other people in the class. I think everybody owes it to themselves to get an education and continue a lifelong habit of learning."

Among the myriad obligations for both leaders and aspiring leaders come two additional challenges to which Hammack said they should endeavor: writing and volunteerism.

"I think it's a responsibility of all leaders to volunteer and to publish and communicate," Hammack said.

Younger women and men "can volunteer within your own organization, you can volunteer in your community, you can volunteer in your church," Hammack said. "When you volunteer you meet different people. You get outside your comfort zone. You get outside the roles and responsibilities you have on a daily basis. And you contribute back to community, society and other organizations."

Hammack also said that aspiring leaders should write more, and learn to be more effective writers so they may better communicate their ideas.

"Writing about what you are doing, or experiencing or what you are learning is a tool that helps you gather your thoughts and become a better writer," she said. "But it's also a means of communicating to the rest of your team or your industry or the nation."

In her position as assistant secretary, Hammack is responsible for policy and oversight of sustainability and environmental initiatives; resource management, including design, military construction, operations and maintenance; base realignment and closure; privatization of Army family housing, lodging, real estate, utilities; and the Army's installations safety and occupational health programs.

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U.S. Army Alaska
Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Raymond P. Palumbo (USA)

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Flagship

From Page A-1

knows who we are.”

The commander said, though he flies the F-22, the plane belongs to the 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit and to Staff Sgt. James Lacina, Kunkel’s dedicated crew chief.

Lacina, a native of Muscatine, Iowa, said it is his job to keep the plane fully mission capable and looking as sharp as the day it left the factory paint booth.

“It’s a pretty big deal,” Lacina said of taking custody of the aircraft. “My name’s on it first. It’s a squadron jet, which for me is kind of a big deal – a pride thing.”

Tail Number 4190 is one of the last F-22s scheduled to be manufactured at Lockheed-Martin’s plant in Marietta, Ga. The final Raptor, Tail Number 4195, is scheduled to be delivered to JBER’s 525th Fighter Squadron in May.

Before arriving at its temporary home at Hill Air Force Base, Kunkel said the Raptor’s journey began a few weeks earlier at the Marietta plant, when the pilot accepted delivery of the fighter.

Jeff Babione, Lockheed-Martin vice president and general manager of the F-22 Program, said a newly manufactured F-22 passes through a strict gauntlet of tests before being turned over to the Air Force.

“When it leaves the factory, the airplane has been fundamentally checked out,” Babione said. “It has the engines, landing gear, all of its subsystems – hydraulics, electrical – all of those things have been checked out to work as a functioning system.”

Babione said after subsystems checks, a new F-22 – still wearing a blue-green base coat of paint – undergoes fuel system checks to ensure the fuel tanks, lines and pumps are clear of debris and capable of feeding the jet’s twin F119 engines.

The fighter then moves to the Marietta flight line for its first engine run, operating from idle all the way to full afterburner.

Afterwards, the company completes four test flights before handing the jet to Air Force test pilot Lt. Col. Robert Wallace, Defense Contract Management Association, for four more test flights.

After successful testing, the Raptor finally trades its green base coat for the familiar, stealthy gray paint scheme.

Kunkel said he was treated to a unique customer experience when he arrived at the factory, perhaps little different than picking up an exotic super car in Italy.

“When I went down there, they said, ‘Hey, here’s what’s been done during the last eight flights; it’s flown all of these suc-



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. James Lacina uses the communications system to talk with an F-22 Raptor pilot after it arrived here Wednesday. The 90th Fighter Squadron received a new F-22 Raptor and recognized it as their squadron’s flagship. A flagship is a dedicated aircraft with the squadron’s, commander’s and dedicated crew chief’s names painted on parts of the aircraft. Lacina is the flagship’s assigned dedicated crew chief with the 90th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding) **RIGHT:** Air Force Capt. Jonathan Kuntz, 90th FS pilot, taxis F-22 Raptor Tail Number 4090 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Tail Number 4190 displaced 4090 as the squadron’s flagship Wednesday. The 90th FS was originally activated in 1917 and has operated aircraft ranging from the B-25 Mitchell bomber, the F-4 Phantom fighter and the F-15 Strike Eagle before switching to the F-22. (U.S. Air Force photo/Steve White)



cessfully with no issues. Here you go, here’s the keys,” Kunkel recalled. “I hopped in it and flew off.”

The pilot said the F-22 cockpit had a new-car smell and it functioned a little bit more crisply than other Raptors he had flown.

“When I hopped into this jet and started the motors, it seemed like the motors spooled up faster,” he said. “It seemed like when I was taxiing, everything was tight. It seemed like when I was flying, it was real tight. It felt new.”

During a stop at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., en route to Hill Air Force Base, Kunkel said local Airmen mobbed the newly

minted Raptor.

“It was like the whole base came out to see this brand-new airplane, which had less than 10 hours of flying time on it,” he said. “Frankly, everyone there was proud of the airplane – all kinds of young Airmen coming up to it, looking at it saying, ‘Wow, I can’t believe how cool this airplane is.’”

The F-22 is the world’s only operational fifth-generation fighter, which supersedes aircraft like the F-15 Strike Eagle Kunkel used to fly.

“Fifth generation means it’s unmatched,” Kunkel said. “What it brings to the fight and what makes it magic is one, its stealthiness; two, its integrated avionics, which decreases

pilot workload immensely; three, its super-cruise capability, which means we can go long distances very quickly; and then, finally, the super maneuverability of the airplane so if you get yourself in a jam and have to dogfight, you can be successful.”

Having piloted Raptors during exercises with international partners, Kunkel said the fighter’s unique capabilities make it a coveted asset amongst allied nations.

“Everyone wants this jet on their side,” he said. “Which is the best compliment, because of the situational awareness it gives the pilots, and the ability to roll in on the enemy undetected and target them, makes the airplane unrivaled.”

AER

From Page A-1

sponding to all types of financial situations. There is no limit on the amount of assistance that can be provided, and no limit on the number of times a Soldier may make requests for assistance.

The organization receives its funding from voluntary contributions from Soldiers, unsolicited contributions, repayments of loans, and income from investments. The AER campaign at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson runs until May 15.

Dennis Scott, a retired sergeant major and the assistant secretary general from AER headquarters in Alexandria, Va., gave unit representatives an overview of the program and highlighted some recent changes and updates.

“We want to meet our two primary goals when it comes to AER,” Scott said. “To inform the entire Army as to the function of AER and what it can offer, and to be a Soldier’s first thought when he or she needs to consider any type of financial assistance.”

Statistics have shown younger Soldiers unaware of the benefits of AER are much more likely to fall prey to unscrupulous lenders

in times of financial distress, according to Scott.

