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ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 3, No. 21 | Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson | May 25, 2012

Garrett takes command of U.S. Army Alaska

Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commanding general, U.S. Army Pacific, (left) passes the U.S. Army Alaska guidon to the new commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Garrett, during the USARAK change of command ceremony at Pershing Field May 17. Garrett replaced Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo who will be transferring to the Pentagon. (U.S. Air Force photo/Steven White)

Former Spartan commander returns to Alaska

By Army Master Sgt. Eric Reinhardt
USARAK Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael Garrett became the 36th commander of U.S. Army Alaska in a change-of-command ceremony May 17 at Pershing Field.

He comes to Alaska from Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was chief of staff, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg.

Garrett replaces Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, who has been the senior Army commander in Alaska and deputy commander of Alaskan Command since July 2010.

Palumbo – recently nominated for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general – will move on to an assignment as deputy

See **Garrett**, Page A-3

Command Sgt. Maj. David Turnbull hands the U.S. Army Alaska colors for the last time to outgoing USARAK commanding general Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo. Palumbo has been nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and assignment to the Pentagon as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Intelligence) for Joint Coalition and Warfighter Support. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ty-Rico Lea)

SECAF visits, speaks with JBER Airmen

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

Airmen from around base gathered at JBER's Hangar 20 Monday, where Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley addressed the assemblage.

"This is a great opportunity to thank you for your recent service and the service of your families," Donley said.

The secretary said visiting with the Arctic Warriors was a special treat, due to the awards and recognitions JBER Airmen have won recently, including an Outstanding Unit Award and numerous Air Force-level and major command-level awards.

He also noted the vital missions and strategically important locale that Alaska presents.

In 2011, approximately 1,000 JBER Airmen were deployed. Around a third of those went to Afghanistan; the rest deployed to the Horn of Africa and other areas in the Central Command area of operations.

The Department of Defense has been emphasizing the importance and continued focus on the Pacific region.

"Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Korea and Japan are critical to U.S. interests," Donley said, emphasizing "close relationships with allies and emerging powers."

The secretary also highlighted the Air Force's efforts to continue to modernize and protect a high-quality, ready force that's able to grow more capable in the future.

"We're redoubling our efforts to eliminate waste and maintain an effective acquisi-

See **Donley**, Page A-3

Arctic Sappers clear the line with high explosives

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding
JBER Public Affairs

One rocket, 1,700 pounds of C-4 on a string, a platoon of Sappers, Army combat engineers, and a firing pin could be the key to clearing a pathway for the mission during Operation Tundra Wolf II at the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex May 10.

"Conducting home-station training at the JPARC allows us the opportunity to integrate all of our organic battalion capabilities to conduct the mission," said Army Lt. Col. Marc Hoffmeister, 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) commander. "Everything from the sustainment provided by our forward support company to draw, transport, and secure the explosives to the battalion level staff planning with the maneuver forces to employ the system to the Sappers on the ground detonating the charge."

The JPARC is the only training area outside of the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., or Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., that provides the Army with the ability to detonate an explosive of this size and type and to do so as a part of a live-fire exercise.

Soldiers with 6th Eng. and the Alaska Army National Guard's 297th Battlefield

See **Sappers**, Page A-3

Soldiers of 84th Engineer Support Company (Airborne) and 23rd Engineer Company (Sapper) (Airborne) detonate a mine-clearing line charge at Donnelly Training Area earlier this month. (U.S. Army video still courtesy of 6th Engineer Battalion)

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Community

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

Air Force Staff Sgt. BIll Cenna, 212th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, briefs Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Ruiz, on his patient's status during training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 21, 2011. The training focused on quick care under fire and also gave training to Baker Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, on how to react when pararescuemen arrive. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

'Joint basing is personal'

Evans recalls first two years of JBER

Editorial by Air Force Col. Robert Evans
673d Air Base Wing and JBER commander

A member of the 773rd Logistics Readiness Squadron watches as Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division load onto a Boeing 737 as they prepare to leave for a deployment to Afghanistan Nov. 28, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christopher Gross)

What an incredible journey it has been! As Suzy and I prepare to leave Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, I wanted to share some thoughts and express my profound appreciation for those that helped establish JBER as the premier joint base in the Department of Defense and the "Home of the Arctic Warriors."

Joint basing was thrust upon us by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission and codified in law. It was not an idea born here, and many opposed the concept. But, the senior commanders at the former Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base embraced the idea and chartered an enterprise team to develop the blueprint for success.

The result was a totally integrated joint base with a joint command team and a single view of installation services. JBER would be more than an exercise in cost-saving, we would become a truly joint installation … with Soldiers and Airmen, and their families supporting each other and taking advantage of the core values that bond all who serve in the defense of this nation.

Joint basing is not about changing service cultures; it is about recognizing that all who defend this nation share a common set of beliefs. Together, we can achieve more than we ever could apart. Together we can overcome any obstacle and adversity.

We faced adversity, together. Just days before we activated the 673d Air Base Wing as the installation host, tragedy struck. As I witnessed the response to the crash of Sitka 43 and the loss of four Airmen, I saw this was already a joint base. Airmen and Soldiers worked together in the days following this disaster; the foundation of trust and mutual respect would underpin our fledgling joint base.

I realized early that the joint basing law would only serve to formalize an already strong relationship. I knew then that JBER had the potential to be the best of all the joint bases … delivering far more than either base could independently. But, realizing this vision would not be easy.

The Congress directed the Department of Defense to combine 26 installations, closely located, into 12 joint bases for one reason: to save money. But, for me, joint basing has the potential to deliver far more than cost savings.

I firmly believe joint basing can be the catalyst to build teams; mutually supporting relationships between Soldiers and Airmen, civilian employees and our families. Relationships built on trust and mutual respect, earned through promises kept and smiles returned.

We are all in this together. It doesn't matter if you wear Army Combat Uniform, the Air Force Battle Uniform, natural fibers or civilian garb … all of us serve to defend our great nation. Joint basing gives us the opportunity to close ranks and support each other. How can that be anything other than goodness!

We have saved money, and I'm proud of that. But, I am most proud of the relationships we've built.

Army Col. Morris Goins, the commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), carries my commander's coin in his combat wallet. It symbolizes our support for his Soldiers and their families here at JBER.

