



Safety

Beware of bears

Spring brings out curious and hungry brown and black bears that require a little know how
Page B-1

Partnership

Exercise Balikatan

Soldiers of 793rd Military Police Battalion train, share lessons learned with Phillipine Army
Page A-4



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ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 3, No. 19

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

May 11, 2012

Anchorage Police Department, JBER officials announce Airman death



Army Staff Sgt. Thomas K. Fogarty

One paratrooper killed, three wounded in roadside bomb attack

U.S. Army Alaska news release

A Soldier assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, died May 6 from injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle with an improvised explosive device. The incident took place in the city of Ahmad-Kheyl, Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Kent Fogarty, 30, of Alameda, Calif., who was the commander of the vehicle, died Sunday afternoon in the city of Puli Alam where he had been medically evacuated from Ahmad-Kheyl for treatment. Three other Soldiers were wounded in the incident. All four Soldiers were assigned to the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

Fogarty joined the Army in January 2004 and had served as an infantryman at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Stewart, Ga., Fort Hood, Texas, and with the U. S. Army Recruiting Command in California before arriving at JBER in January. He deployed to Afghanistan as a replacement in the 3,500 Soldier 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) in April in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The next of kin have been notified.



Missing JBER Airman found dead; fellow Airman arrested

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

Anchorage police and Air Force officials announced Thursday that the body found in Eagle River is that of missing Senior Airman Clinton Reeves. A fellow Airman has been arrested and charged with six felony counts of tampering with evidence in the case.

Officials made the announcement in a morning press.

"We have confirmed that the body found in Eagle River is that of (Senior Airman)

See Reeves, Page A-2



TOP: Anchorage Police Department Lt. Dave Parker gives a statement and answers questions related to Senior Airman Clinton Reeves' disappearance and death during a press conference outside the Boniface Gate at JBER, May 10.

ABOVE: Air Force Lt. Col. Patricia Csank presents Airman 1st Class Clinton Reeves with his promotion to Senior Airman on JBER March 2. A press conference was hosted May 10 to issue statements and answer questions related to the disappearance and death of Reeves. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

BIRD OF PREY: Bulldogs accept delivery of last Raptor

By David Bedard
JBER Public Affairs

After a grueling eight-and-a-half hour non-stop flight from Georgia, the airplane carrying Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Moga finally touched down on Alaska soil after a weeklong business trip. Despite sitting in the same seat for the entire trip, Moga sprang up when he spotted his waiting family. He could see them waving, and the colonel was all too eager to wave back.

Finally, the plane came to a gliding stop on the tarmac. Rather than waiting for the captain of an airliner to turn off the seatbelt sign, Moga instead actuated the hydraulic struts of his golden-hued canopy, because he wasn't a passenger on a 767 – he was the pilot of a supersonic F-22 Raptor air-dominance fighter.

Beginning early morning Saturday, Moga, 525th Fighter Squadron commander, piloted F-22 Tail No. 4195 from Dobbins Air Force Base near Marietta, Ga., to JBER, where he was greeted by his family and 3rd Wing Airmen. The delivery was especially significant, because

See Raptor, Page A-3



Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Moga, 525th Fighter Squadron commander, raises the canopy of the Air Force's last delivered F-22 Raptor May 5 at the 525th FS Hangar. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)

Index

- Combat Arms instructors.....A-4
- Coast Guard ready for summer....A-7
- Briefs and announcements.....A-8
- Chaplain's Corner.....B-2
- Community calendar.....B-3
- Sports.....B-4
- Birth announcements.....B-5

Community

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



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Reeves

From Page A-1

Clinton Reeves,” said APD Lt. Dave Parker during the conference. “The manner of death has been ruled a homicide.”

Air Force Col. Robert Evans, JBER and 673d Air Base Wing commander, expressed sympathy for the family and community.

“We extend our deepest condolences to friends and family of one of our own,” Evans said. “(Reeves) was a valuable member of the team. (The military) is not about airplanes or weaponry – it’s about the people.”

The base has suffered a tragic week, Evans said, noting the death of one Soldier and wounding of three others from the JBBER-based 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division in Afghanistan earlier in the week.

Evans thanked the APD for their exceptional assistance in the case, and the Anchorage community, including Eagle River.

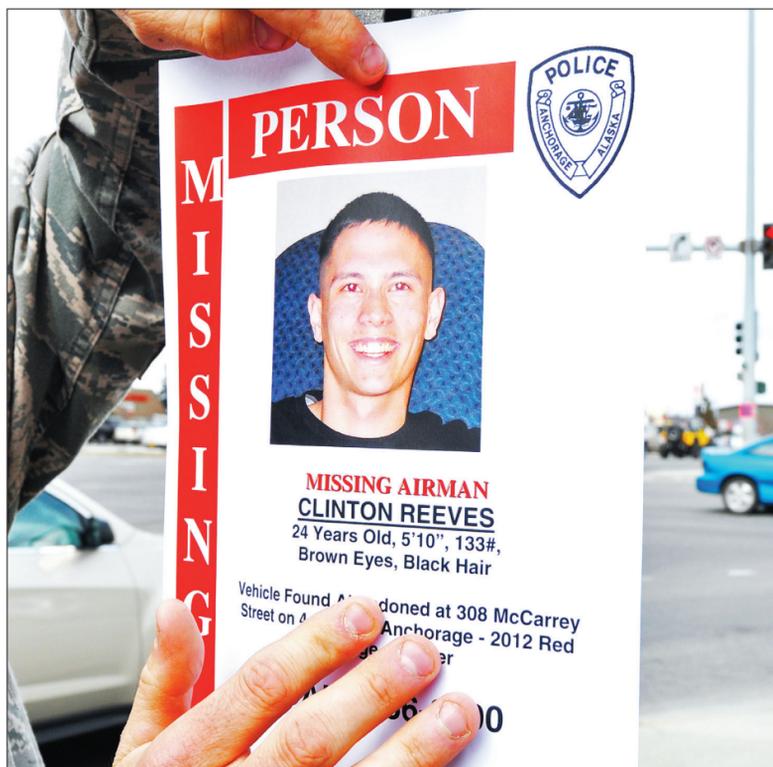
“The outpouring of support has been overwhelming,” he said.

Lt. Col. Patricia Csank, commander of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron, was Reeves’ commander.

“(Reeves) was a beautiful human being,” she said. “He aspired to a long and successful career in the Air Force, and he was well on his way.”

Csank noted that as an aircraft fueller, Reeves was responsible for driving trucks carrying 6,000 gallons of aircraft fuel, and had a lot of responsibility.

Csank also mentioned that when President Barack Obama stopped at JBBER to refuel recently, Reeves was one of a handful of Airmen selected to service Air Force One.



Airmen with the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron post fliers all over downtown May 4 in search of Senior Airman Clinton Reeves. Reeves’ body was discovered in Eagle River Tuesday. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)

On April 19, Reeves, a Raytown, Mo., native, left work at the 673d LRS at JBBER.

He didn’t return to work on April 23, or the day after. Or the day after that.

His parents both came to Anchorage to help search. In the following days, the city

would be papered with missing-persons flyers posted by volunteers throughout the Anchorage Bowl.

During the 20-day search for Reeves, his rented Dodge Avenger was found in an alley in the Mountain View area of Anchorage,

with groceries, the keys and his uniforms inside.

Reeves had rented the vehicle after his car was totaled in an accident, and had been waiting on the insurance payment to buy a new car.

On Tuesday, women walking in the community of Eagle River, which borders JBBER, noticed a body in a shallow ravine just off Golden Eagle Drive. A neighbor called 911 and police began their investigation.

Police arrested Airman 1st Class James Thomas of the 703d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Tuesday on six counts of tampering with evidence in Reeves’ disappearance.

According to charging documents released by the Anchorage District Attorney’s office Wednesday after Thomas’ hearing, Reeves was in the area of Thomas’ residence the night of April 19.

Initially, Thomas told investigators that he had not seen Reeves.

Detectives executed a warrant on Thomas’ residence, and found evidence of a violent encounter.

According to the charging documents presented Wednesday, Thomas admitted to destroying evidence by cleaning the apartment and discarding or burning other materials.

Then, he said, he didn’t want Reeves’ rented car in the apartment parking lot, so he moved it toward McCarrey Street and left it there.