He also noted that AER expanded the range of emergency situations for which it will provide assistance, including family member dental care, basic furniture needs, rental vehicles and replacement vehicles.

AER assistance is now available to medical retirees, and widows and orphans of Soldiers, Scott said.

In addition to emergency loans, AER also provides educational assistance to family members.

“In 2011, AER provided just over \$1.6 million in education assistance for the children of Soldiers

and \$1.1 million in education assistance to around 625 spouses, which averaged out to be about \$2,500 per spouse Armywide.” Scott said.

Eligible recipients in Alaska received more than \$400,000 in AER assistance last year, according to Salafai Jeremia, AER officer for the JBER Army Support Activity.

“In order to maintain the level of assistance that we can provide, we really need every Soldier to be aware of what AER is, how helpful it can be, and to understand how important it is to donate if they can,” Jeremia said.

Jeremia and Scott said they hope to raise at least \$35,000 in AER donations at JBER by the

campaign’s end May 15.

U.S. Army Alaska Chief of Staff Col. William Miller commented on the benefits and importance of the AER program and urged unit representatives to inform their Soldiers about the program.

“The great thing about AER is we get every dime we put into it spent toward us,” Miller said. “We use it, not someone else. Help to let your younger Soldiers understand that this isn’t about us helping the Army, this is really about us helping us.”

For more information about AER, contact your unit AER representative or go to www.aerhq.org.

USAF women

From Page A-2

The following year, some WACs chose to transfer to the Women’s Air Force when it finally became possible to do so.

Originally, the WAFs were limited to 4,000 enlisted women and 300 female officers, all of whom were encouraged to fill a variety of ground duty roles – mostly clerical and medical – but were not to be trained as pilots, even though the USAAC had graduated the first class of female pilots in April 1943, during wartime.

In 1976, when women were accepted into the Air Force on an equal basis with men, the WAF program ended, but not before many milestones were achieved and marked along the way in preparation for today’s Air Force woman.

The WAFs in evolution

The first WAF recruit was Sgt. Esther Blake who enlisted on July 8, 1948, in the first minute of the first day that regular Air Force duty was authorized for women. She had been a WAC, and she transferred in from Fort McPherson, Ga.

The first recruits reported to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 1948. When basic training was desegregated in the Air Force the following year, many African-American women recruits joined, even though the integration of quarters and mess had not yet been achieved.

At first, WAFs wore men’s uniforms with neckties. It was “a look” that didn’t last long, and winter uniforms for WAFs were modeled after flight attendants’ uniforms, using the same material as the men’s winter uniforms.

The necktie was abandoned early on, and was replaced with



Air Force Staff Sgt. Carol Ann Kemmis, a flight crew chief with the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, goes through the maintenance logs of a C-17 Globemaster III prior to a mission at Misawa Air Base, Japan, April 7, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia)

tabs on the collar. The summer uniform – a two-piece dress made of cotton-cord seersucker – didn’t fare as well. Ill-fitting, it required frequent ironing. It would be years before a suitable women’s uniform would be achieved.

Milestones along the way

In its 10-year lifespan, from 1951 to 1961, the 543rd Air Force Band was served by 235 women musicians, with approximately 50 members at any one time. This band, the WAF Band as it was known, along with the all-male Air Force Band, served as ambassadors of the Air Force simultaneously.

The WAF band marched in both of President Eisenhower’s inaugural parades, and they played for President Kennedy’s inauguration, among other concert engagements throughout the nation. The

band was deactivated in 1961. Some say that it was a victim of its own success.

It was during this same time period – 1956 – that a WAF section was introduced into the college-level ROTC program, and by 1959 four universities were running ROTC WAF sections. By 1970, they had achieved a national presence.

Concurrent with the expansion of the ROTC women’s cadet program, Congress passed Public Law 90-130 in 1967, lifting grade restrictions and strength limitations on women in the military.

And with the end of Selective Service in 1973, recruiting practices changed. Shortly afterwards – 1976 – the separate status of WAF was abolished, and women entered pilot training as military personnel for the first time. (The WASPS and

WAFS of World War II had come in to service as civilians with pilots’ licenses.) Our country’s bicentennial year also saw women entering the service academies, which had not been opened to them prior to President Ford’s administration.

By 1993, women were receiving fighter pilot training, and Lt. Gen. Susan J. Helms (then Maj. Helms), member of the first class of the U. S. Air Force Academy to graduate women, was also the first American military woman in space as part of the Space Shuttle Endeavor team.

Coming full circle, the final chapter for the WAFS and WASPS of World War II was achieved in 1977, when President Jimmy Carter awarded them full status as veterans, complete with benefits. A fitting epilogue was added in 2010 with the awarding of the

Congressional Gold Medal. Today, there are approximately 300 of the original women Air Force pilots still living.

By the numbers

The milestones cited above are just that – the highlights of women in service to their country. Each day, women in the Air Force distinguish themselves and honor those who have gone before them by doing the jobs that matter to us all – performing in professional, administrative, technical and clerical positions.

Women make up 19 percent of all Air Force military personnel and 30.5 percent of all civilian personnel. Of the female officers, 55 percent of the female officers are line officers, and 45 percent are non-line. Of the 328,423 active duty personnel, 62,316 are women, with 712 female pilots, 259 navigators and 183 air battle managers.

Women’s History Month

Today, Women’s History Month awareness for all the armed services is initiated by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute headquartered at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Among the tools and initiatives for observing this month-long celebration of the role women have played throughout history, the Institute is making available a free download of this year’s Women’s National History Project poster, “Women’s Education – Women’s Empowerment.”

Empowerment of women has strengthened the services. Starting with the WASPS and WAFS of World War II, through the WAFs of the ‘50s and ‘60s, through the acceptance and promotion of women at the service academies, each generation of women and their evolved sense of service to their country, has prepared the future for generations of women seeking unlimited opportunity.

Briefs and Announcements

Commander's call

All 673d Air Base Wing service members are required to attend a Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson commander's call March 16, either 10 a.m. at Talkeetna Theater, JBER-Elmendorf, or 1 p.m. at Richardson Theater, JBER-Richardson.

Civilian employees are encouraged to attend.

AFOSI open house

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations will host an open house March 16 from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Building 8511, located across from the People Center.

AFOSI is currently seeking highly qualified senior airmen (on a case-by-case basis) through technical sergeants with the following qualifications:

- All staff sergeant applicants must have five to ten years time in service. Staff sergeants outside the TIS window will be considered on an exception-to-policy basis only.

- All technical sergeant applicants must have less than one year time in grade and less than 11 years time in service. Those with more than one year time in grade but fewer than 11 years time in service will be considered on an exception-to-policy basis.

