

### Spartan Steel on patrol

Paratroopers of Task Force Spartan Steel hit the streets during a recent patrol in Afghanistan

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### Food transformation

Iditarod Dining Facility earns Hennessy Award for being the best Food Transformation facility in the Air Force

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www.jbermail/news

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

April 20, 2012

Volume 3, No. 16



Spc. Reginald Blanton, parachute packer, 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne), 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, ensures that all the screws in the D-rings are tightly secured while Spc. Jesus Gomez continues to fold the parachute April 4. This particular portion of folding is called, "folding the gores." For the story, see Page A-3. (U.S. Air Force photo/Johnathon Green)

## Coast Guard mourns loss of shipmates at Communication Station Kodiak

Coast Guard District 17 news release

JUNEAU — The Coast Guard Investigative Service continues to work with FBI, Alaska State Troopers and the Kodiak Police Department to investigate the shooting deaths of two Coast Guard employees that occurred April 12 at Coast Guard Communication Station Kodiak.

The Coast Guard has been informed by the FBI they are treating this investigation as a double homicide. There is no evidence to suggest these deaths are the result of a murder suicide. No arrests have been made and all Kodiak residents were advised to use reasonable safety precautions and to report any suspicious activity to their local law enforcement agency.

The victims have been identified as Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class James Hopkins, an electronics technician, and Richard Belisle, a civilian employee and retired Coast Guard chief petty officer.

"As an organization with roots in saving lives and a focus on protecting people, this tragic event has shocked us all," said Rear Adm. Thomas Ostebo, commander, 17th Coast Guard District. "My thoughts and prayers are with the victim's families, their loved ones, and the entire Kodiak community."

"Our Coast Guard team from across the nation has been extremely supportive and we have sent a number of crisis response personnel and resources to Kodiak to assist the victim's families, friends and coworkers as they cope with this tragedy," Ostebo said.

## Operation Arctic Care serves Alaska's rural communities

By Air Force Maj. Guy Hayes  
Alaska National Guard PAO

NOME — One week into Operation Arctic Care 2012, residents in western Alaska are receiving medical care from a cadre of military medical professionals.

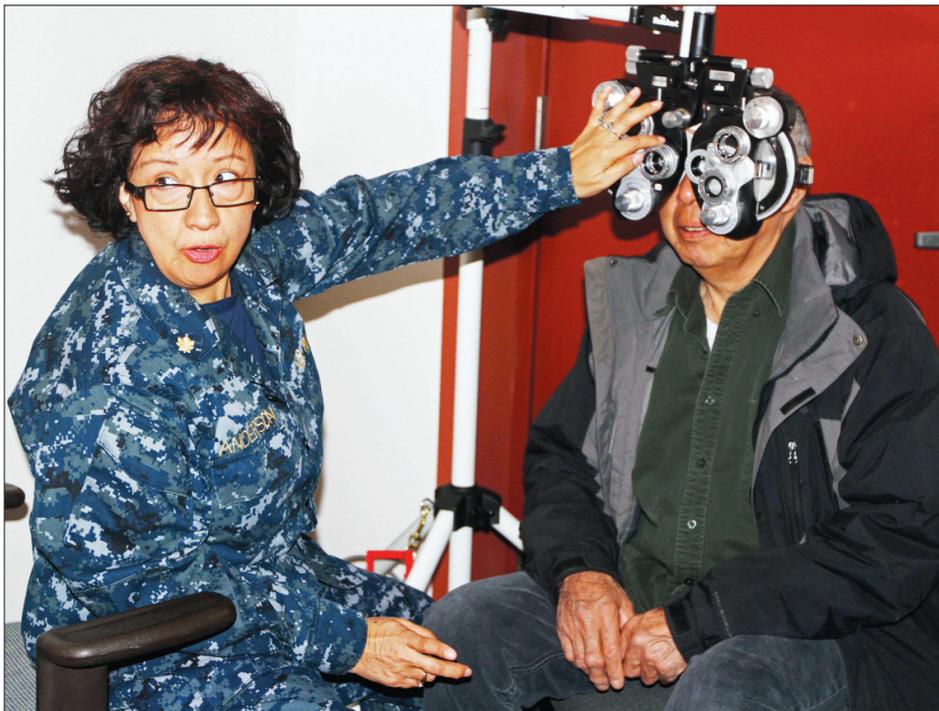
Blanketed with ice and snow on the Bering Sea coast, most villages are isolated by miles of open landscape and accessible only by snowmachine and air transportation. However 285 Guardsmen, Reservists and active-duty service members have braved the elements this week to bring care to Alaskans in need.

"We've already assisted 2,708 people and performed 5,049 procedures in the first week," said Alaska Air National Guard Lt. Col. Sharolyn Lange, task force medical commander for Operation Arctic Care 2012. "It's going very well, and we are now in the process of switching main body teams from one village to another to serve the final five villages."

With operations ongoing in 11 of the 16 scheduled villages, Arctic Care personnel from across the nation are embracing their opportunity to train and serve here in the land of the midnight sun.

"This has been an opportunity of a lifetime," said Capt. Wade Kinshella, medical detachment registered nurse, Colorado Army National Guard. "It's a wonderful experience and the kids are the best. They are happy to see us, and we're happy to see their smiles."

Kinshella is currently in Brevig Mission overseeing medical operations, training medics, ensuring providers have what they need and assisting with procedures. Next, he



Lt. Commander Patricia Anderson, Navy Reserve optometrist, assists a patient during an eye exam at the Alaska National Guard armory in Nome Monday. Optometrists have performed 1,697 procedures, assisting 582 patients during Arctic Care 2012. (Alaska National Guard photo/Air Force Maj. Guy Hayes)

and his team are headed to Little Diomed Island, a town with a population of only 80 people and one of the most remote locations in America.

"We are happy we've been able to provide medical, dental, optometry and vet care here and look forward to helping more people on Little Diomed," Kinshella said. "We are trying to take it all in and be respectful of their heritage and culture. We've eaten seal and listened to stories about their people, tradition and culture;

it's been unbelievable."

