

Eggstravaganza

Children at JBER search for more than 30,000 eggs at Buckner Physical Fitness Center
Page B-1



Bak District control point

Paratroopers of Task Force Blue Geronimo partner with Afghan National Security Forces in Bak District
Page A-2



www.jber.af.mil/news

ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 3, No. 15

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

April 13, 2012



LONG-RANGE STRIKE

A B-1B Lancer bomber taxis off the runway at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., April 4 following a combat training mission over the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex. The purpose of the exercise was to validate the long-range capabilities of bombers and escort fighters to work together for deep-strike missions. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kate Thornton)

B-1 bomber strike force validates combat lessons learned

Public Affairs news report

Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 168th Air Refueling Wing as well as a mix of Airmen from the 477th Fighter Group, 3rd Wing, and 673rd Air Base Wing from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson participated in a nationwide joint exercise aimed at validating long-range capabilities of several Air Force bombers and fighters April 4.

Dubbed Operation Chimichanga, KC-135 Stratotankers from the 168th Air Refueling Wing, Eielson Air Force Base, F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aggressor aircraft from Misawa Air Base, Japan, B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and the F-22 Raptor fighter and E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft

See **Bomber strike**, Page A-3



AB-1B Lancer bomber refuels with a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 168th Air Refueling Wing April 4 as part of a combat training mission over the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Carl Kohntopp)



Spc. Jeffrey Lee White Jr.

One Spartan paratrooper killed, five wounded

U.S. Army Alaska news release

A Soldier assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson died April 3 in Khowst Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device while on a mounted patrol.

Five other Soldiers were wounded in the incident.

Spc. Jeffrey Lee White Jr., 21, of Catawissa, Mo., was assigned to the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson where he served as an infantryman.

White joined the Army in October 2009 and graduated from Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training and the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

He arrived in Alaska in April 2010 and deployed with the Airborne brigade in December 2011. This was White's first combat deployment.

The next of kin have been notified.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas bridges U.S., Indian army engineers

By Army Capt. Bonnie Cowles
2d Engineer Brigade PAO

For the first time in eight years engineer brigades participated in the annual Yudh Abhyas bilateral exercise.

The U.S. Army's 2d Engineer Brigade from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, teamed up with its Indian Army hosts, the 471 Combat Engineer Brigade, in Bathinda, India, to train on a United Nations-modelled peace support operation.

During the course of 14 days, the engineer brigades bridged cultural and operational differences to create one cohesive staff capable of analyzing and developing courses of action to apply to various peacekeeping scenarios.

During the first week, both brigades attended a series of lectures that focused on counterinsurgency, disaster management and United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Participants also taught classes on military history and cultural customs culminating in a shared celebration of Holi, the Hindu celebration of colors symbolizing the end of winter and beginning of spring.

For many soldiers the festivities marked the end of the academic exchange and the beginning



An Indian Army soldier takes a quick breath during live-fire training, which was part of Yudh Abhyas 2012. Soldiers of 2nd Engineer Brigade participated in the exercise with their Indian counterparts of 471 Combat Engineer Brigade. (U.S. Army video still/Staff Sgt. Robert Ham)

of the unity and cultural immersion to come.

U.S. Army Maj. Melissa Koenig, the 2d Engineer Brigade judge advocate, described Holi as the day when the real bonding began.

The second week kicked off

the command post exercise. For Brigadier Rajeev Chaudhry, the commander of the 471 Combat Engineer Brigade, this exercise was a "golden chance to train together."

Determined to take advantage of it and knowing both armies had

a lot to contribute, he and 2d Engineer Brigade Commander U.S. Army Col. Thomas Roth decided to integrate both brigade staffs into one combined brigade tactical operations center.

Embracing their commanders'

intent, Indian Army Officer Lt. Col. Pranaya Dangwal and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark Nadig, took it a step further and had each staff member work directly with a counterpart from the other army. As senior leaders, they recognized the key to constructing a successful team was developing relationships.

"Everything should be done shoulder to shoulder," Nadig said.

He said he strongly believes the experience would open leaders up to a larger perspective of the world and any potential operating environment in which they may find themselves conducting missions.

Each army was eager to use the other's methods, so the team used the U.S. Army's military decision making process for the first half and the Indian Army's task to appreciation process for the second. The staff quickly realized that in order to progress from one step of the analysis to the next, patience and the ability to understand their counterpart's perspective was essential.

"When we had to (do) MDMP together and everyone wanted to put their point of view ahead of their counterparts. We had to thoroughly explain our methods and practices without offending

See **Engineers**, Page A-3

Index

- Videographer captures action.....A-2
- Guard supports Arctic Care.....A-3
- Briefs and announcements.....A-4
- Chaplain's Corner.....B-2
- Birth announcements.....B-2
- Community calendar.....B-3
- Fire safety basics.....B-6

Time to remove studded tires

Tires with studs must be removed before May 1. Motorists who do not comply will be subject to a \$50 per tire fine on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.



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BAK DISTRICT CONTROL POINT



ABOVE: Sgt. William Burns, a native of Littleton, Colo., and team leader assigned to 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, and an Afghan National Army soldier set up a temporary control point in Bak district, March 30.

LEFT: An Afghan man waves to Soldiers assigned to 1-501st Inf. BELOW: Spc. Shawnte Rollin, a native of Elkhart, Ind., and part of the female engagement team, and Afghan National Security soldiers collect information from motorists passing through a temporary control point set up in Bak district, March 30. (U.S. Army photos/Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson)



JBER videographer captures the action

Broadcast journalist trains with Marines

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding
JBER Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — The behind-the-scenes scrutiny of documenting combat training came to life as Airman 1st Class Armando Aparicio Jr. donned his flight gear and video equipment to join the 210th and 212th rescue squadrons for their combat skills training in Southern California March 15.

"People see me out videotaping and they say 'Gee that's an awesome job,' but they don't realize how much work they don't see that goes into making the action recorded into a production," said Aparicio, a videographer with the 673d Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office. "Capturing the footage is a small part and it's probably my favorite as well."

