



Community

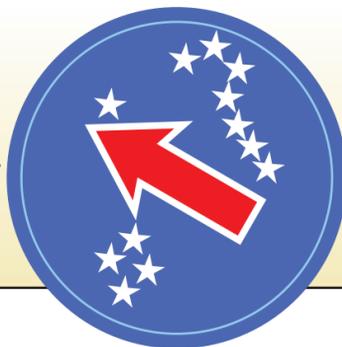
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ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 3, No. 32

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

August 10, 2012



Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lt. Mark Biele, 90th Fighter Squadron assistant weapons officer and RAAF F-22 Raptor exchange pilot, stands under the tail section of an F-22 Aug. 1 at a 90th FS hangar. Biele is assigned to 90th FS for a three-year tour and normally pilots F/A-18 Hornets. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)

Australian airman pilots F-22s at JBER

By David Bedard
JBER Public Affairs

A transient Kadena Air Base F-15 Eagle roared down the JBER airfield like a top-fuel funny car blasting down a quarter-mile track. An instant after lifting off the tarmac, the pilot turned the Eagle's nose nearly straight up, and the engines' afterburners catapulted the jet skyward in an almost NASA rocket fashion.

"That's fast," said Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lt. Mark Biele, 90th Fighter Squadron assistant weapons officer, a wide

grin showing the pilot's satisfaction as he tracked the F-15's instantaneous disappearance into the sky. The jet Biele flies is even faster.

The Australian is one year into his three-year exchange with the 90th FS where he traded in his RAAF F/A-18 Hornet for the stealthy F-22 Raptor flown at JBER by the 90th and 525th fighter squadrons. For his part, Biele said he feels fortunate to have been selected for the exchange.

"There are far more American pilots on exchange in Australia than there are

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Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lt. Mark Biele, 90th Fighter Squadron, pilots an RAAF F/A-18 Hornet near Adelaide, South Australia. (Photo courtesy of Nuttee Ratanapisetth)

Waiting loved ones receive reunion training

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf
JBER Public Affairs

People line the runway, making for a sea of shifting bodies, anxious for the aircraft door to open. They are wives, husbands, children, girlfriends, boyfriends and family members who have been waiting these long months for their Soldiers to come home.

There are signs and banners showing the excitement and eagerness for these loved ones to have them back, each one with a different thought of what will happen when that door opens and their Soldier steps out.

There is so much information that the loved ones would want to know, but they do not know what horrors or delights the Soldier has seen on this deployment. For many this is just another deployment to stick in their belts but for others, this is their first.

The Army Community Service

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Chad Popchoke and his mother, Bianca, patiently await the arrival of Pfc. Christopher Popchoke, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, at Buckner Physical Fitness Center March 1, 2010. (U.S. Army photo/John Pennell)

Air Force assures F-22 readiness following extensive testing

By Amaani Lyle
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Following months of life support systems components testing in the F-22 Raptor, officials have "determined with confidence" the source of previously unexplained physiological incidents, the director of operations for the Air Force's Air Combat Command said July 31 at a Pentagon news conference.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta last week approved a gradual lifting of restrictions he placed on F-22 flights in May.

The combined medical disciplines of flight medicine, toxicology, physiology, human factors and occupational health have enabled the service to assemble

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Command Emphasis

Physical training: The first step to staying Army strong

Editorial by Army Maj. Gen. Michael Garrett
U.S. Army Alaska Commanding General

One of my favorite words is serendipity, which means something delightful or valuable happened when you weren't expecting it. When my family and I found out we were returning to Alaska, it was a serendipitous moment in our lives. We are very grateful to be Arctic Warriors again, and I'm excited to be the commander of U.S. Army Alaska.

As I continue to assess the command, I'd like to highlight a personal focus on fitness. In order to be successful in our profession, we must be fit to fight and I'd like U.S. Army Alaska to be the fittest unit in the Army.

I don't just mean physically fit, although that's absolutely a priority, I also mean nutritionally, mentally, spiritually and emotionally fit. Healthy living is a big part of what being Arctic Tough is all about. If you aren't prepared to sustain the fight in the bitter cold, then you don't fit into the USARAK vision of ready units.

Physical training is not optional. If you have ever had a conversation with me, you've probably heard me say that PT is my number one priority. If you're not giving your all during PT, then you're not meeting the standard. I wake up every morning fired-up to do PT; we all should. The day I don't wake up excited to do PT will be the day I'll have to retire.

Why do I take PT so seriously? Because it is my responsibility to train and prepare our units to deploy, fight, and win on the battlefield. The fitness of our Soldiers has



Army Maj. Gen. Michael Garrett, U.S. Army Alaska commanding general, runs with USARAK leaders during morning physical training. (Photo courtesy of USARAK)

a direct impact on the combat readiness of our units.

Fit Soldiers are much less likely to get physical injuries or have long-term medical issues. Overweight Soldiers are more likely to injure their feet, knees, hips and lower back.

Soldiers who are physically fit are more likely to have enjoyable and fruitful lives. They are less likely to become injured, are able to perform more vigorously during training, and often have superior productivity and mental alertness.

When Soldiers do dynamic and energetic

PT together, they build esprit de corps and a shared sense of accomplishment in overcoming difficult hardships. They know they can count on their teammates to perform when it really counts.

Effective leadership is vital to the success of any good PT program. I am impressing on your brigade and battalion command teams how important PT is to me personally and what I expect of their PT programs.