We will not let them down. Joint basing is personal.

After watching our Security Forces respond to the simulated launch of an F-22 Raptor fighter on NORAD alert, I asked the Airmen what they thought of joint basing. A young senior airman enthusiastically said, "Sir, I love it. I'm making friends with Soldiers. They're teaching me about the Army and I'm teaching them about the Air Force. And, we're defending our joint base together."

For me, that is the essence of joint basing: relationships and mutual support. And, this foundation of trust, mutual respect and understanding will enable us to tackle tough problems together; together we will find the efficiencies that will lead to the cost saving envisioned by the framers of joint basing. It can't start with a spreadsheet. It must start with trust and understanding, and at JBER, it has.

I am extraordinarily proud of our joint base team; the Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees, and the families … both Army and Air Force, that came together, putting service pride aside, to build this joint base team.

You have set the foundation for a joint military community, and a joint base that values effectiveness over efficiency. Someday, all this will be invisible. JBER will be all they have known, oblivious to the tension and strife that complicated our first steps. They will live in a joint military community second to none. They will owe you a debt they will never understand, and can never repay. And, I will always be grateful.

Joint basing depends on trust, transparency and time. It is a journey. I'm proud to have played a role along the way, and I will never forget my friends on the Last Frontier. May you always be arctic tough, mission ready, and family strong!

Alaskan Command/ 11th Air Force Commanding General
Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog (USAF)

U.S. Army Alaska Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Michael X. Garrett (USA)

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/ 673d Air Base Wing Commander
Col. Robert D. Evans (USAF)

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/ 673d Air Base Wing Vice Commander
Col. Timothy R. Prior (USA)

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley returns a salute Monday outside the Alaska Fisher House on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Donley and his wife, Gail, visited JBER May 20 and 21 before they departed for Eielson Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/John Pennell)

Air Force Capt. John Cummings, F-22A Raptor pilot, shows Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley winter gear the pilots wear to stay warm during flight operations during the secretary's visit to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on Monday. Donley visited JBER to speak to Airmen about the direction of the Air Force, visit them on the job and find out their concerns. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

Donley

From Page A-1

tion process," Donley said, although he noted that the current $33 billion in efficiencies found is not enough.

"In short, the best course of action is to trade size for quality," he said. "We will get smaller, but we'll continue to modernize … to be a superb force."

Some areas will be protected from coming budget cuts, he said – special operations forces, space and cyber in particular.

"But as we get smaller, we cannot protect everything," Donley explained.

He said as part of its Fiscal Year 2013 budget request, the Air Force is looking to cut 3,900 active-duty personnel, 5,100 Air National Guard personnel and 900 Air Force Reserve personnel to balance force structure changes with manpower requirements. In addition, some programs will be restructured or terminated to protect key Air Force priorities.

One of the changes proposed in the FY13 budget is to move the squadron of F-16 Fighting Falcon fighters from Eielson Air Force Base to JBER, which would mean approximately 540 Airmen relocating to JBER.

"That move does not close Eielson," Donley emphasized.

The secretary also underscored the vital role that Airmen play in making today's Air Force the best in the world.

"Airmen are the living engine that powers the Air Force," Donley said. "It's all just a static display until you add Airmen.

"Our U.S. Air Force is the envy of the world," he said. "You and all members of the Total Force are up to the challenge, and you deserve to be proud of your work here in Alaska."

Garrett

From Page A-1

under secretary of defense (intelligence) for Joint Coalition and Warfighter Support at the Pentagon.

Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, commanding general of U. S. Army Pacific and reviewing officer for the ceremony, described Garrett as "the right man for the job."

"I can think of no one better prepared to continue USARAK's reputation for producing tough, well-conditioned professionals," he said.

Wiercinski praised the legacy Palumbo created during his tenure in Alaska.

"Over the last two years, USARAK positively demonstrated why it is the best-kept secret in America's Army," he said, "and why Alaska is so critical to our nation's refocus on Asia and the Pacific."

Garrett's assignment to Alaska is something of a homecoming for the new USARAK commander, his wife Lorelei and their two children.

He was the first commander of the newly formed 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at JBER from February 2006 to July 2008. He led the brigade through its first combat deployment to Iraq from October 2006 to December 2007.

"The Garrett family is fired up to be back in Alaska," Garrett said. "We have fond memories of our experiences and the many friendships we made during our last tour."

In his remarks, Garrett acknowledged the Army's current challenges and sounded an optimistic note for the future.

"As we sort our way through the challenges associated with the current and projected fiscal environment, I am confident in our leadership, the vision of our chief and commander United States Army Pacific and our way ahead," Garrett said.

He has served in 18 assignments, four overseas and 14 stateside, in his 28-year Army career.

Overseas, the general has served in Afghanistan, twice in Iraq and Korea.

In the United States, he has served at Fort Stewart, Ga.; Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.; twice at Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii; three tours at Fort Bragg, N.C.; West Point, N.Y.; Fort Richardson, Alaska; Washington, D.C.; and Fort Knox, Ky.

Garrett is a 1984 graduate of Xavier University, in Cincinnati, where he received a bachelor of science in criminal justice and was commissioned in the Army as a second lieutenant of infantry. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and has served as a Senior Military Fellow at the Center for New Security in Washington, D.C.

Maj. Gen. Michael Garrett, incoming U.S. Army Alaska commanding general, and wife Lorelei are interviewed by local news media before the U.S. Army Alaska change of command ceremony May 17 at Pershing Field. (U.S. Air Force photo/Steven White)

Sappers

From Page A-1

Surveillance Brigade, combined forces for participation in this annual training prior to their deployments.

"Training with the Alaska National Guard provides us an incredible joint, multi-echelon training experience," Hoffmeister said. "This is invaluable in both training our battalion for combat operations overseas as well building relationships and an understanding of capabilities to help us to respond together in the event of a natural disaster here at home in Alaska."

One resource that is used is the mine-clearing line charge, also called a MICLIC, for clearing lanes of mines or improvised explosive devices. This explosive is rarely used in training, but it is required that all combat engineers be certified on it before deploying for a route-clearance mission. The MICLIC is a rocket-propelled explosive that provides an essential mobility capability for U.S. forces in the field.