- Applicants exceeding 12 years time in service will not be considered.

- Applicants must be releasable from their current career field and qualify for a top secret security clearance.

- Applicants stationed overseas must apply during the 13th month prior to their date estimated return from overseas.

For more information, call AFOSI Detachment 631 at 552-2256 or visit www.osi.andrews.af.mil.

Book giveaway

The 673d Mission Support Group will host a book giveaway March 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at

the Airman's Attic, 8515 Saville Ave.

This community service project is open to all Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson service members and their families.

For more information, call 269-8640 or email vista@alaska.gov.

Tax centers open

Volunteers at both Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson tax centers are trained to prepare 1040 EZ and 1040 tax returns and will do so until April 17.

The JBER-Elmendorf Tax Center is in Building 8124 and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon.

The JBER-Richardson Tax Center is in Building 600, Room A305, and is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday, and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday. Walk-in service is available.

Appointments can be made by calling 551-1175 for JBER-E; for JBER-R call 384-1040.

STAP termination

Due to Air Force reductions in funding and manpower, the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Education Center will no longer provide administrative support of the Air Force Aid Society's Spouse Tuition Assistance Program for JBER spouses after July.

In response, the Air Force Aid Society has looked at possible solutions to keep STAP operational. However, the software development costs and the time necessary to develop and implement a solution for the following academic year were not feasible.

Therefore, in an effort to maintain some support of spouses for the 2012-2013 academic year, the society has decided to discontinue STAP at the conclusion of the program year, which ends July 31, and to immediately expand eligibility requirements of the Gen. Henry H.

Arnold Education Grant Program to include spouses at overseas locations.

The Arnold Grant Program is limited to full-time undergraduates only, though awards are generally higher than STAP.

Deadline for application to the Arnold Grant Program is March 31 for academic year 2012-2013. To access the application, visit <http://tiny.cc/agjhf>.

Call the Education Center at 384-0970 for more information.

Utility allowance changes

The utility allowance has been adjusted for all Phase I (Sunflower – those units on Fairchild Ave., Dallas, Silver Run and Chugach housing areas) metered housing units to reflect decreases or increases in electricity and natural gas rates Aurora pays.

Aurora will continue to read utility meters monthly and provide a statement reflecting actual consumption, quarterly allowance amount and the resulting balance of customer accounts.

As is currently the case, when the credit balance of accounts exceed \$250, Aurora will issue a refund check.

If an account reflects a debit balance in excess of \$250, customers are required to make payment to Aurora in the amount of the account balance.

In addition, each account is annually reconciled and adjusted to zero at the end June.

This means during July, customers will either be refunded any accumulated credit or invoiced for any amount owed, regardless of the dollar amount.

For any questions regarding the Utility Program or further information, please contact the Aurora Utility Staff at 375-0508 or Aurora Housing Office at 753-1023.

Snowmachine orientation

Snowmachine orientation is required for all personnel intending on riding the Elmendorf side of

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The orientation is hosted every Thursday at 5 p.m. at Building 7210.

For more information, call 552-2023.

Furnishings management

The Furnishings Management Office offers 90-day loaner furniture for Airmen arriving at or leaving JBER-Elmendorf.

The FMO also has appliances for Airmen residing off base, for longterm use.

Delivery and pick-up is provided for 90-day loaner furniture and appliances. The FMO also has longterm furniture for ranks E-1 through E-5.

These items are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The service member is responsible for transporting these furnishings. Airmen should take a copy of PCS orders to the Government Housing Office at 6346 Arctic Warrior Drive to schedule delivery. Call 552-2740 for any questions regarding the FMO program. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Soldiers can call 384-0092 for the JBER-Richardson FMO.

Otter Lake fishing

The sport fishery on Otter Lake has been liberalized to allow harvest of 10 rainbow trout per day, 10 in possession, effective until Oct. 1.

There continues to be no bag, possession or size limits for northern pike.

Additionally, the legal gear for ice fishing on Otter Lake is increased to five lines with up to two hooks per line as long as both hooks are attached to the same single piece of bait.

For more information call 267-2153.

Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program is available to all eligible active-duty members and consists

of two options. The first option, RPP Plus, includes utilities and sometimes cable costs providing an easier budget with a set rental payment year round.

The other option, RPP 5 Percent Below Market, saves the member five percent off the rental fee that other tenants pay however utilities are paid for by the tenant.

Both options are made available with no deposits or fees to the member with the exclusion of pet fees as it may apply.

This program is designed to provide active-duty military personnel, enlisted and officers, accompanied and unaccompanied with affordable off-base housing.

An allotment must be executed under either option of the RPP for the rental payments which is made directly to the landlord resulting in a more trouble free transactions.

See RPP officials at the Capital Asset Management Office, Building 6346, Arctic Warrior Dr., or call at 552-4328 or 552-4374 for further information and assistance regarding this program.

Home buyer's seminar

The 673d Civil Engineer Squadron Capital Asset Management Office offers a first-time home buyer's seminar two times each month through the Volunteer Realtor Program.

The seminar covers home loan prequalification, negotiations, offer acceptance, inspection, title search, available types of loans, and the closure process as well as many other aspects of interest to a prospective home owner.

If interested in becoming a home owner and wish to attend, please call 552-4439 to be included on the sign-up sheet.

Quartermaster Laundry

The Quartermaster Laundry, located at 726 Quartermaster Road, cleans TA-50 gear for free and is open Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

3rd Wing's curling championships,
Page B-4

www.jber.af.mil/news

COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 10

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

March 9, 2012



Warrior Transition Battalion complex opens

By Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett
JBER Public Affairs

The Warrior Transition Battalion's Company A held its official opening ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson March 2. The WTB's new Warrior Transition Complex was celebrated by members of the battalion and the 673d Medical Wing, Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell, and various organizations from the local community during a ribbon cutting.

"This is a wonderful example of our Army's commitment to provide the best possible care for our (injured) Soldiers," said Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, U.S. Army Alaska commander and native of Windber, Pa. "These are Soldiers who have either been wounded on some battlefield throughout the world, or have otherwise become injured."

The opening of the new complex reaffirms JBER's commitment to providing high-quality facilities, support and assistance for Soldiers, Airmen and their families during their transition.

"This is about much more than a beautiful building," Palumbo said. "This is a place to heal. This organization is the heart and soul of the warrior care that takes place inside these walls. There are three things that will happen here. The first is that they will get fixed and return to their job. If we can't, we're going to help them get back into civilian life so that they can get a good job and be a leader in the civilian world. Our country needs those leaders."

"We have 85,000 Soldiers in Afghanistan from the U.S. Army Alaska and sometimes bad things happen. It's nice to have a wonderful place like this with wonderful leaders coming together to help our Soldiers," he said.