Like Kinshella, Arctic Care has been a career highlight for many who are here and a unique opportunity to help provide basic services that many of us take for granted each day.

"The Navy has a team called NOSTRA, it's a deployable optical fabrication squad from Virginia," Lange said. "They are actually making glasses for people the same day as their appointment and getting the glasses back out to the villages in less than 24 hours."

NOSTRA, or Naval Ophthalmic Support & Training Activity, specializes in providing quality eyewear to America's armed forces. They are an elite group of military specialists who understand the importance of readiness and have the ability to process orders anywhere in short period of time.

"We've processed 460 glasses in five days," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Quentin Moncrieff, NOSTRA technician. "Once we receive a request via fax here in Nome, we start to process

the order."

Moncrieff is one of four NOSTRA technicians sent to Nome to make glasses each day for orders coming from Arctic Care optometrists working in the villages.

"We grab a tray and lens, scope the lens, block and cut the lens to frame size, bevel the lens to cut any sharp edges off and then put them in the frame," Moncrieff said. "We then scope the lenses to verify the prescription is correct, bag them up and send them back to the village."

From start to finish, Moncrieff and fellow NOSTRA service members from Yorktown, Va., are able to make new glasses in only about 10 minutes, saving rural residents a significant amount of time and money.

"Normally patients would have to travel from their village to Nome or Anchorage to visit an optometrist," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Swan, NOSTRA technician. "The transportation out of their village, cost of visiting with an optometrist, cost of the glasses, and then travel home saves them more than \$1,000."

"It's definitely rewarding because we are contributing and giving back to the community," Moncrieff said. "I'm really glad I had the opportunity to be a part of Operation Arctic Care and help the people of Alaska."

Sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Arctic Care has been bringing health care and veterinary support to residents in the Bering Strait and Norton Sound regions of western Alaska from April 9 until Monday.

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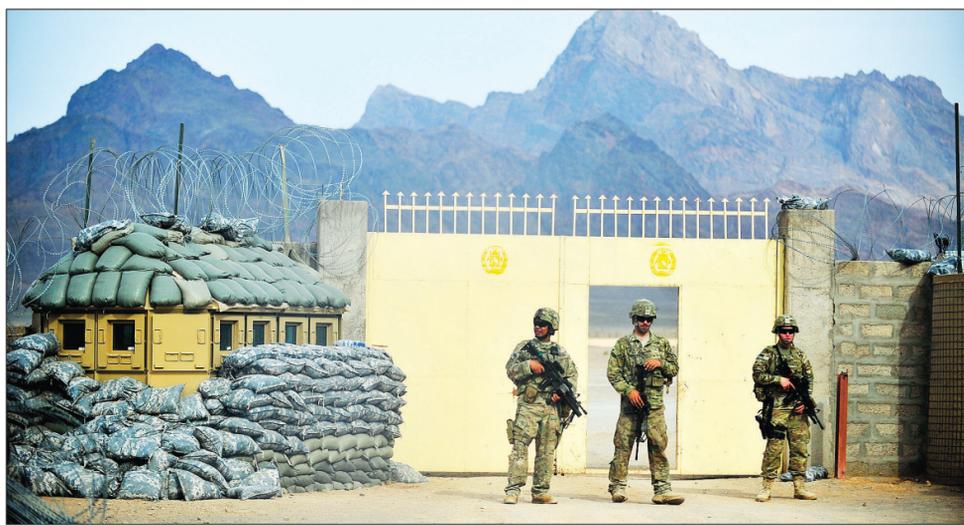
**Time to remove studded tires**  
Tires with studs must be removed before May 1. Motorists who do not comply on JBER will be subject to a \$50 per tire fine or administrative punishment.





# PRT FARAH SECURITY FORCES

**ABOVE:** Alaska Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Mark Scott, of Delta Junction, a Security Forces member of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, pulls security from his battle position during an escort detail on Forward Operating Base Farah, Farah province, Afghanistan April 7. Scott and the SECFOR are responsible for ensuring the safety of everyone assigned to FOB Farah. PRT Farah is a joint unit working with various government and non-government agencies tasked with facilitating governance and stability in the region. **RIGHT:** Alaska Army National Guard Sgt. Mark Velasco, of Kodiak, Security Forces member of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, watches his sector during an escort detail on FOB Farah April 7. **BELOW:** Velasco (left) and Pvt. Daniel Potter of Wasilla (center), Security Force members, and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Elizabeth Bakke, pull security on FOB Farah April 7. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Jonathan Lovelady)



## Success: the story that should lead

Commentary by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Larlee  
438th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — There is a cold reality in journalism: “if it bleeds it leads.” It is a mindset that has frustrated me in my time as a media professional, but one I have come to accept.

While serving as a military journalist in Afghanistan, I have seen the reality of this theory play out a few times in recent months. One negative story seems to get the exposure of more than a hundred positive stories. I find this reality quite frustrating.

I have seen our advisers teach Afghans some great capabilities. It is a great sight to see an Afghan’s face light up when they figure something out and an even better feeling to see their confidence grow as they are able to do a task by themselves.

Recently, I got to see one of the Afghan’s I mentor achieve some personal goals.

One of the most exhilarating and fun jobs a journalist can perform is to be part of a news trip. I have been able to travel a lot during my career, and I have had the opportunity to travel to other parts of Afghanistan a few times during my deployment here.

Afghan Air Force Master Sgt. Mir Mazhar has been my best student during my time here. He always pays attention in class and asks great questions. It is easy to tell he is very dedicated to serving his country and



**Pfc. Jared Baughn, from Broken Arrow, Okla., assigned to Task Force Blue Geronimo, learns Pashto from an Afghan child while on patrol near Combat Outpost Terezayi, April 10. Partnership with Afghans is a fundamental part of U.S. strategy in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo/Spcc. Eric James Estrada)**

improving his professional capabilities.

Recently, we had the opportunity to bring one of our students with us to Kandahar Air Field to cover 438th Air Expeditionary Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. John Hoffman’s battlefield circulation, or site

immersion visit.

