

ARCTIC WARRIOR



KNEES IN THE BREEZE

Paratroopers of 6th Engineer Battalion partner with Airmen of 537th Airlift Squadron to blaze new trails

By Senior Airman Blake Mize
JBER Public Affairs

Several units stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson came together March 13 to accomplish a truly joint mission.

Soldiers and Airmen worked as a joint team in order to validate the base's capability to conduct arctic engineer missions, which includes the ability to conduct forced-entry and airborne operations in arctic conditions.

"We are conducting an air drop of a small-unit support vehicle, or SUSV, followed by a ramp exit out of a C-130 (Hercules) by our paratroopers," said Army Lt. Col. Marc Hoffmeister, 6th Engineer Battalion commander.

Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Wiles, 6th Eng., said there were approximately 50 paratroopers who participated in the exercise. They were readied for the mission by Soldiers from their own battalion and Airmen from the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron, and were transported in the C-130s by pilots from the 537th Airlift Squadron.

Hoffmeister said the SUSV, a tracked,

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ABOVE: Army Capt. David MacPhail, 84th Engineer Support Company, 6th Engineer Battalion, briefs his paratroopers before a March 13 heavy equipment and troop drop into Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Malemute Drop Zone. **TOP:** Paratroopers of 84th ESC jump from a 537th Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft during a drop of personnel and heavy equipment into Malemute Drop Zone March 13. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steve White)

Spartan mechanics train Afghan counterparts

By Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson
Task Force Spartan public affairs

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Fourteen members of the Afghan Border Police and Afghan Uniform Police received certificates of completion for a five-week maintenance and recovery course from vehicle mechanics assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Task Force Warrior on Forward Operating Base Gardez, March 15.

The course is designed to teach the ABP and AUP basic maintenance and vehicle recovery skills needed to

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Airmen of 732nd AMS lifeblood for local, global operations

Unique squadron earns Small Air Terminal Unit of the Year

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Ferguson
JBER Public Affairs

In 1935, William "Billy" Mitchell stated to the U.S. Congress, "I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska, will hold the world. I think it is the most strategic place in the world."

Today, there are countless forces from every branch of the U.S. military stationed in Alaska, and from here a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine can get to anywhere in the world within 10 hours.

Among that group of service members is a little-known squadron, part of Air Mobility Command, which has a big impact on the global mission of AMC as well as the local Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson mission, and was recently recognized as the Air Force Small Air Terminal Unit of the Year for 2011.

"We here at the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron realize the importance of this location just as Mitchell did so many years ago," said Master Sgt. Michael Yingling, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 732nd AMS Air Mobility Control Center.

The 732nd AMS is comprised of 255 military and civilians members. Their mission provides forward-deployed command and control, aerial port and aircraft maintenance support to Depart-

ment of Defense and contracted aircraft, executing airlift and air refueling missions throughout the Pacific theater.

According to Lt. Col. Don Kirkland, 732nd AMS commander, in 2011 the squadron transported 7,845 tons of cargo and 42,849 passengers on 6,677 missions with a 98 percent departure reliability rate. The squadron also supported the Hurricane Irene relief effort, the Japan earthquake assistance effort and the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division deployment to Afghanistan.

"When the 4-25th deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, we processed 3,851 Soldiers and 286 tons of cargo on 19 missions in 14 days," said Rob Simendich, capability forecasting supervisor. "We also supported Operation Open Skies, Exercise Red Flag Alaska and Exercise Northern Edge."

"It is very important for AMC to have a role here in Alaska," Yingling said. "Without us being here to push and move the mission, load the cargo, provide maintenance and get the planes fueled, the mission would slowly deteriorate. Simply put, we move the mission."

Locally the 732nd AMS supports the 611th Air Support Squadron's long-range radar sites mis-

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ABOVE: Airmen and civilians from the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron load a DC-6 cargo aircraft with sustainment supplies for a long range radar site on the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson flight line, March 15. The unit was recognized for operating the Air Force Small Air Terminal Unit of the Year for 2011.

LEFT: Staff Sgt. Luther Chase, special handling supervisor, verifies the weight of food containers as they are off-loaded from a truck at the 732nd AMS warehouse March 15. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Brian Ferguson)

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Community

Check out the community section for the latest sports, family and recreation news for JBER and the Anchorage Bowl area.



President proclaims day of honor

White House news release

President Barack Obama proclaimed Monday a National Day of Honor for veterans of operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Below is the text of the proclamation:

Nine years ago, members of the United States Armed Forces crossed the sands of the Iraq-Kuwait border and began one of the most challenging missions our military has ever known. They left the comforts of home and family, volunteering in service to a cause greater than themselves. They braved insurgency and sectarian strife, knowing too well the danger of combat and the cost of conflict. Yet, through the dust and din and the fog of war, they never lost their resolve. Demonstrating unshakable fortitude and unwavering commitment to duty, our men and women in uniform served tour after

tour, fighting block by block to help the Iraqi people seize the chance for a better future. And on Dec. 18, 2011, their mission came to an end.

Today, we honor their success, their service, and their sacrifice. In one of our Nation's longest wars, veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn wrote one of the most extraordinary chapters in American military history. When highways became mine fields and uncertainty waited behind every corner, service members rose to meet the task at hand with unmatched courage and determination. They learned languages and cultures, taking on new roles as diplomats and development experts to improve the communities where they served. Their strength toppled a tyrant, and their valor helped build opportunity in oppression's place. Across nearly nine years

of conflict, the glory of their service — as well as the contributions of other members of the U.S. Government and our coalition partners — always shone through.

The war left wounds not always seen, but forever felt. The burden of distance and the pain of loss weighed heavily on the hearts of millions at home and overseas. Behind every member of our military stood a parent, a spouse, or a son or daughter who proudly served their community and prayed for their loved one's safe return. For wounded warriors, coming home marked the end of one battle and the beginning of another — to stand, to walk, to recover, and to serve again. And, in war's most profound cost, there were those who never came home. Separated by time and space but united by their love of country, nearly 4,500 men and women are eternally bound; though we have laid them

to rest, they will live on in the soul of our nation now and forever. To them, to their families, and to all who served, we owe a debt that can never be fully repaid.

When we returned the colors of United States Forces-Iraq and the last of our troops set foot on American soil, we reflected on the extraordinary service and sacrifice of those who answered our country's call. Their example embodied that fundamental American faith that tells us no mission is too hard, no challenge is too great, and that through tests and through trials, we will always emerge stronger than before. Now, our nation reaffirms our commitment to serve veterans of Iraq as well as they served us — to uphold the sacred trust we share with all who have worn the uniform. Our future is brighter for their service, and today, we express our gratitude by saying once more: Welcome home.

Innovation key to Air Force future

Commentary by Col. Riz Ali
Air Force News Service

Our nation is facing a number of challenges that affect our government. As a result, change is happening all around the Air Force.

The institution of the Air Force will survive, but there is no doubt we'll be operating differently.

During the past several years, we have implemented a number of efficiency efforts to shape the force while maintaining operations tempo. Efficiency is important, but it is not enough.

Innovation is what will get the Air Force through these tough times. John Kotter, a recognized thought leader on leadership and change, and professor at Harvard University said, "Anything that is creating change outside a company adds a premium to innovation within the company."

If this is the case, there has never been a better time for innovation in the Air Force.

When one thinks of a military organization, "creative" is usually not a word that comes to mind. We are trained to be regimented, by-the-book and disciplined. Good order and discipline are critical traits that contribute to our being the greatest Air Force in the world.

Creativity has its place though. There are always new ways of doing things or using an existing tool differently. Just because we have always done something one way doesn't mean it is still the best way. Our world is changing quickly and we must stay a step ahead. This requires a culture change and new way of thinking.