The Warrior Transition Complex also serves as a symbol.

"These facilities were dedicated today as a symbol of our commitment to improve the lives of every Soldier who walks through our doors," said Army Lt. Col. Jason Benefield, Warrior Transition Battalion-Alaska commander. "We've had a world class team for a while and now we have a world class facility to match."

"The Soldiers who come to us experienced something that didn't go according to plan," he continued. "When they get here with us, they have a change in mission; to transition to the next phase of their life, whether that is as a Soldier or veteran. Within these walls, they encounter a strong team that helps them execute their new mission. As a battalion, we accomplish our mission when each Soldier leaves here confident enough and equipped for success in the next phase of their life."

In reality we can only set the conditions. It's the Soldiers that do the work to be successful. It is a great honor to see our Soldiers and our entire team move into a

facility that will truly contribute to that success."

The facility is dedicated to all services.

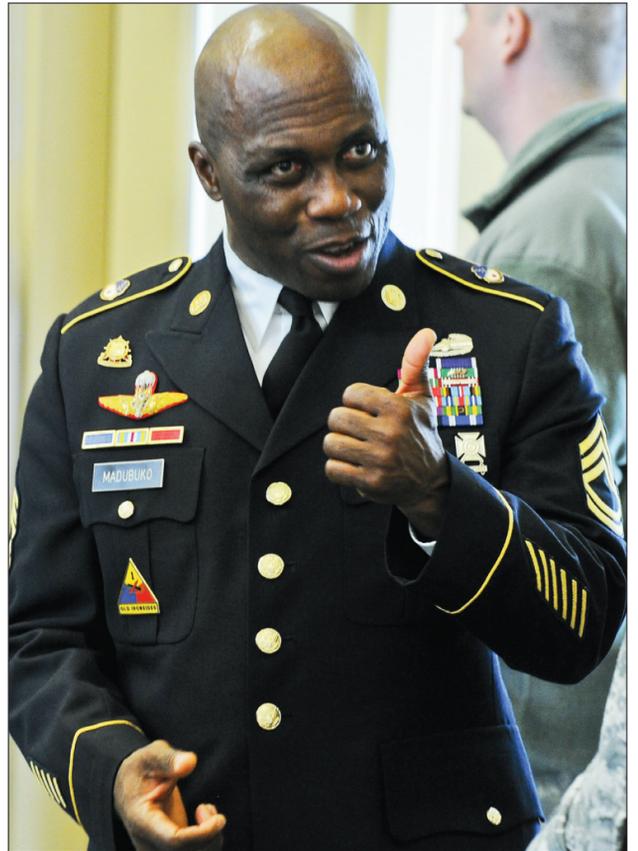
"This dedication is about our joint base here and all our services," said Army Col. George Appenzeller, Army Medical Department Activity, Alaska. "It's particularly about the American people's continued commitment to serve those that have sacrificed so much for the rest of us."

During the ceremony, Army Sgt. Ernest Smith, a truck commander who was hit with an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, was presented with a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the line of duty. His hometown is Ferriday, La.

"This facility gives wounded warriors a sense that people still care," Smith said. "It gives people the focus to either return to duty or to get out into the civilian world. There are a lot of good people here. My stay here has been good. I've been put on the track to return back to duty, that's my focus here."

The WTB consists of multiple capabilities.

"This facility is made up of different buildings," said Russell Black, Director of the Soldier and Family Assistance Center and native of Palmer, Alaska. "We have the Soldier and Family Assistance



Warrior Transition Battalion Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Kelechi Madubuko of Washington D.C., a Purple Heart Medal recipient who was wounded in Iraq in 2003, gives a "thumbs up" to a fellow Soldier before the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating official opening of the Warrior Transition Battalion-Alaska on JBER Friday, with guest speaker Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, commanding general United States Army Alaska and Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell among other distinguished dignitaries. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaehr)

Center. Next door we have the company area, and next to that is that battalion. The building that's set in the back is the barracks area. It's made to accommodate handicapped and our disabled wounded warriors from Afghanistan or Iraq."

The SFAC, like the rest of the WTB, is aimed at all services.

"At the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, we now take care of Air Force, Marines and Navy as well," Black said. "We have a staff of about four and we are associated with about 47 different agencies off post as well."

We do equine therapy, Healing Hearts that takes soldiers and families out hunting or fishing to help get them integrated back into civilian life. We're partnered with the Wounded Warriors Project. We also partner with Project Healing Waters, where volunteers from the community come over and help Soldiers tie flies for fishing."

Resources like the examples given are available so the SFAC can meet patient needs.

"We find out the needs of the Soldier, go out and find the resource and bring that resource here for them," he said. "That way we're a one-stop shop. Our mission

is that we provide tailor integrated services for Soldiers and family members."

For veterans transitioning to civilian life, one of the resources offered is on the job experience.

"The Department of Defense allows our Soldiers to work downtown with federal agencies for on the job experience before they separate to give them a running start towards civilian employment," said Mark Avery, Warrior Transition Battalion transition coordinator and native of Belton, Mo. "Besides having the military leadership, we have doctors, nurses, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, all designed to help a Soldier get well and rejoin his unit. If rejoining his unit is not possible, we want to ensure that the Soldier has as much assistance as possible to make that transition to veteran status."

Regardless whether the service members are able to return to duty or end up joining the civilian world, the Warrior Transition Battalion is there to help.

"We improve the lives of everyone that comes through here," said Army Capt. Mitchell Casteel, Alpha Company commander and native of Jackson, Mo.

Red Cross month highlights assistance to services

By Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea
JBER Public Affairs

When service members or families need assistance to cope with emergencies while in Alaska, the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Red Cross is available.

Family members can use the Red Cross emergency communication system to notify service members of an emergency or other important event. Red Cross messages are delivered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to service members at duty station or deployed location.

Armed Forces Office Manager Diane Fearon has dedicated four years of Red Cross service to JBER and has also volunteered 30 years of Red Cross service – the majority of her career.

"I've been doing this job for four years now – since 2007," said Fearon. Fearon's primary duty as the JBER Red Cross Armed Forces Office manager is to ensure received

calls concerning any service member and or family's financial and medical issues are resolved by way of messages she relays to any designated medical department.

"As a manager, my primary function has been to oversee the emergency message function that we provide for the military," Fearon said. "When there's a family emergency, Red Cross will verify the situation."

During the verification, if there is a death or medical mishap, Red Cross verifies it through a hospital or funeral home. If there is a medical emergency, Red Cross will contact the doctor.