We chose Mir to join us for the trip, which would be the first of his career. His excitement to travel got me excited as well. It reminded me about how the holidays become fun again when you have children to share

them with. I fed off his excitement, and it ended up being one of my favorite news trips I have done during my career.

Not only was this Mir’s first news trip, it was the first time he had ever flown before. His first flight was a bumpy one and someone had to use his airsickness bag. Here is a hint – it wasn’t the first time flyer.

After disposing of my bag of shame, we got right to work. Our first task was to cover a meeting in a small office where it would be difficult to shoot video. As Mir entered the room, he paused for a second and you could see he was assessing the situation. After taking a moment, he went to the best possible spot in the room to videotape the meeting of enlisted leaders.

Mir spent the rest of the trip excelling just like he has done in class. It was a proud moment for me to see all of the training kick in and be used so well. I also enjoyed watching the Afghan military leadership warm up to him as his professionalism made them feel comfortable with him.

This type of success story is not rare in Afghanistan. It is a country full of people determined to get their country back on its feet. When it happens it will be dedicated people like Mir leading the way.

*Editor’s note: Larlee is a deployed member of the 673d Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office.*

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# Riggers relied on for parachute packing

By Johnathon Green  
JBER Public Affairs

“It will be sure always” is the United States Army rigger’s code – it is the life of a fellow Soldier they hold in their hands. The 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne), 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the Black Sheep, is just one of the units with the skilled and dedicated hands here at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson that performs this duty.

“It’s a long process,” said Sgt. Ramon Charriez, an inspect process, or IP, with the 4th QM. “After a chute actually gets jumped, we shake them out, ... they go up here on the pack tables, only the non-commissioned officers, E-5s and above, are the IPs, and we inspect the chutes with the four packers.”

During the packing process, there are different rigger checks that need to be made depending on what type of chute is being packed and the packing regulations for that particular parachute. Each parachute packer has to stop at certain stages; an IP goes over to check that it is being done correctly and only then can the packer continue on to the next stage, Charriez said.

“With the IP process, a lot of the malfunctions are caught there,” said 1st Lt. Stephen Gagin, commander of the 4th QM. “Then you also have the (jump master parachute inspection) process that the jump masters go through prior to (a) jump where they actually inspect the outside of the parachute. We also, internally, have our own systems where once a month we pull about 10 percent of the parachutes down and rip them apart, and the chief warrant officer goes through them and the shop foreman goes through them looking for malfunctions, looking for errors. If a person has a serious error, they are automatically decertified and they go back to retraining. If they find minor errors, how many they are, what they can cause for that jumper coming out of the plane, they will be decertified and have to be recertified later.”

“We also have a real cool check... Hey, you just packed that parachute, put your name on it, you’re jumping it on the next one.” Gagin continued. “It keeps it real for that guy because at any time we can say ‘Hey you’re jumping that one.’ There’s enough checks and balances in there.”

Training to become a rigger is hosted at



**Spc. Ethan Bryant, Parachute Packer, 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne), 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, packs the last portion of the parachute in to the deployment bag, April 4. (U.S. Air Force photo/Johnathon Green)**

Fort Lee, Va., Charriez said.

“Rigger school is three weeks for the packing portion... where you get one hour to pack a chute,” He said. “When they get here, they are actually on the tables for about two months dry packing. After two months of

dry packing, they get certified by a warrant officer or shop foreman.

“After we see that they are up to par, ... they get certified, then they go ahead and start packing,” he continued. “We’ll go from their quota of five chutes the first time, all

the way to the whole 25, which is as much as one parachute rigger can pack in one day.”

Gagin said a dry pack is a parachute that is used to learn all the steps to pack a chute correctly with no intention for that chute to be used for a jump.

The 4th QM packs seven main types of parachutes. Two of them are personnel chutes, three are for small cargo and two are for heavy cargo. The T-10D and the MC-1 are personnel chutes. The T-10D is designed to get Soldiers from the aircraft to the ground, while the MC-1 has maneuvering capabilities. Each of these chutes has a reserve chute. The T-10D, commonly called a “light pack,” is the most frequently used parachute and weighs approximately 35 pounds. The T-11 parachute will replace the T-10D, which is a bit lighter, and they will start arriving here in February 2013.

The cargo parachutes are the G-11s and G-12s and they are considerably larger and heavier. They weigh about 250 pounds or more. Each of these parachutes takes four to five Soldiers to handle and an hour to pack.

“There’s a lot more work that goes into rigging (a Small Emplacement Excavator) or a bulldozer to come out the back end of an airplane,” Gagin said. “There is a lot more recovery work that goes into it once it’s on the ground. The personnel (parachute) guys get a lot of the kudos because it is actually somebody’s life that is in their hands, where you can replace a piece of equipment, it’s not going to be pretty, but you can replace it, you cannot replace a person’s life.”

The heaviest object the 4th QM riggers had to prepare for a drop was a D-5b bulldozer that weighed in at 36,000 pounds. It took eight G-11 parachutes to get it safely to the ground.

The 4th QM supports the 2nd Engineer Brigade, the Alaska National Guard and other U.S. Army Alaska units. They have anywhere from three to six jumps per month with 100 to 150 Soldiers per jump. When the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, is here, these numbers nearly double.

“Riggers, we’re very rare,” Charriez said. “The best way to call it is that we have a ... sense of pride when it actually comes to packing. You’ll see it on the pack tables; you already hear it, the yelling and the screaming. That is how we show our happiness and gratitude packing the chutes.”

## JBER active-duty and Reserve maintainers earn top load crew honors



**Airman 1st Class John Grimes, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit Weapons Flight, 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, guides an AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile into place during the load crew competition April 12. Grimes, along with two Reservists assigned to the 477th Fighter Group, make up the three-man team that took first place in the competition. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso)**

## Airmen of 673d SFS partner with TSA for working-dog training

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

Loud barks could be heard yards away as military and Transportation Security Administration dog handlers prepared their assigned K-9 for the weekly joint working dog training. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Byrnes, 673d Security Forces Squadron, military dog handler, led the training for TSA personnel to demonstrate various dog handling techniques.