You may be familiar with Air Force In-



Tech. Sgt. Joshua Lopez, 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, stands by an F-22 Raptor configurable rail launcher Oct. 6, 2011, at the 90th Fighter Squadron hangar. Lopez identified a problem and provided a solution with the launcher, which netted him \$10,000 through the Air Force's Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)

novative Development through Employee Awareness program. The IDEA program has been a catalyst for some remarkable process improvements and savings in our Air Force.

Innovation is not just big, ground-breaking ideas though. It is about constantly assessing yourself, being adaptive, reinventing when needed and moving forward.

Innovation differs from invention because it looks at new ways to do things. It can be something as simple as finding a new use for product or tool. It can also be a change

in strategy or processes that completely reinvents the way an organization functions. It is taking what you already have and doing it differently, better.

James Dyson, founder of the Dyson Company, perhaps best described where innovation comes from when he said, "Where does the impetus for product innovation come from? Frustration!"

Think of the last time you were frustrated at work. Was it with a process? Bureaucracy? Perhaps another instance of trying to fit a

square peg into a round hole? If you are frustrated with something, there has to be a way to do it better.

At the Air Force Network Integration Center, we are encouraging new ideas through our internal innovation program. Through this program, AFNIC personnel can submit their ideas to improve center operations, the Air Force enterprise network, or both. If approved, the submitter is given resources and time to bring their idea to life.

Of course, not every idea can be implemented, and that is okay. An innovative culture understands and accepts that not every idea will work. The goal is to get the ideas flowing.

I encourage everyone to make a conscious effort to think in an innovative manner every day. Start by identifying a specific challenge or something you are frustrated with. If you had the power to change it, what would you do?

If your organization doesn't have a program to bring ideas forward, maybe your first step can be to help initiate one. Now more than ever our Air Force needs your ideas and creative energy to make them happen. And I mean everyone, from the airman basic to our senior leaders.

While our Air Force navigates through this challenging time, we all have the opportunity to help shape the way we operate. I challenge you to bring your ideas forward. Innovation drives progress and is the key to our future.

Editor's note: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's IDEA coordinator can be reached at 384-1199.

Panetta: All united in Afghanistan strategy

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

KABUL, Afghanistan — His sixth trip to Afghanistan, more so than some others, made him feel there's a "very good chance of succeeding" in the mission and the long war here, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said here March 15.

The secretary and Army Lt. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, spoke to Afghan and U.S. reporters here before Panetta left Afghanistan for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for the last stop on his five-day tour to Central Asia and the Middle East.

In previous visits, Panetta said, he was concerned about differences in strategy among military leaders, civilian governors and coalition and Afghan troops. This time, he said, everyone "absolutely agrees" with the strategy planned through 2014.

The secretary said over two days in Afghanistan, he has met with provincial and national Afghan leaders, coalition and Afghan troops, and commanders and civil authorities in Helmand province and here in the Afghan capital.

All of those groups, and the Afghan people, have been tested by recent weeks' events from the Quran burning to the murders of Afghan villagers and coalition troops, Panetta acknowledged. But he said he learned during this visit's meetings "we were also very unified in our focus on achieving



An Afghan National Civil Order Police officer provides security in the town of Kolagu, Paktiya province, Afghanistan, March 8. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said a successful transition to Afghan National Security Forces is crucial to ensure the country is never used as a terrorist safe haven. (U.S. Army photo/Sp. Phillip McTaggart)

the mission" of ensuring Afghanistan never again becomes a terrorist safe haven.

That mission will only be achieved when Afghanistan can secure and govern itself, and everyone he spoke with on this visit shares that view, Panetta said.

In a statement following his meeting with Panetta, Afghan President Hamid Karzai made reference to withdrawing international troops from Afghan towns and villages. A senior defense official traveling with Panetta, who also attended the meeting with Karzai, said the topic had come up and that both men agreed to work together and continue close consultation on such topics as the

transition to Afghan security lead continues.

The official said he has attended many such meetings with Karzai, and today's session was "very, very positive." Karzai is understandably eager to assume full sovereignty in his country, the official said, and that is what the United States and other coalition partners want as well.

Pentagon Press Secretary George Little, who also attended the meeting, said the Afghans did not ask for any change in the transition timeline agreed to at the November 2010 NATO summit in Lisbon, Portugal.

"The secretary has seen President Karzai's statement," Little

said. "He believes it reflects President Karzai's strong interest in moving as quickly as possible to a fully independent and sovereign Afghanistan. The secretary also believes that we have made good progress thus far in both security gains and transition, and that it is important for us to remain focused on those efforts in the months ahead."

Panetta said his visit "really convinced" him coalition leaders and the Afghan government are responding positively to recent challenges. He added that he commended Karzai, Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak and Interior Minister Gen. Bismullah Muhammad Khan on the order and control they maintained in the face of those challenges. That kind of leadership, he said, is "so important to the future security of this country."

Panetta said as security transition continues through 2012 and International Security Assistance Force troops first step back from a combat role and then largely draw down from Afghanistan in 2014, planning what happens up to and after that milestone is increasingly important.

"In the discussions I just completed with President Karzai and other leaders, we really did focus on strategy for the future" and what needs to happen up to the end of 2014 and beyond, the secretary said.

Both sides agree on the need for ongoing partnership between the U.S. and Afghanistan, Panetta said.

That will require a certain

amount of U.S. military support well beyond 2014, he noted: in counterterrorism, in advising and assisting Afghan forces, and in helping the Afghan security forces maintain their operational skills.

The number, placement and tasks those troops will undertake depends on the strategic partnership agreement the two countries are now discussing, the secretary said. In talks with Karzai, he added, both agreed they would like to see that agreement drafted before May's NATO summit in Chicago.

All leaders he spoke with on this visit agreed that levels of violence are down and Afghan National Security Forces are very involved in operations across their nation, Panetta said. The growing strength and capability of ANSF in working effectively and professionally to defend and protect their people is absolutely essential to Afghanistan's ultimate self-governance, he added.

The war and the challenges will continue in Afghanistan over the coming months, as the spring and summer fighting season once again takes hold, the secretary noted. The key, he said, is "how we respond, and how we (can) confront those challenges and maintain forward progress."

"Afghanistan needs to be able to govern and secure itself," Panetta said. "We are very close to accomplishing that, but the key right now is to stay on that mission (and) not allow our frustrations and concerns to undermine the principal goal we're here to achieve."

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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JBER Public Affairs Director
Maj. Joseph Coslett (USAF)

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Bob Hall

Public Affairs superintendent
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Airdrop

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articulated vehicle designed to support infantry platoons and similar-sized units during the conduct of operations in arctic and alpine conditions, allows the Soldiers to more easily move in the snow-covered Alaskan terrain.

“The significance of the SUSV is that we have the ability to move a lot more personnel by running a rope behind the SUSV while skiers grab onto it,” The Brewster, Mass. native said. “After we have assembled onto the SUSV and put it into operation, a squad-strength (group) will ski off of the drop zone.”

Another aspect of the mission was to test a new method of jumping into arctic conditions in which the jumper has skis with him as he descends from the aircraft.

“We have one jumper who is jumping with skis today. We are test-casing a new rigging method for skis using what is called a side air pack,” Hoffmeister said. “In coordination with Fort Benning, Ga., we came up with a standard on how to rig these skis in the side pack to safely deliver them with the jumper. So we’ll test that out and do the ramp exits today so our next jump, up to a platoon can jump into the drop zone with skis and be positioned to ski off immediately.”

This mission, which was featured on Anchorage’s KTUU nightly news broadcast, was just one example, Hoffmeister said, of the many joint operations that take place on a daily basis at JBER.