Leaders must lead PT. I should never see a private out doing morning PT on his own. That indicates a poorly executed PT program and lowers unit morale.

PT is easy to get right. If your day begins with challenging and meaningful PT, then the whole rest of the day goes better. If your unit has morale problems, PT would be the first place I'd look for improvements.

During a recent visit to the Warrior Leader Course, I spoke with some of our young Arctic Tough leaders and discussed how they will likely see a big change in our Army during the next two years. There are Soldiers in our ranks who will not be here very much longer. Some will choose to leave the service, but others simply will not make the cut.

If you cannot pass the Army Physical Fitness Test or meet the height/weight standards, you risk being processed out of the service. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to reach down deep inside, to find the strength to discipline yourself, and to do some serious PT to get in shape. Your leadership can do a lot to help motivate you to become fit, but in the end it is your personal choice.

Some of this may sound harsh, but sometimes the truth hurts. If it were up to me, every Soldier in USARAK would be among the healthiest, strongest, fittest Soldiers to ever serve.

I would like each of you to meet the standard so when it comes time to reenlist, the Army has no reason to exclude you from its continued tradition of excellence. I am proud to be your commander and want to see you succeed. But ultimately it isn't my choice; it is up to each of you to decide for yourself. Arctic Warriors! Arctic Tough!



Quartermasters find their way

Sgt. Douglas Adamek, 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne), of Fayetteville, N.C., demonstrates the compass center-hold method during land-navigation training at Training Area 7B, July 26. Land navigation training instills confidence in the Soldier's ability to understand the fundamentals of military map reading, combining the use of compass orientation, terrain association and pace count techniques to navigate while dismounted. (U.S. Air Force photos/Percy G. Jones)



FAR LEFT: Adamek shows Soldiers how to properly use a protractor to obtain an azimuth during land navigation training.

LEFT: A 4th QM's paratrooper's uniform shows master parachutist, air assault and parachute rigger badges.



MORE PHOTOS
For more photos of 4th Quartermaster Detachment land navigation, scan this QR code or visit the photo stream at <http://tiny.cc/np3oiw>

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11th Air Force
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Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog (USAF)

U.S. Army Alaska
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Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/
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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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To advertise in the *Arctic Warrior*, please call (907) 561-7737. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the *Arctic Warrior* staff.

Editorial office and mailing address: JBER Public Affairs, 10480 22nd St., Suite 123, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506; telephone (907) 552-8918.

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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Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lt. Biele, 90th Fighter Squadron assistant weapons officer, takes a walk on the JBBER flight line May 18. In order to qualify as an F-22 pilot, the Australian F/A-18 Hornet pilot attended the same F-22 transition course at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., that is attended by American pilots qualified on other fighter types. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)

Biele

From Page A-1

Australian pilots in America, so I'm very lucky to be the F-22 exchange pilot, which is significant given that we don't have that aircraft back home," Biele explained. "The position I fill here is to be included in a [Pacific Air Forces] squadron, given the Pacific is a common [area of operations] between the U.S. and Australia."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Christopher Lazidis, 90th FS director of weapons, echoed Biele's sentiments.

"The exchange is important to emphasize the level of trust and commitment between our two countries," Lazidis said. "It demonstrates how deep the partnership between the U.S. and Australia is – not just that we have an Australian F-22 pilot, but an Australian that will train, deploy and fight fully integrated within our squadron. The U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marines have many reciprocal pilots on exchange in Australia flying the F/A-18."

Biele said to be competitive for the exchange, he was required to complete the Fighter Combat Instructor Course – equivalent to the USAF Weapons School – at RAAF Base Williamtown, New South Wales, Australia.

"The selection criteria for each exchange

to the U.S. differs," Biele said. "For this specific exchange, the requirement was for a weapons officer, so that we could fill the position and be an instructor here at the squadron. To achieve that background, I had to complete that weapons course and then be available for that selection with a view to how my career might progress into fifth-generation [fighter] operations in Australia – namely F-35 [Lightning II]."

Back at home station, Biele said he flies the "classic" F/A-18, as opposed to the newer F/A-18 Super Hornet recently acquired by the RAAF. Despite the jet being older, Biele said RAAF classic Hornets are equipped with many Super Hornet advancements – such as the Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System – which have made the change to the F-22 cockpit a relatively painless one.

"The transition was much easier than a lot of people think," Biele recalled. "We're very blessed to have a lot of Americans involved in the Australian system at home, and the way we conduct business isn't too different from what I've experienced here."

"Once I was selected, it was a matter of logistically moving myself and my family to Alaska," the flight lieutenant continued. "From there, I was very easily able to go into the system and the TX [transition] course – which is a course offered for previous hours in a fast-jet type at Tyndall [Air Force Base],

Fla. It was just like training I had done before, just in the world's greatest aircraft."

Biele said he was treated like any U.S. Air Force F-15 or F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot making the transition to the Raptor.

"The academics and everything else there were conducted as if I was a Track 1 TX student just like my American peers, who were in the course with me," he said. "Because of how similarly we operate, the transition was relatively seamless."

Biele said he is the second RAAF F-22 exchange pilot, and he was impressed by the capabilities of the Raptor.

"One of the first things that was very evident to me is that they consulted widely with people, and they picked the best parts of the best aircraft to date," he said. "If you wanted to do something, it's almost obvious how you would go about doing it. It's built to be fighter-pilot friendly."