“Currently we’re doing a joint training with TSA dog handlers most of whom have come from different parts of the lower 48 as well as Alaska’s airports,” Byrnes said. “We train with TSA and other civilian dog handlers once every week.”

Byrnes began his training with an initial brief explaining the principles of the dog handling technique known as play-at-source, and how it’s used by military security forces members.

The play-at-source method is used to exploit a dog’s play and prey (hunt) drives, while also clearly teaching the dog the desire to be



**Transportation Security Administration working dog Ben searches for scent during a working-dog training exercise April 11. The working dog training exercises are conducted once every week at JBER and consist of various dog handling organizations being taught the various handling procedures. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)**

obedient to odor through “game.” TSA members went through the process of placing an odor, unknown to the dog, and then having the dog search for the hidden scent.

When the dog catches the scent, it will immediately show the handler by moving sporadically. The handler will then prompt the dog to heel. If the dog reacts correctly,

it will be rewarded with a treat. If done poorly, it will go through the process until done properly.

“It’s actually pretty fun coming out here and exchanging training

techniques with TSA,” Byrnes said. “You get to see what they’re capable of and it’s certainly something new every day.”

There are currently 11 security forces dog teams on JBER.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Beau Clegg is the 673d SFS handler for military working dog Khan. Clegg and Khan both demonstrated firsthand what is to be done when identifying a possible explosive threat with the play-at-source method. Clegg would place a scent in a certain location a great distance away from Khan, Clegg would then prompt Khan to find the hidden scent and properly heel at Clegg’s command.

At the end of the training session, Byrnes brought training participants together and discussed techniques that needed improvement and what methods worked in critical situations.

“This training is going to save lives,” Byrnes said. “It will give both us and fellow TSA members here today the opportunity to contemplate ways which will further advance dog training standards.”











**ABOVE:** Army Staff Sgt. Christian Aleman, from Miami, a squad leader assigned to 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, scans the area for possible dangers while out on patrol April 7.

**LEFT:** Aleman gives a playful "noogie" to an Afghan child while out on patrol April 7.

**BELOW:** Army 1st Lt. Matthew Hickey, from St. Paul, Minn., (left) and Pfc. Nathaniel Miller, from Portland, Tenn., conduct a search of a village while on patrol April 7. (U.S. Army photos/Spc. Eric-James Estrada)



# Briefs and Announcements

## Disposition of effects

Army 2nd Lt. Christopher Carter, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Spc. Jeffrey L. White, 1-501st Inf., as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Carter at 907-384-7668.

## Disposition of effects

Air Force 2nd Lt. Christopher Walker, 3rd Maintenance Squadron, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Senior Airman Russell R. Lytle, 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, as stated in Air Force Instruction 34-244.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Walker at 229-425-9206.

## Motorcycle riding season

Motorcycle riding is not yet permitted on base. The road conditions will be evaluated during the next couple of weeks to determine the start date for this motorcycle riding season.

Motorcycle riding will only be authorized by the 673d Mission Support Group commander. The riding season dates are adjusted based upon weather and road conditions.

When authorization is made, it will be published through all communication avenues including the official Website, the JBER Facebook site, the newspaper, installation marquees and through formal command channels.

## WAPS move

Air Force Weighted Airman Promotion System testing has permanently moved from the People Center to the Air Force Education and Training Center, 4109 Bullard Ave.

For more information, email [joseph.oneil@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:joseph.oneil@elmendorf.af.mil).

## Mortgage relief

President Barack Obama announced March 6 steps to provide significant housing relief to thou-

sands of service members and veterans who have faced wrongful foreclosure or been denied a lower interest rate on their mortgages.

Service members and their dependents who believe that their Service Member Civil Relief Act rights have been violated should contact their servicing legal assistance office – 552-3046 at JBER-Elmendorf office, and 284-0371 for the JBER-Richardson office.

Additionally, information and referral services regarding the mortgage relief plan can be obtained at the JBER Military and Family Readiness Center, 552-4943.

## 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.

## Dining facility survey

ARAMARK is conducting a survey to evaluate how the contractor can better offer dining service to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The 17-question survey can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/bm5koz6>.

## Motorcycle training

Riders can now start the registration process for the 2012 Contracted Motorcycle Training.

A change from previous years is training is only offered to uniformed service members and Department of Defense civilians who have motorcycle operation listed in their position descriptions.

For information on how to register, call 552-5092.

## 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.

## 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.

## Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson 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.

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

At JBER-Richardson, visit the Housing Management Office, Building 600, Richardson Drive, or call at 384-3088 or 384-7632.

## Find housing

Visit the Automated Housing Referral Network at [www.ahrn.com](http://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.

## 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.

## 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.

For more information call 267-2153.





**Community**

**Harlem Globetrotter motivates JBER youth**

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**Families**

**New iSportsman system makes recreational base access easier**

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[www.jber.af.mil/news](http://www.jber.af.mil/news)

# COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 16

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

April 20, 2012



**ABOVE:** Phyllis Chaussee of the 673d Force Support Squadron starts preparing a shepherd's pie dish for the dinner meal at the Iditarod Dining Facility April 17. **BELOW:** Richard Wall of the 673d Force Support Squadron, works on scratch-made potato chips for the dinner meal at JBER's Iditarod Dining Facility April 17. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steven White)

## WINNERS!

### Iditarod wins Hennessy Trophy 2012

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf  
JBER Public Affairs

The Iditarod Dining Facility won the 2012 John L. Hennessy Trophy award for "Best in Air Force Food Transformation."

The men and women who work there that you may see every day, as well as the ones who work behind the scenes, have made that possible.

The Hennessy Trophy award is an annual award presented to Air Force installations with the best food-service programs.

According to the Hennessy Travelers Association, the awards are based on the entire scope of an installation's food-service program.

Winners must display excellence in management effectiveness, force-readiness support, food quality, employee and customer relations, resource conservation, training and safety awareness, officials said.

"We all worked really hard to earn it," said Senior Airman Ellen Wilson, 673d Force Support Squadron food service accountant.