"What happens is a rocket with a lot of C-4 tied to the back the rocket is fired off the back of a trailer into a mine field. When the charges that are on it land on the ground, it's detonated," said 2nd Lt. Evan Nelson, 3rd Platoon leader, 84th Engineer Support Company (Airborne), 6th Eng. "That detonation either causes a sympathetic detonation of mines or it blows them out of the way. Basically this creates a path for other maneuver forces to travel through that mine field safely."

This is the first time that the MICLIC has been used in Alaska. This type of training has previously been relegated to two other locations, NTC and JRTC. Special permissions from the Department of the Army had to be obtained to get the munitions to use in Alaska due to the risks involved.

"With any demolitions training there are risks," said 1st Lt. Mark Rice, Assistant S-3 training officer with 6th Eng. "We try to mitigate these risks as much as possible. Our focus is always on the safety of the Soldiers conducting the training. However, there were some environmental risks involved as well."

With the help of Fort Greely Range Control, the engineers prepared for the potential of starting and fighting a wildfire as well as some unique wildlife restrictions.

"Right now, the wild buffalo are caving in one of the areas we wanted to execute our training event," Rice said. "We've had to adjust our plan in order to accommodate them and not disturb them with the noise caused by a pretty big boom."

For about two-week rotations, Soldiers will learn skills that will be needed for success in the field. Route clearance support is the mission this battalion has been tasked for during their deployment to Afghanistan. Soldiers from multiple career fields are participating in organized scenarios that will ultimately train them for what they may face out on the battlefield.

"The exercise is part of our normal training schedule," Rice said. "It does stand out as a sort of culminating event in that it provides us the opportunity to work all of the facets of our battalion's capabilities at once. It also tests the abilities of our headquarters and staff sections in exercising our combat functions while still requiring us to complete our normal garrison duties."

DELAWARE DIGS

Paratroopers conduct site survey for police outpost

Spc. Andrew McFarland, assigned to 3rd Platoon, Delaware Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, provides security outside Terezayi May 5. The platoon was conducting a site survey in the village for a new police outpost location. (U.S. Army photos/Spc. Kimberly Trumbull)

ABOVE: Pfc. Patrick Smith, 3rd Platoon Delaware Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, stands on top of a police outpost outside Terezayi May 8. Delaware paratroopers worked with Soldiers of 133rd Military Police Company, South Carolina National Guard.
RIGHT: Spc. Jonathan Wolford, 3rd Platoon, Delaware Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, shovels dirt into a Hesco wall outside Terezayi May 8. The Hescos serve as field-expedient barriers for remote outposts.

Army 1st Lt. Robert Andrews, 3rd Platoon, Delaware Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, provides security with an Afghan Uniformed Policeman outside Terezayi May 5.

Sgt. Emery Bachelder, 133rd Military Police Company, South Carolina National Guard, Task Force Blue Geronimo, provides security at the construction site of a new police outpost outside Terezayi May 8.

Local children are among the villagers harvesting wheat on the location where a new police outpost will be built near Terezayi May 8.

Briefs and Announcements

Disposition of effects

Army 1st Lt. Michael Paris, Rear Detachment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) 25th Infantry Division, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Sgt. Brian L. Walker, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Paris at (907) 230-8712.

Disposition of effects

Army 2nd Lt. James Lewis, Rear Detachment, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Pfc. Richard L. McNulty III, 425th BSTB, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Lewis at (907) 384-1347.

Disposition of effects

Army 2nd Lt. Ray Vickery, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Staff Sgt. Thomas K. Fogarty, of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Vickery at (828) 429-6496.

Disposition of effects

Air Force Capt. Truth Finck is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Senior Airman Clinton Reeves, 673d Logistics Readiness 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 Finck at 552-1183.

Combatives tournament

The U.S. Army Alaska combatives tournament is from June 13 to 15 at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center, no combatives certification required.

Deadline to register is June 1.

Call 384-0292 for details.

Increased runway activity

Expect increased traffic light control activity 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.

Clinic closure

The 673d Flight Medicine Clinic will close June 1 at noon for an official fuction.

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 all day Monday for Memorial Day. Additionally, the hospital will be closed June 21 for an exercise.

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*.

MiCare registration

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

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

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

Once registered, patients have the ability to participate in the study by completing a short series of surveys during the course of the next year. This provides an opportunity for all active-duty, retired and dependent patients to have an impact on shaping the future of Air Force health services.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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*.

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.

PACOM's priorities reflect new strategic guidance

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

ABOVE: Pvt. Andrew Opolka, 472nd Military Police Company, 793rd MP Battalion, describes the U.S. Army procedures for mounting a .50 caliber machine gun atop a Humvee during bilateral training to Philippine Army Cpl. Adornado Cawa, 5th Infantry Division MP Company, as part of Balikatan 2012, April 19 at Clark Air Base, Philippines. Bilateral training helps maintain a high level of interoperability, enhances military-to-military relations and combined combat capabilities. Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, U.S. Pacific Command commander listed strengthening alliances and partnerships with Pacific nations as a top priority.
RIGHT: Locklear salutes as he arrives at the U.S. Pacific Command change of command ceremony where he relieved Navy Adm. Robert F. Willard of command on March 9 at Camp H.M. Smith in Honolulu, Hawaii. (Department of Defense photos/Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth)

WASHINGTON — With clear direction from President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, the new U.S. Pacific Command chief said he's using the new strategic guidance as a roadmap as he sets priorities and engages with the region.

Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, who assumed his post in March, said he feels fortunate to have taken command when the strategic guidance succinctly defines leadership emphasis and priorities across his vast area of responsibility.

"Every military commander wants to know what is expected of him or her and how to proceed toward the future," Locklear said. "So the president and the secretary of defense have given me through their strategic guidance clear direction on what they want (and) what they expect to see."

The 14-page strategic guidance, released in January, recognizes challenges as well as opportunities in a region that covers 52 percent of the earth's surface and includes some 3.6 billion people in 36 nations. Asia and the Pacific, Locklear noted, represent half the world's trade, a transit point for most of its energy supplies, and home to three of the world's largest economies and most of its major militaries.

"I think the strategy is recognition that we, as an American people, are a Pacific nation," as well as an Atlantic nation, the admiral said. "We are a Pacific nation, and what happens in the Asia-Pacific matters to us. And this strategy helps reemphasize that."