"A few key areas the F-22 brings to the game are stealth and sensor fusion," Biele said of the Raptor's capability to rapidly gather information from the fighter's integrated avionics and show them on a single display. "Combining those two in a fighter-sized aircraft makes it a generational leap beyond other aircraft. That is what the F-22 is all about and what I'm exposed to everyday."

Growing up in Mount Barker, South Australia, Biele said he often dreamed of achieving supersonic speeds and pulling g-force turns normally considered beyond the

limits of the human body.

"I always was interested in the flying side of things and had an interest in the military as well," he said. "The [Royal Australian] Air Force was obviously the answer to both of these interests."

To achieve his goals, Biele said he attended the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, where he completed a shortened three-year degree designed to get him into pilot training and the fighter cockpit sooner than a traditional degree. He has been flying for 11 years.

"He is one of those pilots that you trust to get the job done," Lazidis said of Biele. "He has struck me as a very detail-oriented fighter pilot, which is a huge asset in this business. He has taken to the F-22 very well."

"After a short time in the plane, he is already progressing into instructor roles," the major continued. "Using his past experience in the F/A-18, he has adapted well to the change in aircraft and quickly learned both the similarities and the differences."

Biele said he has adapted equally well to the subarctic conditions he encounters in Southcentral Alaska.

"Alaska is on the opposite side of the world, but it isn't too different from Australia in a lot of ways – climate aside, which makes this an exciting and rewarding posting. Alaskans and Americans are very similar culturally to how we are in Australia."

Despite never seeing a single flake of snow before his exchange, Biele said he embraced Alaska winters by picking up snowboarding and cross-country skiing with his wife, Kristen.

"We think that Alaska is a great fit for Australians," he elaborated. "We love the outdoors. Summer and winter here, we have had no trouble making the most of those opportunities. Alaska was a good choice for this assignment."

Between short deployments and thundering around the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex in his F-22, Biele holds station at the 90th FS operations desk, where American pilots seem to genuinely enjoy the company of the gregarious Australian.

"He is probably one of the most humble and approachable guys in the squadron," Lazidis said. "Always good for a laugh and ready to hang out with the bunch."

"His wife has fit in great as well," the major continued. "The wives of the squadron have instantly taken to her, and they make a strong team and set the example for the squadron."

Biele said he occasionally forgets he is a foreigner among his fellow pilots and airmen.

"Sometimes I have to remind myself to a degree that I'm not exactly like the others, because it has been such an easy fit," he said. "Both the pilots and the maintainers have made me feel so welcome. Being able to add a little Australian flavor to the mix hopefully makes me a welcome addition to the squadron."

Biele said following the end of his tour at JBBER, two more years experience of operating throughout the Pacific Theater and of mentoring fresh Raptor pilots will help him be an asset to the RAAF.

"Going home, I'll be a reasonably senior member of the Australian squadrons," he said. "And I think that exposure both to how the Pacific operates on a larger scale, and the instructional benefits I've had here with the F-22 junior pilots will pay great dividends."

Raptor

From Page A-1

"pieces of the mosaic" that reside in the cockpit, Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles Lyon, designated by Air Force Secretary Michael Donley in January to lead an investigative task force, said at the news conference. The general pinpointed the upper pressure garment, oxygen delivery hoses, quick connection points and the air filter canister, that had been used for a few months in the aircraft, as contributing factors to previously unexplained physiological incidents in which some pilots complained of hypoxia-like symptoms.

"As we completed end-to-end testing in the life-support systems components, we are able to piece together the contributing factors for our previously unexplained incidents," Lyon said, crediting an "integrated, collaborative approach by government and industry" in helping the Air Force develop its findings. The task force, Lyon said, leveraged the investigative efforts of numerous safety investigation boards and the Air Force's Scientific Advisory Board to eliminate contamination as the root cause of the incidents.

Air Force officials used inten-



Senior Airman Joshua King, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, marshalls in an F-22 Raptor on the flight line May 5. The Air Force conducted an in-depth investigation into pilot oxygen-supply issues, which have grounded Raptors and restricted their employment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)

sive altitude chamber and centrifuge protocols to isolate variables in the flight gear and cockpit connections, the general said. They also analyzed thousands of samples of gases, volatile and semi-volatile compounds, solids and liquids, and compared that data to occupational

hazard standard levels.

"Managing risks to our F-22 force has always been pre-eminent as we work through this complex set of factors," Lyon said. "In the end, there is no 'smoking gun.'"

The fleet, grounded for five months last year, has flown nearly

8,000 sorties totaling more than 10,000 flight hours since its last reported unexplained incident in March, Lyon said.

In a recent update to Panetta that led to the decision to roll back the restrictions, Air Force officials said the service employed

thorough, in-depth analysis to eliminate contamination as a contributing factor to its most recent incident and charted a path to eliminate all significant contributing factors today and in the future.

"We left no stone unturned in the investigative process," Lyon said, adding that the service will continue to move forward with enhancements and fixes as NASA concludes an independent investigation.

The Air Force's investigative process also involved canvassing the F-22 communities to gauge pilot, maintainer and family member confidence in the aircraft's safety, Lyon said.

"I recently visited our F-22 bases, and I can tell you, their confidence is high," he said, noting that no hybrid high-altitude flight operations and high-maneuverability aircraft could be completely immune to such incidents. "There's no other aircraft our pilots would rather fly in the service of our nation," he added.

Panetta authorized the deployment of a squadron of F-22 aircraft to Kadena Air Base, Japan, under altitude restrictions using the northern Pacific transit route. Upon completion of that mission, the Air Force likely will approve most long-duration flights, service officials said.