The struggle to be considered the best required the best.

"It's a competition that selects the best of the best in the Air Force," said Kevin Moore, 673d Force Support Squadron assistant dining facility manager.

The award is not just a high-level Air Force award, but benefits all who receive it if they decide to pursue the culinary career outside the military.

"This reward is even recognized the National Restaurant Association," Moore said.

One thing that the personnel at the Iditarod did a lot of before even submitting paperwork for the Hennessy was preparation.

"(We prepared by) getting all our personnel taught how to do cooking in the corporate field – how to do it on the outside. We did that with partnership with Aramark with their executive chefs," Moore said.

It didn't just involve preparing food either.

For example, Wilson is in charge of all the meal cards on JBER – and that is just one small section of what she does.

"I just made sure my paperwork was perfect to the 'T' every day, (with) no mistakes and no discrepancies," Wilson said of her preparations.

The Iditarod filled out an Air Force Form 1206, which tells judges what they do in food service and what they have done throughout the year.

Air Force personnel may recognize this form as being the same one used to nominate troops for awards.

With the new Food Transformation Initiative, military and civilian personnel partnered with Aramark to learn the corporate side of dining.

"The Food Transformation Initiative is the new way the Air Force is leading," Moore said. "This is the new food system that the Air Force wants to convert all their dining facilities into."

An example of the FTI is that Airmen who use meal cards can use their card to purchase food from places other than the dining facility – places like the Paradise Café in the Arctic Oasis.

JBER was selected as one of the six bases to test the FTI pilot program and has now been in the process for a year and a half.

"We receive calls from other FTI bases on how we operate and how are things working for us," Moore said.

"We have actually had mess attendant project managers fly up and spend a week on board with our project managers to get a feel for how it is going – because their base is next in line to transition," Moore said.

A new program is sure to come with challenges, but the personnel involved overcame their challenge and with a big payoff that can be seen.

"Our headcounts have doubled and I think that's exciting," Wilson said. "People want to come here now and it's not just the Airmen that are forced to come here; people are choosing to come here," Wilson said.

A military chow hall, mess hall, or dining facility used to be stigmatized as mediocre or sub-par food.

The Iditarod is changing that.

"The picture that people get of mundane military dining facilities is changing," Wilson said.

"Those days are gone and are going to fall by the wayside," Moore added. "This is the new look of Air Force food service."



Russell Brown pours chicken stock through food strainer held by Airman 1st Class Juan Vargas of the Force Support Squadron as they make a confetti rice dish for the dinner meal at the Iditarod Dining Facility April 17. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steven White)



Greg Stevens of the Force Support Squadron on JBER, inspects fesh Romaine lettuce in preparing for the evening meal at the Iditarod.

# Fishing isn't just a way to stock the freezer; it's a philosophy

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Hovan  
793rd MP Bn. Chaplain

Breakup is upon us, which means we are quickly coming to that time of year that many of us

love, though there are a few out there who view it with disdain... fishing season.

Yes, it won't be long now before the salmon start their annual runs and Alaskan riverbanks will be lined shoulder-to-shoulder with fishermen and -women seeking what many consider the ultimate fishing experience.

A great deal can be learned by fishing...many fathers and mothers have passed on sage advice to their sons and daughters while relaxing along the banks of rivers and lakes across the country.

Fishing can be a great analogy for lessons we are wise to learn in our lives.

Most of us are familiar with the quote, "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach him to fish and

he'll eat for a lifetime," teaching us the importance of education over dependence.

For a recent meeting, I looked for some fishing wisdom online.

I laughed at many of the tidbits of "wisdom" I came across.

For instance, Chuck Clark stated, "Three-quarters of the Earth's surface is water, and one quarter is land.

"It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn."

I rather like the thought of that, but since I live on JBER, I feel Aurora Housing might not appreciate it if I live by that code.

In the Bible, fishing is mentioned a lot.

Many of Jesus' first followers

were fishermen.

In one of his most well-known miracles, he fed 5,000 people with five small loaves of bread and two fish.

Once, after they had an unsuccessful night of fishing, he told his fishermen friends where to throw their nets and they caught so many fish that the boat began to sink.

The history of the Christian church adopted the symbol of the fish early on as a code due to persecution by the officials of the day.

The Greek word for fish is "ichthus," which I'm sure your chaplain will be happy to talk to you about if you come by and ask.

In America, we're almost hard-wired to fish.

Many of our ancestors learned

to fish from Native Americans who preferred not to stand by and watch unprepared European settlers starve.

Now that we're in Alaska, many of us pack our freezers with halibut and salmon to enjoy throughout the year.

Patrick McManus said, "Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers."

So as you stand out there with your best buddies trying to catch "the big one" this summer, enjoy the experience - but also become that philosopher and think about life.

Looking inside ourselves like this is a key ingredient to finding peace and building spiritual strength and resilience.

# Overcoming sexual assault: a survivor's story

By Master Sgt. Kevin Wallace  
Air Force News Service

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — Living has always been a challenge for Senior Airman Jane Smith.

Seemingly born into an uphill world, physically and emotionally tested at every step, spirituality had continually strengthened her and still propels her forward in life, she said.

Smith was nearly driven to suicide after being sexually assaulted in 2010. Though raped and robbed of her dignity, 21-year-old Smith rebounded, vowing, "I'm going to make it."

To some, Smith's story may be all too familiar; to others, it's an unbelievably grim tale. For Smith, it's a tragic account of a life she's lived and matured from. She said she hopes that through the price she's already paid, others may grow stronger and wiser.

Smith's calamity started at birth.

Born to a drug-addicted mother, Jane was abandoned before her second birthday, lived briefly in a foster home and was later adopted by the man she grew to know as, "Dad."

The young Jane had trust issues and always felt she was living someone else's life.

"Still, through dedication and persistence, I did well in school, and studied difficult subjects like Latin and (higher) maths," Smith said.

The adolescent Smith continued to distrust. Her dad was physically abusive, which, when compounded with her troubled past, led to constant headaches and despair.