“Every airborne operation is a completely joint operation,” he said. “That starts at the top level and goes all the way to the jumpmasters and the crew chiefs of the aircraft.”

And although the paratroopers from the 6th Eng. may have been the ones who wound up featured on the news, Wiles, from Erie, Kan., said that it could not have been done without all the units that truly make JBER a joint operation.

“We wouldn’t be able to complete these missions without all the people behind the scenes,” Wiles said.



ABOVE: A 537th Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft drops a 6th Engineer Battalion Small Unit Support Vehicle during a heavy and personnel drop into Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Mal-emute Drop Zone, March 13. The 537th AS is the 3rd Wing’s active-duty associate unit that partners with the Alaska National Guard’s 144th Airlift Squadron. Active-duty pilots crew four of the C-130s, which belong to the 144th AS.

LEFT: Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson wait for the signal to push a drop platform loaded with a SUSV onto a cargo loader for transfer to a C-130. The SUSV is an unarmored twin-cabin tracked vehicle well suited for supporting military training in deep snow. During the personnel drop, a paratrooper of 84th Engineer Support Company also tested the feasibility of jumping with skis. Like the SUSV, skis are often used by Soldiers to get around in arctic terrain. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steve White)



Training

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maintain their equipment after coalition forces leave Afghanistan, according to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Ruppe, 425th BSTB maintenance technician.

“I think we are going in a positive direction,” Ruppe, a native of Anchorage, said. “We have refined the program quite a bit. Initially, recovery wasn’t part of the curriculum, so we added that and I think that’s helped tremendously.”

Mojad Folad, a member of the Afghan Border Patrol, received recognition as honor graduate. The distinction is for the student who displayed the highest skills and test scores in the class.

Folad said, when he started the class, he didn’t know much about vehicle maintenance, but learned how to repair various vehicles types. After taking the course, his confidence has grown.

“If it’s broken, I can fix it,” Folad said. “I was very happy with the maintainers class and the instructors did a good job (teaching) us.”

Sgt. Philip Smith, the recovery non-commissioned officer in charge assigned to HHC, 425th BSTB, and a native of Glendale, Ariz., gave the recovery instruction part of the course. The training was designed to provide them a basic understanding of their own equipment.

“They have the Ford Rangers, Humvee, crane recovery vehicle and rollback vehicles,” Smith said. “We are training them on their own equipment so they can get used to it and are able to recover and fix (the vehicles) themselves.”

Smith says that, with practice, they will be able to support themselves.

“I don’t know how long it’s going to take for them, but I know it takes practice with mechanics,” he said. “For them to take on this responsibility is a big step for this country.”

“Another big step taken is that the ABP and AUP worked together this time,” Ruppe added. “They quickly formed a cohesive team and made friends and everybody got along great.”



ABOVE: Pfc. Eric Grzegorzcyk, from Pittsburgh, a mechanic with the maintenance platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan, supervises Muhammad Abid, a member of the Afghan Border Police, during a preventative maintenance, checks and services class on Forward Operating Base Gardez Feb. 19.

LEFT: Members of the Afghan Uniformed Police and Afghan Border Police head to a preventative maintenance, checks and services class conducted by the maintenance platoon from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Spartan, on Forward Operating Base Gardez, Feb. 19. Learning vehicle maintenance skills is critical for Afghan National Security Forces to ensure they are prepared to maintain their vehicle fleet after security responsibilities are fully transferred from coalition forces. (U.S. Army photos/Spc. Ken Scar)

732nd AMS

From Page A-1

sion with sustainment cargo and passenger travel to and from the sites. These sites were set up in the 1950s to aid in detecting aircraft crossing the North Pole.

The North Warning System consists of 15 long-range radars and 39 short-range radars. The system forms a 2,983 mile long and 199 mile wide “tripwire” stretching from Alaska, through Canada, to Southern Labrador.

In 2011 the squadron supported 946 long range radar site missions, loading and unloading 1,810 tons of cargo. “These site visits are our life-blood,” said Vance Spaulding, Tin City radar site station chief and mechanic. “The sites cannot operate without the supplies we get on these missions.”

Specific to the 732nd AMS is a squadron run Tanker Airlift Control Center, a function that for every other AMC unit is performed by the TACC located at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

“Normally, AMC missions are directed from Scott Air Force Base, the home of AMC,” Yingling said. “However, if it’s a local mission headed to one of the 10 long-range

radar sites in Alaska, it is generated, coordinated and executed here. To my knowledge, no other AMC squadron in the world can say they generate their own missions.”

The squadron’s air mobility control center is the nerve center for all operations. All the information for a mission funnels through the AMCC. Within the AMCC are the maintenance operations center and the air terminal operations center.

The MOC, along with the aircraft maintainers assigned to the 732nd AMS, ensure AMC aircraft are maintained, repaired, serviced and safe to fly. The ATOC is responsible for directing cargo operations, passenger and troop moves, and the servicing of all transient aircraft through JBER. The bridging function for both of these operations centers is the squadron’s mission controllers. Controllers are responsible for total mission oversight. Their main purpose is to ensure mission success.

“We utilize a sequence of events to ensure missions are launched on time,” Yingling said. “When an AMC aircraft arrives or departs, we orchestrate aircrew support, cargo and passenger movement, aircraft maintenance and aircraft servicing to include fueling the aircraft.”

Not only does the squadron load plan every cargo aircraft that takes off from JBER, but their deicer operations have become the Air Force standard.

Ken Culberson, 732 AMS Air Force Engineering and Technical Services, took the lead in developing a new AMC aircraft deicer training video which covers in-depth vehicle familiarization and aircraft deicing procedures, according to Maj. Paul Weme, 732 AMS Aircraft Maintenance Operations Officer. Culberson wrote the script, demonstrated techniques and partnered with 3rd Wing, 176th Wing, and 673d Air Base Wing Public Affairs videographers to film the training.

The 732nd AMS also opens the door for many to travel the world by managing the space-available program. In 2011, the squadron supported the movement of 6,426 space-available passengers traveling to various global military locations.

“Although the 732nd AMS maybe small in numbers and the existence of squadron may be unknown to most people, we make a huge impact by providing support to many critical DoD missions and we are dedicated to ensure the safe movement of global and local AMC missions,” Kirkland said.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Taal, 732nd Air Mobility Squadron, helps load belongings of Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division onto a Boeing 737 as they prepare to leave for a deployment to Afghanistan Nov. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christopher Gross)

Briefs and Announcements

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 384-1475.

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 pro-

vided 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.

MiCare registration

MiCare, the online personal health record and secure messaging application, has been available to patients and medical group staff at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson since December.

More than 2,400 patients have already signed up to take advantage of the ability to communicate with their primary care clinicians online. Registered patients also have access to electronic records, allowing them to view and maintain their health records.

The 673d Medical Group is the first Air Force site to test this system.

Once registered, patients have the ability to participate in the study by completing a short series

of surveys during the course of the next year. This provides an opportunity for all active-duty, retired and dependent patients to have an impact on shaping the future of Air Force health services.

To register, visit the Military Treatment Facility, where enrollment specialists are available in each primary care clinic.

All beneficiaries who are enrolled in the family health, pediatrics, flight medicine and internal medicine clinics are eligible to participate. Patients need to show a military identification card and provide information, including name, social security number, birthday and email address.

The enrollment specialist will enter the information and patients will receive an email which contains a link and instructions for completing the registration process.

The project team is monitoring results in order to develop future implementation plans.

The Air Force is also interested in understanding how this new technology impacts the quality of health care provided to patients, as well as the overall well being of the patient population.

A research team is conducting a study in conjunction with this pilot program.