On March 12, he received short notification the rescue squadrons were going on a training mission to California. Coordination and schedules were made and amended as timelines changed depending on aircraft departure availabilities throughout the week. He was required to take everything he



Airman 1st Class Armando Aparicio documents Air Force training in an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter during Exercise Mojave Viper March 16. The 210th and 212th rescue squadrons, Alaska Air National Guard, participated in Exercise Mojave Viper with the 3rd Battalion 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, N.C., before they deploy together to Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)

needed for field shooting with him. Coming back to Alaska wasn't an option.

"It's a lot of gear that we carry," Aparicio said. "We have different lenses, battery packs, laptop, charger, cleaning equipment, the camera itself, and a tripod is just my equipment. Then, while I am flying, I have to wear the required flight gear too. As much as I hate having to carry so much stuff for a shoot, it all has its role."

While the doors were locked open and the rotor blades were flinging dust and dirt into the air, Aparicio sat in the back of an HH-60G Pave Hawk combat search and rescue helicopter, assigned to the 210th RQS, recording brown outs, take-offs and

landings. Of course he was strapped into a harness, but when moving around and having to stabilize a camera in a high speed moving helicopter, the task often becomes a bit more difficult.

"Getting a shot from a moving helicopter is pretty difficult," said Aparicio. "Balancing myself and the camera, was the hardest part in getting the shot, but with some practice, documenting the training became more my focus than having to worry about balance."

He said documenting the training is more than just getting footage in the air, it's also about making people comfortable with having the video camera around. When it comes to cameras, its often difficult when

people act weird or camera shy. This can inhibit getting the best job done as well as hindering the training taking place because the person isn't able to fully focus on the mission at hand. Coordinating when and where to be at the right time to get the right shot is just as difficult.

"You'd have either the option of getting on the flight or staying on the ground to see the action this way or that way," Aparicio said. "But then you'd have a team going to do a mass-casualty extraction while another one would be recovering a simulated explosion. Everyone is doing something and, as a videographer, you want to get it all but you can only be in one place at one time. Most of the time, you have to rely on the leadership who's coordinating to help you decide where you're going to get the most action."

Work doesn't stop once the training is complete, Aparicio said. Keeping the equipment clean and sorting through hours of footage are all on the list of things to get done. Aparicio said he had more than five hours of footage from spending an entire week with the RQS and those hours required review and editing.

There are still the multiple interviews and script writing that takes place. The script is used to narrate the broadcasting portion of the job which is then released to a database where local news stations and any media source has access to use it.

"The most important part of completing the final product is when I can answer the question 'Is this something we can use?' with a 'Yes,'" Aparicio said. "The primary mission is to document their training so they can use it for further training. The plus side is when I can share what it is our Airmen do, or what any service member does, with the rest of the world."

JBER videos can be found at www.jber.af.mil.

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Editorial office: Building 10480, Suite 123; Mailing address: JBER Public Affairs, 10480 22nd St., Suite 123, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506; telephone (907) 552-2174. Send emails about news stories to Arctic.Warrior@elmendorf.af.mil and david.bedard@elmendorf.af.mil.

Deadline for article and photos is 4:30 p.m., Monday, for the week of publication. Articles and photos will be published on a space-available basis and are subject to editing by the Arctic Warrior staff. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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Military medical professionals arrive in Alaska for Arctic Care

Joint military medical exercise supports Alaska community

By Air Force Maj. Guy Hayes
Alaska National Guard PAO

Military aircraft carrying participants for Arctic Care 2012 arrived in Alaska Monday for the largest recurring joint military medical readiness and logistics training exercise.

Medical professionals from the Arizona and Colorado National Guard, Army Reserve and Navy Reserve began arriving from the lower 48 as early as April 2, with the majority arriving Monday. They are joined by active duty military, Alaska National Guardsmen and host support from the Norton Sound Health Corporation.

With more than 250 military medical professionals traveling to Nome to provide care in 16 remote locations to underserved populations, accountability of personnel is crucial to ensuring safety during the two-week mission and is accomplished through the Joint Reception Staging Onward Movement Integration or JRSOI.

“The objective is to in-process the personnel for accountability before they travel to the various villages in support of Arctic Care 2012,” said Army Lt. Col. Don Mercer, JRSOI commander, Alaska National Guard. “We accomplish this by conducting briefings, answering questions and providing support to all the participants involved in this operation.”

The JRSOI centralizes and controls the movement of all service members arriving



Arctic Care participants sit onboard an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Monday before heading to Nome. Medical professionals from the Alaska National Guard, Arizona National Guard, Colorado National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve and active duty will spend the next two weeks providing medical care to Alaskans in 16 remote communities. (Alaska National Guard photo/Air Force Maj. Guy Hayes)

in Alaska and provides accountability to the joint task force commander.

As the service members arrive in Nome, they receive a welcome message from Gov. Sean Parnell and an overview briefing that covers the exercise along with safety, legal, public relations and community information.

“It’s very important that we have visibility of all service members flowing in to

Alaska in support of Operation Arctic Care 2012,” said Air Force Brig. Gen. Deborah McManus, chief of joint staff for the Alaska National Guard. “They are performing a vital mission in support of rural Alaska residents, and it’s our job to ensure that we account and take care of every service member coming to Alaska for Arctic Care.”

Operation Arctic Care, led this year by

the Alaska National Guard, will bring health care and veterinary support to residents in the Bering Strait and Norton Sound regions of western Alaska.

Sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Arctic Care is scheduled until April 23.

Bomber strike

From Page A-1

assigned to the 3rd Wing participated in the U.S. Strategic Command operation.

“The objective of this operation was to validate the long-range strike capability of the B-1s as well as the F-22 and F-16s ability to escort them into an anti-access target area,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Kunkel, 90th Fighter Squadron commander, who sent five 90th FS pilots, a 302d FS pilot, 20 maintainers, a flight surgeon and a bio-environmental engineer to Eielson Air Force Base for the exercise.