Despite the missing-persons flyers and both military and civilian law enforcement urging anyone with information to contact them, Thomas never called the police or informed law enforcement about his involvement in cleaning up the residence until Monday. He denied being involved in the disappearance.

Combat Arms instructors prepare JBBER Airmen for combat

By Airman 1st Class Omari Bernard
JBBER Public Affairs

A command is given and the sound of gunfire resounds as ammunition is fired down range. Ejected shells litter the floor as eyes peer down the barrel through iron sights at the intended target. Ready for the next volley, a single breath is held, the body freezes and a trigger squeezed. Boom!

Within the Air Force, there is a special group of security forces Airmen who are qualified to instruct other Airmen in weapons. They are known as Combat Arms instructors. These defenders teach weapons maintenance, inspection and proper weapon handling and sighting techniques.

Training instructors of the combat arms course work hard to train and prepare all Airmen for contingency and augmentee operations as well as deployments to overseas contingency operations.

Approximately 3,000 students are trained annually at Combat Arms, said Tech. Sgt. Nikolas Cordatos, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Combat Arms with the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

The combat arms instructors are responsible for the training of all JBBER Airmen tasked for contingency training or deployment.

It is every Airman’s responsibility for the defense of their base said Cordatos, a Bennington, N.H., resident.



Tech. Sgt. Joshua Qualle, 673d Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms instructor, explains the functions of the M-4 carbine during a Combat Arms Training and Maintenance class April 5. Qualle instructed the class concerning various safety requirements as well as the proper weapon handling techniques. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)

The combat arms course has evolved and adapted to current events, and Airmen can expect to receive more technical training. Changes have been made to most of the weapons courses. Instead of firing 100 rounds, the average student will now fire 198 rounds in training, excluding Security Forces and Special Forces who can expect to fire even more ammunition.

Included in the course are specific drills designed to engage specific targets when instructed to. Students are now given commands they could possibly hear down range such as target front, target left, target one and target two while moving forward to a firing position.

“The training is vital, especially when it comes down to security as a whole,”

Cordatos said. “All Airmen must complete live-firing training in order to meet deployment tasking.”

In order to pass the Combat Arms course it is required to qualify in each and every training section. If failed, the student will be able to retest in the failed area at a remedial course where the instructors will go more in depth to help the student.

“The Combat Arms instructors are highly skilled and well trained. In order to become an instructor you need to be a Security Forces member and attend an eight-week course on Lackland, Air Force Base, (Texas),” said Cordatos.

There, future instructors take an intense course where they learn complete disassembly of numerous weapons systems, cover teaching and lecture at the school, written and practical exams that include detailed strips where the weapon is completely disassembled, and the student is required to name off all the parts and reassemble the weapon together and have it function.

“Our outstanding instructors are great and very knowledgeable,” Cordatos said. “They want to be here, they want to be Combat Arms instructors.”

Combat arms instructors take pride in what they do, from teaching maintenance and safety, to tactical movement and shooting techniques. Their training prepares current and future Airmen for combat downrange.

JBBER Airmen prepared with the ability to survive and operate

By Airman 1st Class
Omari Bernard
JBBER Public Affairs

The next operational readiness exercise is around the corner, and JBBER Airmen are ready.

Airmen of the 673d Air Base Wing prepare to endure the confines of full chemical gear for the upcoming exercise.

The Ability to Survive and Operate training is crucial to JBBER in case of an attack or natural catastrophe. Skilled instructors are there to make sure Airmen are able to completely and correctly put on their gear and decontaminate.

“The world is uncertain with the possibilities of natural disaster or other countries’ nuclear capabilities,” said Senior Airman Kelly Lasaine, an ATSO instructor with the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management plans and operations. “We always need to be prepared.”

The mission of the ATSO training program is to assure Airmen will be able and capable of surviving and operating in a chemical environment.

“I’ve been here through a couple OREs, three phase 2s, and the comprehensive unit inspection,” said Lasaine, a native of Chicago,

Ill. “All the ATSO instructors will be players in the exercise one way or another.”

The instructors corrected simple processes like not having gear marked correctly, which results in performance deficiencies. The corrections range all the way up to the most complex things such as post attack reconnaissance routes. There are emergency-management exercises built into the large scale base wide exercises.

Airmen need to not only be able to put on their chemical protective suit safely and correctly but also take off their suit safely and correctly as well without exposing themselves to simulated contamination, Lasaine said.

Students in the ATSO training program have nine seconds to put the mask on and eight minutes to be in full and complete gear, including helmet and flak vest.

“We go through a live gas chamber with the same gear they are using,” Lasaine said. “If we did not have our masks on it would kill us, nine seconds for the mask is a rule that I’ve seen the importance of.”

The objective is to make sure all Airmen are able to accomplish the mission no matter the threat environment.



Tech. Sgt. Bryan Reed removes his chemical gear top after finishing the Ability to Survive and Operate training program April 16. Reed is preparing for an upcoming operational readiness exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Omari Bernard)

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Editorial office and mailing address: JBBER Public Affairs, 10480 22nd St., Suite 123, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, 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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TOP: F-22 Raptor Tail No. 4195 rests in a hangar at Lockheed Martin's Marietta, Ga., facility. (Photo composite courtesy of Lockheed Martin/John Rossino)
ABOVE: Senior Airman Joshua King marshalls in F-22 Tail No. 4195 May 5 at the 525th FS hangar. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)
LEFT: Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Moga, 525th Fighter Squadron commander, holds 3-year-old daughter Madeline, who plays with the colonel's life-support equipment. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)
FAR LEFT: Airman 1st Class Jeffery Brown performs post flight checks after an F-22 Raptor fighter landed on the flight line May 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)

Raptor

From Page A-1

the fighter is the last F-22 scheduled to be manufactured by Lockheed Martin.

Though the F-22 required aerial refueling during the Raptor's journey to its new home, Moga said the trip was quite routine. What wasn't routine, however, were the events surrounding his receipt of the fighter at the manufacturer's Marietta facility.

"Logistically, it was a very simple process," he said. "For a few days last week — that single aircraft represented the entire weapon system."

Jeff Babione, Lockheed Martin vice president and general manager of the F-22 Program recalled many of the hurdles that were surmounted in order to field the Raptor.

"When we started the (F-22) program, there were a lot of technologies that just flat didn't exist," he said. "The F-22 was not an evolution of the F-15 (Eagle) and the F-16 (Fighting Falcon). It was a revolution in the way it did sensor fusion, integration into the pilot's command and control of the airplane ... It's the first operational low-observable fighter airplane."

During a May 3 ceremony at Marietta, Babione passed a ceremonial key for 4195 to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, who in turn gave the key to Moga. Moga then passed the key to 4195 dedicated crew chief Air Force Staff Sgt. Damon Crawford, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

Moga said, throughout the week, he was impressed by the dedication of Babione's team to the success of the Raptor.

"For them to be able to hand over the last F-22 ever built is a little bit of a bittersweet moment for them," Moga explained. "It was almost as if they were watching their kid graduate from high school, and they were sending him off to college. You have to see them go, but you know they are going to do great things — and they're probably going to do better things than you've dreamed they were ever going to do."

Moga said he spent the day after the ceremony mission planning — checking

the weather along the route, validating the flight plan, and performing pre-flight checks of 4195.

Saturday morning, Moga reported to Dobbins Base Operations at 7 a.m. local time, 3 a.m. Alaska time, to begin the long journey that would finally find him and the last Raptor home early afternoon.

Because the flight was pushed back a day, there was very little pomp and circumstance at the 525th FS hangar when 4195 touched down with Tail No. 4193, the new 3rd Wing flagship flown by 3rd Wing commander, Air Force Col. Dirk Smith.

Beside a handful of crew chiefs in addition to 3rd Wing and 3rd Operations Group leadership, Moga was also greeted by his wife Amanda, daughter Madeline, 3, son P.J., 1, and mother-in-law Iris Jones.

Despite the quiet welcome, Moga said the inclusion of 4195 into his squadron marked a momentous milestone.

"It means a lot to the Bulldogs," he said. "We have a lot of squadron pride. We have a great heritage and a great history, and this is another honor that has been bestowed upon us by the aircraft."

"It comes with some responsibility," Moga continued. "The last F-22 is a big deal and we know that. I can't think of a better squadron for 195 to live in."

Moga said the F-22, the only fully-operational fifth-generation fighter in the world, is the best weapon system to give him the edge he needs to dominate any adversary in the foreseeable future.