Find housing

Visit the Automated Housing Referral Network at www.ahrn.com to find housing before packing up. Sponsored by the Department of Defense, the website listings include available community rentals, military housing, shared rentals, temporary lodging and military for sale by owner listings.

Listings include property descriptions, pictures, maps, links to local schools, and contact information.

Service members who would like to rent their homes, sell their homes, or are looking for another service member as a roommate in their current homes, may post an ad free of charge on the site.

For more information, call 552-4439.

Soldiers of Task Force Blue
Geronimo partner with Aghan
National Security Forces for

OPERATION KHOTI KHEYL



ABOVE: Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Saldivar (left), from San Antonio Texas, of D Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, gives directions to his Soldiers, Spc. Zach Griffith (center) from Springboro, Ohio, and Spc. Kelbey Cranston, from Tyler, Texas, in the town of Kolagu, Pak-tiya province, Afghanistan, March 8. U.S. forces in Paktiya Province took a step back to let Afghan National Forces take the lead during Operation Khoti Kheyil to advance their presence throughout the province and demonstrate their strengths and capabilities.

RIGHT: Soldiers of D/3-509th Inf., work to recover a stuck mine resistant ambush protected all terrain truck in Paktiya province.

FAR RIGHT: An Afghan National Army soldier passes out pamphlets in the town of Kolagu. (U.S. Army photos/Spc. Phillip McTaggart)



Alaska Air National Guard rescues two stranded skiers

By Sgt. Michelle Brown
Alaska National Guard

The Alaska Air National Guard, using a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, successfully found two skiers involved in an avalanche 35 miles southeast of Anchorage and brought them to safety March 17.

According to Megan Peters, Alaska State Troopers Public Information Officer, at approximately 8:00 p.m. March 16, an avalanche hit a group of three skiers in the Turnagain Pass area.

The avalanche initially buried a 20-year-old male from New York, but as it moved down the mountain he resurfaced with a broken leg.

His brother, a 28-year-old male from Anchorage, decided to stay with him as the third skier, a 23-year-old male from Girdwood, skied out for help.

The third skier made his way to his vehicle and called the Alaska State Troopers from his cell phone at approximately 10:20 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m. the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center received a request for assistance from the Alaska State Troopers in rescuing the two brothers, because a ground party could not be sent to their location due to adverse



A 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk participates in an exercise Sept. 21, 2011. Airmen of 210th and 212th rescue squadrons rescued two skiers Saturday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

weather conditions.

The RCC immediately alerted the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th rescue squadrons.

After collecting more information and developing a rescue plan, they accepted the mission and launched a HH-60 with a six-person crew at

12:50 a.m. Saturday.

During this time, the two brothers attempted to ski out to the road after placing a splint on the broken

leg. However, with dropping temperatures they did not get very far.

"Once alerted, the Guardsmen provided speedy recovery in unstable conditions," said Air Force Master Sgt. Kenneth Bellamy, 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center controller. "Without the joint efforts of the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Air National Guard, the state of the two brothers could have been something more life-threatening."

Guardsmen from the 210th and 212th rescue squadrons arrived on scene at 1:08 a.m. After locating the skiers they promptly loaded them on the HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and transported them to Providence Hospital for medical treatment. The 20-year-old male was later diagnosed with a broken ankle.

"The Alaskan community is a very tight-knit group and we all depend on this relationship to work together to quickly resolve situations," said Peters, referring to the collaboration between the Alaska State Troopers and the Air National Guard to locate the stranded skiers.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th rescue squadrons were awarded two saves for this mission.



Spouse learns a life lesson from the Golden Knights

Page B-2

Moose bites can be pretty nasty

Page B-4



www.jber.af.mil/news

COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 12

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

March 23, 2012

Seward Military Resort has many opportunities for service members

By Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett
673d Air Base Wing Public Affairs

It's late winter. The temperature is cold, but perhaps not abnormally so for Alaska.

Trees wave in the wind, causing snow to fall to a ground already buried several feet in the white flakes.

Various objects such as street signs are just visible, poking out. This might not be the best time to be out attempting to go for a walk. It is, however, an excellent time to drive a snowmachine, and the mountain and glacier views surrounding the path are scenic.

Driving snowmachines, along with many other seasonal and recreational activities, can be arranged through Seward Military Resort.

Seward, a fishing city with multiple recreational opportunities, is surrounded by scenic water and mountainous views and is located roughly three hours south of Anchorage.

"In the resort we do snowmachining," said Scott Bartlett, resort manager. "We have a lot of special events such as holiday-themed events. We've done several murder-mystery dinner theaters that have been really good. We've partnered with Alaska Tech College Culinary Arts Academy, for five-star dining with the murder-mystery that's a lot of fun. You can do a New Year's Deal. We've got a Spring Fling coming up."

Other than snowmachining in the winter, other popular activities include exploring the city and visiting the Sealife Center.

"This facility is a major draw for our customers," Bartlett said. "In the winter time, it acts like major filler because they can come and snowmachine with us one day, and the next day they can explore the city. We've got a lot of scenic views and great shops and we have the Sealife Center."

The aquatic center strives to be as affordable as possible for military and those affiliated.

"The prices we negotiate are generally better than the military discount," said Jamie Walker, Sealife Center program manager of tickets and tours. "If there is a better rate, we'll offer that instead."

The center operates year-round. Parents bring children of all ages, who enjoy the many educational and hands-on experiences the Sealife Center offers.

"We're normally packed in the summer time," said Monica Chase, Sealife Center development specialist. "We normally get more than 3,000 people a month in the winter time. We still have a lot of people that buy memberships and can come all year; they bring their kids after school. There are also a lot of youth centers that bring their kids here on windy or otherwise nasty days. We get more than 9,000 people a month in the summer."

"We get a lot of military and a lot of families with children," Chase said.

The Sealife Center overlooks a lake that is normally populated with fishing boats and charters. Fishing charters become available

Alaska offers plenty to do



Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea rides a snowmachine during a stay at the Seward Military Resort in Seward, March 10. The resort offers discounted deals and vacation packages to all members of the military, military families, single troops and federal employees. There is plenty of spring fun still going on before the snow melts. Lea is a member of 673d Air Base Wing staff at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

Memorial Day weekend.

"We're going to start with a combat fishing tournament," Bartlett said. "I think we'll probably have 350 Airmen and Soldiers and their families come out and go fishing for free. The entire community comes together and donates their boats. It's perfect. That'll be around May 25. Two days later we open up for the season and our boats will go out every day."

The summer is also packed with things to do.

"Seward is unique in that it has everything," the resort manager said. "It's unlike any other community; the Sealife Center is like the icing on the cake. Nowhere else in the state can you find a facility like this. We do everything; we do hikes, we've got 22 contract service providers that do float trips down the river, fly fishing, glacier and wildlife cruises. Sky's the limit, we do it all."

The resort and city offer their deals and discounts to all branches of the military, families and government employees.

"We get a lot of families, a lot of single Soldiers," he said. "Sometimes several single guys will get together and rent a family town house. It's very affordable."

Enhancing their services, the resort is making a special offer.

"This year we're going to extend our 'stay two days and get the third night free' special all the way to June 15," Bartlett said. "Normally our summer rates go into effect Memorial Day weekend but we're going to extend it another 15 days. That's huge."

"Last year there were so many salmon that they opened up for 12 fish per person, per day. It was huge. There's a huge fish-processing center right there at the resort,

commercial vacuum packers so you can pack it, freeze it and FedEx it. It's a one-stop shop. We're available; we've got way too much to offer the service members in Alaska and around the world. We have a lot of folks that come in on military flights from Japan and Korea, they hop on over and stay with us."