This was the first time the Raptors participated in this exercise, which integrated multiple platforms from different major commands. It was also the first time that Increment 3.1, a recent F-22 hardware and software upgrade, was used in a large force employment exercise.

“Increment 3.1 gives the Raptor the means to find and engage targets on the ground. During this operation, it was critical to follow-on forces completing their missions,” Kunkel said. “Our integration of 3.1 went extremely well. We were able to glean invaluable lessons from this exercise that we had not seen before and we completed increment 3.1 upgrades for two of the pilots.”

While this was the first time increment 3.1 and the Raptors participated in this exercise it was not the first time the Reserve F-22 pilots assigned to the 302nd FS, which falls under the 477th Fighter Group, integrated with the active duty. Since the unit was activated in 2007 pilots and maintainers have integrated in all aspects of the 3rd Wing’s F-22 operations.

Personnel operated F-22s, KC-135s and F-16s out of Eielson Air Force Base, while E-3s and additional F-16s supported the exercise from JBER. The B-1s participating in the long-range strike exercise flew a 10-hour round trip mission from Ellsworth Air Force Base to strike their targets just east of Eielson. This exercise allowed the various aircraft to work together in a simulated strike environment to practice interoperability while simultaneously traveling long distances and receiving air refueling support.



F-22 Raptor fighters assigned to the 90th Fighter Squadron prepare to take off from Eielson Air Force Base April 4. The Raptors from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson were participating in a long-range strike exercise over the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex. (Courtesy photo)

“We had our KC-135 tankers up in the air refueling the aircraft involved in the exercise,” said Air Force Maj. Scott Lanis, 168th Operations Group chief of scheduling. “Within seven hours of flight time, we offloaded 147,000 pounds of fuel.”

With the completion of the exercise, B-1 aircrews were able to validate bomber tactics, techniques and procedures learned from Operation Odyssey Dawn over the skies of Libya in March 2011.

“The sortie went well,” said Air Force Capt. Charles Armstrong, 37th Bomb Squadron weapon systems operator and mission commander for the exercise. “We were able to validate the AGM-158 (Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile) tactics that we wanted to, and we were able to see the long distance

communication links in action.

“It was a great opportunity to simulate Operation Odyssey Dawn in miniature,” Armstrong continued. “We flew a long distance, while fighting into a target and then flew a long distance back.”

The operation was conducted on the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex near Eielson Air Force Base. The 65,000-square mile air space provides a diverse training environment, allowing pilots to train realistically and jointly in situations similar to what they’ll face in combat. The operation involved numerous commands and went smoothly, according to Lanis.

“This was a total force operation with commands from Alaska all the way down to the Lower 48,” Lanis said. “We were

prepared and worked seamlessly with everyone to make this an all-around successful exercise.”

Air Force Col. Tyler Otten, 477th FG deputy commander, echoed Lanis’ assessment of the value of the exercise.

“This realistic training is a result of high quality Airmen leveraging new capabilities on an excellent training range,” he said. “This is a great example of total force integration partners working together to accomplish our shared mission.”

With reporting by Air Force Capt. Ashley Conner/477th Fighter Group PAO; Air Force 2nd Lt. Bernie Kale/168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs; and Airman Hrair H. Palyan/28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Engineers

From Page A-1

anyone,” Sgt. Maj. Eric Vidal, the 2d Engineer Brigade’s logistics sergeant major, said.

Vidal said the greatest lesson he learned was the way in which the Indian Army analyzed and problem solved.

“The Indian Army analyses all problems thoroughly and drills down to the company level,” he said.

As a result, according to Vidal, the Indian Army influenced him to develop his analytical skills as well as a better plan for his subordinates.

The consensus was clear among the Indian Army engineers – the biggest takeaway was the use of mock engagements with role players to better develop soldiers.

In the U.S. Army, it is common to reinforce classroom training with practical exercises. Using role players to help replicate scenarios Soldiers may find themselves in while conducting missions is just one way in which the U.S. Army



Indian Army Lt. Gen. Gyan Bhushan, Uttam Vishist Seva Medal and Spc. Walter Colindres share a greeting during Bhushan’s visit to the command post exercise site during Yudh Abhyas 2011-2012, a United Nations-modeled peace support operation. (U.S. Army photo/Chief Warrant Officer 3 Wandy Tumline)

practices this paradigm; something the Indian Army had very little exposure to until now.

Indian Army Lt. Col. Dangwal, who completed his first mock key leader engagement during this

CPX, found role playing to be an enjoyable learning experience, describing the event as a “fun sense

of exposure.” He said he plans to incorporate this type of training for his subordinates in the future.

Throughout the exercise, non-commissioned officers worked behind the scenes, but they didn’t go unnoticed.

When asked what impressed him the most, Indian Army Capt. Vijay Patel said, “The leadership quietly shown by NCOs in administration as well as in operation conditions.”

Dangwal echoed that sentiment.

“The NCO Corps of the U.S. Army is an absolute strength,” he said, describing it as something the Indian Army can learn from.

What was most surprising to both sides was how similar the armies were. Both were well trained, professional armies with extraordinary leadership and experience who share many of the same concerns.

“We have much in common, from structure to war fighting ethic, and I wouldn’t have thought that before I came here,” said U.S. Army Maj. Brian Brobeck, 2d Engineer Brigade’s current operations officer for the exercise.

Briefs and Announcements

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.

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.

Holocaust remembrance

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Equal Opportunity Office will host the 2012 Holocaust Remembrance Day 2 p.m., Thursday, at the Richardson Theater.

Rabbi Yosef Greenberg will be the guest speaker.

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 Tuesday.

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.