"When our national leadership decides to use this capability in combat, I have no doubt in my mind that it will exceed all expectations," he said. "This fighter is the most capable fighter aircraft that has ever been built far and away. I flew the F-15 for seven years — I went to combat in it — and if I had to go to war tomorrow, I wouldn't want to go in another jet besides the F-22. That's how good it is."

With the F-22, The U.S. Air Force is currently the only entity operating a fifth-generation fighter.

The U.S. isn't the only country developing a fifth-generation fighter. Russia's Sukhoi Company is developing the PAK-FA T-50 stealth fighter, while China's Chengdu

Aircraft Industry Group is developing the J-20 stealth fighter.

Moga said it requires a lot more than marrying a stealth coating with fancy avionics to design and build a true fifth-generation fighter. The F-22 combines stealth, fully-integrated avionics, super maneuverability and maintainability.

"Those are the packaged items that — because the F-22 represents a significant amount of progress in all of those areas or a complete deviation from what we had before — that's why it's so much different," the colonel explained. "You put all of those elements together and make a weapons system operational, then you can say 'Yep, this system is fifth generation.'"

"Other aircraft are stealth," Moga continued. "Other aircraft are fast. Other aircraft can fly high. Other aircraft have individual portions of our integrated avionics and our sensor fusion. That is not unique. But when you put all of those together in one airframe, it's unique to the point that we are confident that no other country has that capability set."

Sitting at rest on the tarmac, 4195 looks like a coiled viper — both purposeful and aggressive. Its computer-aided designed curves and creases appear more organic when compared to the industrial lines of fourth-generation designs conceived on drawing boards.

Those curves include stealth shaping, which help the F-22 to be the most stealthy aircraft devised for U.S. service, according to a 2005 Air Force statement. In conjunction with vectored-thrust nozzles, the Raptor's design also helps it to be super maneuverable, giving it the capability to outturn an adversary in a dogfight.

One fifth-generation aspect Moga highlighted was the Raptor's ability to supercruise, which allows the F-22 to travel at speeds in excess of Mach 1.5 without the use of afterburners.

"Being able to operate at high altitudes and very high airspeeds is a huge capability when you talk about where we expect to operate this weapon system," Moga said. "In the anti-access, area-denial role, altitude and airspeed are some of the keys to survivability when you start talking about going against very robust surface-to-air missile systems

The higher you are and the faster you are, the better your stealth works. That has been proven."

Moga said an ongoing update initiative is Increment 3.1, which affords the F-22 an enhanced air-to-ground repertoire, including the capability to self-generate coordinates for air-to-ground bombs.

The pilot said the combination of the Raptor's current capabilities and projected upgrades serve as a deterrent to any foe contemplating taking the F-22 on in air-to-air combat.

Since the Raptor has been operational, nobody has decided to take us on in a big shooting war, air-to-air wise," Moga said. "That is deterrence."

Moga said because of the strategic importance of the Pacific, the F-22 is ideally positioned at JBER with the 525th and 90th fighter squadrons.

"Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is a stepping stone to the Pacific," the colonel said. "In the Pacific Command area of operations, everyone talks about the tyranny of distance — everything is a long way away. If you look at JBER geographically, we're perfectly suited as a full-time location for this capability, and within a matter of hours, we can pretty much get anywhere we need to be in the Pacific."

Moga said he is also grateful for the combination of the training opportunities afforded by the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, and for the support of the local community.

"Alaska has some of the best range complexes you're going to find anywhere in the world," he said. "The airspace is outstanding. The local community embraces us. I can't think of a better place to be in the military and fly fighters."

With 3rd Wing's combination of its F-22 capability and its power projection platform at JBER, Moga said the base's Raptors are ready to meet the needs of theater commanders worldwide.

"We need to present our combatant commanders the capability that says, 'If you ask us to do something, it doesn't matter where it is and doesn't matter what the enemy has, they cannot stop us,'" he said. "That is what the Raptor is all about."



EXERCISE BALIKATAN

Philippine Army Sgt. Alex Domingo (left), 5th Infantry Division Special Operations Company, and Cpl. John Blanta, Special Operations Command, Fort Magsaysay, Philippines, demonstrate scout ranger tactics to U.S. service members during the bilateral field exercise training part of Balikatan 2012, April 19 at Clark Air Base, Philippines. Balikatan is an annual training event aimed at improving combined planning, combat readiness, humanitarian assistance and interoperability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and United States focusing on field training, humanitarian assistance and a command post exercise. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Michael Holzworth)

Philippine, U.S. MPs conduct training, strengthen relations

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Holzworth
Air Force News Service

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — Philippine and U.S. military police gathered shoulder-to-shoulder, April 19, at Clark Air Base during exercise Balikatan 2012 to share their knowledge and experiences while working together to strengthen their interoperability.

"It has been very good working with the Philippine soldiers, we have learned a lot from them, and we are also sharing some of our tactics and procedures," said U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jeff Ayres, 472nd Military Police Company, 793rd MP Battalion.

The convoy training covered a wide variety of subjects such as sectors-of-fire, spacing, weapons mounting, basic Humvee rollover safety, vehicle recovery, and how to brief the soldiers before stepping out to conduct the mission.

"For the Filipino Army, it is a good exercise because we get to learn different tactics from the U.S. troops," said Philippine Army Cpl. Adornado Cawa, 5th Infantry Division MP Company. "This is my first Balikatan exercise and also my first experience with convoy operations; it has been very good."

U.S. Soldiers first demonstrated their tactics to the Philippine soldiers watching.

Afterward, U.S. Soldiers put their words into action during a practical exercise as they played the role of opposing forces, testing the Philippine soldiers' response to small arms fire and a simulated improvised explosive device attack — set in a small mock village along their patrol route.

Philippine Army Capt. Heriberto Sangalang, 191st MP Battalion gave his summary of the training.

"It has been quite educational, we need this training on a tactical level so that our troops will understand the basics of military police operations, convoy operations and other tactics to upgrade our own training," Sangalang said. "This realistic, hard training will help the Armed Forces of the Philippines work toward becoming a more modernized force."

U.S. Soldiers also gained appreciation for the Philippine soldiers' experience and their dedication to each other.

"Captain Sangalang is a student of his enemy, and he knows his tactics, techniques and procedures. He is one of the smartest officers I've met," Ayres said. "He is all about taking care of his soldiers. It is great to see that other military forces are similar to us in the way everybody looks out for each other."

Similar to the way Sangalang takes care of his troops, he also stays committed to the AFP partnership with the U.S. armed forces.

"For old allies and old friends, Exercise Balikatan is beneficial to both governments," he said. "It is part of the commitment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to revitalize and improve our bilateral military relationship and mutually support each other in times of war and in peace."



ABOVE: U.S. Army Pvt. Andrew Opolka, 793rd MP Battalion, describes U.S. tactics to Philippine Army Cpl. Adornado Cawa. RIGHT: Philippine Army Capt. Heriberto Sangalang and U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jeff Ayres, 793rd MP, discuss bilateral convoy operations training during Balikatan 2012 at Clark Air Base, Philippines.



Canine handlers sink teeth into bilateral training

By Marine Corps 2nd Lt.
Jeremy Alexander
Marine Corps News Service

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — Members of the Philippine Air Force's 773rd Canine Squadron and a joint U.S. canine training team conducted bilateral canine bite and veterinary training here April 18, during Exercise Balikatan 2012.

Philippine and U.S. service members seized the opportunity to strengthen their longstanding military relationship and combined capabilities by honing their skills in canine handling and first aid procedures.

"Through this training we can exchange knowledge and techniques and learn new things," said Philippine Air Force 1st Lt. Ryan Pulmano, the officer in charge of the 773rd CS.

The morning began in an outdoor classroom where Philippine Air Force 1st Lt. James Baluyan, a veterinarian with the 773rd CS, demonstrated for U.S. service members how he cares for the more than 82 dogs, mostly Belgian Malinois, the 773rd CS has at various locations throughout the Philippines.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kyle Stout and Staff Sgt. Ricky Leitzel, of the 36th Security Forces Squadron, joined U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Hastings, of the 28th Military Police Detachment, and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael

Dugan, a member of the 736th Security Forces Squadron, for the BK12 bilateral training. Dugan is the non-commissioned officer in charge of canine operations at the U.S. Pacific Air Force Regional Training Center.