"I was a runaway by 17, lived briefly in a shelter, but continued to study on my own," she said. "I really liked school and wanted to be there."

Smith's future looked bleak and she

found herself contemplating suicide, she said. Two things continued to propel her forward when life seemed to continue to crumble around her.

Smith was a devoted Christian and felt strongly that suicide was the ultimate betrayal to God and to the few who loved her, she said. Secondly, since the tender age of 7, the year her mother died, Smith always wanted to serve her country.

She believed that serving in the Air Force made her a part of an organization that strengthened the frail, and provided a top-notch education for those who hadn't the means to attend college, she said.

She still had a dilemma - to enlist, she first had to finish high school.

Against her better judgment, Smith agreed to return home, with a promise from her dad that the abuse wouldn't continue.

He kept his promise and Smith prevailed. She shipped off to Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in July, after her high school graduation.

Entering the Air Force meant a new life for Smith and after BMT, she was trained in her Air Force specialty, earned senior airman below the zone, earned an annual career field award in 2010, and was on her way toward her goal of making chief master sergeant.

"For the first time in my life, I felt like nothing could stop me," said Smith.

But just as she felt things were finally going good for her, a friend betrayed her in an unthinkable manner.

During a temporary duty in at a state-

side location, that "friend" stripped her of her clothes, held her down and raped her, as she begged him and pleaded with "No, please stop, I don't want this!" the entire time, she said.

"(The alleged assailant) and I stayed on the same floor of our hotel," recalled Smith. "He came over to my room to watch a movie with me. I didn't see him as a threat and was friends with him at home station, so I didn't see a problem with watching a movie together.

"When he got to my room and started watching the movie, he started trying to touch me and asked if I wanted to (mess around sexually)," she said. "I told him, 'No.' He didn't take no for an answer, pinned me to the bed and stripped off my clothes, then ..."

Smith said she was then raped.

Smith, a 5-foot tall, 93-pound female was easily pinned down and couldn't break free, she said.

After being raped, the assailant then tried to hug her, in a manner as if they had just made love consensually.

Feeling sick, scared, ashamed and used, Smith quickly got dressed, pretended nothing happened and left.

She continued to serve the final week of her TDY working nearly side-by-side with her assailant.

When she returned home to her base on America's East Coast, Smith's coworkers noticed a drastic change in her.

"I left for my TDY a smiley and friendly

(Jane), and returned something else," she said. In fact, Smith's supervisor noticed she never smiled, was withdrawn, and would make frequent trips to the bathroom and return looking like she had just stopped crying.

A friend, who was also a rape survivor, confronted and confided in Smith, admitting that she had been raped and feared Smith was showing the same signs she did.

Smith revealed the truth about what happened on her TDY, she said. Her supervisor and coworkers were very supportive of her, and she filed an unrestricted report with her base's sexual assault and response coordinator.

Now engaged and set to marry in 2014, Smith is paving the path forward in life and in her career, she said. She continues to dedicate much of her time to her faith and now is also devoted to helping those who may have suffered the way she did, sexual assault victims.

When asked by Dickman to speak out about her experience, Smith gladly volunteered.

"If telling my story can help other people, then that's what I want to do," said the energetic Smith, who hopes to deploy soon.

"I still want to serve my country," she said. "I love the Air Force and volunteer for every deployment that my rank qualifies me for. Being raped partially defines who I am now, but will never define who I'm going to become. If ... no ... when I make (chief master sergeant) someday, I'm going to do everything I can to help foster a healthy team of Airmen."

*(Editor's note: The actual name, assignment and TDY locations of the alleged rape victim are withheld. Other facts are all actual accounts given by the alleged victim.)*

“When he got to my room ... he started trying to touch me and asked if I wanted to (mess around sexually).”

# FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



**.25¢ BOWLING SPECIAL**  
WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL - 2 - 4 P.M.  
**\$1 SHOE RENTAL**  
**POLAR BOWL - 753-PINS**



**MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD BARBEQUE**  
APRIL 21 - NOON - 2 P.M.  
**TWO RIVERS YOUTH/TEEN CENTER**  
**384-1508**



**FREE MOVIE & POPCORN**  
"WE BOUGHT A ZOO"  
APRIL 27 - 6 P.M.  
**THE ARCTIC OASIS - 552-8529**



**FREE AIR FORCE ISLAND LAKE SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS**  
APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1 CAMP DETAILS:  
JULY 31 - AUGUST 12 - AGES 8 - 13  
FOR ACTIVE DUTY AIR FORCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD, AND AIR FORCE RESERVE FAMILIES. PRIORITY GIVEN TO YOUTH WITH DEPLOYED PARENT. AF ISLAND LAKE CAMP IS LOCATED IN POCONO MOUNTAINS OF PENNSYLVANIA. TRANSPORTATION TO CAMP EXTRA. APPLY AT:  
[HTTPS://AFKM.WPAFB.AF.MIL/DOCVIEW.ASP?DOCID=11917412](https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/docview.asp?docid=11917412)

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



**WIN A FREE 30 MINUTE MASSAGE**  
BOOK A TABLE MASSAGE DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL AND MENTION THIS AD TO BE ENTERED TO WIN A FREE 30 MINUTE MASSAGE  
**MYSTIC SERENITY MASSAGE AT THE ARCTIC OASIS - 552-8529**



**INTRO TO SHRIMPING**  
APRIL 26 - 6 - 8 P.M. - FREE  
**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM ELMENDORF BLDG. 7301 - 552-4599**



**BIKE MAINTENANCE CLINIC**  
APRIL 21 & 28 - 1 P.M. - \$5  
**OUTDOOR RECREATION ELMENDORF**  
**552-2023**

# Community happenings

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
Harlem Globetrotters**  
The Harlem Globetrotters bring their entertaining brand of basketball to the Sullivan Arena for two nights and a matinee. Catch them Friday at 7 p.m. or Saturday at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.  
For more information email [marranca@harlemglobetrotters.com](mailto:marranca@harlemglobetrotters.com) or call (800) 641-4667 ext. 152.

**SATURDAY  
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](http://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](http://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](http://www.anchorageconcerts.org).