"Verification involves five different pieces of information that we get from medical personnel," said Fearon, "if we're dealing with a medical mishap that results in death, we get

it from a funeral home along with the date and time of death. The medical emergency is generally the more complicated piece and that involves getting a diagnosis, a prognosis, a current condition, a life expectancy, if that's an issue, and whether the doctor recommends

the service member's or spouse's presence. So it really is depending upon what that situation is, to how complex this process can be."

The Casualty Travel Assistance Program provides travel assistance for two immediate family members to attend a memorial or funeral service or travel to the bedside of a service member wounded in combat zone. Through the CTAP, members receive round-trip airfare, food and incidentals, and lodging costs.

The CTAP is provided

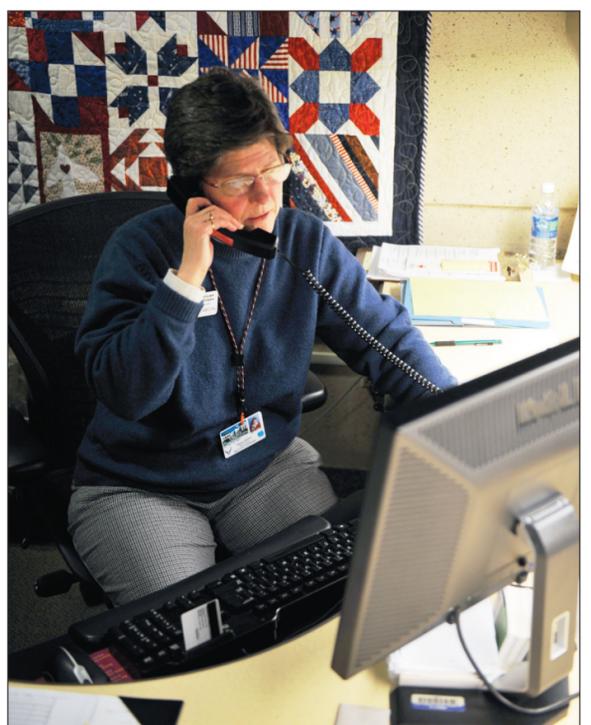
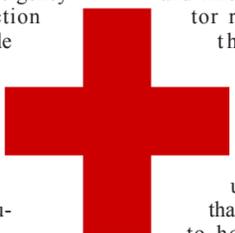
to spouses and dependents by the Red Cross association to help family members in their greatest time of need or vice versa. They may travel to the service member's or dependent's location.

"Over at the People Center I wasn't as connected with the hospital itself," Fearon said, "but now that I have my own office in the hospital, it makes it incredibly convenient for me to the clinics people may want to be networked with."

Fearon said her job has changed, since all of the emergency messages are centralized and started by the case service center staff.

"There's one toll-free number, so since late June we've been briefing people that there's been this change and that if you need a message started call (877) 272-7337," Fearon said.

"It's really knowing your community and knowing the resources that are out there and knowing what you have access to and who can you call," Fearon said.



The Red Cross divison's Diane Fearon takes an incoming call from her desk at the JBER hospital Dec. 2. Fearon's main duty as a Red Cross representative is to ensure the well-being and stability of service members and their family members alike. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)

Guard chaplains provide support across JBER and Alaska too

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rick Koch
Alaska National Guard

Drill weekend Sundays would bring a few chuckles from my congregation as I came forward to preach in a traditional black clergy robe and stole with BDUs and combat boots showing underneath.

That was years ago – before my coming to work as a full-time chaplain in the Alaska National Guard.

Like most members of the Guard, my military time was relegated to one weekend a month and two weeks of annual training every year above and beyond my civilian job.

For me, that job happened to be as a church pastor serving a local congregation.

Today, the Alaska National Guard is blessed with eight chaplains, four who serve in the Alaska Air National Guard and four on the Army side.

Additionally, the Alaska Army National Guard has five chaplain candidates, of which three are very close to officially becoming chaplains.

This is an exciting time for us because it means that very soon, for the first time in AKARNG history, all of our units will have chaplain coverage.

Just like the active duty chaplains here on JBER, our group is quite diverse in that we come from a variety of religious and social backgrounds and are dedicated to providing spiritual support to our service members and their families.

Only two of us in the whole group have full time jobs with the National Guard.

All the rest hold civilian work in addition to their military duties.

So, in a way, our teams experience the rewards and the challenges of having a foot in both the civilian and military worlds that occupy our lives.

Also like the active duty, most all of us have deployed at least once and many of us multiple times over the years.

One of the great joys to come from our deployment adventures is to enjoy reunion time with a surprising number of our active duty comrades who come to Alaska to serve tours of duty and with whom we once served on overseas assignments.

The relationship between the

chaplains of the Alaska National Guard and those from active duty has never been better and continues to strengthen.

We mutually support one another through programs, exercises and the occasional “real world” events that come our way.

Just as the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard have a hand in both the civilian and military worlds, we can also take on differing military roles.

Sometimes we are activated for national emergencies, like the Global War on Terror, and at other times we are activated to help provide support for state emergencies, such as natural disasters or other threats to our society.

Whenever events like those occur, our chaplains are called up to serve alongside our troops to

provide the appropriate spiritual support.

As with all chaplains, we see our unique place in the Alaska National Guard as a calling from God to serve our nation and state by ministering to Soldiers and Airmen, their families and our communities.

We are honored to do this and look forward to continuing this invitation from God to serve in the years ahead.

More articles will come from the two of us “full-time” National Guard chaplains in the months ahead as we join our active-duty counterparts in the endeavor of humbly sharing with you how God is working through our lives to minister not only here at JBER – but all across the state of Alaska.

Finding heroes near us – even in mundane situations

There are heroes everywhere, if you only look

Commentary by Air Force Master Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Air Force News Service

It's amazing how in the most normal of life's situations, you can have an encounter that adds perspective to your life and reminds you of what's really important.

I had an encounter like this recently while shopping at the base commissary at Scott Air Force Base.

It started as soon as I entered the store. As I walked in, I saw an older gentleman and his wife – the man was in a motorized scooter with the shopping basket on the front and his wife was pushing a shopping cart.

As I first walked past the couple, I exchanged a “hello” with them and went about my business – which included a stack of about 30 coupons looking for my “deals of the day.”

As time passed, it seemed this couple and I were frequenting the same aisles throughout the store, and as fate would have it, we ended up in the checkout line at the same time with them in front of me.

While we waited, I struck up a conversation with them since we were going to be waiting a while.

I first asked the man if he retired from the military. He said, “Yes sir – retired

Air Force.”

Since I wasn't thinking he was very old, I asked, “How long has it been since you retired?” It was his answer that changed the whole course of this conversation.