Under the supervision of Baluyan, Philippine and U.S. handlers trained in canine first aid and learned techniques for responding to a range of situations from poisoning to seizures.

"The dogs are deployed to different areas all over the Philippines, and it is important that the dog handlers know how to give first aid before they come to me," Baluyan said.

As part of the instruction, U.S. service members demonstrated bite training as well as search, escort and field interview techniques, which is the same training handlers receive when deploying to Afghanistan and all over the world.

Hastings demonstrated with his dog Gina, a patrol certified German shepherd, different techniques such as a long-range off-leash escort. In this instance, Gina ran out to a suspect and walked beside him or her, without a leash, waiting to attack at Hastings command until the suspect returns to the dog handler.

The handlers also put on a protective sleeve and practiced bite training with their dogs. Handlers took turns commanding their dogs to bite the sleeve and bring down a suspect. The dogs are taught to release on command and are trained



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Hastings, 793rd Military Police Battalion, and Philippine Marine Corps Cpl. JR Lopez, K-9 handler, conduct bite training with U.S. military working dog Gina during Exercise Balikatan 2012, April 19 at Clark Air Base, Philippines. Exercise Balikatan 2012 is an annual bilateral exercise designed to improve interoperability between the U.S. and Philippine forces. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth)

on releasing their bite to prevent further damage to an already bitten suspect.

"We lift the dog up and give the proper command to prevent further damage to any muscle or tissue," Dugan said. "It is important to work with the different dogs and keep an open mind to training

because not every dog will respond to the same things."

For Leitzel, training with Philippine working dogs was a beneficial military-to-military experience, and he said of the breeds he has trained with, "the Belgian Malinois is a great dog with a lot of drive."

The working dogs have a busy schedule after the exercise concludes.

"Over the next year, we have more than 14 deployments all over the Philippines," Pulmano said. "We will include some of these (combined) techniques in our training."

Panetta notes Afghanistan progress in interview

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Progress in Afghanistan was among the topics Defense Secretary Leon Panetta discussed in a wide-ranging interview this week with Bloomberg Television's Judy Woodruff.

The secretary told Woodruff he believes the United States is on the right path toward its goals in Afghanistan.

"In 2011, the Taliban was weakened significantly," he said. "They couldn't organize the kind of attacks to regain territory that they had lost, which is something they have done in the past."

The secretary praised Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen, commander of the International Security Assistance Force. He noted coalition forces have transitioned 50 percent of Afghanistan's population to Afghan security and control and expect that total to be 75 percent by late summer. At NATO's 2010 summit in Lisbon, Portugal, the alliance agreed Afghan forces will have security responsibility for all of Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

"We're on the right course," Panetta said. "We're in the right direction towards the end of 2014, being able to make that transition. But let's not kid ourselves. There are going to be challenges."

Panetta noted the Taliban are a resilient enemy and will continue to conduct attacks. The secretary said corruption remains a problem in Afghanistan.

"We're going to have to keep pushing to make this work," he added.

Panetta acknowledged drone strikes are taking place in Pakistan, but said the operations remain sensitive and are classified.

"We are going to do everything we can, use whatever operations we have to, in order to make sure that we protect this country and make sure that (9/11) never happens again," he said.

The interview also touched on Iran's nuclear facilities. The international community is unified in sending the clear signal they must prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, Panetta said.

"The international community has brought a lot of sanctions on Iran," he said.



Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Heck, a native of Wasilla, and dog handler attached to C Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, and Nina 3, a military working dog, patrol in the Jani Khel district April 12 during Operation Marble Lion. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson)

"They're probably the toughest sanctions we've applied in a very long time, (and) they're having an impact. They're isolating Iran, and I think as a result of that, of all that pressure that's being put on Iran, the result of that is that there is now at least some glimmer that there could be a diplomatic effort to try to see if we can resolve these issues."

The secretary said serious talks are ongoing, and the ultimate solution must include Iran making it clear it will suspend any kind of nuclear enrichment and make no efforts to develop any kind of nuclear weapon.

Panetta also defended the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program. It is essential to control production cost and fully test the aircraft

to make it the "most effective fighting plane for the future," he said.

"Part of our challenge is to try to stay on the cutting edge of the future, and that's what the F-35 is all about," he said. "It's the fifth-generation fighter for the future, and it provides the kind of capability we absolutely are going to need in the future."

Addressing the issue of apparent misconduct or poor judgment by service members in photographs and videos that have circulated on the Internet, Panetta condemned the behavior while emphasizing the incidents are not representative of most men and women in uniform.

Such incidents affect the force's morale and sometimes can jeopardize lives, Panetta

said. But after meeting "literally thousands upon thousands of men and women in uniform" in a department of 3 million people, he added, he knows only a small percentage are involved in such misconduct.

"The overwhelming majority of men and women in uniform abide by the highest standards," he said. Still, he added, he has made it clear to the service secretaries and chiefs they must continue to emphasize character, professionalism, integrity, chain of command and discipline.

"(It's) very important, and that makes our military the best in the world," he said. "(So) we've got to continue to emphasize that in the future so that we try to make sure that these incidents don't occur."

Coast Guard deploys personnel, assets to Cordova

Coast Guard District 17
News release

KODIAK — Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak positioned assets in Cordova in preparation for the upcoming spring and summer fishing seasons in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska.

Air station personnel deployed an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter and

support crew to Cordova on April 30, in an effort to reduce search and rescue response times during a known period of increased maritime activity.

The Coast Guard will alternate between an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and crews from May through September. The forward deployed crews will receive lo-

gistical support from Air Station Kodiak based HC-130 Hercules aircrews throughout their deployment. Additional Coast Guard aircraft remain in Kodiak to respond to search and rescue cases which may arise elsewhere in the state.

"Having the Coast Guard Air Station helicopter crews forward deployed to Cordova essentially

splits the air station's area of responsibility into two, helping our response times to be more rapid and effective in the Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska areas," said Lt. Mark Heussner, an Air Station Kodiak MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter pilot. "Even during the summer time when the weather is warmer it is still vital that rescue crews are able to respond to a mari-

time emergency quickly because the waters of Alaska are still frigid and dangerous to mariners."

Forward deployed aircrews from Air Station Kodiak saved seven lives and assisted 28 others during the 2011 Cordova deployment.

For more information please contact Public Affairs Detachment Kodiak at (907) 487-5700.

Briefs and Announcements

Increased runway activity

Expect increased traffic light control activity, May 24 through June 6, on Arctic Warrior Drive near the airfield.

Runway 06/24 will be under repair, so the shorter runway will have more activity. It's important drivers observe traffic-control lights.

Readiness exercise

People who live and work in the neighborhoods around JBER-Elmendorf can expect increased activity on the installation as units will be participating in Exercise Polar Force 12-4, Wednesday to May 23.

The second portion of the exercise, May 20 to 23, will drive an increase in flying operations, simulated ground attacks, loud-speaker communications, and sirens. Polar Force 12-4 is designed to evaluate the wing's readiness and capability to conduct sustained combat operations under wartime conditions.

In an attempt to minimize the impact, JBER officials advise the neighboring community that, during nighttime hours, there will be activity occurring on JBER-Elmendorf, which is normally much quieter.

The Soldiers and Airmen of JBER appreciate the community's support as we provide the most realistic training possible for our service members.

Additionally during this time, people who are not participating in the exercise should make every effort to avoid traveling within the play area, which will be marked by signs on base. All base members and visitors may experience longer than usual delays at services facilities and base gates.

JBER supports and defends United States interests in the Pacific and around the world by providing units capable of worldwide airpower projection and meeting Pacific Command's theater staging and throughput requirements. In short: Global Power, Global Reach, Homeland Defense and Expeditionary Combat Support.

The JBER Twitter feed will be updated with the most current information. Noise complaints can be called in to 1-800-JET-NOIS (1-800-538-6647).

Assignments briefings

The Outbound Assignments office at the Military Personnel Section will be conducting informational briefings Tuesday at 10

a.m. and Wednesday at 1 p.m. for all enlisted Airmen whose DEROS' are from January 2013 through March 2013.

This briefing will include but will not be limited to information on assignment cycles, retainability requirements and relocation information for dependents going overseas. The goal is to have an open forum where the office can discuss these topics and answer common questions regarding the assignments process.