Reunion

From Page A-1

team, along with others, offers classes they are calling "Reunion training" to loved ones of Soldiers returning from a deployment. This training helps the loved ones know how to communicate and what to expect when their Soldier comes home.

The training is divided into two sessions. The first session addresses signs and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

and combat stress, and how to deal with them and also a section addressing finances.

"(One thing they learn is) PTSD and combat stress, and what it is and how to recognize it," said Tracie West, ACS mobilization and deployment specialist. "That way, spouses can know the signs from their Soldier if need be and are able to assist them in getting the help if it is needed."

The second session addresses communication and expectations versus reality, and also provides a section on parents and what to expect from their children.

The class isn't just for loved ones experiencing their first deployment, but experienced spouses are also encouraged to come and share their knowledge and learn some new or updated information.

West said she had an experienced spouse who told new-to-deployment spouses, that every deployment was different and her expectation of the returning deployment this time might not be the same as the one last time.

Another thing the instructors encourage the loved ones to do is to bring their Soldier with them if

they are already home.

This first session of the class was hosted for those who are coming back early to move or for any other reason.

The class isn't just for members of the 4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, who have the majority members coming back, but also for anyone else who has a loved one returning from their deployment in the next few months, no matter what their branch is.

The spouse can take the skills they have learned back to the household and the reintegration

will be smoother because of all the information they learned from the class, said West.

The next time the Reunion training will be hosted is on Sept. 5 and 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. There will also be classes on Sept. 13 and 15, which will combine both sessions of classes and will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

West gave this advice to those who can't make the training:

"Take it slow when they come back; let the Soldier reintegrate at their own pace," West said. That is pretty much the most important thing."

Wiercinski addresses top issues for Soldiers

By Army Staff Sgt. Amber Robinson
Army News Service

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific, Army Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, recently addressed issues of importance for U.S. Army Pacific Soldiers.

Wiercinski, who has been in command of USARPAC for 16 months, discussed both Armywide and USARPAC-specific issues he said he feels are most important to Soldiers.

One of the most prevalent Armywide issues that weighs heavily on Wiercinski is suicide, he said.

“We are now losing more Soldiers to suicide than in combat operations,” Wiercinski said. “It’s tragic and we all have to get after this.”

“Our senior leadership is committed to this, but just saying you are committed to this is not good enough; something has to happen,” the general continued. “Until it gets down to the Soldier level — Soldiers taking care of Soldiers — we are not going to get there.”

Wiercinski challenged all Soldiers and leaders to remain vigilant in suicide prevention. “We have to get involved,” he said. “We can’t be afraid to say, first of all, I think I need help and we can’t be afraid to say [someone else] has a problem. I want every Soldier in this command to understand, we all need help at some point. We are human. If you need help ask for it, or if you see something, say something, so we can get our Soldiers the help they deserve.”

Wiercinski also addressed sexual assault. He identified the need for every Soldier to become actively involved in preventing the occurrence of sexual assaults.

“Sexual assault is a heinous crime, and no one should have to live in fear of that,” he said. “This is not just happening out on the streets. This is happening in our barracks, in our homes and we have to stop it. I need everybody’s help to say ‘enough.’ We are going to take care of ourselves, we are going to protect our own and we are not going to let this happen.”

Wiercinski believes a good leader must have the following attributes: values, courage, selflessness, passion and sincere love



Philippine Army Staff Sgt. Florante Pilar, 191st Military Police Battalion, and Sgt. Anthony Dricken, 472nd MP Company, 793rd MP Battalion, discuss bilateral convoy operations and field of fire responsibilities during Balikatan 2012, April 19 at Clark Air Base, Philippines. Army Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, U.S. Army Pacific commanding general, called upon USARPAC Soldiers to act as ambassadors when deployed overseas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth)

of Soldiers.

“Great leaders are imbued with values,” Wiercinski said. “They live them every single day. They lead by example. The number one value you have to have is integrity. Our profession is built on trust. If Soldiers can’t trust leaders, then you can’t ask them to put their lives on the line. We have to lead with values and integrity.”

“Great leaders wake up every day with a passion for their profession, no matter how bad the night was before,” he continued. “They show up in front of their unit with a twinkle in their eye and a glimmer that reflects (their passion). That is an infectious quality. If you give passion, you get passion. It reflects in your unit. The day you wake up and you look at your unit, and everybody has low morale, they look down and depressed, and you want to figure out why — you need to look in the mirror. If the leader reflects positivity and great morale, the unit will reflect positivity and great morale.”

As combat operations begin to draw

down in Afghanistan, there is a new focus on Army basics, and Wiercinski stressed the importance of this Armywide change to USARPAC Soldiers.

“I think we need to get back to being experts at the basics,” Wiercinski said. “I think we are going to learn some great lessons and some leaders are going to learn some things they have not seen in the last 10 to 11 years and that’s where we are going to be focused. Command Sgt. Maj. [Frank] Leota and the senior noncommissioned officers are on a program, ‘Getting Back to Basics’ — getting back to the way we used to do business, all the great things that made us a great Army that was able to sustain two wars over 10 and 11 years. We can’t lose that and we’ve got to reinstate that.”

As the drawdown in Afghanistan begins to take effect, the Defense Department is refocusing on the Asia-Pacific region.