“I retired in '62 as a chief,” he said. “I started my career as a B-17 (Flying Fortress) gunner back in 1942.”

So there it was, I was in the presence of a pair of American heroes from the “Greatest Generation.”

First, the retired chief master sergeant is a hero because he served during a time of transition in our nation – World War II, Korean War and the start of the Vietnam War.

And his wife is a hero too. She is like many military family members who've paid a deep sacrifice while their loved ones are off to war.

As an additional note, in addition to serving nearly three years in World War II, the chief said he also did a year of duty in Korea and served in many capacities during his career working in positions that were part of the Cold War lore to include near a post along the Berlin Wall.

To add to the chief's impressive resume, he was one of the first chief master sergeants the Air Force had seen.

The Air Force didn't even have an E-9 rank until the Military Pay Act of 1958 which created the senior master sergeant and chief master sergeant ranks.

To boot, for this man to make E-9 inside of 20 years, also means he was very good at his job.

I also asked his wife how long they were married.

She said they “got hitched” when he returned from World War II in 1945 and said she was surprised he made it back.

Being a B-17 gunner, especially in the European theater where he served, the life expectancy for the number of missions they did was not very high.

One history source said the life expectancy of the average B-17 crew was just 14 missions.

Our conversation included a little about me. I told them what I did for the Air Force, had a great family, that I'd been in for 20 years and am about to retire.

The chief asked, “Have you been deployed?” I said simply, “A few times.”

At this point we were nearing the front of the line and they split off to one lane and I went to another.

It had only been five minutes but I felt like I had been among the presence of greatness.

When we split, I told them it was nice to talk to them but I wasn't done chatting with them just yet.

As the checkout process took a little longer for me with the many coupons I had, they ended up finishing around the same time as me even though I had less items.

So we met up again as we were heading

out the door.

I said them, “It was a great pleasure to talk with both of you. Thank you to both of you for your service and for all that you've done for our nation.”

To have met someone like you from our Greatest Generation has been my distinct honor.”

Their answer was simple. “We just answered the call when our nation needed us,” the chief said. “I was just glad stay on and serve over 20 years. So to you, I want to say thank you for your service as well. Being in the military is never an easy job and today is no different.”

His wife added, “We love our military men and women so coming here to the commissary and seeing the people in uniform with their families brings us back to how it was for us.”

“Thank you to you as well...and I bet you would never guess that I'm 84 and he's 87,” she said with a chuckle.

“Not a day over 29,” I said. She just smiled a big smile.

With that said I helped them get their groceries into their car, shook the chief's hand and gave his wife a hug.

For me, it made my day just meeting them.

As I walked to my car with my cart full of coupon-acquired goods, I thought of how rare of a meeting that was. It also made me realize there are many, many more people like them in our communities across America.

From here on, I am going to keep an eye out for more of those people find those heroes among us.

“We just answered the call when our nation needed us.”

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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Community happenings

FRIDAY
Eye of the Beholder
 The human body becomes a living, breathing, moving canvas in this art show. Create a piece of art that challenges what most people think of as wearable, and vie for prize money at the Crosspoint Auditorium starting at 8 p.m.
 For information visit www.alaskafiberfestival.org.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
Alaska Aces Hockey
 The Aces face off against their nemesis the Colorado Eagles at the Sullivan Arena. Ice chips fly at 7:15 p.m. For information visit www.alaskaaces.com.

SATURDAY
Magic with Eric Gilliam
 Alaska sensation Eric Gilliam is a magician and illusionist. Recently back from London, Gilliam excites audience with grand illusions in this all-ages show at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 3 p.m. or 8 p.m.
 For information call 263-2787.

MONDAY
JBER education fair
 Representatives from colleges, ROTC, National Guard and others will be at the JBER Education and Library Complex from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. to discuss GI Bill benefits, programs, opportunities, and career assessments.
 For information call 552-9647.

MARCH 23 THROUGH 25
Pirate Tales
 Storytellers and balladeers bring to life the world's favorite pirates – like Blackbeard and Capt. Hook. With songs like the Sloop John B, this is a show for the family at Alaska Pacific University.
 For information call 677-7529.

MARCH 24
NSAA Ski Train to Curry
 Eating, polka music, and skiing make the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage's trip to Curry. Ski, visit historic Curry, or snowshoe from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 For information visit www.anchoragenordicski.com or email meese@anchorage.net.

MARCH 29 THROUGH APRIL 1
The Great Alaska Sportsman Show
 The largest annual sports and

outdoors show offers everything for the outdoor enthusiast with demonstrations, clinics, a kids fishing pond, laser rifle range and much more at the Sullivan and Ben Boeke arenas.
 For information visit greatalaskasportsmanshow.com.

MARCH 31
Lily Tomlin
 The incomparable Tomlin brings many classic characters to life in this one-woman show.
 One of America's foremost comedienne, Tomlin may be best known for her roles on Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In.
 She appears at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.
 For information email meese@anchorage.net.

MARCH 31 THROUGH APRIL 1
Asian Cherry Blossom Celebration
 A double-feature of live theater inspired by stories from Japan and China.
 The Chinese Monkey King whisks us away to adventure, and A Thousand Cranes is a lyrical reminder of the desire for peace. The fun starts daily at 2 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.
 For information call 263-2787.

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APRIL 3
Carolina Chocolate Drops
 The 2011 Grammy-winning group for traditional folk music, the Carolina Chocolate Drops bring black string-band and jug-band music of the 1920s and 1930s with a joyful vengeance.
 Dirt-floor dance electricity starts at 7 p.m. at the Wendy Williamson Auditorium.
 For information email meese@anchorage.net.

APRIL 6
Rage City Roller girls
 Anchorage's own roller-derby girls battle it out at the Dena'ina Center. As usual, wheels roll from 7 to 10 p.m. For information visit www.ragecityrollergirls.com.

APRIL 12
The Conquest of McKinley
 100 years ago a group of adventurers including Belmore Browne and Hershall Parker tried to become the first to summit Mount

McKinley. They got heartbreakingly close; just 300 feet from the summit, they were thwarted by a violent storm.
 Denali guide Brian Okonek tells this epic story of camaraderie, sportsmanship and perseverance at the Anchorage Museum starting at 7 p.m.
 For information visit www.anchoragemuseum.org.

APRIL 13
Arctic Man Classic
 In this extreme race, skiers take a lone descent before grasping their snowmobile partner's tow rope for a climb at 70 to 90 mph.
 A final plummet to the finish line marks the end of the course at Summit Lake.
 Races start at 1 p.m. For information visit www.arcticman.com.