In implementing the new guidance, Locklear has outlined five basic priorities for PACOM:

• Strengthen and advance alliances and partnerships;

• Mature the U.S.-China military-to-military relationship;

• Develop the U.S.-India strategic partnership;

• Remain prepared to respond to a Korean Peninsula contingency; and

• Counter transnational threats.

Alliances and partnerships are key factors for regional security and stability, Locklear said. He vowed to work to strengthen the United States' alliances with South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Australia and Thailand.

"These alliances are historic," he said. "They underpin our strategy in the region and they underpin the security arrangements in the region."

Locklear noted promising developments within these alliances, such as the new Marine rotations in Australia and improving special operations and counterterrorism capabilities in the Philippines' armed forces.

PACOM also will focus on establishing and building partnerships with other nations that share the United States' interest in security and economic prosperity and increasingly, human rights, he said.

"We are going to put more time and effort into making sure that those relationships are built for the future," the admiral said.

Locklear recognized the United States' already-strong military-to-military ties with Singapore and its "very much improving" relationships with Indonesia.

In addition, the United States wants a long-term strategic relationship with India, a large regional democracy and rising economic power that's also increasing in military capability.

"We hope to partner with them to share the strategic landscape as it applies to how we apply security to the globe that allows prosperity and peace, freedom of movement and allows prosperity in the world," the admiral said.

Locklear said he also hopes to strengthen military-to-military relations with China. China is an emerging power with many significant decisions to make, he said, adding the United States would like to play a role in helping influence those decisions in a way that promotes a secure global environment.

"One way to do that is to communicate better," Locklear said. "The last thing you want to have is miscalculation between large militaries."

One way to build trust and confidence between those militaries, Locklear said, is through military-to-military operations.

"You learn to operate together, you learn to cooperate, you learn about each other's families. You get a personal view of each other" that can pay off in helping resolve any differences that may arise.

Locklear said North Korea looms as the most-pressing trouble spot. Its new, untested leader and its pursuit of nuclear weapons in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions and world pressure create a tenuous, unstable situation.

"If there is anything that keeps me awake at night, it's that particular situation," the admiral said. "We have to ensure that we maintain as much of a stable environment on the Korean Peninsula as we can."

Transnational threats pose another concern and area of emphasis for PACOM. Locklear identified cyber threats as the most daunting, noting the importance of secure networks not only for PACOM's military operations, but also for regional stability and economic viability.

The admiral said his command's Cyber Pacific organization is working closely with U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Cyber Command to identify better ways to defend PACOM's networks.

"No matter what happens out there on the Internet and Facebook, we still have to be able to operate the networks that allow us to produce combat power," Locklear said. "And so one of my priority jobs is to ensure those (command) networks will survive when they have to survive."

Terrorism is another major concern for PACOM, the admiral said, as violent extremists increasingly seek safe havens in the Asia-Pacific region. Locklear said he recognizes the need to continue adapting U.S. forces to deal with the challenge.

"In the terrorist world, as you squeeze on one side of the balloon, it pops out somewhere else," he said. "(Terrorists) look for areas of opportunity. And they find areas of opportunity in places that are disenfranchised, that have poor economies and opportunity to change the mindset of the people looking for a better life but don't know how to get it."

Locklear said the kind of environment the United States and its allies and partners in the region are working to promote is the best response.

"In the long run, the solution for that, I think, is prosperity, and the general sense of security that makes it so that these terrorist organizations can't thrive," he said.

Locklear also noted the problem of narcotics, particularly methamphetamine production in the region, which provides the financing for terrorists to operate.

"We are seeing an increasing amount of that activity. And that money, we know, goes to the terrorist organizations," he said. "So we are going to have to make sure we keep our focus pretty tightly on this, because that transnational threat is equal or more damaging to our national security than any of the others."

In leading PACOM's response to these threats, Locklear noted the positive impact of more than six decades of U.S. presence in the region.

"The U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific has provided the security infrastructure that basically underpins the security environment which has led to an environment that allowed … emerging economies (and) emerging nations to thrive – from Japan to Korea to Australia to the Philippines to China, to the U.S.," Locklear said. "We are part of that."

PACOM's activities today will have a long-term impact for the future, the admiral said.

"We have tremendous interest that will carry forward, not just to the near term, but to our children and our grandchildren and their children," he said.

Youth
Arbor Day at the CDCs
JBER children learn the importance of trees,
Page B-4