**THROUGH SUNDAY  
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](http://www.alyeskaresort.com).

**THURSDAY  
Organic gardening class**  
This informal workshop is hosted at GrassRoots at 6 p.m. Tikaan Galbreath will lead a question-and-answer session covering fertilizer, coldframe constructions, pest control and other concerns.  
For information, call 929-5835.

**Risk Reduction class**  
The JBER Sexual Assault

Prevention Office hosts the risk reduction class from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Learn to protect yourself against sexual assaults.  
For information, call 551-2033.

**APRIL 27 THROUGH 29  
Native Youth Olympics**  
More than 500 youth competitors meet at the Dena'ina Center to demonstrate strength, agility and skill in traditional games like the Seal Hop and Alaskan High Kick.  
April 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., April 28 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and April 29 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
For information, visit [www.citci.com/myogamesalaska](http://www.citci.com/myogamesalaska).

**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.  
Hosted both days from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Coast International Inn.  
For information visit [www.drglennkey.com](http://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](mailto:meese@anchorage.net).

**MAY 4  
Graduation ceremony**  
JBER hosts this ceremony at the Frontier (Richardson) Theater at 2 p.m. Those who have earned degrees through distance learning will be recognized.  
For information call 384-0970.

**MAY 5  
Salmon Run and carnival**  
Run or walk the Anchorage Coastal Trail for two, five or 10 kilometers starting at Inlet View Elementary School. Immediately after the run, an old-fashioned carnival is on tap with games and activities.  
For information visit [www.anchoragesalmonrun.com](http://www.anchoragesalmonrun.com).

**Rage City Rollergirls**  
The Dirty Pollis, Devil's Club and Sockeye Sallys host this three-

way internal tournament. Be at the Sullivan Arena for hard-hitting roller derby action. Doors open at 7 p.m. and wheels roll at 7:30.  
For more information visit [ragecityrollergirls.com](http://ragecityrollergirls.com).

**MAY 12  
Anchorage Ballet**  
Guest artist Rokaya Duvall joins the Anchorage Ballet in the last performance of the season as they perform her choreographic works.  
Join them for this celebration of spring at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m.  
For information call 263-2787 or visit [www.anchorageballet.com](http://www.anchorageballet.com).

**MAY 16  
Fighting Championship**  
Mixed martial arts are on tap at the Sullivan Arena starting at 7:30 p.m. Many a gritty Alaskan competitor has moved on to large-market venues such as UFC.  
For more information, visit their Facebook page *Alaskafighting*.

**MAY 17 THROUGH 23  
Rock of Ages**  
The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts hosts this five-time Tony-nominee arena-rock love story told through the hits of Journey, Styx, Poison, Asia, Pat Benatar and many others.  
For more information, visit [anchorageconcerts.org](http://anchorageconcerts.org) or call 263-2787.

**MAY 20  
Gold Nugget Triathlon**  
Women and girls are encouraged to participate in this triathlon, and mothers and daughters can participate as teams.  
For information, visit [goldnuggettriathlon.com](http://goldnuggettriathlon.com) or email [clairecnc@hotmail.com](mailto:clairecnc@hotmail.com).

**ONGOING  
Sing-along 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-alongs are held at 10:30 a.m. Mondays at the coffee shop greenhouse.  
For information email [klarson@alaskazoo.org](mailto:klarson@alaskazoo.org).

**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 Fridays at 6 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.  
For information, call 552-5234, visit [www.trainweb.org/msmre](http://www.trainweb.org/msmre) or email [bjorgan@alaska.net](mailto:bjorgan@alaska.net).

**Combat Fishing tourney**  
Registration is open through May 2 for the annual Combat Fishing tournament. If you have recently returned from a combat zone or are deploying within six months, register for a spot on the boats.  
For more information, visit [asymcaofalaska.com](http://asymcaofalaska.com) or visit their office on the second floor of the Kashim club.

**Motorcycle training**  
The Basic Rider Course, Basic Rider Course 2 and Military Sport-bike Rider Course will begin soon for the April 15 start of motorcycle riding.  
To register, visit [www.militarysafepmv.com](http://www.militarysafepmv.com) and select Elmendorf-Richardson, contact the JBER Safety office at 552-5092 or 552-6850.

**AER, AFAP campaigns**  
Army Emergency Relief and the Air Force Assistance Fund are taking donations to help service members and families in need with grants or loans.  
To donate, contact your unit AER or AFAP representative or first sergeant, or call 552-2629.

**Youth coaches needed**  
Little League coaches are still needed for baseball and softball season. There are many slots available, and no previous experience is necessary—only a desire to connect with youth.  
Anyone interested in coaching

## 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, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday**  
11:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel Center  
**Thursday**  
11:30 a.m. – Hospital Chapel

**Confession**  
Saturday  
6 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.)

JBER youth is encouraged to call 552-2266 or email [paul.caron@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:paul.caron@elmendorf.af.mil).

**Scholarship opportunities**  
The Denali chapter of the Airlift/Tanker Association is offering scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year. Applications are due by May 15.  
For information or an application, email [fernando.cervantes@us.af.mil](mailto:fernando.cervantes@us.af.mil) or [kevin.vaughan@us.af.mil](mailto:kevin.vaughan@us.af.mil).