APRIL 14
Anchorage Symphony season finale
 This bittersweet performance of Brahms's Double Concerto features superstar cellist Zuill Bailey as well as Sitka Music Festival founder and violinist Paul Rosenthal. Celebrate the last of the season at 8 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.
 For information visit www.anchoragesymphony.org.

APRIL 21
Kids Day at the Museum
 Free general admission for children 12 and younger to celebrate the citywide Kids Day.
 For information visit www.anchoragemuseum.org.

APRIL 20 THROUGH 22
Alyeska Slush Cup
 Celebrate the coming of spring with a last blast of snowy fun at the Alyeska Resort's spring carnival and slush cup.
 Costumed competitors brave a chillingly cold pond of water on skis at the signature event.

Chris Botti concert
 Multiple-platinum jazz artist Chris Botti brings his acclaimed instrumental jazz to the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, since his 2004 CD When I Fall In Love, Botti's work has crossed boundaries.
 Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. For information, visit www.anchorageconcerts.org/_events.

APRIL 20 THROUGH 22
Alyeska Slush Cup
 Celebrate the coming of spring with a last blast of snowy fun at the Alyeska Resort's spring carnival and slush cup.
 Costumed competitors brave a chillingly cold pond of water on skis at the signature event.

For information visit www.alyskaresort.com.

APRIL 28 AND 29
Whole Life Festival
 A holistic spiritual event featuring free lectures and drawings, plus stones, jewelry, aura photos, healing oils, books, bodyworkers and more.
 Both days from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Coast International Inn.
 For information visit www.drglennkey.com.

Bettye Lavette concert
 Detroit's Bettye Lavette brings soul stylings to songs by Rosanne Cash, Fiona Apple and others. Hailed by Rolling Stone magazine, she tears it up Aretha-Franklin style at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts starting at 7:30.
 For information, call 257-2304 or email meese@anchorage.net.

ONGOING
Sing-a-long at the zoo
 Pre-school aged kids can explore the world of animals through music with musician Annie Reeves. Children can sing along with the guitar, or play with the musical instruments for kids. Sing-a-longs are held at 10:30 a.m. Mondays at the coffee shop greenhouse.
 For information email klarson@alaskazoo.org.

Chapel seeks contractor
 The JBER chapel is accepting bids for the Young Adult Ministry Coordinator contract. Bids, resumes and references will be accepted until March 12. For information or to get a statement of work, call Chaplain (Capt.) Savell at 552-4422.

Wired Cafe for Airmen
 The Wired Cafe is located at 7076 Fighter Dr., between Polaris and Yukla dormitories. The cafe has wireless Internet and programs throughout the week for single Airmen living in the dorms. There are free meals Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
 For information, call 552-4422.

Model railroading
 The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 1 p.m. Saturdays in basement Room 35 of Matanuska Hall, 7153 Fighter Drive. Anyone interested in model railroading is invited.

Chapel services

Catholic Mass
Sunday
 9 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
 10:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1

Monday through Friday
 11:40 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
 11:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel Center
Thursday
 11:30 a.m. – Hospital Chapel

Confession
Sunday
 4:30 p.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Monday through Friday
 Before/after 11:40 Mass – Soldiers' Chapel

Protestant Sunday Services
Joint Liturgical Service
 9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 2
Traditional Service
 9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1
Contemporary Protestant Service
 11 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Gospel Service
 Noon – Elmendorf Chapel 1
Contemporary Protestant Service
 5 p.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1

Buddhist
Soka Gakkai Goshu
 7 p.m., first Friday of the month – Chapel Center (10427 Kuter Ave.)

For information, call 552-5234, visit www.trainweb.org/msmrrre or email bjorgan@alaska.net.

Road Warriors running
 Want to get out and run? All are welcome to train regularly and get involved with monthly running, biking and swimming events with the Road Warriors.
 For more information, check the Road Warriors (Alaska) Facebook page or call 384-7733 or 552-1361.

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

GET OUT THERE

EDUCATION AND SKILL BUILDING



SEWARD JBER RECREATION CAMP
OPENING MAY 23
JUST IN TIME FOR SEWARD'S COMBAT FISHING & MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY
MAY 23 - JUNE 30
50% OFF SUNDAY-THURSDAY RESERVATIONS
AUGUST 11 - 19
SEWARD SILVER SALMON DERBY
SHOW US YOUR DERBY TICKET AND RECEIVE 25% OFF YOUR STAY
OUTDOOR RECREATION ELMENDORF
552-5526



SNOWSHOE GEOCACHING CLASS
MARCH 10 - NOON - \$10
MUST SIGN-UP IN ADVANCE
OUTDOOR RECREATION ELMENDORF
552-2023



SPRING BREAK READING PROGRAM
MARCH 12 - 16
OPEN TO ALL AGES. SIGN-UP ONLINE AT
ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON.COM/LIBRARY/SPRINGBREAK.PHP
JBER CONSOLIDATED LIBRARY - 384-1640



SNOWMACHINE SAFETY CLASS
MARCH 13, 21, 27 & 28 TWO CLASSES EACH DAY
NOON - 1:30 P.M. OR 5:30 - 7 P.M. - \$40
OUTDOOR RECREATION RICHARDSON
384-1475



RIFLE RELOADING CLASS
MARCH 9 - 5:30 P.M. - \$5
OUTDOOR RECREATION ELMENDORF
552-2023



INTRO TO SHRIMPING
MARCH 22 - 6 - 8 P.M. - FREE
JBER ELMENDORF OAP - BUILDING 7301
552-4599



more jber fun at elmendorf-richardson.com



3RD WING CURLS



RIGHT: Air Force Lt. Col. James Suhr, 3rd Operations Support Squadron commander, releases a shot in the 3rd Wing curling competition March 2 at the Anchorage Curling Club. All eight 3rd Wing squadrons provided five-person teams to take part in the friendly competition. The winning team came from the Royal Canadian Air Force contingent of the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/John Pennell)



Curlers from the 962nd AACS and the 525th Fighter Squadron (blue shirts) vie for position of their teams' stones during the championship game of the 3rd Wing curling competition March 2 at the Anchorage Curling Club. The 525th progressed through the competition unbeaten, but lost the final two game to the Royal Canadian Air Force contingent of the 962nd AACS to finish as runners-up.



ABOVE: Sweepers from the 962nd AACS follow a stone as it slides across the ice during the championship game of the 3rd Wing curling competition March 2 at the Anchorage Curling Club. All eight 3rd Wing squadrons provided five-person teams to take part in the friendly competition.

RIGHT: Royal Canadian Air Force Maj. Joe Abbott, 962nd AACS, sends a shot down the ice during the championship game of the 3rd Wing curling competition March 2 at the Anchorage Curling Club. The 962nd lost early in the competition to the 90th Fighter Squadron, but won the final two games against the unbeaten 525th Fighter Squadron team to win the competition.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Royal Canadian Air Force Capt. Dave Foyers, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron, reacts to his shot placement during the 3rd Wing curling competition at the Anchorage Curling Club March 2.