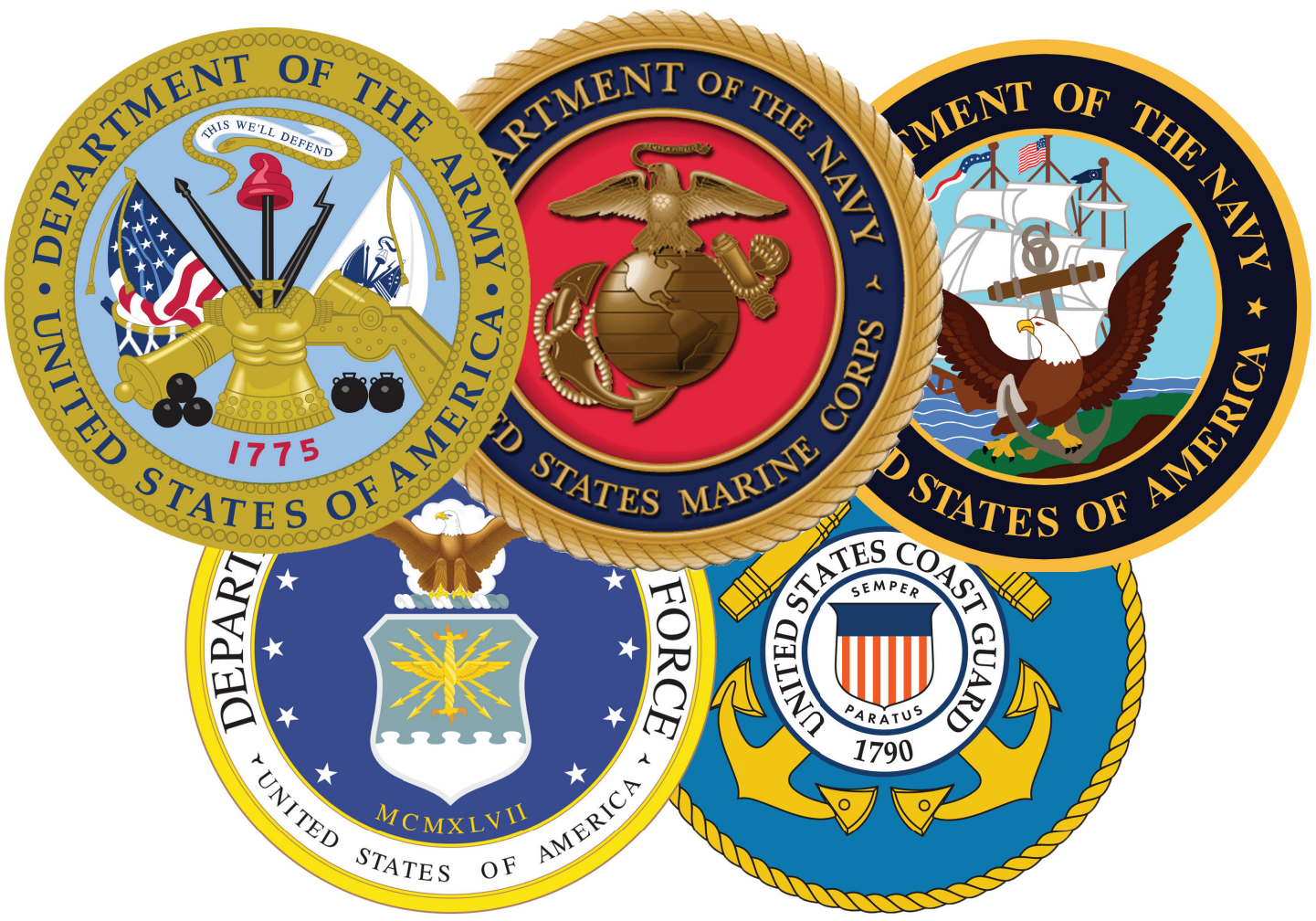
Play
Be safe with ATVs
Get trained, get certified, then get out there and get around
Page B-4

www.jber.af.mil/news

COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 21 | Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson | May 25, 2012

Arctic Warrior Olympics: the 2012 challenge is on



PAO Staff Report

The year's Arctic Warrior Olympics is set for June 8 at Paxton Park on the JBER-Elmendorf side with opening ceremonies at 8 a.m.

This is the first year the Olympics has been completely inter-service.

Both Paxton Park and the Buckner Physical Fitness Center on JBER-Richardson will host Military Appreciation Picnics for all JBER personnel and their families, with picnics starting at 11 a.m. and lasting until 2 p.m.

The Olympics feature a number of events, open to all service members.

Physical training uniforms are not mandatory; team spirit shirts are allowed. There is no limit to the number of teams a unit can enter in competition.

Many events are on the morning's slate.

- 6 a.m.: Golf
- 7 a.m.: Archery; softball
- 8 a.m.: 5K run
- 8:30 a.m.: Fire truck pull; bike race
- 9 a.m.: Texas Hold 'em; paintball shootout; 3-on-3 basketball; 6-on-6 volleyball; bowling; racquetball; CrossFit/PT challenge
- 9:30 a.m.: Canoe race
- 10 a.m.: Home run derby
- 11:30: Tug-of-war; O-6 vs. E-9 softball

The games will conclude at 2 p.m.with a trophy presentation.

The picnics will feature free food and drinks, as well as plenty of activities for the younger set.

Static displays will be available; military police and security forces will have working dogs demonstrating their abilities.

Face-painting, "crazy hair," bouncy houses and petting zoos also will keep families busy, and a raffle drawing is planned.

All JBER personnel and their families are welcome.

To sign up for an Arctic Warrior Olympics event, access the SharePoint site under *TenantUnits/AWO*.

If you don't have SharePoint access, call Senior Master Sgt. Rita Johnson at 580-0213 or Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Glockner at 552-0503.

For more information about the picnics, call Air Force Master Sgt. David Kalal at 551-8739 or Air Force Master Sgt. Monica Strong at 552-7352.

Members of the 517th Airlift Squadron pull the tug-o-war rope during the 2010 Arctic Warrior Olympics. The Arctic Warrior Olympics are hosted every June to bring the community on JBER together. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)

Girl Scouts live up to their promise of service

By Airman 1st Class Omari Bernard
JBER Public Affairs

"On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law."
– Girl Scout Promise

Girl Scouts from troops 752, 753 and 754 listen to troop leader Jenna Ross at the Teddy Watch in the JBER Joint Venture Hospital, May 16. The Girl Scouts delivered more than 250 donated books to the Armed Services YMCA-run child-care program at the hospital, which provides two hours of child care for patients. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Omari Bernard)

It's a bright and sunny day outside on JBER. The grass is green and the sky is a light blue.

A gaggle of giggling girls pass by with books in hand on their way into the Joint Venture Hospital. Spring has arrived, and along with it, Girl Scouts donating books.

During April, the Month of the Military Child, Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie and Junior troops on JBER collected donated books from families associated with JBER to give for other children to enjoy.

The Girl Scouts donated 266 books to the Teddy Watch at the JBER hospital.

"(It's) in honor of the 100-year anniversary of the Girl Scouts," said Jenna Ross, a military spouse and the leader of Daisy Troop 752.

"We're honoring the Girl Scout tradition of giving back to the community, supporting the military community, and honoring education."

The scouts themselves are military children, Ross said. All of them felt the need to give back to the community.

"These books will benefit military families and children," said Rob German, the Marketing and Funds Director for the Armed Services YMCA. "The books will help the kids pass time along with other toys in the facility."

Teddy Watch is a free child-care facility in the JBER hospital.

It allows military members and spouses to leave their children in child care while attending their appointments in the hospital.

Teddy Watch is staffed by the YMCA and allows up to two hours of free child care.

"As soon as the parent finds out the appointment time, they can call Teddy Watch and schedule child care," German said.

The Teddy Watch is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays, except on federal holidays or when the hospital is closed.

Walk-ins are welcome if space permits.

The program's facility is located on the first floor of the hospital.

Some of the donated books will be used in the Teddy Watch, the rest will be spread out among other programs that also support military families.