“This is not just an Army refocus, but a whole of government refocus to the Asia-Pacific region, and that includes the United

States military and that of course includes the U.S. Army Pacific,” Wiercinski. “U.S. Army Pacific has supported [overseas contingency operations]; we have deployed more than 170,000 from U.S. Army Pacific over these last 10 and 11 years. As we have closed down Iraq and done great work there and as we continue to do great work in Afghanistan and start to draw down there, more Soldiers will be available to do work in the Pacific. That is great for the [Pacific Command] commander, that’s great for our Army and that is great for our nation. And it’s also very welcome with our allies, partners and friends in the area.”

In the face of the new emphasis in the Pacific, Wiercinski encouraged Soldiers who travel to meet and work with their Pacific allies to understand their position as role models and ambassadors.

“We have a tremendous effort going on here in USARPAC,” he said. “We have dedicated staff that works this every single day. We have commanders, officers, non-commissioned officers, civilians and family members, and they are our best ambassadors from our country every day.”

“That is why I tell Soldiers when they go to a foreign country for an exercise, you may be the only American these individuals may ever see,” he continued. “They will base their entire opinions on the United States and our values based on how you act. One Soldier can make a great impression for the United States of America. We have to be conscious of that every time we do something in any country we are guests in, because it makes a huge difference.”

Finally, Wiercinski had praise for Soldiers.

“I am in the best Army that I have seen or served with,” he said. “It’s not because of our equipment, which is tremendous; not because of the way we train, which is tremendous; or not even because of our leadership, which is tremendous. It is because of our Soldiers, who are really, really good.”

“You have to be proud to wear this uniform every single day. I’m not looking forward to the day I have to take it off, but right now, I am pretty happy. That is because of our great Soldiers doing such a great job out there.”

Asia-Pacific focus represents ‘whole of government’ rebalance

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

CAMP SMITH, Hawaii — Recognizing the new focus on the Asia-Pacific region is a national strategy and one not just for the Defense Department alone, U.S. Pacific Command is reaching out to its interagency and non-governmental partners to roll it out in an efficient, well-coordinated manner.

“We are in the process of refocusing on the Asia-Pacific, and a key part of that is assuring that our military relationships throughout the region are strong and secure,” said Ambassador Marc Wall, foreign policy advisor to Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, the PACOM commander.

“That is a key part of it, but it is not the only part,” Wall told American Forces Press Service. “It also has important elements involving diplomatic outreach. We want to strengthen our multilateral relationships throughout the region. We also want to expand our economic relationships in the region.”

As PACOM implements the Defense Department’s new strategic guidance that emphasizes the importance of the Asia-Pacific to U.S. national security, a division within the headquarters is helping to ensure the command’s programs and initiatives track with those of other government agencies.

Representatives of the departments of State, Energy and Interior; Agency for International Development; FBI and CIA are all assigned to PACOM’s Pacific Outreach Directorate.

They help provide a better understanding of what each organization brings to the mission, better operational coordination and less overlap, said Michael Ritchie, the office director.

“Much of what we do is educate,” he said, helping staff members recognize the non-DoD capabilities that can enhance PACOM’s mission.



An F-22 Raptor from the 1st Fighter Wing, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan July 28, 2012. The wing’s Raptors transited through JBER (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady)

“I like to tell people, ‘We don’t make the product,’” Ritchie said, quoting a corporate motto. “We exist to make the product better, bringing the perspectives and the authorities of the rest of government to the planning and operations of the command.”

The proof is in the pudding, he said.

“We do much better contingency planning [and] we write plans in language that the rest of the government understands,” Ritchie said. “We are much better off for it, and so are our interagency partners.”

Unlike some U.S. combatant commands that integrate non-DoD representatives directly into their headquarters staffs, Ritchie made a conscious decision to maintain his staff’s reporting and rating chains to their respective departments and agencies.

“They are here to assist us in doing better planning and inform us about the types of things that their agency is doing, and this model empowers them to better inform us,” he said.

The “whole-of-government” approach boils down to four basic areas, referred to as DIME: diplomatic, informational, military and economic, Ritchie explained.

The Defense Department recognizes its responsibility for the “military” piece. But even in interactions that appear to fall within this area, Ritchie said sometimes DoD isn’t the best resource. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, for example, is better postured than Pacific Air Forces to assist a country looking for help in stopping smugglers from using its air routes.

“This is not a U.S. Air Force core competency, but it is a Customs and Border Protection core competency,” Ritchie said. “So we are able to bring the right tool to the country and help them solve their problem, with people who have expertise in interdicting and tracking people in light aircraft that come across their border... Our military doesn’t have those roles, but we have friends who do.”

That’s the strength of the whole-of-government approach, Ritchie said. “It is using all our authorities to do what we do, in conjunction with other people’s authorities, in order to get the job done better,” he said.

Ritchie’s staff ensures that the PACOM commander and staff recognize and understand what other government agencies are doing in the Asia-Pacific, and ensures their own plans dovetail with those efforts. As a result, PACOM is increasingly incorporating not only the interagency, but also non-governmental and international organizations, academia and the private sector into its outreach initiatives.

The current, PACOM-sponsored Pacific Partnership humanitarian and civic assistance mission, for example, includes military and civilian experts from the United States, four host nations, 11 partner nations and two dozen U.S. and international NGOs.

A command-wide program designed to build Pacific nations’ resiliency to natural disasters is tapping into NGOs’ and universities’ skills and manpower, and funding from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its members.