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>.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Joint Family Action Plan conference on JBER

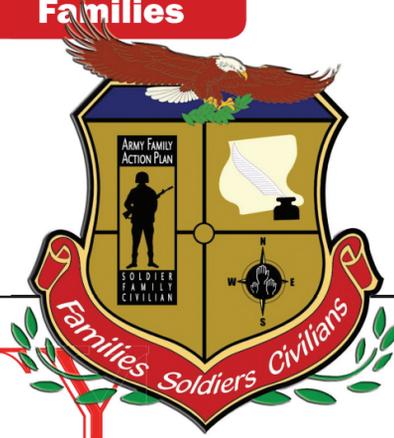
Page B-4

30 days of Earth Day

Page B-4

www.jber.af.mil/news

COMMUNITY



Volume 3, No. 15

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

April 13, 2012

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



Ella Jones, age 2, picks up an egg and puts it in a basket held by Arianne Jones, her mother, at the "Easter Eggstravaganza" on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Saturday. This was the first year they combined the Air Force and Army Easter celebration and hosted it at Buckner Physical Fitness Center. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)



BELOW: Simone Pelley, age 5, runs under a parachute during the Family Fun and Fitness Fair inside the Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Saturday. The fair was hosted as part of the Month of the Military Child in conjunction with the "Easter Eggstravaganza" that was held right outside the gym.

LEFT: Children and adults hold up a parachute and play simple games during part of the activities.



Joint Easter celebration brings families together from around JBER

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf
JBER Public Affairs

The 2012 "Easter Eggstravaganza" took place outside the Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Saturday.

This was the first time the event was held jointly.

"Last year we had one in a hangar on Elmendorf and then one at Cottonwood Park here on Fort Richardson," said Amanda Randall, 673d Force Support Squadron youth programs division youth programmer.

When a hangar wasn't available to host the event, the coordinators reached out for help.

"This was really great for Buckner (Physical Fitness Center) to come out and support us and give us a place to do this," Randall said.

The "Easter Eggstravaganza" has been going on for more than ten years.

This year, volunteers spread out 30,000 Easter eggs for the children to find.

"The kids always love to come and pick up the eggs," said Arianne Jones, an egg hunter's mother.

Not only did the event bring Army and Air Force families together, but the coordinators also hosted a joint event inside the Buckner Physical Fitness Center.

The Family Fun and Fitness Fair was hosted by the Health and Wellness Center as a way to reduce the down time between the egg hunts and as a way to help families.

"One thing we are trying to promote on this base is resiliency and (we do that by) teaching children and families the skills they need to be mentally and physically strong and how to adapt and grow in situations that could be difficult," said Rebecca Kleinschmidt, Health and Wellness Center health educator.

The fair hosted many groups like Military OneSource, the Alaska National Guard, and classes from the Arctic Oasis.

The groups set up stations where families could come and learn more about them but also to have fun with games or even face painting for the kids.

One group even had an obstacle course for the kids to run.

"We really have grown as a team, the group of people that come together to put on this event really work efficiently and effectively together and we have learned a lot through the process in preparing for this event, so it seems logical to continue, if we can get support for this again next year; we would love to do that," Kleinschmidt said.



Parents and children run onto the field to begin the egg hunt during the "Easter Eggstravaganza" on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Saturday. This was the first year that they combined the Air Force and Army Easter celebration and held it at Buckner Physical Fitness Center.

Providing pastoral care to JBER in a hospital setting

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Maj.) John Min
Pastoral coordinator

One of the most important responsibilities of a chaplain, regardless of institutional setting, is to provide spiritual guidance and care to those who are in need.

In a hospital setting, this may consist of counseling the staff, patients and family members during times of stress and emergency.

The pastoral care may also include providing a listening shoulder and counseling to people who are undergoing life issues due to personal or work related stress.

What is pastoral care? There is no easy definition, although it is something to do with looking after a person you have some formal responsibility for (unlike a friend).

The word pastoral is related to shepherd and sheep, which sound very politically incorrect in these days of a client or service user.

However incorrect it sounds, it reflects the truth that we have a certain responsibility for patients as people, as we do for our colleagues, especially if we have a management responsibility.

Our job is not limited to certain actions, but includes that hard to define thing called care.

Understanding pastoral care as it pertains to the military and their families is important. Pastoral theology is shepherding as a result of a study of God and theology put into practice – the practical application of ministry.

Pastor is the Latin word for shepherd, and is related to “pastus,” meaning feeding. A pastor sees to the feeding, well being and growth of the flock.

In hospitals, the vast majority of pastoral care is not carried out by chaplains but by the professional JBER nursing staff, irrespective of grade.

This said, different levels of

authority mean that pastoral care is carried out differently.

For example, everyone can show such care by sitting alongside someone when they are anxious or distressed and simply listening without judgment.

If we have a greater level of responsibility for the care of a patient however, pastoral care may involve some further action on our part.

This is why the pastoral care role and the primary nurse is distinctive. All disciplines have a role in such care, chaplains, consultants, psychologists, and so on, although each has a different amount of contact time and different levels of overall responsibility.

What makes the primary doctor and nurse special is that they have the greatest balance of time and responsibility.

All chaplains understand the central importance of confidentiality in counseling.

A confidential communication

in the military counseling context is understood as involving religion, matters of conscience, other information conveyed to a chaplain in the chaplain’s role as a spiritual advisor, or a communication that is not intended to be disclosed.

As chaplains, we represent and remind our military members and families that God calls us to be accountable while also having the foremost qualities of compassion and mercy for his human creation.

The people God has called us to serve – warriors and their families – are often experiencing extreme challenges.

It goes without saying in the military that this can also include warfare. There can be experiences in human life that are more extreme than the stress of war.

Our pastoral care is often a work in the extreme.

We are not often in the circumstances of war, but very likely the extreme of general life in this

present culture.

We watch over the flock with care for all of their concerns as they all affect the soul of the warrior. Care is an important ministry for military members and their families in our JBER hospital.

Our ministry of presence, active listening and sincere prayer is making a difference to those in need.

These ministrations heal people in a holistic way. This healing is the wholeness or harmony of the body, mind and spirit.

In pastoral care the emphasis is on listening for the pain, speaking God’s word of healing and sacramental ministry where appropriate.

We intervene with prayer and counseling as a means for God to provide healing though the ministry we have been called to offer.

Therefore I will serve people in or out patient in hospital humbly and gratefully.