We ask only enlisted Airmen who currently do not have assignments on file, with a DEROS' between the months of January 2013 through March 2013 attend, as this will be their current assignment selection cycle.

Due to a 60 person limit we ask that Airmen interested in attending the briefing send an RSVP email to Career Development at 673fsscarrerdevelopment@elmendorf.af.mil with their name and the date they would like to attend the briefing no later than 4 p.m. on May 11.

School physicals

The 673d Medical Group is offering physicals for school and sports. Physicals are valid for one year.

To schedule an appointment, call 580-2778.

May hospital closures

The 673d Medical Group will close the hospital Thursday beginning at noon for a wing exercise, all day May 25 for a family day, and all day May 28 for Memorial Day.

Public Health closures

Public Health closes the first Thursday of the month from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and the third Thursday of the month from noon to 4:30 p.m. every month.

For more information, call 580-4014.

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.

Mortgage relief

President Barack Obama announced March 6 steps to provide significant housing relief to thousands 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.

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.

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.

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.

U-Fix-It Store

The U-Fix-it Store is located in Building 706 and is open to all Aurora Military Housing tenants.

Assorted items for maintaining your home may be issued from the U-Fix-It Store.

The items available are subject to change and limits and some may have a cost.

There are also American flag kits, and fire extinguishers available. U-Fix-It work includes all home maintenance activities.

Its purpose is to allow the occupant to make minor improvements and repairs to their home and cut down on the amount of service orders at maintenance.

This allows tenants to do work in their homes themselves, thus improving the appearance of the interior as well as the exterior of the home.

There are two stores located on base. The JBER-Elmendorf location is 6350 Arctic Warrior Drive and it is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch noon to 1 p.m.).

The JBER-Richardson location is Building 706 1st St., open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A window blind cleaning machine is currently located at the JBER-Elmendorf location.

A "reservation required to use" policy is in place with the priority going to military members PCS-ing. For more information, call 375-5540.

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.

Giant Voice testing

Giant Voice mass notification system testing occurs every Wednesday at noon.

If the announcement is difficult to hear or understand, please call 552-3000.

If the announcement is difficult to hear or understand in any base housing area, please contact JBER at [Facebook.com/JBERAK](https://www.facebook.com/JBERAK).

Furnishings management

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

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

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

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

Otter Lake fishing

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

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

For more information call 267-2153.

COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 19

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

May 11, 2012

BE BEAR AWARE ON JBER

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

Bears.

In Alaska, they literally come with the territory.

Whether you're out hunting in the Interior, fishing on the Kenai Peninsula, or just walking to work on JBER, you stand a good chance of seeing bears.

Alaska is home to all three species of North American bears – brown, black, and polar.

By learning a little about the lives of bears, you can improve your enjoyment of them, whether it's for hunting, viewing, safe hiking or keeping bears away from your property.

To maintain a healthy – and wild – bear population, people have to take precautions.

The primary problem in the Anchorage area is food.

It's illegal to feed bears – or any wildlife, for that matter. There are hefty fines for negligently leaving human or animal food or garbage in a way that attracts wild animals.

Feeding bears teaches them bad habits, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

When they find your leftover chili-mac left conveniently on top of a trash bin, they'll come back for more. If more food is not available, they can get demanding and aggressive.

Bears' noses are a hundred times more sensitive than humans', so almost anything can attract them.

However, bacon is a strong attractant, as are most kinds of animal feed, suet put out for birds, fish and even seaweed.

From April to November, when bears are active, take down bird feeders and secure them in a shed or in the house, and clean up seeds and shells from around your home.

Barbecues are also delicious-smelling to bears, so be sure to burn the grease off after cooking out, and store the grill in a secure place.

Keep garbage dumpsters closed, with metal lids if possible.

If you keep rabbits, chickens or other small animals, don't leave them in an outdoor enclosure overnight. Being able to select quick, fresh prey is a bear's equivalent of visiting the lobster tank at a restaurant.

People who keep such livestock may want to invest in an electric fence. Used properly, they can keep bears out of your garden and compost piles, and protect domestic animals and cabins.

When camping, eat early and consider cooking and eating before you get to your campsite.

If bears investigate the cooking smells, you'll be long gone and sleeping far from the source of the odor.

In any case, avoid cooking smelly food like bacon or oily fish,



Brown bears or grizzlies (above) are common in Alaska, as are black bears (below) and, further north, polar bears. Bears are generally shy and stay away from people, but they're easily tempted by food. It's illegal to feed bears or any other wildlife, so it's important to learn what attracts bears and how to keep them away and in the wild where they belong. Most people who live in Alaska will see at least one bear during their time in the state or while stationed at JBER. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steven White)

and keep a lookout downwind for approaching bruins.

An open area is best for cooking; you can avoid being snuck up on while you're tending the food.

Of course, plan for bear-proof food storage. Containers are available at most outdoor stores.

You can also hang your food where bears can't reach it.

On the flip side, respect the bears' food as well.

While you wouldn't really want to camp next to a winter-killed moose anyway, if you pass one, move along; it's likely that a bear already has an eye on it, and if not, one will probably show up.

Dead animals or fish are a sign to make more noise and hurry out of the area.

Leave the dogs at home when you're out in the woods, or keep them close.

While dogs can be a good early-warning system sometimes,

they can also irritate a bear and end up bringing them to your camp or fishing spot. This is generally not an amiable visit.

When you're fishing, dispose of guts and carcasses in the water and package butchered fish in

plastic bags right away, and don't leave it on the streambank.

Fishing will usually bring gulls anyway, and a bear knows gulls mean food.

If a bear is within several hundred yards, it can see a fish



splashing on the end of your line.

They have no qualms about taking over your hard work; many bears know that a fisherman means an easy meal of fish.

Cut the line if a bear is after your catch; it's not worth fighting over.

When hiking or camping, travel in groups and sing, talk or use bells to alert bears to your presence. They will generally avoid humans as long as they are given a little notice of your approach.

If you encounter a bear, stay calm, and give it plenty of personal space.

If it stops what it's doing – foraging, walking or eating for example – you're too close.

If the bear is unaware of your presence, move away quietly and give it a wide berth.

If it sees you, get its attention from far away to help it realize you're a human. If it can't see or smell what you are, it may want to come closer to investigate.

A standing bear is usually curious or confused, not threatening, so simply back away and take a wide detour around the area.

Bruins may bluff-charge, however, and stop or turn at the last moment. Bear experts advise people to stand still until the bear stops, then slowly back away.

Never run from an otherwise non-aggressive bear, according to ADF&G.

They can run up to 30 miles per hour – you don't stand a chance.

Running also makes you look like food, and might cause an otherwise uncertain bear to chase you.

Throw something on the ground – even your camera – as the bear may stop to investigate and give you time to get away. Again, a photograph isn't worth your life.

If you carry pepper spray, be sure you've trained with it before you trust it during an attack.

Climbing trees is not an effective tool; black bears, grizzly cubs, and even some adult brown bears can climb trees.

If you spot a bear, or want more information, contact the Wildlife Education Center on JBER at 552-1310.

Don't bite on DFAS scam emails or other phishing attempts

Defense Finance and
Accounting Service
News Release

There are emails being sent to individuals, including military members, military retirees, and civilian employees, which appear to be sent by a DFAS employee.

Although the email appears to come from a DFAS employee and displays a dot-mil address, it is actually from a non-government email account.

This is an example of what's called "spoofing."

The emails indicate that in-

dividuals who are receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs may be able to obtain additional funds from the Internal Revenue Service.

These emails are not issued by DFAS and will likely result in a financial loss if you comply with the suggestions in the email.

Do not send your personal information or copies of your tax returns and 1099s to the individual listed in the email.

The email indicates that individuals receiving VA disability compensation can receive ad-

ditional funds from the IRS.

The email states that such funds can be obtained by sending copies of your VA award letter, your income tax returns, your 1099-Rs, your RAS statements, and a copy of your DD 214, to a so-called retired colonel at an address in Florida.

Do not follow the suggestions in the email because you will be providing a significant amount of your personal information to a complete stranger, which could result in a financial loss.

DFAS will never send un-

solicited email messages requesting your myPay login ID and password or any other personal or financial information.

DFAS also will not send you unsolicited email messages with attachments.

Never reveal your myPay login credentials in response to an email, no matter who appears to have sent it.

If you receive an email message that appears suspicious, do not click on any links or open attachments.