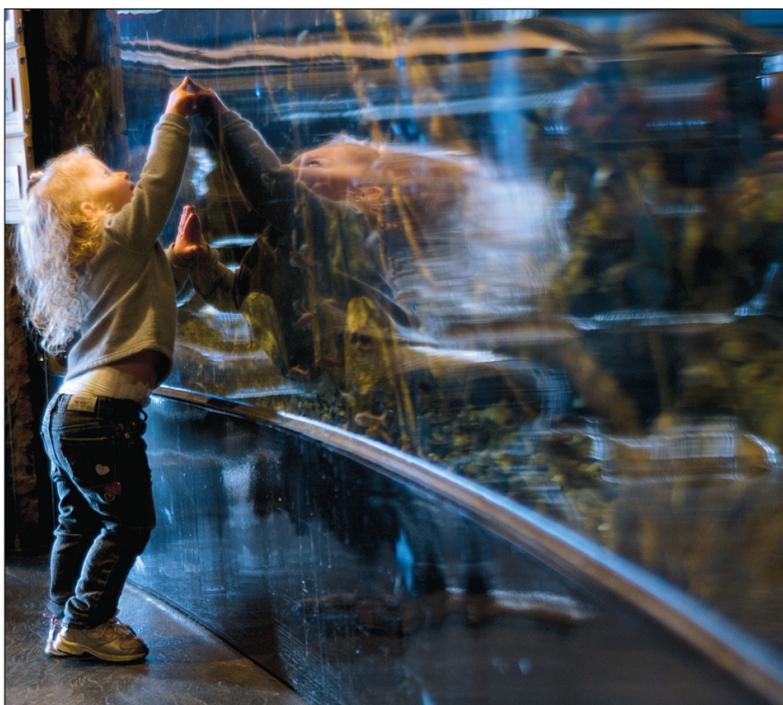
The Seward Resort is the number-one ticket outlet for the Sealife Center, he said. Tickets for the Sealife Center are normally \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth. "The discounted rate at our front desk is \$15 for adults and \$11 for youth. We're hoping to catch all of JBER with our discounted deals,"

Bartlett said.

"We sell more tickets at our front desk to the Sealife Center than the cruise lines or the entire industry," Bartlett said. "We get really good deals; that's all discounts that you can't get unless you come to our front desk or to our Facebook site. All our specials are going to be on there. The Seward Military Resort Facebook site will always be updated with deals on coming trips to people will always know in plenty of time to do their scheduling. The link is also on the JBER Facebook site. We know when the best opportunities are available so it's best to go through us."



(Left to right) Logan, 5, Rya, 2, and Willow, 9 months, Barnett watch a sea lion swim passed at the Sealife Center in Seward March 11. The Sealife Center is just one of many opportunities available at discount to active duty, Reserves, National Guard, dependents and federal employees through the Seward Military Resort. The children visited the center with their parents during a stay at the resort. Their father is an active duty member of the 673d Air Base Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)



Rya Barnett points to fish during a tour of the Alaska SeaLife Center on March 11, 2012. The tour was organized by members of the Seward Military Resort and featured a guided tour from an Alaska SeaLife Center employee. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

Unanswered questions don't leave room to condone actions

Commentary by Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Keith Muschinske
JBER Installation Chaplain

He's back in the U.S.

The Soldier accused of killing Afghan civilians last week. The Soldier accused of a shooting spree in two villages in Afghanistan in which nine children, three women and four men were killed.

Who knows exactly why he did it, if he did – I certainly don't.

So, what do you think? News reports have already presented a wide range of reactions and theories. Here's just the tip of the iceberg – headlines and sound bites from online reports: "The U.S. Soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians betrayed no animosity toward civilians in a different war zone;" "Witness: They martyred children;" "The military is investigating whether alcohol may have been a factor;" "Defense lawyer known for tough cases – mental health, other factors probed;" "Karzai urges U.S. pullback; FBI fears retaliation within U.S." "Prior to his deployment to Afghanistan, the Soldier had lost part of a foot in Iraq and suffered a traumatic brain injury, according to his lawyer, John Henry Browne.

"The Soldier had not wanted to deploy to Afghanistan on what ultimately became his fourth combat tour, Browne said. He was told that he was not going to be redeployed."

"Browne also said that the day before the slayings, another Soldier on that base had his leg shot off in front of the suspect and that affected the whole base."

"Taliban vow revenge for massacre;" "Bales faced losing two houses as he fought 6,700 miles away;" "Stunned friends recall good deeds of Afghanistan killings suspect; defense team begins building case on PTSD."

So, which one? Which sound bite, which headline, which reason justifies the shooting of children in their beds – or out of their beds, for that matter?

"Oh, get off your high horse, chaplain," you may be thinking right about now. "How do you know what you would do in that situation, if you had been in his shoes, if you had experienced and seen and heard what he had? After all, another Soldier on that base had his leg shot off in front of the suspect the day before."

Have I seen that happen? No, although during my six months at the Dover Port Mortuary, I saw my share of detached limbs

and heard more than my share of grieving family members.

Who knows exactly why he did it, if he did it – I certainly don't. But neither can I find any way to justify what he supposedly did. Not even to explain it.

We all know, we've heard over and over about the need to be a good battle buddy, to be a good wingman – to know enough about those flying or marching in formation around us to ask them when things don't seem right, "Hey, are you doing OK?"

But that doesn't mean we need to find any way to condone alleged actions like these.

That doesn't mean that because our enemy resorts to terror tactics and the killing of innocents we do, too.

Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor, the prosecutor in the World War II Nuremberg trials, wrote a book in 1970 called Nuremberg and Vietnam: An American Tragedy.

In it, Taylor noted the importance of the law of war as a moral compass for the individual Soldier. He emphasized the need to "diminish the corrosive effect" on Soldiers themselves.

"Unless troops are trained and required to draw the distinction between military

and nonmilitary killings, and to retain such respect for the value of life that unnecessary death and destruction will continue to repel them, they may lose the sense for that distinction for the rest of their lives," he wrote.

As Francis Lieber put the matter in his 1863 army regulations: "Men who take up arms against one another in public war do not cease on this account to be moral human beings, responsible to one another and to God."

I would like to think that "unnecessary death and destruction" will continue to repel me, and that any Soldier, Airman, Sailor or Marine who, at the calling of our country and its leaders, takes up arms in a public war, will not cease to be a moral human being, responsible to one another and – for many – also to their God.

I would like to think I would have done something to prevent this killing spree, had I known about such a plan ahead of time.

Not just because of documents like the Uniform Code of Military Justice or various Geneva Conventions or others dealing with the Law of Armed Conflict, but because of respect for the value of life – even the life of one child on the other side of the world. But could I – would I? Would you?

Survivor parachutes with Golden Knights – and learns

By Rachael Hill
Surviving spouse of Air Force Capt. Jeff Hill

On Feb. 22 I had the opportunity of a lifetime and it was a day I will never forget.

I went skydiving for the very first time with the Army's Golden Knights Parachute Team and it was an incredible experience.

Not only that, but I was with the most amazing and inspiring group of women you could possibly imagine – a group of fellow military widows.

My journey as a military widow began on July 28, 2010 when my husband's C-17 Globemaster III crashed while practicing for the Arctic Thunder Air Show.

That moment forever changed my life and I was welcomed into a club I never wanted to be a part of. It has been a journey of ups and downs, with many bumps along the way.

However, it has also given me some opportunities I never thought possible and

has put me in contact with some of the most amazing people I have ever met.

After my husband's death I became involved with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, an incredible organization that supports survivors of military deaths – all survivors.

Through TAPS, I recently had the opportunity to go to a "Widow's Retreat" in Key Largo, Fla. There were 43 military widows at the retreat with 43 different stories and 43 different situations, but that didn't matter.

In our eyes we were all the same and came together through this common bond.