Looking to the future, with a national focus on the Asia-Pacific and constrained budgets, Ritchie said he sees great opportunity to expand PACOM’s interagency and non-governmental collaboration. It brings the broadest range of capabilities, experiences and perspectives, he said, to assemble the best and broadest array of tools in a single toolkit.

That, he said, is the genius behind PACOM’s basic mission statement: “U.S. Pacific Command, together with other U.S. government agencies, protects and defends the United States, its territories, allies and interests.”

“It begins with, ‘together, with other federal agencies,’” Ritchie said. “And to me, that is the key here.”

Panetta describes defense strategy, warns against sequestration

By Amaani Lyle
American Forces Press Service

MONTEREY, Calif. — As the Defense Department adopts a new paradigm for the U.S. military to remain a formidable force while absorbing \$487 billion in spending reductions during the next decade, the prospect of an additional \$500 billion spending reduction during that period would be “a disaster” not only for national defense, but also for defense communities, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said here Monday.

In remarks at an Association of Defense Communities conference, the secretary said the new defense strategy and the Pentagon’s budget decisions reflect the need to bring the government’s budget under control.

“There is a strategic and fiscal imperative that is driving the department to a smaller, ... leaner and

more agile force — that’s the reality,” Panetta said. “It would be irresponsible not to reduce the budget and do our role in confronting the fiscal challenges facing this country.”

The secretary noted though the department and the nation are weathering a period of great challenge, an opportunity for planning emerges.

Under the new strategy, Panetta said, the force will remain agile, quickly deployable, flexible, and prepared to deal with crises anywhere in the world. As drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan unfold, the United States will continue to sharpen its focus on matters in the Asia-Pacific region, initiating a rebalance of global posture as part of an overall strategy to maintain a presence elsewhere in the world.

Additionally, he said, vigilance against cyberspace threats is essential. He called the cyber arena the “battlefield for the future,” with the

potential to cripple progress for the United States and its allies.

The strategy also must include investment in and protection of DoD’s industrial base, the secretary said.

Close partnerships with members of Congress, committees, caucuses, defense industrial partners, foreign allies, foreign partners and defense communities across the country remain one of the guiding principles in implementing the new strategy, Panetta said.

Noting that he has to “put every area of the defense budget on the table,” the secretary acknowledged challenges that stem from assessing major areas such as compensation, which he said has increased by 80 percent.

“Unless we confront the costs in that area, we’re going to find ourselves cutting our national defense in order to deal with tremendously increased health care

costs.” But at the same time, he said, the Defense Department must “keep faith” with the military.

“We’ve got to make sure we stand by the promises that were made to them and to their families,” Panetta said, adding defense communities can help by making sure they hire veterans and spouses who enrich those areas. “I ask each of you to look for creative ways to help us better support each other,” he said. “We’ve got to be honest and open with each about the nature of the fiscal challenge that confronts this country.”

But a “sequestration” mechanism built into the budget law would trigger another half-trillion dollars in across-the-board defense spending cuts during the next decade, Panetta said, and a similar amount in other government spending if Congress fails to find an alternative by January. That, he said, would “hollow out

the military.”

“I’ve made clear, and I’ll continue to do so, that if sequestration is allowed to go into effect, it’ll be a disaster for national defense and it would be a disaster, frankly, for defense communities as well,” he said. “And frankly, it’s not only true about the DoD budget, it’s also true relating to the domestic discretionary cuts that will deprive communities of the needed federal support they need in areas like education.”

Panetta called sequestration “an indiscriminate formula” that was never meant to take effect.

“It was never designed to be implemented,” he said. “It was designed to trigger such untold damage that it would force people to do the right thing.”

He urged the defense community leaders to do what they can to ensure Congress reaches a solution that avoids sequestration.

Briefs and Announcements

Correction

The article "U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific looks to the future while augmented by Army Reservists" incorrectly stated the band was augmented. The 96th Army Reserve Band was simply using the Band of the Pacific's facilities.

Dining facility restriction

In accordance with wing policy, use of the Iditarod Dining Facility will be restricted until Aug. 21.

Authorized patrons include enlisted members, commanders, meal card holders and personnel on official temporary duty orders. All others are not authorized to use the Iditarod Dining Facility during these dates due to Red Flag.

Road closures

Richardson Drive and 1st Street is closed – Richardson closed from Quartermaster Drive to First Street; and First Street closed from Richardson Drive to A Street – from Sunday through Oct. 4 for the installation of a new storm sewer. Access will be maintained to the gas station and credit union parking areas.

Sixth Street is closed from Dyea Avenue to Hoonah Avenue until Aug. 19 for Doyon construction.

Gulkana Avenue is closed west of Sixth Street for housing construction, opening again time to be determined.

Dyea Avenue is closed from Fifth to Sixth streets until December for housing construction.

Juneau Avenue is closed near Fifth Street until March 15, 2013, for housing construction.

Alpine Avenue and Birch Hill Drive near Alpine Avenue will be closed until February for housing construction.

Seventh Avenue is closed between Beluga and Dyea avenues until April 15, 2013.

Library closure

The JBER Library will be closed until Sept. 3 for upgrades.

Patrons who are clearing the installation can go to Room 112 of the Education Center (Library Building) between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Materials can be returned in the drop box outside the building.

For more information, call 384-1640.

Legal education program

The Army Judge Advocate General's Corps is accepting applications for the Army Funded Legal Education Program, which sends active-duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense.

Officers remain on active duty while attending school.

Officers second lieutenant to captain are eligible for FLEP, and further eligibility requirements are outlined in Army Regulation 27-1.