"It was really fun to be able to focus on a positive project that was celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouts," Ross said. "This is a great collaboration between military children Girl Scouts coming to support a military program here on JBER."

"It's the community giving back to itself," German said.

"Some of the families that contributed the most books have deployed spouses," said Ross. "It really hit home what we were doing."

Strengthening military marriages one retreat at a time

By Air Force Chaplain (Capt.)
R. Scott Savell
673d Air Base Wing Chaplain

An ancient Christian text reads, "Marriage is to be held in honor among all."

It is no secret military marriages can be stressful.

The demands of military life in general, the prospect of deployment and other long periods of time couples spend separated from one another can tear at the very fabric of a marital relationship.

In fact, the Air Force considers the state of one's marriage to be a readiness issue.

If things aren't going well at home, that could spill over into work – thus negatively affecting the mission.

For this reason the Air Force Chaplain Corps has designed a MarriageCare retreat to renew and revitalize strained military marriages.

Twenty-three couples gathered at the beautiful Alyeska Resort for a three-day MarriageCare retreat April 27 hosted by the JBER chaplain corps.

This retreat was an all-inclusive weekend provided at no cost.

The only thing we asked couples to commit to was attending four one-hour sessions and spending the rest of their time together as a couple focusing on their marriage – because after all, only God and the couple are the real experts in a marriage.

The format of the retreat, although spiritual, is not religious.

The focus is on the traditional American marriage vows – "I take you… I take you; to have and to hold; for better or for worse; to love and to cherish."

Even if couples didn't use the traditional vows in their wedding ceremony, everyone could readily identify with them.

During the sessions, couples learned about differences and how these differences can be experienced in both a positive and negative light.

They also worked on improving communication and learning how to say, "I'm sorry," and to forgive.

A combination of discussion, short videos, comedy and one-on-one time were used to help couples focus on improving their marriage.

Couples were chosen for the retreat based upon various criteria, such as preparing for or returning from deployment, units with high operational tempo, and couples identified by commanders, first sergeants or unit chaplains.

Feedback from the retreat was overwhelmingly positive and nearly every couple reported the retreat strengthened their relationship.

Some of the feedback included comments such as, "This was an amazing weekend," and "Everything was very streamlined and direct. The videos were great, along with the individual time."

One couple even had a message for leadership: "This retreat was amazing! I don't know what this cost, but it was amazing and I would love for other members to get the same opportunity."

Because the JBER Chaplain Corps believes marriage is to be held in honor among all, another MarriageCare retreat is in the works for September.

If you and your spouse are interested in being a part of our next retreat contact the Chapel Center at 552-4422 for more information.

You can also email *richard.savell@elmendorf.af.mil.*

Births

May 7

A daughter, Imani Symone Brayboy, was born 20.8 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 5:14 a.m. to Raven Symone Brayboy and Pfc. Gerald L Brayboy of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

A son, Easton Nathaniel Nelson, was born 21.25 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13.3 ounces at 1:40 a.m. to Brittany Daniele Nelson and Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Ryan Nelson of the 176th Operations Support Squadron.

A son, Ajax Crimson White, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces at 9:21 a.m. to Tech. Sgt. Alana Perry White of the 381st Intelligence Squadron and Jeremy Chad White.

May 8

A son, Caleb Ryu Bui, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces at 1:50 p.m. to Linh Bui and Maj. Cang Bui of the 673d Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

May 9

A daughter, Kayleanne Elizabeth Campbell, was born 21.25 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 2:03 a.m. to Sgt. Donna Mae Campbell of the 109th Transportation Company and Sgt. Ronald Adrian Campbell of the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

A daughter, Aiya Sarla Mishra, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 15.2 ounces at 2:32 a.m. to Pratima Mishra and Sgt. Vivek Mishra of the 95th Chemical Company.

A daughter, Scarlet Elizabeth Witt, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces at 3:13 p.m. to Rachel Diane Witt and Air Force Capt. Marshall Sterling Witt of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron.

May 11

A son, Joseph Jeremy Hazard, was born 20.5 inches long weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 10:30 a.m. to Brittney Lyn Hazard and Sgt. Jeremy Peter Hazard of the 84th Engineer Support Company.

May 12

A son, Hunter Daniel Benson, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds at 5:46 p.m. to Claudine Dizon Benson and Tech. Sgt. Cory Joseph Benson of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

A daughter, Alexis Kaye Sersha, was born 18.5 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 15 ounces at 11:25 a.m. to Sandra Kaye Sersha and Spc. Stephen Anthony Sersha of the 240th Engineer Detachment.

A daughter, Zoey Annabelle Philmon, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 10:13 p.m. to Sue Ann Philmon and Senior Airman Armond Royce Philmon of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

May 13

A daughter, Olivia Claire Leona Ezernack, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 3:57 a.m. to Emelia Summer Ezernack and Senior Airman Dustin Michael Ezernack of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron.

May 14

A daughter, Emma Rose Desloover, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces at 2:58 p.m. to Melissa Lynn Desloover and Sgt. Matthew Lee Desloover of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

May 15

A daughter, LauraBelle Adaline Hardy, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 3:17 a.m. to Shaney Renee Hardy and Senior Airman Jack Thomas Hardy of the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

A son, Thales Eleven VanKirk Carrillo, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 5:02 p.m. to Anastacia Grace Carrillo and Airman 1st Class Ryan Ninonuevo Carrillo of the 703d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

May 16

A daughter, Lauren Renee Samuel, and a son Liam Howard Samuel, were born 18.5 and 19.5 inches long respectively and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces, and 7 pounds 4 ounces at 1:40 p.m and 1:39 p.m. to Tech. Sgt. Misty Sue Samuel of the 3rd Operation Support Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Kimmie Ray Samuel Jr. 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

A son, Nathaniel Frankie Perez, was born 20.75 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 5:48 a.m. to Senior Airman Nicole Amanda Perez of the 673d Inpatient Squadron and Senior Airman Jose Emmanuel Perez of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.