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## TRIPS & ADVENTURE



**KENAI FJORDS TOURS**  
DAILY BEGINNING APRIL 27  
\$84.10 ADULT, \$46.30 2-11 YRS  
**MAJOR MARINE TOURS**  
DAILY UNTIL MAY 13  
\$74.60 ADULT, \$39.05 2-11 YRS  
INFORMATION, TICKETS, & TRAVEL  
753-2378



**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  
RESERVATIONS: 552-5526

## SINGLE SERVICE MEMBERS



**MADDEN 12 TOURNEY**  
APRIL 21 - 2 P.M. - FREE  
ARCTIC CHILL/BOSS/WARRIOR ZONE  
384-9006 OR 384-9023



**8-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT**  
QUALIFYING ROUND  
APRIL 27 - 6 P.M. - SIGN-UP AT 5:30  
FREE FOR MEMBERS - \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS  
ARCTIC CHILL/BOSS/WARRIOR ZONE  
384-7619



**TOUR OF ANCHORAGE**  
LEARN ABOUT YOUR DUTY STATION FOR SOLDIERS/AIRMEN WHO ARRIVED AT JBER IN FEBRUARY OR LATER  
APRIL 28 - 9 A.M. - 11 P.M. - \$75  
INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ALL MEALS, AND ENTRY TICKETS TO A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES  
ARCTIC CHILL/BOSS/WARRIOR ZONE  
384-9023



more jber fun at [elmendorf-richardson.com](http://elmendorf-richardson.com)





Harlem Globetrotter Wun Versher, known as "The Shot" for his ability to throw the Globetrotters' unique four-point shots, gives a demonstration at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center Tuesday on JBER. The demo was followed by an autograph and photo session. The Globetrotters bring their unique brand of family-friendly basketball to the Sullivan Arena Friday and Saturday nights.

## Globetrotter spreads cheer to JBER youth

LEFT: Harlem Globetrotter Wun Versher, known as "The Shot," helps Lexi Page, daughter of Sgt. Vincent Page, spin a basketball. The demonstration was at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center on JBER.  
BELOW: Versher is assisted by Jerimiah Sweet, son of Air Force Staff Sgt. Karen Sweet of the 673d Medical Support Squadron, during the demonstration. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steven White)



## New iSportsman system makes base access easier

By Senior Airman Blake Mize  
JBER Public Affairs

A new system will soon be implemented at JBER, which will make recreational areas on the base easier to access for those with military affiliation as well as those without.

The iSportsman system is a recreation access system that is the first of its kind at an Air Force installation and will replace the U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Recreation Tracking System, or USARTRAK.

"This new system is much more user-friendly because it provides maps and more accurate openings for training areas," said Mark Sledge, JBER's senior conservation enforcement officer. "USARTRAK was good for its time but it was not as reliable as this new system."

The iSportsman system allows people who do not have any affiliation with the military to have access to certain areas of the base for recreational purposes, such as hiking and fishing.

For those who already have access to the base, it allows them to more safely recreate on the installation because it requires that they provide their planned destination on the base.

To access iSportsman, those who are interested should go to [www.jber.isportsman.net](http://www.jber.isportsman.net). After

a quick registration process, a permit number and pin number is automatically generated.

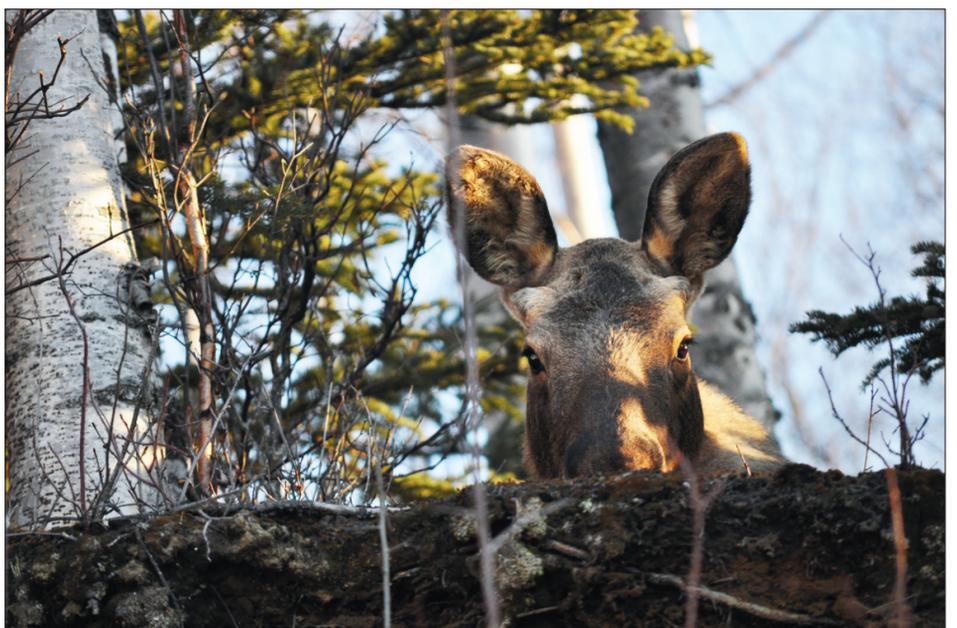
Once those are issued, a permit may be obtained. For those without military affiliation, that permit is then taken to the JBER visitors center where they register in the Defense Biometric Identification System.

Once registered, a seven-day pass is issued and must be renewed every seven days that access to JBER is desired.

"The registration process allows us to figure out whether you are Department of Defense-affiliated or not," Sledge said. "The program had to be written to recognize those with no military affiliation and only allow them to go where the public can go."

Sledge said while this system was developed in order to facilitate the relationship between JBER and those members of the public who wish to recreate on the training lands here, the military mission will always be the first priority.

"Because this is a military installation, training obviously comes first," Sledge said. "The whole reason this base is here is for Soldiers, Airmen and other military personnel. But when those areas are not being utilized for training, we can open them up for fishing and hiking or whatever."



If you're looking to hunt moose – like this young bull – or fish, camp, or otherwise recreate on JBER, the new iSportsman interface which is being implemented can streamline your registration and keep you safer on public-use land. (U.S. Air Force photo/John Pennell)

DoD card holders, including retirees and dependents, are not as limited as to where on the installation they are allowed to recreate but they still must register with the iSportsman program for safety and security reasons.

"It's a great system. If you get out there and you get lost or you get

hurt and you don't come home, I can query the system and see where you are signed in and start looking for you," Sledge said. "It gives me a place to start. It also keeps you from being downrange when Soldiers are shooting live ammunition. It's a win-win."

Although Sledge said the pro-

gram may go through growing pains in the early stages, it offers advantages for everyone.

"It's a new system. There are going to be little bumps with it as we go. Be patient with us. Once we get all the bugs worked out, it's going to be great for both the military and the user," he said.