If a financial institution contacts you, don't click on links in

the message.

Type the address you know is correct into the address line on your browser.

Choose secure passwords – not your mother's maiden name.

Don't reuse the same one on multiple sites, and don't write them down and leave them in your wallet, desk drawer or some equally obvious place.

Never give your credit card number unless you know the person with whom you're communicating, or you initiated the communication yourself.

Keep your identity safe!

Technology can provide some 'textual healing' in relationships

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Maj.) James "Brad" Lee
Chaplain Family Life and Training Center

My wife recently attended a conference, leaving me to manage the kids and household.

One morning my 5-year-old son crawled into bed with me before the day unfolded.

I savored our moment of snuggling and the fact I was managing life without Mom quite nicely.

But my euphoric moment was interrupted by my son's words, "Dad, I miss Mom...and I miss her phone."

At the moment I chuckled but later reflected how powerfully influential technology has become in our lives and families.

Walk into any restaurant and the number of people on their smart phones is astounding.

Like zombies, teenagers walk and text as a way of life.

Worse, the increasing number of traffic incidents involving phones and texting is alarming.

But that doesn't stop us from wanting and acquiring the latest and greatest phone with the fastest

technology, nor does it stop us from sometimes hurting those that we love using that technology.

One of the problems we encounter is that our technology grows faster than our ability to set appropriate rules and boundaries in using that technology.

In my work as a Family Life Chaplain, I have noted the increasing influence of technology as a medium by which relational conflict is perpetrated and escalated.

Many a session has begun with phone in hand showing me the barrage of textual anger and berating comments made via text.

Some have even printed the exchange so that I could have my own record.

Others have played messages that not only illustrate the words spoken but allow me to hear the tone in which they are spoken. And what about the latest Facebook post?

When trust is an issue – and it often is in my work – the lack of immediate response calls into question the faithfulness of the spouse.

What is the standard time of response for a text message?

Ten seconds? One minute? Five minutes?

After how many rings should I begin to question the whereabouts or faithfulness of my spouse?

What about the GPS tracking app that I can enable to track my spouse's every move; should I expect my spouse to be okay with that?

These are all questions that I have struggled with couples to address in the midst of their conflict.

And frankly, there are no textbook answers to these questions, nor is there an app to offer such insight.

But might I suggest the following as "food for thought" as you think about how far reaching technology is in your marriage, relationship or family, and more importantly how far you want it to reach?

In terms of basic phone and texting expectations, talk.

"Is it OK if I don't answer right away? How can I tell you 'I can't talk right now?'" What is a reasonable amount of time in which to respond to your call or text?

Regarding phone calls, do you really want me to even answer the

phone if I really can't talk to you?

If that is the case, maybe I should just leave a message and tell you why I'm calling, as opposed to the annoying phrase, "Can I call you right back?" and a click."

How many texts are too many?

At some point, logic would dictate we speak on the phone or wait until we can have a face-to-face conversation as opposed to textual escalation.

There are no winners in a texting argument, thus, agreeing on a certain number of texts per subject may help to diminish text arguments.

Set aside time that is "technology-free."

This may sound old-fashioned but one of our family rules is no technology at the dinner table.

No texting. No calls – no kidding. Even our house phone does not get answered during dinner time.

And while this flies in the face of some who might expect you to answer your phone immediately, guarding the 20 to 30 minutes with family to eat together is invaluable and incredibly meaningful.

As I like to say, "If it's impor-

tant, they'll leave a message."

What is appropriate and inappropriate for me to post on Facebook or Twitter about the relationship?

Do we have to go there? Yes, we do.

As a rule of thumb, posting anything about your spouse or relationship that is derogatory is never helpful.

Posting things that are positive or encouraging about your spouse on the other hand, can be helpful to your relationship.

The old adage still rings true, "If you don't have something nice to say, then don't say anything at all."

If I've created more questions than answers, then I've met my objective.

My intent was to spur your own creative thinking and challenge each of you to consider your own technological boundaries that are helpful to your relationship.

If you come up with some new ideas, let us know on the Chaplain and Family Life Training Center-Facebook page.

For assistance, visit Building 1108 or call 384-LIFE.

Motorcycles can be dangerous – so be sure you know your stuff

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

Preventing motorcycle accidents and fatalities remains a top priority for Defense Department leaders, a senior defense official said today, with training and awareness reducing the number of incidents.

"We had seen fatalities and accidents increasing as motorcycle ownership increased," said Joseph Angello, DoD's director of operational readiness and safety, told the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service. In 2008, the peak year for fatalities, he added, 124 service members died in motorcycle accidents.

"Since that time – through training, through emphasis, through leadership (and) through the phenomenal work of our military services – we've brought that number down," he said. "We lost 92 (service members) last year, and this year our trends look like we will be at that level or less."

Every loss is tragic and affects spouses, parents other family members, the service member's unit and the Defense Department, Angello said.

"We don't want anyone to lose their

life in a motorcycle accident," he said. "We want them to drive safe; we want them to wear protective gear – helmets, appropriate shoes, appropriate attire, and leathers. ... But sometimes, the best protection against a motorcycle accident is awareness, training and control. That's your best protection."

As a motorcycle rider since age 11, Angello said, he knows how much fun riding can be. But it's important for riders to respect the fact that motorcycles also are inherently dangerous, he added.

"It takes effort to ride a motorcycle properly," he said. "Accidents happen in the blink of an eye, (and) those mistakes are unforgiving." Riders who ride safely 99 times out of 100, he added, can experience a "high regret factor" the one time they don't.

The director noted motorcycle training is mandatory for all DoD personnel. In addition, military personnel are required to wear personal protective equipment, such as long sleeves, eye protection and helmets, even if they are in a "no-helmet" state.

"If you are a military member and you want to ride a motorcycle, you must have the training," Angello said. "Each of our services – a lot of them are common courses – have

a basic motorcycle safety course. You must take it or a refresher course, an advanced rider course, or a sports bike course."

The Navy and Marine Corps developed the sports bike course in 2008 and shared it through the Defense Safety Oversight Council Private Motor Vehicle Task Force. "Sports bikes are phenomenal pieces of engineering, with power-to-weight ratios like we've never seen before," Angello said. "As a result, they are very dangerous. If ridden properly, it's enjoyment – it's fun. But they are unforgiving."

Numerous deployments over the last decade have had an impact on the number of service members involved in motorcycle accidents, Angello said.

"We have noted, and other studies have noted, there is an increase in motorcycle accidents when people return from deployment," he said. "Our data shows (it happens) particularly within the first year when returning from deployment."

Theories as to why these fatalities are occurring include service members not having the opportunity to ride a motorcycle during deployment or the change in driving conditions when they're back home, Angello said.

"Others talk of theories such as, 'You become 'bulletproof' from your experience in theater, and you take more risks at home,'" he said. "Whatever the cause, we in DoD are taking it very seriously. When people return from deployment our leaders are ensuring people get trained."

Angello, who noted he has taken motorcycle training himself, urged all service members to take advantage of "some of the best training offered in this nation."

"Right now, the courses are for service members," he said. "Some of the installations, on a space-available basis, make arrangements for family members. However, any military member who has a dependent who wants to ride a motorcycle – they should be trained."

Angello lauded military leaders for their commitment to addressing motorcycle safety for having "offered courses that make a difference in people's lives," and urged all military members to be ready to ride, just as they are ready for the mission when they serve in uniform.

"Ready to ride – right equipment, right training, right conditions," he said. "Keep your awareness up, and you're ready to ride."

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



ATV SAFETY COURSE MAY 8, 11, 18, & 25 - 1 - 5 P.M.

\$50
COST OF CLASS WILL BE DEDUCTED OFF THE FIRST GUIDED TOUR ATTENDED.
OUTDOOR REC JBER RICHARDSON
384-1475

JIM CREEK ATV TOUR MAY 12 - 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

\$150 PP
OUTDOOR REC JBER RICHARDSON
384-1475



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
552-5526

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF/RICHARDSON IS PARTICIPATING IN THE SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN BEGINNING MAY 18, 2012. BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEALS WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL CHILDREN 18 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER.