While at the retreat we relaxed on the beach, enjoyed casual and deep conversations, enjoyed various water sports, and then drove to Homestead Air Reserve Base for a day of adventure with the Golden Knights.

Words can't even describe the rush of skydiving itself but for me the entire experience was so much more than simply jumping out of an airplane, free falling through the air, and then safely returning to earth.

There was a much bigger representation with extremely significant feelings associated with it.

Jumping out of an airplane could easily be compared to becoming a widow. It

is scary.

There is a nervousness and apprehension that you can't quite explain to anyone else, and of course there is always that uncertainty of what is going to happen and how you are going to come out of it in the end.

However, despite all of those fears and apprehensions, you just have to jump in feet first... all or nothing.

Although you may have times of fear and queasiness during your journey, you will eventually put both feet out and land safely on the ground.

The whole process seemed easier for some than for others but those were truly just the outward appearances.

Underneath all of the shells, we all had our uncertainties about what we were doing, how we were feeling, and how it was going to go.

Being a widow is really no different. It is definitely scary. There is always that nervousness and apprehension, a constant wondering if you're doing the right thing and making the right decisions, but ultimately you don't have a choice.

You have to just jump in feet first... all or nothing. We all handle our grief and personal experiences in different ways and show very different outward appearances, but the more you dig into it the more you

find that there are very similar fears, wants, needs, and concerns in all of us. That bond is inevitable.

Over and over the instructor kept saying, "trust in us, trust in the equipment, relax and you'll have fun."

This phrase continues to roll through my mind and is such a metaphor for so many things in life. Especially life itself.

"Trust in us, trust in the equipment, relax and you'll have fun." I have decided that this is my new motto for my life.

I am going to trust in myself and the decisions I make, trust in the equipment God has given me in this crazy thing we call life, and I truly believe that if I do do these things and relax in the process that I will have fun.

That is how life should be. That is how my husband would want my life to be.

So thank you, Golden Knights, for not only the amazing skydiving experience you provided, but for also teaching me this incredible lesson in life.

Thank you TAPS for giving me the opportunity to be around other widows and for taking us on this new, exciting adventure.

And thank you to all of my new widow friends who have taught me that, although life may not be what any of us imagined, we are never alone in this journey and that there is still hope for a future that can always be just as bright, if not brighter, than what it was when our loved ones were here with us.

Editor's note: Air Force Capt. Jeff Hill was assigned to the 517th Airlift Squadron.



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Community happenings

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY
Pirate Tales

Storytellers and balladeers bring to life the world's favorite pirates – like Blackbeard and Captain Hook.

With songs like the Sloop John B, this is a show for the family at Alaska Pacific University.

For information call 677-7529.

Mat-Su Outdoorsman show

Seminars, demonstrations, a laser shooting range, and more than 142 vendors make this an outstanding sportsman's show. Visit the the Menard Sports Center outside Wasilla. Friday from noon to 7 p.m., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information visit www.chinookshows.com.

SATURDAY
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.

TUESDAY
Resilience skillbuilding

All military spouses are invited to "What is Resilience?" and "Hunt the Good Stuff" at the Welcome Center in Building 600 from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

To register, call 384-7687 or 384-1518.

MARCH 29
Choose Respect

Join the march at noon from Delaney Park Strip at 9th Ave. and F Street to Town Square Park. Governor Sean Parnell and his wife Sandy challenge Alaskans to take a stand against domestic violence and sexual assault.

For information call 269-7450 or visit chooserespect.alaska.gov.

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 greatalaska.com.

kasportsmanshow.com.

MARCH 30
Women's History Month

Join JBER in celebrating women's history in the military. Lt. Col. Eurydice Stanley, Ph. D., will offer briefings and speak at the ceremony from 2 until 3 p.m. at the Alaska National Guard Armory.

For information call 552-2056.

MARCH 30 THROUGH APRIL 7
The Sound of Music

This beloved musical is produced in Alaska for the first time since 1965 by the Anchorage Opera. Take a trip to World War II Austria with this classic.

For information visit www.anchorageopera.com.

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.

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 7
Easter Eggstravaganza

Children and parents are invited to the annual Easter Eggstravaganza at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center parking lot.

Hunting starts at 9 a.m., but each age group hunts at different

times; call 552-2266 for more information.

Family Fun and Fitness Day

Visit Buckner Physical Fitness Center starting at 9:30 a.m. for a day of demonstrations about fitness, fire safety and healthy habits.

Activities for the entire family make this a double-header with the Eggstravaganza.

For information, call 552-4943.

APRIL 12
The Conquest of McKinley

One hundred years ago, a group of adventurers including Belmore Browne and Hershhal 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 snowmachine 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' 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.

Secure Your ID day

The Better Business Bureau

offers free document shredding, and collects old cell phones for recycling.

All phones will be wiped of stored data. Protect your identity and let the BBB help.

For information call 644-5205 or visit alaska.bbb.org.

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.alyeskaresort.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.drglenkey.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.

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 email klarson@alaskazoo.org.

Wired Cafe for Airmen

The Wired Cafe is located at 7076 Fighter Dr., between Polaris and Yukla dormitories.

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FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Be extra cautious of many hungry, angry moose this spring

By Herman Griese
673 CES/CEANC

Two recent moose encounter incidents on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson serve as warning that stressed moose are more likely to threaten humans and their pets.

The deep snow conditions of this winter are stressful, even deadly for moose.

The deep snow has put them in a nutrition deficit, substantially reducing their energy reserves that directly relates to the level of risk to human safety.

With snow depths exceeding three feet, moose seek relief on highways, streets, bike paths, sidewalks and driveways placing them in direct conflict with humans, seen in two recent incidents.

A Sunflower housing resident failed to heed the warning from a neighbor and strolled too close to a cow and calf while walking her dog.

The charging moose caused the resident to scramble, releasing her dog which was kicked and bruised.

A couple of nights later, Airmen undergoing a shift change at the 90th Fighter Squadron facility found an unyielding moose guarding their vehicles in the parking lot.

The stressed moose charged people and vehicles. The standoff was finally broken up by 673 Civil Engineer Squadron conservation officers using all their available tools in the process.

Long-time JBER conservation officer Mark Sledge warned, "With these conditions and the behavior we've seen from moose recently, I will not be surprised if we hear of a human injury caused by an agitated moose."

Moose are more likely to react negatively during the winter, due to stress brought on by long winters



A moose forages for food in the parking lot of the United States Army Alaska Headquarters building on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in the early morning hours Sunday. Record snowfall for the area this winter has forced moose to look for food in more urban areas this winter. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

with deep snow.

Anytime of the year cow moose will aggressively defend their calves from perceived threats.

When stressed during winters like this, disturbances or hazing from humans or dogs can cause a moose to fight instead of flee. The following precautions and actions can reduce risks from moose:

- Parents should always check the route before sending school children out the door to school or the bus stop.
- Keep pets on a leash and under control.
- If a moose is near, watch it for signs of becoming irritated – like having its hackles up, ears pulled back or licking its lips.
- At the first signs of irritation, back off to a safe location like a house, a vehicle, or a tree; just put distance between you and

the moose.

- If you're charged, run to a safe location, dodge behind trees, roll under a large sturdy object like a parked vehicle, or up against a wall, fence or snow berm.
- Finally, contact the Law Enforcement desk at 552-3421.
- If a moose knocks you down, roll into a ball, cover your head and neck with your hands and play dead.
- Once the moose is a safe distance away, contact law enforcement.

Moose actually rank above bears in causing human deaths and injuries in Alaska, not from attacks, but due to collisions with vehicles.

Collisions between drivers and moose typically peak during December through March, this year especially.

So far this winter in Anchorage and the Mat-Su area, more than 500 moose have been reported killed on streets and highways according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Dave Battle.