BELOW: Air Force Capt. Vaimana Conner (left) and Air Force Capt. Brett Vongroven, 525th Fighter Squadron, sweep the ice in front of their team's stone to keep it moving in the championship game of 3rd Wing's curling competition. The 525th went into the championship game undefeated, but lost two games to the 962nd AACS to finish as runners-up.



Births

FEB. 10

A daughter, Reagan Ann Packer, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 2:39 a.m. to Lori Packer and Army Capt. Richard Packer of U.S. Army Alaska.

FEB. 13

A son, Emmitt Robert Story, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 7:10 a.m. to Dana Yvonne Story and Army Staff Sgt. Eric Wade Story of the Troop Health Clinic.

FEB. 14

A daughter, Jayleen Marie Andino, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 3:24 a.m. to Lourdes M. Andino-Torres and Sgt. Carlos M. Andino-Torres of the 4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

A daughter, Alaina Elsie Camarillo, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 10 ounces at 7:47 a.m., and a daughter, Olivia Marie Camarillo, was born 18.75 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces at 7:48 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Elizabeth Camarillo of the 673d Air Base Wing and Tech. Sgt. Jorge Alejandro Camarillo of the 176th Security Forces Squadron.

A daughter, Laina Nicole Medlock, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 5:15 a.m. to Markesia Jean Medlock and Spc. John Matthew Medlock of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

A son, Landon Blake O'Brien, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 6:18 p.m. to Cassandra Samantha O'Brien and Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Mallory O'Brien of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

FEB. 15

A son, Josiah Reagan Brownwell, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 4:24 p.m. to Dawn Michelle Brownwell and Air Force Maj. Christopher Sheridan Brownwell of the 11th Air Force Judge Advocate Corps.

A daughter, Kaylee Madison McLaughlin, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces at 1:58 p.m. to Jessica Lynn McLaughlin and Air Force Staff Sgt. Kory James McLaughlin of the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

A daughter, Summer Rose Perez, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds at 2:45 a.m. to Clara Isabel Perez and Sgt. Robert Alexander Perez of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

A daughter, Annika Marie Towner, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 7:41 a.m. to Stephanie Derya Towner and Army Capt. Michael Branch Towner of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

FEB. 16

A daughter, Aubrey Rose Casler, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces at 4:21 a.m. to Kimberly Ann Casler and Air Force Staff Sgt. Melvin Thomas Casler of the 176th Air Control Squadron.

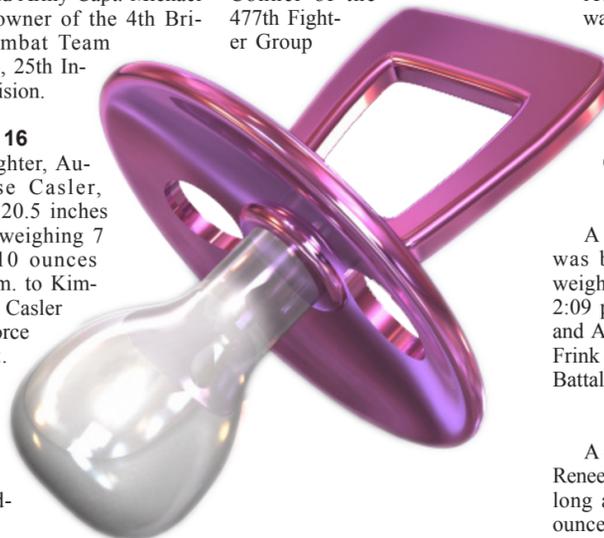
A son, Brody Aaron Decker, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 7:22 a.m. to Makala Decker and Pfc. Joseph Decker of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

A daughter, Addison Fernanda Whatley, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds at 10:30 p.m. to Jadeyi Fernanda Whatley and Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael David Whatley of the 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

FEB. 17

A daughter, Jazmine Jayde Atencio, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 8:34 a.m. to Amberly Beronice Atencio and Spc. Donaldo Enrique Atencio Jr. of the 109th Transportation Company.

A daughter, Kaila Hokulani Tautiare Conner, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces at 4:27 p.m. to Air Force Capt. Ashley Elizabeth Allen Conner of the 477th Fighter Group



and Air Force Capt. Vaimana Ikaika Conner of the 525th Fighter Squadron.

FEB. 18

A daughter, Anna Kathleen Kunsch, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces at 4:35 p.m. to Jaime Leigh Kunsch and Spc. Joseph Ernest Kunsch of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

A daughter, Teighan MaKenzie Stewart, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 12:40 p.m. to Tamika Monique Stewart and Spc. Thomas Marquette Stewart of the 6th Engineer Battalion.

A daughter, Sarahya Arionna Wilson, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 7 ounces at 3:51 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Ardrea Latrice Wilson of the 673d Medical Support Squadron and Ricardo Gerard Wilson.

FEB. 19

A son, Giovanni Candido Ray, was born 23 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces at 4:25 a.m. to Victoria Marie Ray and Airman 1st Class David Candido Ray of the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

FEB. 21

A son, Richard James Frink, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 2:09 p.m. to Tracy Cherie Frink and Army Staff Sgt. Brian Keith Frink of the 793rd Military Police Battalion.

FEB. 22

A daughter, Averah Elizabeth-Renee Norman, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 6:53 a.m. to Xiomara

Taschell Parmelee and Elliott Frances Norman.

A daughter, Jazlynne Nina Ong, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces at 9 p.m. to Nancy Ong and Air Force Master Sgt. Pablo Ong of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

FEB. 23

A son, Caleb Elias Owen, was born 22.75 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 10 ounces at 7:52 p.m. to Bethany Rae Owen and Air Force Capt. Scott David Owen of the 249th Airlift Squadron.

A daughter, Isabelle Ann Wesley, was born 20.25 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces at 3:22 p.m. to Melissa Marie Wesley and Air Force Maj. Reginald DeWayne Wesley of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

FEB. 24

A son, Gabriel Maddox Lewis, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 1:34 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Leisha Suzanne Lewis of the 3rd Mission Operations Squadron and Coel Richardson Lewis.

A son, Kaiden Allen McCollough, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 5:58 a.m. to Samantha Lee McCollough and Army Staff Sgt. Jesse Ray McCollough of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Engineer Brigade.

A son, Kaiden Drake Morley, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 1:27 a.m. to Cindy Lou Morley and Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron Christopher Morley of the 611th Air Operations Center.