Births

MARCH 26

A son, Domenico Gianluca Novascone, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 8 a.m. to Talissa Mae Novascone and Airman 1st Class Luca Anthony Novascone of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

MARCH 27

A son, Timothy Matthew Jones, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 12:03 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Melissa Sue Jones of the 381st Intelligence Squadron and Jonathan David Jones.

A son, Elijah David Soles, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 7:08 p.m. to Klesea Anne Soles and Senior Airman Jonathan David Soles of the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

MARCH 28

A son, Kyler Jordan Nelson, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 10 pounds, 13 ounces at 7:59 a.m. to Krista Shardei Nelson and Pfc. Kyle Kenneth Nelson of the 4th Quartermaster Detachment.

MARCH 29

A daughter, Harper Elizabeth Boyd, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 9:29 p.m. to Ashley Lynn Boyd and Air Force Staff Sgt. David Matthew Boyd of the 962nd Airborne Air

Control Squadron.

A son, Ryson Blake Chavez, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces at 10:43 a.m. to Melanie Kay Chavez and Airman 1st Class Patric Aaron Chavez of the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron.

A daughter, Alexandra JayLynn Murphy, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces at 11:15 p.m. to Jessica Camille Murphy and Army Capt. Jerry Earnest Murphy of the Troop Health Clinic.

MARCH 30

A son, JeiDee Luis Claunan, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces at 9:03 a.m. to Irasema Elizabeth Claunan and Air Force Master Sgt. Leovan Luric Claunan of the 212th Rescue Squadron.

A son, Cameron Nicholas Crosby, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces at 8:25 a.m. to Spc. Tara Lynn Crosby of the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, and Spc. Jeffery Douglas Crosby of the 793rd Military Police Battalion.

A daughter, Delilah Rain Mellott, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 1:09 a.m. to Stephanie Alecia Mellott and Spc. Brandon Keith Mellott of 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th

Infantry Regiment.

A son, Peyton Michael Nelson, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 1:10 p.m. to Erin Marie Nelson and Sgt. Michael Birl Nelson of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division rear detachment.

MARCH 31

A daughter, Carmelita Kaydence Guzman, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 12:47 a.m. to Tanisha An Guzman and Air Force Staff Sgt. Shawn Kevin Guzman of the 673d Logistical Readiness Squadron.

A daughter, Sophie Chantel Watkins, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 12:28 a.m. to Pfc. Raven Christine Watkins.

APRIL 1

A daughter, Esther Neveah John, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 7:49 a.m. to Deslina John and Pfc. Travor John of the 6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne) (Combat).

A son, Ethan Connor Stewart, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces at 4:43 p.m. to Erika Stewart and Spc. Christopher of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

A daughter, Khristian Samuel Wolfe, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces at 1 a.m. to Karen Isela Wolfe and Pfc. Derek Samuel Wolfe of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade.

APRIL 3

A son, Amariyan Malik Jester, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 1:34 a.m. to Spc. Erica Jean Jester of the 109th Transportation Company.

A daughter, Bralyne Renee Webster, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 12:16 p.m. to Krystal Renee Webster and Air Force Staff Sgt. Niklas Jay Webster of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.

APRIL 4

A son, Jude Nathan Burnett, was born 21.75 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 1 ounce at 11:30 a.m. to Anna Quinton Crosson Burnett and Air Force 1st Lt. Joshua Stephen Burnett of the 673d Communications Squadron.

A son, William Nehemiah Harmond, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 1:43 p.m. to Army Staff Sgt. Sheena Monique Harmond of the 2nd Engineer Battalion and Sgt. Eric Dominic Harmond of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

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)

HEALTH & WELLNESS



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



BREAK-UP FUN RUN
APRIL 20 - NOON
SIGN-UP AT 11 A.M.
JBER ELMENDORF FITNESS CENTER
552-0610



SWIM MEET
APRIL 19 - NOON
SIGN-UP AT 11 A.M.
BUCKNER PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER
552-0610

Community happenings

SATURDAY
Anchorage Symphony season finale
 This bittersweet performance of Brahms's Double Concerto features superstar cellist Zuill Bailey as well as Sitka Music Festival founder and violinist Paul Rosenthal.

Celebrate the last of the season at 8 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.
 For information visit www.anchoragesymphony.org.

MONDAY
Dierks Bentley
 Country singer Dierks Bentley, who shot to stardom with his 2003 hit "What Was I Thinkin'," is now on his sixth album.
 He brings his eclectic style to the Sullivan Arena at 7:30 p.m.
 For tickets, visit ticketmaster.com.

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
Hunter's Education
 Everyone 10 and older is invited to Hunter's Education on JBER. Classes meet every night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
 For information, call 384-7482 or 227-5052.

TUESDAY
Girls' Night Out for health
 All women eligible for care at the JBER hospital are invited to a women's health night out at the hospital with door prizes, food, manicures and fun. Appointments will be first come, first-served.
 For information call 580-4182.

THURSDAY
Arctic Thunder booths
 The Arctic Thunder Open House booth lottery will be at the Talkeetna Theater at 1 p.m.
 Those interested in having a re-sale booth at the JBER Arctic Thunder open house should plan to attend.
 For information, call 552-8701.

FRIDAY
Eddie Izzard comedy
 Comedian Eddie Izzard hails from Europe, "where the history comes from," and brings his unique historical, political and surreal brand of tangential narrative to the Wendy Williamson auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
 For information, visit www.uaatix.com.

APRIL 19
Holocaust Memorial day
 Rabbi Yosef Greenberg hosts this Holocaust Remembrance Day event featuring stories of rescue at the Frontier (Richardson) Theater at 2 p.m.
 For information, call 552-2115.

APRIL 19 AND 26
Risk Reduction class
 The JBER Sexual Assault Prevention Office hosts the risk reduction class both days from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Learn to protect yourself against sexual assaults.
 For information, call 551-2033.