An unknown number are hit and not killed outright.

An adult can weigh up to 1,000 pounds and striking one while driving at speeds of 65 mph can seriously damage the vehicle.

Because of their long legs, collisions with a car or small truck allow their large body to flip into the windshield and enter the driver and passenger compartment – head high.

Slow down and stay alert. Moose are dark animals and even if you could see their eyes reflecting in the headlights, they seldom look at vehicles as they cross roads.

Even with snow on the ground, moose are difficult to see in Alas-

ka's long winter nights.

The following steps can reduce your risk of colliding with these large ungulates:

- Slow down when visibility is reduced or roads are icy, and keep windshields and headlights clean.
- Use your headlight high-beams as often as oncoming traffic allows, and constantly scan roadsides well ahead.
- Slow down when a moose is observed near the road, and always expect to see a second or third moose.

The key to being safe from wildlife is to think ahead, remain alert, always expect an interaction and be prepared for the proper response.

For more information about moose and other JBER wildlife, contact the 673 CES Wildlife Biologist at 552-0200.

Army athlete and new mother makes modern pentathlon finals

By Tim Hipps
IMCOM Public Affairs

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — On International Women's Day, Army Capt. Mickey Kelly firmly positioned herself as an Olympic contender among women from 27 nations competing in the 2012 Modern Pentathlon World Cup Series.

Four months after having a baby, Kelly, 34, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, finished third in her qualification group March 8.

Along the way, she breastfed Lillian Grace Brady between the fencing and swimming events before plunging into the pool to compete in the 200-meter freestyle.

"It's all come together really phenomenally," Kelly said. "It's just amazing that I've been able to continue training."

Being competitive with world-class athletes four months after giving birth is one thing, but breast-feeding during the five-sport event took Kelly's performance to an unprecedented level.

"Honestly, I did not expect that she could make the final because I know how hard it was for her," Team USA Modern Pentathlon coach Janucz Peciak said. "She had a long break and had a baby, so it was not so easy. I was very, very happy and surprised how well she performed in the semifinal. Many of the best pentathletes in the world did not make the final here, so she should be very, very happy."

Kelly said she could not have done it without the Army's support.

"If the Army didn't decide that they were going to keep me in WCAP and allow me to come back to training after I gave birth to my baby, I wouldn't be here right now, so I'm really fortunate," she said.

Kelly, an Olympic qualifier in 2008, was deployed to Iraq from February through December of 2009. She gave birth on Nov. 6, 2011.

"The Army gave me a chance and this is where I'm at," Kelly said. "I'm showing them that they took a chance on the right person. When I became pregnant, I told them that I thought I could still qualify for the London Olympics. I thought I had a good chance, barring any injury, to come back and make it happen."

"I wouldn't be here if they didn't keep me in the program," she said. "So when I train, I train hard. These coaches sometimes almost have to pull me out of the pool because I'm that tired."

WCAP Commander Army Capt. Jonathan Harmeling was supportive of the Army's decision to stick with its athlete.

"In most cases, being pregnant is not conducive to training for the Olympics or any elite type of athletics," he said. "However, Mickey Kelly is an impressive Soldier and an amazing athlete. We worked very closely with Mickey, her family, also with our medical doctors and the Modern Pentathlon staff."

"We spent hours in research as far as is there any way realistically she can go



Army Capt. Mickey Kelly prepares to nurse her baby on the bus between competing in events at the Modern Pentathlon World Cup in Charlotte, N.C., March 10. (U.S. Army photos/Tim Hipps)

through pregnancy, have a baby, and within four or five months return to not only being competitive, but actually be on top of her game within months of the Olympics," Harmeling said. "There were some signs there and we wanted to give her a chance. She, by far, took advantage of it."

"I think she had something to prove," Harmeling added. "She looked us in the eye and said she could do it, and we said 'OK, we'll take you at your word and go get it done.' And she did. We're really excited for her and her family."

Kelly said she did all she could to remain in shape throughout her pregnancy.

"Swimming, I continued all the way until the due date," she said. "I wasn't swimming really hard intervals, but I was able to keep in the pool and could do flip-turns and all that sort of stuff – just keeping in contact with the water and enough of the fitness. I couldn't run probably from the seventh month on."

Kelly began running the week after giving birth.

"As soon as I could train, we hit it hard," she said. "I can't do a lot of mileage or yardage, for that matter, but I can do really intense workouts, so that's what we focused on."

"As soon as I could, I had to start, or else it wasn't going to happen," Kelly said of her mission to make Team USA for the 2012 London Olympic Games. "My body was OK. I don't know if I would call it running the first week, it was more like shuffling, that's what I called it."

A couple months later, she was back on a horse.

"We do what's vital," Kelly said. "We do what we have to do in the training. And the rest of the time I have to rest."

Once she got on a roll in fencing at Charlotte, Kelly performed well throughout the remainder of the qualification round.

"I felt really good in fencing and I wasn't getting scores, wasn't getting touches, and I didn't really know why," she said. "I was like, 'I'm just going to stick to it. I'm not going to get frustrated. I'm just going to keep doing what I'm doing because I know it's going to be there.' Then it just started coming together, and I was intense, and I was there, and really definitely in the moment."

"Then it finally started coming together and I was scoring touches."

Kelly was in eighth place after fencing.

"But I had a good score," she said. "Anything over 800 points for me is going to put me in the mix with everyone, so 880 was right where I needed to be."

After spending some quality time with her daughter, Kelly passed the baby to father William Brady, another of Team USA's Olympic Modern Pentathlon hopefuls. She then swam the 200-meter freestyle in 2 minutes, 26.49 seconds.

"I expected to go a little faster because of the training, but it was OK," Kelly said. "It was better than I have swam since I came back from Iraq. I just haven't been able to connect in the pool, and now I'm connecting. Anytime you improve, you have to be happy with that."

"She has been improving exponentially," said Genadijus Sokolovas, a senior physiologist who works with athletes at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Last week in practice, she was running and swimming basically our best times. But I have never heard of anyone breast feeding and competing at the same time."

Brady, too, was pleasantly surprised by Kelly's performance.

"Oh, my goodness, I'm so proud," he said. "She kicked some butt today. She had an amazing run. I don't know if you guys realize how fast she ran today, but it was insane. Passing the last four coming down the last stretch was crazy considering how much ground she had to make up."

Brady admitted that the idea of two pentathletes sharing parenting duties for a baby during a competitive weekend was different.

"It's crazy," he said. "We're crazy, I guess. Yeah, it's interesting, but we're just making it work. She has been training her butt off. Let's be frank: she's hard-headed and puts her nose to the grindstone and just goes for it."

In the combined event of laser pistol shooting and cross country running that begins with a staggered start, Kelly coasted across the finish line in third place with the fastest time of the day, looking as if she easily could have won the race.

"I was going easy because I'm going to need it Saturday," she said with a laugh. "I'm OK. This was really where I wanted to be. Everything came together the way I wanted it to."

"You have 'on days' and you have 'off days.' It was an 'on day,' so I can't be happier with the place, at all. And from the run, I'm not that tired."

Two days later, Kelly was fatigued and finished 31st as the lone U.S. competitor in the finals of the first of four 2012 Modern Pentathlon World Cup events, which pave the road to London for those who will compete in the Summer Olympic Games.

A rough morning of fencing, the first event, knocked her out of contention.

"Really, I was just trying to make the final and definitely wasn't prepared mentally for the final, but I think that was OK," Kelly said, "except that I didn't reset to be like, 'You're here, that's it, time to be satisfied with whatever comes my way.' I'm a competitor, so it's tough not to be competitive. But I'm back. We're obviously moving in the right direction."