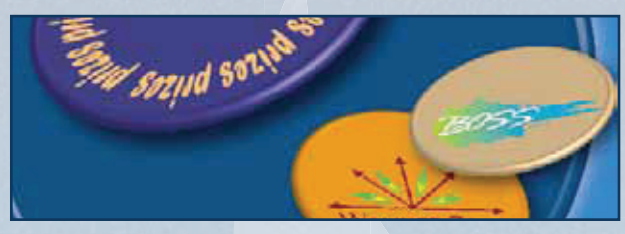
A daughter, Natalya Isabella Andrescavage, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 1:33 a.m. to Nichole Marie Andrescavage and Air Force Master Sgt. Karl Todd Andrescavage of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron.

May 17

A daughter, Addison Grace Fleming, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 3:20 p.m. to Rebecca Anne Fleming and Air Force Staff Sgt. James R. Fleming of the 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

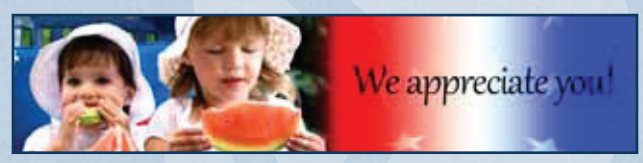
FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FREE EVENTS



DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 27 · 2 P.M.
TEAMS OF TWO. SOME DISCS PROVIDED.
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN.
WARRIOR ZONE · BLDG. 655 · 384-9006
BOSS · 384-9023

STARTING IN JUNE
FREE TAI CHI ON THURSDAYS
FREE GOLF CLINIC EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
WITH PAID GREENS FEE FOR FAMILY NIGHT.
MOOSE RUN GOLF COURSE
BLDG 27000 ARCTIC VALLEY ROAD
(907) 428 -0056



MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY PICNIC
JUNE 8 · 11 A.M. - 2 P.M. @ BUCKNER SPORTS FIELD
BUCKNER PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER
BLDG. 690 · 384-1308

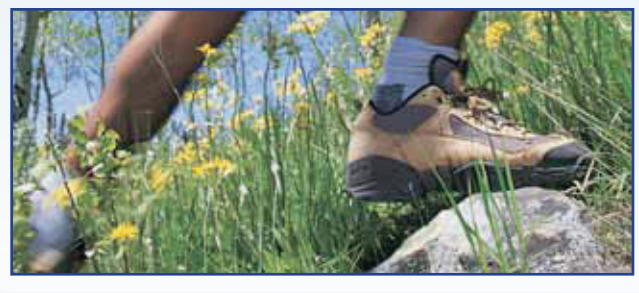
SUMMER FUN

BIKE MAINTENANCE CLINIC
MAY 26 · 1 P.M. · $5
CALL OR STOP BY TO SIGN UP
OUTDOOR RECRECATION ELMENDORF
BLDG. 7301 · 552-2023

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SALE
MAY 26 & 27 · 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
2011 EQUIPMENT UP TO 50% OFF.
CLOTHING UP TO 40% OFF
JBER ELMENDORF EAGLEGLEN
BLDG 4414 · 552-3821

"GET GOLF READY"
BEGINNING MAY 28 · $99
FIVE LESSONS/FIVE DAYS
MOOSE RUN GOLF COURSE
BLDG. 27000 ARCTIC VALLEY ROAD
(907) 428-0056

DISCOUNTED AK ZOO TICKETS IN JUNE
18 & OVER · $8, 3-17 YRS · $5
INFORMATION, TICKETS & TRAVEL
JBER ELMENDORF



38TH ANNUAL ARCTIC VALLEY RUN
JUNE 2 · 9 A.M.
$15 WITHOUT T-SHIRT, $30 WITH T-SHIRT
START @ MOOSE RUN GOLF COURSE LOWER PARKING LOT. REGISTER AT BUCKNER.
BUCKNER PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER
BLDG 690 · 384-1308

ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Community happenings

Monday

Memorial Day ceremonies

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.

Fort Richardson National Cemetery will host a ceremony starting at noon. Music will be provided by the Air Force Band of the Pacific and Midnight Sons chorus.

For more information, call 384-2019.

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.anchoragedowntown.org* to choose an event.

June 1 through 3

Commissary case sale

The commissary will be conducting a "mega case lot sale" from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 1 and 2 and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 3.

Stock up while the goods are on sale. For information call 580-5577.

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 in this annual derby, 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.

For a schedule of events and Arctic Warrior Olympics registration information, visit *http://tinyurl.com/73e3zkl*

SeaLife Center celebrates

Family events and activities help people discover the sea during World Oceans Day at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward. Activities from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and an after-hours exhibit and art auction until 9:30 p.m.

For more information call 224-6304 or visit *alaskasealife.org.*

June 9

Potter Marsh discovery

Discover Potter Marsh and some of Alaska's wildlife at Anchorage's most popular wildlife viewing area from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This family-friendly event on National Get Outdoors Day includes nature-related games and prizes, birding stations along the boardwalk, captive birds from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center, educational animals from the Alaska Zoo, kid-friendly archery range, fly-fishing practice area, release of a rehabilitated bald eagle and more.

Run for women

Alaska women pound the pavement to raise funds for breast cancer research and awareness, with 1 and 5-mile runs beginning at Sullivan Arena.

Registration and bib pick up is from 6:45 to 8:15 a.m. The 1-mile run begins at 8:30 a.m., and the 5-mile run begins at 8:45 a.m.

Book signing

The JBER Library hosts Steven Levi, an Alaska historian, for a book signing from 1 to 3 p.m.

Levi has written more than 70 books as well as poetry, screenplays and media presentations.

For information, call 384-1799.

June 9 through 13

Astronomy Week

The American Astronomical Society hosts its 220th meeting in Anchorage. The week-long program features hands-on science, talks by scientiests including Nobel Prize in Physics winner Dr. Brian Schmidt, films and much more. Locations vary; for information visit *aas.org.*

June 15

Beach Party day

Enjoy the sun and get crazy with volleyball, frisbee, water guns and a sand-castle contest at Goose Lake Park all day. Bring a beach towel, sunscreen and a picnic lunch.

For information, visit *www.muni.org/parks* or call 343-4130.

June 15 through 17

Juneteenth celebraton

This family-oriented multicultural event offers the opportunity to learn more about historical African-Americans. Live entertainment, free food for children, games and more aim to make this a weekend of unity and celebration.

For more information visit *juneteenthalaska.com.*

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, contact a unit representative or call 384-2067.