APRIL 20 AND 21
Harlem Globetrotters
 The Harlem Globetrotters bring their entertaining brand of basketball to the Sullivan Arena for two nights and a matinee. Catch them April 20 at 7 p.m. or April 21 at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.
 For more information visit marranca@harlemglobetrotters.com or call (800) 641-4667 ext. 152.

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.

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.
 Hosted both days from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Coast International Inn.
 For information visit www.drglennkey.com.

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

MAY 5
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.

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.

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 or email clairecnc@hotmail.com.

ONGOING
Sing-along at the zoo
 Pre-school aged kids can ex-

plore 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.

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 or email bjorgan@alaska.net.

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

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 and select Elmendorf-Richardson, contact the JBER Safety office at 552-5092 or 552-6850.

AER, AFAF 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

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.)

AER or AFAF 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 JBER youth is encouraged to call 552-2266 or email paul.caron@elmendorf.af.mil.

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

TRIPS & ADVENTURE



LUNCH WITH A Vendor
 Spend Your Lunchtime with a Vendor for Special Deals

"LUNCH WITH A VENDOR"
 CHAT WITH TRAVEL VENDORS FOR SPECIALS
APRIL 13 - 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
ALASKA RAILROAD
APRIL 16 - 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
ALASKA HERITAGE TOURS
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

HONE YOUR SKILLS & HAVE FUN



RIFLE CARTRIDGE RELOADING
APRIL 13 - 5:30 P.M. - \$5
OUTDOOR RECREATION ELMENDORF
552-2023



BIRCH SYRUP MAKING CLASS
APRIL 14 - NOON - \$5
OUTDOOR RECREATION ELMENDORF
552-2023



HUMAN CHESS & CHECKERS
APRIL 14 - 6 P.M. - FREE
ARCTIC CHILL/BOSS/WARRIOR ZONE
384-7619



8-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT
QUALIFYING ROUND
APRIL 20 - 6 P.M. - SIGN-UP AT 5:30
FREE FOR MEMBERS - \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS
ARCTIC CHILL/BOSS/WARRIOR ZONE
384-7619



more jber fun at elmendorf-richardson.com



30 days of JBER Earth awareness

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

Earth Day, celebrated on April 20, is a great occasion to learn about how to take care of our environment.

But why only focus on it for one day when you can focus on it for thirty?

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson will host a number of events during a month-long focus on maintaining and improving the habitat we share.

"We're trying something different," said Jeff Raun of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron and the recycling program manager on JBER. "We're having 30 days of events."

On April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., representatives from environmental offices on JBER will be at the Joint Military Mall handing out pens, reusable shopping bags, and showing furs and skulls to encourage people to think more green.

"People will be there from the office with their wares, and sharing information," Raun said.

May 19 is Bike to Work Day, and representatives will be at a gate on each side of the installation with refreshments for those who bicycle in, said Tal Robinson, JBER forester.

They encourage people to pledge a certain number of days of bicycling to work via the JBER Wildlife Education Center's Facebook page.

"We're trying to tie things together," Robinson explained. "People should be aware of emissions from their vehicles and try biking instead."

Pledges for earth-aware activities of all sorts will be taken via the WEC page – such as pledges to save a certain amount of gas each week.

The environmental team also wants people's "action shots" of people engaged in activities that help the environment, like riding bicycles instead of driving.

"We want action shots – people putting things in concrete terms. That way we can also quantify it for statistics."

They'd like to arrange competitions between units, if there's sufficient interest.

Another theme is an encouragement to "scoop the poop." After a winter of letting pets out to do their business in the snow, it's important with the spring thaw to gather up the leavings, Raun said.

Jess Johnson, a fisheries biologist on JBER, pointed out that as contaminated water either runs off into waterways or storm drains, increased nitrogen and coliform bacteria from feces can damage streams – and fish that live in them.

"We must keep those streams healthy," Johnson said. "(Contaminants) can deplete what the fish need."

And since most streams enter and then leave JBER, they can have a large impact.

"Animals are highly concentrated here," said Robinson of the

number of pets on JBER compared with, for example, moose. "We're constantly bombarding the environment with poop. And the food that goes into it is very different, moose versus dogs."

Arbor Day will also bring two tree-planting ceremonies on JBER – one at the Katmai Child Development Center from 10 to 11 a.m. and another at the Talkeetna CDC from 2 to 3 p.m. on May 21.

This year, JBER celebrates 15 years as a "Tree City USA" city – one which values and increases trees in the area.

Tree seedling distribution will take place on the installation, although the location has yet to be determined.

Arbor Day is celebrated much later in

Alaska than in the Lower 48, and the giveaways will permit seedlings to be planted after the risk of frost.

Sarah Jones, Wildlife Education Center coordinator, said they plan to give birch and spruce seedlings to those who live and work on JBER. Preserving the environment is especially critical here, said Robinson.

"Places where there's a lot of development, like here and in Fairbanks, there tend to be air inversions," he said, referring to the tendency of warmer (and frequently polluted) air to stay low around a city while wind passes above.

With car emissions, fires, and other pollutants, "every little bit counts," Robinson said.

"Alaskans are tied to the land more than other people," Raun said. "The (use) of training lands impacts the mission here, and understanding the impact at a boots-on-the-ground level is very important."

"Alaska is the last wild frontier," said Jones. "We want to keep it that way and protect it. We've seen what can happen in the Lower 48; once it happens, it's hard to go back."

The recycling program is off to a good start, Raun said.