MEALS WILL BE SERVED AT FOUR DIFFERENT LOCATIONS:
ILLA SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM (36100 GRADY ST/RICHARDSON)
TWO RIVERS YOUTH CENTER (BLDG 297, 6TH ST/RICHARDSON)
KETCHIKAN SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM (7163 11TH ST/ELMENDORF)
KENNICOTT YOUTH CENTER (6104 CARSWELL AVE/ELMENDORF)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TIMES OF MEALS CALL: SUE LONG (384-2283)
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Community happenings

SATURDAY

Pet Fun Run

The JBER-Elmendorf fitness center hosts this walk or run with pets starting at the Joint Military Mall parking lot at noon.

Bring your pet and get some fresh air and exercise with this popular fun run.

For information, call 552-0610.

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.

Denali Destroyer Dolls

Palmer wraps up its roller derby action in this military-salute event. Doors of the Palmer Event Center open at 6 p.m. and wheels roll at 7.

For information, visit www.denalidestroyers.org.

MONDAY THROUGH MAY 18

Police Week events

Police Week honors military and civilian police forces. The opening ceremony takes place at Heritage Park from 7:30 until 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Security Forces hosts a display May 15, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Joint Military Mall parking lot.

For more information, call 552-0176 or 552-9863.

WEDNESDAY

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 *Alaska fighting*.

THURSDAY THROUGH MAY 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 or call 263-2787.

MAY 18

Army 10-miler qualifier

Think you've got what it takes to do the famed 10-miler? Pre-register at Buckner Physical Fitness Center or May 18 at 5:45 a.m. at Attu Hall, the start point.

For more information call 384-1304.

Juvenile arthritis

This panel discussion with representatives from the school district and medical fields is to help families who have a child dealing with any chronic disease.

Learn to advocate for your child at the Providence Alaska Medical Center from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For information call (207) 547-2707.

MAY 19

Annual Torch Run

The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run supporting the Special Olympics starts at West High at 10 a.m. with registration at 9 a.m. All are welcome to run or walk the 3K course, and food and music will be provided with registration.

For information call 552-3421.

MAY 28

Memorial Day Ceremony

The Korean War Veterans Association will host a Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Flag Pole at 9th Ave. and I Street beginning at 3 p.m. World War II veterans are especially invited to commemorate the attack on Dutch Harbor.

For information, call 274-3218.

JUNE 1

Festival of Flowers

Kick off the Alaskan summer with the Festival of Flowers in downtown Anchorage. Flower sales and auctions, educational seminars, live music, face-painting and stilt-walkers are on tap to bring in the summertime in style.

Spend all day in Town Square park, or visit www.anchorage-downtown.org to choose an event.

JUNE 2 THROUGH 10

Three Barons Ren Faire

The Three Barons invite all to enter their realm for revelry and merriment. Living chess, circuses,

puppets, magic shows and fairy tales make for fun-filled times for the whole family.

Visit June 2, 3, 9 and 10 from noon until 8 p.m. at Tozier Track.

For more information visit www.3barons.org.

JUNE 7 THROUGH 18

Slam'n Salm'n Derby

Ship Creek is just feet away from downtown hotels, but the fish can top 40 pounds.

There are many classes and prizes, so you don't need to land the biggest fish to reel in great prizes.

For information, visit www.shipcreeksalmonderby.com.

JUNE 8

Military Appreciation picnic and olympics

Paxton Park and Buckner Physical Fitness Center host concurrent military appreciation picnics. Arctic Warrior Olympics will take place at Paxton Park beginning at 8 a.m.

For information call 580-0213 or 552-0503 for the olympics; for picnic information call 551-8739 or 552-7352.

JUNE 22

Army Birthday Ball

All ranks are welcomed to this Army ball at the Hilton starting at 6 p.m. Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter will speak.

For information or tickets, contact unit representative or call 384-2067.

ONGOING

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help organize games and activities for children, and to set up and tear down equipment at the Military Appreciation Picnic June 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To volunteer, call 552-3598 or 552-7456.

Volunteers needed

Volunteer referees are needed for the CrossFit Games during the Arctic Warrior Olympics June 8.

If you want to be a referee or participate in the games, call 552-2629.

Sing-along at the zoo

Pre-school aged children can explore the world of animals through music with musician An-

nie Reeves.

Children can sing along with the guitar, or play with the musical instruments for kids. Sing-alongs are 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/msmrre or email bjorgan@alaska.net.

Motorcycle training

The Basic Rider Course, Basic Rider Course 2 and Military Sport-bike Rider Course are now accepting applications.

All military personnel and those civilians who use motorcycles as a duty requirement need to be certified.

To register, visit www.militarysafepmv.com and select Elmendorf-Richardson, or 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.

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 or kevin.vaughan@us.af.mil.

Chapel services

Catholic Mass

Sunday

9 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
10:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel
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.)

af.mil.

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.

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FUN FOR EVERYONE

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Mothers Day at the Polar Bowl
753-7467



8-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT



Hill & Creek Courses at MOOSE BOWLING COURSE ALASKA



FUN RUN 5K

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL
MAY 13
BRING MOM TO BOWL ON MOTHER'S DAY AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT JUST FOR HER PLUS A 10% DISCOUNT!
POLAR BOWL
753-7467

8-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT
QUALIFYING ROUND
MAY 11, 18 & 25
6 P.M. - SIGN-UP AT 5:30
FREE FOR MEMBERS - \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS
ARCTIC CHILL/BOSS/WARRIOR ZONE
384-7619

NEW GOLFER'S OPEN HOUSE
MAY 19 • 1 - 5 P.M.
MOOSE RUN GOLF COURSE
428-0056

PET FUN RUN
MAY 12 SIGN UP AT 8:30 • Race at 9:30 A.M.
5K OR 1.5 MILE WALK/RUN AT EXCHANGE PARKING LOT. T-SHIRTS FOR FIRST 40 PARTICIPANTS.
JBER ELMENDORF FITNESS CENTER
552-0610



STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING WORKOUT
MAY 15 & 29 • 5 - 7 P.M. • \$25
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
JBER LAKE TBA
552-4599



FLY FISHING

INTRO TO FLY CASTING
MAY 11 & 21 • 5 - 7 P.M. • \$15
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
BLDG. 7301
552-4599



ROCK CLIMBING 101
MAY 17 • 6 - 8 P.M. • \$30
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
BLDG. 7301
552-4599



CUSTOMER OPEN HOUSE
MAY 19 • 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.
TALK TO TRIP GUIDES, GET INFO, AND GRILLED FOOD!
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
BLDG. 7301
552-4599

SHOOTING THE SKEET

JBER hosts Alaska Armed Forces Skeet Championship

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett
JBER Public Affairs

Alaska Armed Forces Skeet Championships kicked off at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Skeet and Trap Range, JBER, Alaska May 4. The event continued through May 6, and was open to the public for competition.

"This is the Alaska Armed Forces Skeet shoot," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Albert Brown, 962nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit Aerospace Maintenance craftsman. "Anyone can come, but it's mostly for military members who are stationed out here."

It isn't just used by the base; people interested in skeet shooting travel here to participate.

"People from Fairbanks, Eielson Air Force Base and Fort Wainwright come here to shoot with us," he said.

The championship is run by the National Skeet Shooting Association, Brown said.

"We do it every year, usually the first weekend of May," he said. "Usually we get around 20 shooters. This year I think we got about 10 active duty members shooting today and quite a few of retired military folks that came out."

The competition lasted three days. Shooters use multiple gauges during the event.

"This year we shot a 12-gauge event Friday morning," Brown said. "We shot a round of doubles Friday afternoon. We shot some 28-gauges Saturday. Sunday we shot 12-gauges to 20-gauges."

The scoring is broken down into three major categories.

"We break it out so there's a military champion, civilian champion and retired champion," he said.

Brown himself won first place in the 12-gauge category.

"I got started competitively in this in 2007," he said. "That's not long compared to some of these guys that have been shooting for 40 years."

The opportunity to shoot skeet on base makes the difference, he said.

"Having a range on base is what drives me to do it," he said. "It's really convenient, not a lot bases have a range anymore."

Largely, the competition is about fun.

"It's really fun, there's a lot of camaraderie out here," Brown said. "Stuff at work, you leave it at work and come out here and relax."



ABOVE: Air Force Staff Sgt. Albert Brown fires at a clay pigeon during the Alaska Armed Forces Skeet Championships at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Skeet and Trap Range May 5. Brown won the 12 gauge rounds.