Applicants must submit their application through the chain of command to their basic branch at Army Human Resources Command, with a suspense to AHRC by Nov. 1, 2012.

Interested officers should immediately contact the U.S. Army Alaska Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 384-0420 for further information and to schedule an interview.

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.

School physicals

The 673d Medical Group is offering physicals by appointment only for school and sports. Physicals are valid for one year. To schedule an appointment, call 580-2778.

Air Force ROTC instructors wanted

Eligible first lieutenants, captains and majors interested in teaching future Air Force officers must indicate that interest on their statement of intent, via the Airman Development Plan.

Fully-coordinated, approved application packages are due to Air Education and Training Command by Aug. 10.

Lieutenants must have at least a year in grade and three years of commissioned service. All applicants must have four years on station by June 2013, or be in a mandatory move status during

summer 2013 or have a Jan.-May 2013 date eligible for return from overseas.

Applicants must also have superior performance records, and some universities require a master's degree, so applicants should note that before listing their duty preferences. Before applicants can submit their packages to AETC, they must be released from their career field.

For full application package instructions, visit <https://mypers.af.mil>.

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.

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.

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.

Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is available to all eligible active-duty members and consists of two options.

The first option, RPP Plus, includes utilities and sometimes cable costs providing an easier budget with a set rental payment year round.

The other option, RPP 5 Percent Below Market, saves the member five percent off the rental fee that other tenants pay however utilities are paid for by the tenant.

Both options are made available with no deposits or fees to the member with the exclusion of pet fees as it may apply.

This program is designed to provide active-duty military personnel, enlisted and officers, accompanied and unaccompanied with affordable off-base housing.

An allotment must be executed under either option of the RPP for the rental payments which is made directly to the landlord resulting in a more trouble free transactions.

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

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

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.



Civil Air Patrol

Cadets visit Anchorage, JBER during annual event, Page B-4

Finding common ground

Learning about others makes all the difference in a community, Page B-2



www.jber.af.mil/news

COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 32

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

August 10, 2012



Air Force Master Sgt. Bryan Hailey, center, addresses members of the Society for Creative Anachronism during a heavy fighting tournament called the Coronet Tourney held in the Eagle River Campground, Eagle River, July 21. The tourney, conducted by the Society for Creative Anachronism, takes place every six months. The SCA, a non-profit educational group dedicated to exploring medieval and renaissance civilizations and culture. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)



DIEDIEVAL REENACTMENT

Commentary by Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett JBER Public Affairs

When I was invited to join the Society for Creative Anachronism, I'd heard that it might be nerdy.

A friend and I met with the SCA and with their gear, and guidance, began putting on the armor.

It had never occurred to me how many individual pieces there could be, or how heavy it would become. I was amazed at how easily I could move in all this armor. Later, bruises would tell me I need to get armor that fit me properly.

I struggled into a helmet, by far the heaviest thing there.

This was loaner gear, so not everything fit properly and I struggled to get the helmet past my nose, and then the strap inside it onto my chin.

The thing attracted mosquitoes to my face.

I was then handed a metal shield that was heavy by itself, but with all the other gear felt like it had gained a good 10 pounds.

Then I was handed a sword.

I love swords, though this was a bit different. It weighed less, and instead of a blade it was covered in layers of tape and had a rubber cap at the end.

I was told that this allowed full-force strikes and stabs to be legal.

Sparring has always been my favorite sport. Whether with a weapon or without, whether grappling or wrestling or simply hand-to-hand. It teaches discipline and develops confidence.

Medieval combat was a first for me. This felt real.

We began and I was struck hard in the helmet by a guy more than twice my size, forcing me to stumble sideways and making me wish I had ear plugs to muffle the loud echo within my helmet.

I hadn't even seen the blow coming.

This wasn't nerdy... under the wrong circumstances, this could easily be deadly.

Later, I would experience rapier fencing and take a sword stab to the face, stopped an inch short by the mask.

At the end of the match, sweaty and exhausted, I was invited to watch, or even participate in, a tournament. I asked how many other military members were involved in this, and I was introduced to the prince of Oertha, their pseudo-name for Alaska.

Outside the SCA, his name is Air Force Master Sergeant Brian Hailey, an active Alaska Air National Guard contracting officer representative for the 213th Space Warning Squadron.

"People in the military have gotten involved because it pro-



Leon Ayers, left, and Tom Chivers, right, attack each other during heavy fighting practice at Chugach Foothills Park in Anchorage July 17. The practices, taking place on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

motes many of the same concepts that are important to us," he explained. "Honor, courtesy, chivalry, martial prowess, competition and family activities; local groups can be found all over the world and the whole family can enjoy it."

The values the SCA strives for carry meaning similar to certain other core values: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

"I got involved with the SCA when I arrived in Alaska," he said. "That was in February 1987. I was active-duty Army and met some people that were members. I was invited to an event and enjoyed it. This is home for me."

"I enjoy the feeling of family and fun most," he said. "I was also drawn to the focus of chivalry and honor that is a core part of the SCA. A strong interest in medieval history is part of it as well."

He has clearly come a long way. He had to build his SCA title through combat. "I became prince by winning the heavy fighting tournament," he said. "The tournament was called the Coronet Tourney. Its goal and ultimate prize is to choose the next prince and princess. These are held every six months. There are numerous other tournaments and non-fighting activities in each local group throughout the year."