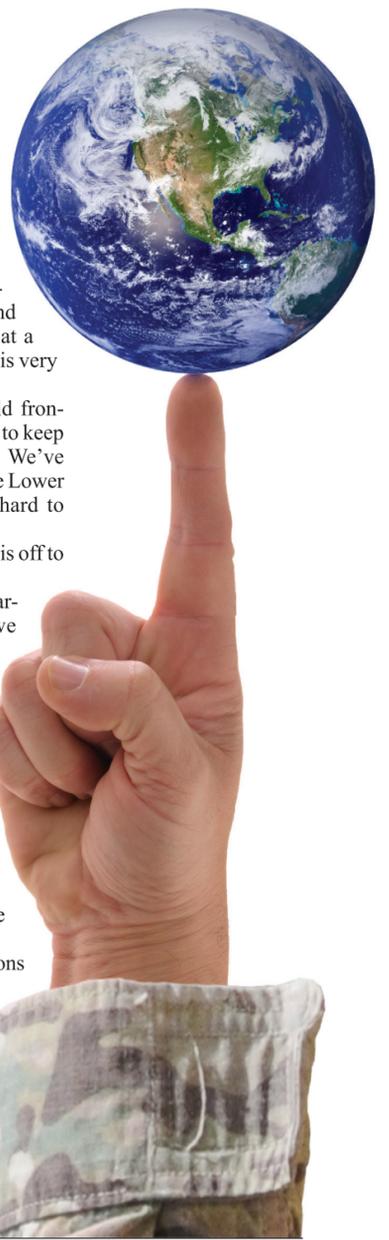
"We're getting good participation ... and soon we will have mixed-recyclable trailers," he said.

JBER celebrates Earth Day – and the month – as part of mission support, Raun said.

"In the Air Force and Army, it's in our best interest to maintain the environment and training areas and minimize the risks," he said.

"In the interest of missions sustainability, we're charged with keeping the base intact for the military," Robinson said.

"This is a way for us to connect with the base and public. We want to connect, and we want to help," he said.



“It’s in our best interests to maintain the environment and training areas.”

Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team thumps celebrities

By J.D. Leipold
Armed Forces News Service

WASHINGTON — The loss of an arm or a leg from combat didn't seem to have an effect April 3, on the play of a band of Soldiers and Marines who make up the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, or WWAST, as they soundly thumped a Washington area celebrity team made up of sports legends, broadcasters and even the D.C. mayor.

In the second annual battle between the teams hosted by the Washington Nationals at their ballpark, the softball classic started with the able-bodied celebrities taking an early lead at 2-0, even though NFL Hall of Famer Darrell Green whiffed three pitches and struck out.

Two more runs were all the celebrities could muster in five innings of play as the wounded warriors, playing with leg or arm prosthetic or no prosthetic at all, couldn't be stopped defensively or offensively.

They gave the celebrities a 17-4 shellacking under a perfect evening sky and full moon.

For Army veteran Greg Reynolds, the loss of his left arm forequarter happened at home following a 15-month Iraq tour when he was hit by a car while riding his motorcycle.

His odds were one in 2,000 of surviving and even less while in recovery, he said.

"To be out here today in front of all these people by far exceeds anything I thought possible," Reynolds said.

"This is a really rewarding, humbling experience to play on such an amazing team with my brothers, but to be out and to play with obviously missing a great portion of my body motivates me to the next level because I have this inner discipline and motivation where I want to play better than the guy with his limbs. No one should put limitations on themselves," he said.

While on a night patrol in Iraq, Matt Kinsey stepped on a landmine, losing his right foot.

"You go from being a paratrooper, which is a very proud thing, and you take a lot of pride in it to missing a foot and your career; it's not over, but it's really tough to get back into the infantry and you go from being on top of the mountain to being on the bottom of it," Kinsey said.

"This is a dream come true, every little kid dreams of getting a second chance as an athlete and I had one and lost it," the former high school and college ball player said.

"This is my second chance, so I play as hard as I can while I'm out here because it can be gone just in the blink of an eye."

Veteran Soldier Brian T. Uruela, who lost his right leg below the knee to two improvised



A double-amputee fields first base during the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team exhibition game at Washington Nationals Stadium in Washington, D.C., April 3. (U.S. Army photo/J.D. Leipold)

explosive devices during Operation Iraqi Freedom, said playing ball is like that next step, next phase, but he said it's been a long, long journey of about five years.

"Being at this level and maintaining this level, we're constantly work-

ing at improving our limbs and it definitely pushes us to our limits. It's improved me tenfold," he said.

In conjunction with various military outreach efforts, the partnership between the Nationals and the WWAST hopes to dem-

onstrate to other amputees and the public that through extensive rehabilitation and training, veterans who were once Soldiers and Marines can be athletes while playing ball and proving life without a limb can be unlimited.

Educational compact helps military kids

School Liaison Office
News release

It's more than likely you have heard of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. But what exactly is it?

The purpose of the compact is to provide for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states.

The Alaska compact was signed in to law in 2009 and since then, 39 states have adopted the compact.

States being signatories to the contract offer many benefits for military children, primarily for their academic continuity in case of moves or deployments.

It allows students in kindergarten and first grade to continue their enrollment at the same grade level in a new school, regardless of age.

This is important because states have difference age requirements for entering school.

The compact allows initial placement in courses based on a student's enrollment in a previous school – such as honors, Interna-

tional Baccalaureate, advanced placement or vocational.

It gives transitioning military children opportunities to take part in extracurricular activities, even if they arrive at their new school after application deadlines.

The compact also offers waivers for specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another jurisdiction.

It accepts exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the previous state, and also allows for absences related to deployment activities.

As parents, you can breathe a little easier the next time you face a permanent change-of-station move or go through a deployment.

This compact is a great reminder, especially during the Month of the Military Child – that kids serve too.

For more information, please go to the Interstate Commission and State Council website at www.csg.org/ncic.

Questions about the compact can be answered by the school liaison office: 384-2369, 384-7500, 384-1505 or 384-0358.

JAFAP conference brings issues to DoD

JBER hosts joint council to resolve ongoing issues

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

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Community Education Complex hosted JBER's second annual Joint Army Family Action Plan conference March 20 through 22.

"JAFAP is a grass-roots process that identifies issues or concerns from the armed forces," said Frederica Norman, JBER JAFAP program manager, in opening remarks for the conference.

Standardizing JBER procedures and services where there was an inadequate flow of information between command, personnel and families, was rectified by developing a process that continually evaluates the challenges of JBER," said Kelsey Shimmin, last year's JAFAP conference "Benefits and Entitlements" focus group's spokesperson.

The feedback to leaders results in policy changes which then become tangible end-products at installations across the

United States.