LEFT: Matt Palmer fires at the championship. Palmer is a retired Soldier and a native of Wasilla, Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)



BIKE RACE AROUND JBER



ABOVE: Service members, civilians and families begin the 2nd annual bike race at the Elmendorf Fitness Center May 7. The bike race helps participants practice healthy fitness in an enjoyable event. LEFT: Cyclists push for the finish line on JBER-Elmendorf Saturday during the bike race, which wound around the installation taking in some of Alaska's best scenery. U.S. Air Force photos/ Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)

RIGHT: U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Nathan Menefee cycles through the bike race event along with his young child May. 5. The bike race welcomed all willing participants, from small children to retired service members and everyone in between. (U.S. Air Force photos/ Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)



Births

APRIL 23

A daughter, Hayley Lynn Johnson-Hartley, was born 21 inches long and weighing 10 pounds, 1 ounce at 7:45 a.m. to Heather Lynn Johnson-Hartley and Sgt. William Joseph Johnson-Hartley of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Division.

APRIL 25

A son, James Peter Watz, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 2:24 p.m. to Adrienne Lee Watz and Army Capt. Eric Peter Watz of the Dental Activity-Alaska.

APRIL 26

A daughter, Kaegyn Nova Marlee Allen, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 7:48 a.m. to Breezy Jo Allen and Pfc. Gary D. Allen of the 98th Maintenance Company.

APRIL 26

A son, Thomas Anthony Betts, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 6:33 p.m. to Air Force Maj. Shannon Dawn Betts of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron and Mark Andrew Betts.

A daughter, Nora Rose Nowotenski, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 6

pounds, 4 ounces at 2:22 a.m. to Roseanne Elizabeth Nowotenski and Air Force Capt. David James Nowotenski of the 525th Fighter Squadron.

APRIL 27

A son, Christopher Hayden Flores, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 1:52 a.m. to Nancy Stephanie Flores and Army Cpl. Michael Jonathon Flores of the 6th Engineer Battalion.

A daughter, Abigail Leeann Herrington, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces at 8:23 a.m. to Britany Leeann Herrington and Senior Airman Logan Reginald Moore of Minot, N.D.

A son, Reese Michael Kory, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 6:59 p.m. to Tech. Sgt. Jennifer

Joyce Kory of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron and Air Force Staff Sgt. Wesley Caleb Kory of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron.

APRIL 28

A son, Triston Scott Olin, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 9:39 a.m. to Angelica Mae Olin and Senior Airman Jeremy David Olin of the 673d Communication Squadron.

APRIL 29

A son, Ethan Roert Trebon, was born 20 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 7.3 ounces at 9:07 a.m. to Jennifer Lynn Trebon and Air Force Capt. Joshua James Trebon of the 3rd Munitions Squadron.

APRIL 30

A son, Eli Abraham Block, was born 21.75 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces at 7:47 a.m. to Caitlin Kristin Block and Air Force Capt.

Adam Jerome Block of the 517th Airlift Squadron.

MAY 1

A daughter, Victoria Leigh Dobbin, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce at 11:57 p.m. to Maria Dobbin and Airman 1st Class Skyler Dobbin of the 3rd Munitions Squadron.

MAY 2

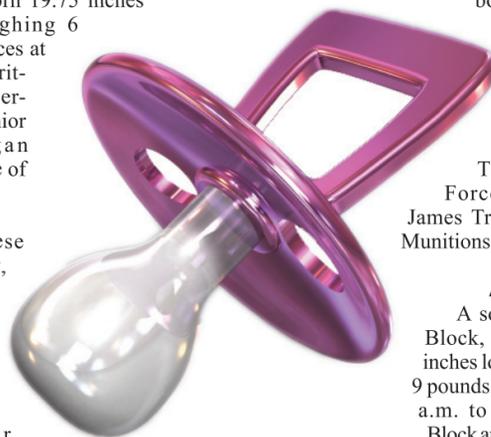
A son, Max Alexander Matthew Giffen, was born weighing 9 pounds, 14 ounces at 12:49 p.m. to Jessica Giffen and Army Cpt. Mathew Giffen of the 95th Chemical Company.

MAY 3

A daughter, Josephine Marie Gibbs, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces at 12:20 a.m. to Catriona J. Gibbs and Army Capt. Jacob B. Gibbs of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

MAY 4

A son, Adrian Marcellus Navarro, was born 21.25 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces at 9:23 p.m. to Lelia Jenna Navarro and Senior Airman Julian Alexander Navarro of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.



FOB Salerno Soldiers mark National Day of Prayer

By Spc. Eric-James Estrada
4th BCT, 25th ID Public Affairs

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Soldiers deployed to Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan participated in the National Day of Prayer, a day chosen by Congress, when people are encouraged to turn to God in prayer and meditation.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance marked on the first Thursday of May.

It's a tradition that dates back to the first Continental Congress and was formalized by law in 1952 as an annual day of observance.

"The National Day of Prayer is a long-lasting tradition within the United States since before even our founding, starting back in 1775 with the first Continental Congress," said Army Maj. Kenneth Bolin, chaplain for the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne),

25th Infantry Division. Bolin hails from Manlius, Ill. "It is a day dedicated to praying not just for personal request, but also for the overall common good."

Many people are unaware that such a day exists when the nation as a whole is provided the opportunity to unite in prayer, regardless of religion, and be thankful for their current blessings and seek help for the challenges to come in peoples future.

Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Diggs, supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), Task Force Spartan, from Raleigh, N.C., was grateful for the event.

"I think that it's just great for people to serve the Lord," Diggs said. "This is just a great moment. I've been in the service for a while and this is the first time I've ever heard of a national prayer day. This was something to definitely

be a part of.

"The prayers were awesome. The leaders and the speakers, everything was good and I was really touched by it," she said.

For the Soldiers serving in the Spartan Brigade, it is but a fraction of time that they give up to find solace and guidance during their mission here in Afghanistan.

"What we are doing in Task Force Spartan is dedicating just a small amount of time today to praying for our new leaders, both civilian and military," Bolin said. "In a few days, we'll actually go up in helicopters and we will pray across out battle space, not only for our own Soldiers, but also for the Afghan civilians that live in the villages that we are here to support."



Army Maj. Kenneth Bolin, brigade chaplain for the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, hailing from Manlius, Ill., speaks about the concept of prayer as part of the National Day of Prayer at the base chapel on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, May 4. (U.S. Army photo/Spc. Eric-James Estrada)

MOVING ON



ABOVE: Patrick Lighthart of the 773d Civil Engineering Squadron and his wife Debra Lighthart share a laugh during a group retirement ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photos/ Airman 1st Class Omari Bernard)



MOVING UP

Graduation ceremony honors 250 JBER personnel with new degrees

By Army Staff Sgt.
Matthew Winstead
USARAK Public Affairs

Taking the time to study and complete just one class can be daunting in itself, but 250 recent graduates enrolled in the Army Continuing Education System at JBER didn't just complete one course – they earned degrees.

Service members, spouses and dependents were recognized during an academic achievement ceremony May 4 at the JBER-Richardson Theater where they were awarded degrees and diplomas for their accomplishments.

"All of our students have ties to the military," Aerielle Ludwig, an education service specialist at the JBER Education Center said. "Many of our students have also utilized programs like tuition assistance in order to get their degrees."

There were 15 universities with students graduating in the ceremony.

Thanks to their involvement, according to Ludwig, these universities get a better understanding of the unique requirements of military



Honor graduates are recognized by Army Alaska Commander Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo and representatives from their universities during a May 4 ceremony on JBER honoring graduates who have earned academic degrees through the Army Continuing Education System. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Winstead)

members and their families and often allow for most, if not all, credits from a different university to be transferred and put toward a current goal or degree.

That's a valuable service for service members and families dealing with frequent moves during their military careers.

The level of degrees awarded ranged from GEDs to associates degrees to bachelor's and master's degrees.

In addition to being awarded their degrees by a representative from their respective schools, the students were also personally thanked for their efforts and service

by U.S. Army Alaska Commander Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo as they crossed the stage and received their academic documents.

In brief remarks, Palumbo expressed his admiration for each of the graduates and encouraged them to achieve further heights of education and personal improvement

to make both themselves and the Army stronger as a whole.

For information about the Army Continuing Education System or to enroll in classes with tuition assistance, contact your unit education officer or visit www.knox.army.mil/garrison/dhr/aces/index.asp.