"I know her expectations were great after the semifinal, but she's not ready yet," Peciak said. "But she will be."

She also is appreciative of the Army's support, along with that of her family.

"If the Army didn't decide that they were going to keep me in WCAP and allow me to come back to training after I gave birth to my baby, I wouldn't be here right now, so I'm really fortunate," Kelly said. "In any Olympic sport, it's tough to find people to really support you, and the Army has really supported. Not just financially, but the Army has really stuck behind me when they didn't have to. I'm sure that they thought it through and they gave me a chance, and I'm glad that they did," she said.



Army Capt. Mickey Kelly competes in the run portion of the Modern Pentathlon World Cup in Charlotte, N.C., March 10.

Colon cancer awareness month

By Shari Lopatin
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

When colon cancer is found early and treated, nine out of 10 people will hit a five-year survival rate, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

In fact, more than half of all deaths from colon cancer could be prevented if everyone older than 50 was screened regularly. However, as of 2008, only 63 percent of adults ages 50-75 had been screened.

The colon is the body's large intestine. Sometimes, pre-cancerous growths – or polyps, as they're often called – can develop inside the colon. These polyps have been known to form up to 10 years before invasive cancer develops, according to the CDC.

Colon cancer screenings can detect these polyps before they become life-threatening, allowing doctors to surgically remove them.

Some of the most common colon cancer screening tests are:

Colonoscopy: Doctors use a thin, long, lighted tube to check inside the colon for polyps. Doctors can actually remove polyps during this test. It's recommended only once every 10 years.

Stool test: Doctors will provide their patients with a test kit. At home, the patient uses a stick or brush to obtain a small amount of the stool. The doctor or lab can then check the stool for anything unusual.

Flexible sigmoidoscopy: Doctors will use a short, thin, lighted tube to check for polyps inside the colon and rectum. This will only need to be done once every five years.

TRICARE covers colon cancer screenings, at no cost to you. So it's easy to take advantage of them.

TRICARE will cover one colonoscopy every 10 years, in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Additionally, talk to your doctor to see which other screenings are right for you. TRICARE covers a variety of screening tests for colon cancer, depending on your doctor's recommendations.

For more information, visit TriWest.com/Colon.

Senior women share stories of leadership roles

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — A panel of two senior executive service Army civilians, an Army major general, a colonel and a sergeant major, all of whom are women, shared their personal stories on what drove them to be in the positions they are today.

The five women offered their leadership perspectives and gave tips to a nearly full house of Army civilian employees and Soldiers of all ranks as well as those from allied countries as part of a two-day Joint Women's Leadership Symposium March 5-6 at National Harbor, Md., on the Potomac River.

While several of the women said they were always geared toward leadership roles, the others said they didn't set out to be leaders; they more or less fell into leadership positions by being recognized for their hard work by their seniors.

Growing leaders

Sgt. Maj. Tammy Coon, who serves as Army liaison to the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill, grew up on a farm in Illinois and joined the Army out of a desire to simply be patriotic.

She planned on a four-year hitch, but 28 years have passed since she signed on in 1984.

"In the Army we grow leaders, and that's what happened with me," she said. "As a leader I feel you can mold folks, see them grow and for me that's important, so I took leadership roles because first of all I needed to develop and grow, face new challenges and be part of the bigger picture. While serving in those capacities I always strove to make sure I influenced and molded folks in such a way for the betterment of the Army and for the betterment of Soldiers."

25 jobs, 18 countries

Ellen M. Helmerson, a senior executive who serves as Army Training and Doctrine Command's deputy chief of staff for personnel and logistics, began her thus-far 31-year Army career as a GS-2.

"I don't know that I chose to be in a leadership role; I think that I demonstrated through competency that I had potential," said Helmerson, whose career has taken her through 25 Army jobs and 18 countries.

"I found that just by doing a good job and working hard that I was going to get recognized and then I was selected as a very junior person to lead a study on reorganizing the Army in Europe



Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Reserve for Individual Mobilization Augmentees, Maj. Gen. Marcia D. Anderson, the Army's first African-American woman to achieve her present rank, discusses leadership with other senior Army women at the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium March 6 at National Harbor, Md. From left to right: Mary S. Matiella, Assistant Secretary of the Army (FM & C); Anderson; TRADOC Deputy Chief of Staff (P & I) Ellen M. Helmerson; Col. Irene M Zoppi, House of Representatives Army liaison; Sgt. Maj. Tammy Coon, and moderator Lt. Col. Cheryl E. Bryant. (U.S. Army photo/J.D. Leipold)

for a four-star general whom I had to brief weekly.

"I know my boss saw leadership ability in me, though I didn't necessarily see it in myself yet," she recalled, adding that part of being a good leader involves not only being recognized by seniors, but also recognizing subordinate leaders and passing that on.

"We need to be looking at that staff sergeant and junior officer, recognize their abilities, then mentor and enable them," she said. "You also have to put yourself out there, and as women sometimes you had to grab opportunities that were not offered, but raise your hand first and say that job is for me, I don't care if it's hard."

Breaking barriers

Hailing from Puerto Rico, Col. Irene M Zoppi, a reservist presently attending the Army War College, remembered when she was a private first class in 1985 and how her Army journey started with little self-confidence.

"Number one, I had a lot of things against me – I was Latina, and number two, I had a really bad accent because I could barely speak English," said Zoppi who holds a doctoral degree. "But one of the things that drove me was the slogan, 'be all that you can be' and the other was the (noncommissioned officers) who drove and taught me about confidence."

Zoppi, who was selected one of the top 100 women in Maryland in 2009, said she gained all the desire to succeed, but the opportunities weren't there.

"I told my grandpa that I wasn't

getting opportunities and he said, 'then make the opportunity.' He said, that means if you knock on the door and the door doesn't open, either break down the door or go to a window and try that."

"Know thyself, because if you don't know yourself you can't lead," she said, also advising the audience to take a SWOT analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and a Myers-Briggs personality test, then develop a plan of attack. "I want you to add fun, family, travel and take care of your health."

Making a difference

"Hispanic and African-American women – we were pretty much told while we were in high school that we were not college material," remembers Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comptroller) Mary S. Matiella, who also earned a doctoral degree. "I've wanted to make a difference in the world ever since I was small watching my father show leadership – I wanted to be like him."

Matiella said she knew in order to make a difference there would have to be change – there would have to be change in the way people interacted with her and that first meant to prove herself more than capable of doing a particular job. That all boiled down to the critical words – trust, integrity, confidence and education, she said, advising the crowd to avoid the easy jobs if they really want to make a difference.

"If you want to be a leader, you have to be trusted and when people trust you, you're perceived to have

integrity and they perceive you to care," Matiella said. "When you're trusted, you're also perceived to be confident and you're perceived to be confident when you have an education and experience. And, take the hard jobs, you will make a difference in those areas that are hard to do."

Eye for detail

Maj. Gen. Marcia D. Anderson, the first African-American woman to achieve her current grade, credits her leadership abilities to the Soldiers and the noncommissioned officers who lead the way and by just plain being attentive and sharp eyed.

"I've always made sure I was observant, that I saw what worked, what motivated people and followed my instincts," said Anderson, who holds a law degree and presently serves as deputy chief of the Army Reserve for Individual Mobilization Augmentees.

"I talk with Soldiers and make it clear that I care, that I'm genuinely interested in them by just remembering little things about them," Anderson said.

"You learn from good leaders and bad leaders, and sometimes you're just in the wrong place at the wrong time," she noted. "The bottom line is you learn and then you move on."

"Admit where your weaknesses are, while capitalizing on your strengths and express what you've learned along the way," said Coon. "Make every experience your own and never be satisfied with the status quo. Make it better than what it was, even if it isn't broke."