JAFAP beneficiaries include all service members, retirees, civilian employees, surviving spouses and all their family members.

The JAFAP program gives individuals in the JBER community the opportunity to influence their quality of life.

Issues are discussed amongst the JAFAP board and are then filtered through leadership channels to be further addressed. Leadership uses the information to influence change that improves standards of living and support programs.

These changes foster a satisfied, informed and resilient military community.

"As a military family, we face the same struggles and so we want to find a way to come together and share in the development of solutions, the identification of issues and rectify them using the process," said Air Force Col. Robert Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander.

Information from pamphlets provided by the JAFAP organization explained the programs history of economic endeavors.

The program enlists represen-

tatives stationed around the world to identify and prioritize issues. They focus on those that will improve the standard of living on installations, as well as within an organization as a whole.

A total of 683 issues have been identified during the past 29 years, leading to 126 legislative changes, 177 Army or Department of Defense policy changes, and 197 improved programs and services.

During the three-day event, focus groups had time to brainstorm various issues, ideas and answers concerning the joint base's well-being.

Representatives briefed 10 major concerns, which included moving companies not fulfilling all terms of their contracts and facilities fees for retirees.

The focus group had the support of the military community as well as other family readiness groups composed of Soldiers and families were also addressed.

"Using the Joint Army Family Action Plan, we can mediate source issues through the Army chain of command and through the Air Force chain of command," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, commander of U.S. Army Alaska and deputy commander of Alaskan Command.

Fire safety basics can keep your family alive

JBER Fire Safety Office
Safety release

Are you confident that you and your family would be able to survive a fire in your home? Consider the most recent statistics involving residential building fires released by the National Fire Incident Reporting System (2008-2010):

- Burns and smoke inhalation are, unsurprisingly, involved in 92 percent of all civilian fatalities.
- 55 percent of civilian fire fatalities occur in the bedroom.
- 50 percent of these fires occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., accounting for 47 percent of fatal fires.
- Just over a third of fire victims were trying to escape and another third more were sleeping.

The leading causes of these fires is "other unintentionally set, careless" and "smoking", accounting for 32 percent of residential fires.

44 percent of the fatalities are between the age of 40 and 69. Thirteen percent of the fatalities were younger than 10.

The statement "don't become a statistic," it is absolutely appropriate relative to your survival, and there are numerous steps you can take. The key is to plan, prepare and practice.

From the first day you set foot in your home you should have a fire escape plan. This plan doesn't have to be set in stone, and will more than likely be altered as you grow accustomed to your new environment, but a plan known by everyone residing there should be in place.

Do you have at least two exits from every room? Are there youth, handicapped or elderly people that will require assistance with evacuation? How will that be accomplished?

Do you have a designated meeting place where you can account for everyone that is at least 75 feet away from the building and out of the way of arriving fire crews?

If you can effectively answer these questions your plan is well underway, but to be successful we must prepare.

Have you prepared your family members and your home? Are your family members familiar with the evacuation plan and the fire

protection equipment within your home? Of course, the only way to ensure that family members are familiar with the plan is to discuss it, and not to take for granted that everyone already knows.

Your home should have smoke alarms on each level, in the area leading to the bedrooms, and in each bedroom.

These smoke alarms should be tested each month by pressing the "test" button, and smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. Non-working smoke alarms resulted in almost two-thirds of all residential fire deaths from 2005 to 2009.

Your preparation should also include being familiar with the location and use of fire extinguishers, and fire-preventative practices within your home (matches/lighters, candles, dryer lint, cooking, etc.).

Of course, even with the best plan and preparation, there is only one way to test their effectiveness.

Just as the military frequently conducts drills to make sure each person does their required tasks in time, we must conduct drills to test our fire response and escape plan.

This practice is most beneficial if done at least twice a year, at different times (daytime and nighttime), and can have great life-saving and confidence-building impact on children.

This is where you may find problems, or gaps, in your planning or preparation, and now you'll be able to make any necessary adjustments. It's always better to figure out problem areas before an actual emergency.

So, after reading this and referring to the question starting this article, can you confidently assert that your family would survive a fire in your home?

Unfortunately, many who I come into contact with each day cannot. While there are no guarantees in life, your family's odds of survival improve dramatically by having a plan, preparing your house and family, and practicing.

Is it not our duty to lead our families to ensure the survival of children and loved ones? We hope we will only have to practice these drills in your lifetime.

Please contact the JBER Fire Prevention Office if you have any questions at 552-2620.



Courtesy graphic

Program helps vets transition

By Kaleinani Rupp
Alaska National Guard

The State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs announced a new federal program intended to help train and return Alaska's veterans to the workforce.

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program offers education benefits to eligible veterans ages 35 through 60 and will take effect July 1.

VRAP is available for those veterans who are:

- at least age 35 but no older than 60 years old
- unemployed
- discharged other than dishonorable.
- ineligible for other VA education benefits or in receipt of VA compensation because of unemployment, and
- not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

"We want nothing more than to put Alaska's veterans to work," said Verdie Bowen, director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Alaska.

"With the current economic conditions, this piece of legislation is perfectly timed to provide a funding source to ease the financial burden for

those eligible so that they may retrain and find new employment opportunities," Bowen said.

VRAP will pay 12 months of payments equivalent to the prevailing Montgomery GI Bill monthly rate for eligible veterans enrolled in an approved program of study.

The Department of Labor will provide employment assistance to every veteran who participates upon completion of the program.

VRAP is just one section of the comprehensive "VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011" signed into law November 2011 by President Barack Obama, aimed at ending veteran unemployment.

The program is available to 45,000 participants nationwide from July 1 to Sept. 30, and 54,000 participants from Oct. 1, 2012, to March 31, 2014.

Visit www.gibill.va.gov/VRAP to learn more and read the frequently asked questions about VRAP.

More details about VRAP, including information on how to apply, will be published at www.gibill.gov as they become available.

The point of contact for the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs is Mercedes Angerman at 428-6513.

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By Brian P. Smith
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

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