July 4

July 4th Celebration

The citywide celebration of Independence Day features a parade at the Park Strip, a pancake breakfast and tons of activities for the whole family.

For information visit *www.anchoragejuly4thcelebration.com.*

July 6 through 8

Girdwood Forest Fair

The fair features Alaska artists, hand-crafted items, exotic foods and entertainment from all over the state. The event kicks off with a parade Saturday at 10 a.m. with parking at the Alyeska Resort daylodge. July 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and July 8 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, visit *www.girdwoodforestfair.com.*

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 Annie 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 safety office at 552-5092 or 552-6850.

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 information, check the Road Warriors (Alaska) Facebook page or call 384-7733 or 552-1361.

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 though 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 Gosho
7 p.m., first Friday of the month – Chapel Center (10427 Kuter Ave.)

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FREEDOM FESTIVAL

ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Think safety when riding ATVs

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett
JBER Public Affairs

Many people enjoy riding all-terrain vehicles in Alaska, almost regardless of the weather.

Because there are so many more options with ATVs than motorcycles, for example, safety on and around Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is even more important.

"I had somewhere between 800 to 1,000 ATV drivers last year," said R.C. Harrop, 673d Force Support Squadron outdoor recreation programmer and native of Eagle River. "That number comes from regular outdoor activities and safety classes. The mission of the safety class is to bring safety and awareness to people running ATVs and to give strategies to reduce risk."

The safety course for ATV drivers originally started in hopes of reducing the amount of accidents.

"In 2009, we had 30 ATV accidents," said Dave Head, Army Alaska safety officer and native of Peters Creek, Alaska. "So in 2010, we knew we had a problem and we started this safety training program here."

JBER's training program is based on the National ATV Safety Institute, said Harrop. JBER instructors were trained by the ATV Safety Institute.

"We've dramatically decreased numbers since starting the classes in 2010," he said.

Last year, there were only six ATV accidents.

"There haven't been any fatalities, but there's been some serious stuff," he said. "One girl broke her neck; she wasn't paralyzed and they were able to fix her, but there's been some serious injuries. Having 800 pounds roll over you isn't an easy thing. Use good risk management when deciding what to do. A lot of people will go up the side of a mountain that's too steep."

With their new safety class, "We actually got the Army Risk Management Safety award," he said. "That's a Department of the Army worldwide competition."

"The problems come when people don't have the training," he said. "They try to do things that exceed their capability or their equipment capability. That's why we offer these classes."

The course also offers certification.

"It's like the motorcycle safety course," he said. "You get certified for life and that's good anywhere in the U.S. There are some states in the lower 48 that are getting strict because of the number of accidents over the past 10 years."

To attend the class, trainees need to bring their own the safety gear.

"We have recommended minimum safety requirements," he said. "Drivers need to wear boots, eye protection, gloves, long sleeved shirts and pants, reflective belt and helmet. Much of the information is basically the same as riding a motorcycle. If you ride here on post, you have to have your card with you, just like with a motorcycle.

"Unlike with motorcycles, ATV's allow for riding in more weather conditions, but you have to be aware of the environment. Safety comes first. Make sure you dress appropriately and you don't drive across a river that's bigger than your machine."

Harrop recommends calling ahead to get scheduled for a class.

"We mostly have class on Tuesdays," he said. "Call and check for times because that will vary. We try to meet the customer requirements, but the max we can have in a class is eight people at a time. Trainees can go to Building 794 on JBER-Richardson to sign a form. Classes are actually taught at Dyea Ski Hill."

The classes are free if done through the JBER Safety office.

If the driver uses their own vehicle, it's free through Outdoor Recreation, which runs most of the classes.

"If the driver doesn't have their own vehicle, it costs $50," he said. "We subtract that cost against the first major trip or first rental. So it doesn't cost anything if you come back."

The class is generally available to anyone of any service.

"We don't care what color uniform you have on," he said. "We take care of service members and dependents age 16 and above. If you can get on base, you qualify."

For more information, contact R.C. Harrop at 428-0001 or visit *www.atvsafety.org/*

RIGHT: Outdoor recreation instructor Tyler Glenn with the 673d Force Support Squadron, teaches students proper ATV safety at Dyea Ski Hill on May 18. Safety classes ensure safety on base.
BELOW: Tyler Glenn, an outdoor recreation instructor with the 673d Force Support Squadron, teaches students proper ATV safety at Dyea Ski Hill recently. To register for the call, contact the safety office. (U.S. Air Force photos/ Airman 1st Class Omari Bernard)

A tree grows in JBER

Stephen Nickel of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Kaclyn Bell help children at the Katmai Child Development Center on JBER plant a tree as he explains the benefits of trees and things made from them. A group of three- to five-year-olds helped plant a tree at the center Monday as part of Arbor Day. (U.S. Air Force photo/Steven White)

JBER honors community volunteers

PAO staff report

JBER hosted its first joint volunteer recognition ceremony May 9 at the JBER-Richardson theater to thank those who give their time and talents to help others.

Volunteers were presented 280 Presidential Service Pins: 174 received bronze pins for volunteering 100 to 249 hours; 73 received silver pins for giving between 250 and 499 hours to the community; and 34 received gold pins for volunteering 500 or more hours during the previous year.

Volunteers were also recognized in several categories. This year's winners were:

Air Force Excellence Award – David Delap and Lisa Whisenhunt

Air Force Angel Award – Mimi Elmore

Angel Family Award – the Whisenhunt family

Military Volunteer of the Year – Army Capt. Andre Randolph

Civilian Volunteer of the Year – Jennifer Vaughn

Youth Volunteer of the Year – Jachike Madubuko and Victoria Palasciano

Family Volunteer of the Year – the Palasciano family and the Piper family

The installation's 1,525 volunteers donated 111,314 hours – time valued at nearly $2.5 million – for programs like the JBER School Partnership program, Habitat for Humanity, Bean's Cafe & Outreach Center, Airmen Against Drunk Driving, Special Olympics, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Soldiers Against Drunk Driving, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Better Opportunities for Single Service Members, the Alaska Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Alaska Military Youth Academy and others.

"The volunteer service program isn't just about saving money," said Air Force Col. Robert Evans, JBER and 673d Air Base Wing commander. "It's about coming together as people of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson community."