Being prince isn't just a title - it carries a lot of responsibility. "As prince I am the ruler of the Principality

of Oertha, or Alaska, within the Kingdom of the West."

What does that mean?

"In practical terms, the princess and I are the ceremonial focus of events and we can make or change local laws of our group. We are the arbiters of disputes, if necessary, and we report to the King and Queen of the West."

Hailey said he helps everyone dig into their historical interests.

"I also look on it as a responsibility to ensure that everyone has as much fun as possible and has the opportunity to live out their particular view of medieval life within the framework of our system," he said.

It's based on the feudal system in that the smaller groups answer to the larger and follow the rules set forth in them, he said.

"Each of the groups has a set of officers that help run the organization and provide continuity," he said. "The king, queen, prince and princess are always chosen by right of arms. The fighter that is victorious on the field steps up to replace the previous ruler every six months."

"You cannot succeed yourself on the thrones, but you can compete in every other tournament and be ruler more than once. Every position is voluntary and non-paid except for the Board of Directors that oversees the Society as a whole."

He also explained how ranks work within the fighters.

"In the fighting area there are really only two ranks: the regular fighters and the knights," he said.

"The knights are the elite fighters chosen for their fighting skill and other attributes like chivalry and honor. They wear a white belt, a chain of fealty and spurs to signify their status. Some fighters wear a red belt and that indicates that they are squires to a knight that is teaching them how to become a knight."

I've met a couple of knights.

They are very nice people, extremely skilled and amazing to watch in action.

"We also have 'light' fighters that use minimal armor and use rapiers," Hailey said, describing the fencing I'd seen. "Besides the knights there are three other orders of peers in the SCA. Their focus is not fighting. The Pelicans are recognized for outstanding service, and the Laurels are recognized for excellence in the arts and sciences. Royal peers are previous rulers."

I was impressed at just how big and complex this society is.

"The SCA is a worldwide organization divided into 19 Kingdoms," he said. "These are further divided into Principalities, then Baronies or similar, smaller branches."

One-on-one combat isn't all fighters can participate in.

"Fighters can also become a part of a war unit and fight in full battles with hundreds of warriors over a week on various terrain and obstacles," Hailey said.

For the less combat-inclined, Hailey said the SCA offers more options.

"History lovers can research any number of topics and have access to resources and experts hard to find anywhere else," he said.

"Artisans can create wonderful works of arts and craftsmen produce an incredible variety of items."

"Most people are eager to share and teach what they know to anyone interested in learning," he said. "Everyone can find a great deal of fun, no matter what their interests."

Finally, Hailey extended his invitation to anyone interested in having fun and learning.

"It is a fun activity that you can spend as much or as little of your time doing as you like," he said. "Come out and have a fun weekend with friends or delve deep into historical research, create works of art, learn ancient dances, eat fabulous foods. It isn't expensive to be a part of the fun either."



Army Reserve Sgt. Tom Chivers is a health care specialist for the 1984th United States Army Hospital Detachment 1, and also an active heavy fighter within the Society for Creative Anachronism. Chivers is a native of Anchorage. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

A little knowledge can go a long way in finding common ground

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

Another shooting during another worship service, in another building truly meant to be a “sanctuary” in life, especially one isolated from such horrific acts.

I’m referring to last Sunday’s killing of six at a Sikh temple just outside of Milwaukee, the city of my birth.

And while I pray no one who reads my words today has had even the slightest thought of wreaking such hate-filled horror, there is one discouraging connection to this killing event more than one of you has.

No, I’m not talking about the Army or any military connection.

And, no, I’m not jumping on board with those who think “if only someone in that public gathering (whether in a theater or shopping mall or in this case, a house of worship) was armed.”

So, what’s left? Sadly, the connection many of us share with this shooter is... ignorance.

But this is not simply the kind

of generic ignorance of the uneducated.

This type of ignorance can find a safe haven within even the most intellectually gifted person.

This type of ignorance can be summed up in the following words from one of a number of news reports on the shooting – this one from the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel:

“Many Sikhs have been the subject of hate crimes, especially after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, by individuals who confuse them with Muslims. ‘We’ve seen a remarkable increase in violence against our community’ after 9-11, said Kavneet Singh of the Sikh legal defense fund.

“Awareness of the confusion prompted the Islamic Society of Milwaukee to lock down its mosque Sunday morning, allowing only those known to members there to enter for Ramadan prayers. ‘We are aware of the fact that ignorant people who seek to do violence against Muslims sometimes confuse Muslims and Sikhs,’ said Islamic Society of Milwaukee President Ahmed Quereshi.”

How about you? Could you

distinguish between those wearing or expressing the faith of a Sikh and a Muslim?

Or is any male with a beard and turban not simply “automatically” a Muslim but a member of Al Qaida or the Taliban as well?

While serving as an instructor at our Air Force Chaplain Corps College (as it’s now known), I had the privilege of traveling to Toronto for a week-long “world religion immersion” program.

We began each day with a class on one of a number of world religions – all practiced in Toronto – then went to a house of worship of that particular faith and experienced first-hand conversations with believers and the rites or sacraments or worship service of that faith.

One of those experiences – one that positively connected with several things I believe as a Christian (“Lutheran flavor”) chaplain – was, indeed, at a Sikh temple.

Now, I could give you all the doctrinal or theological or scholarly ways a Sikh is different not only from a Christian but

also from a Muslim, but I don’t believe in focusing on differences between my beliefs and what anyone else believes, no matter what faith or no faith they profess.

Instead, let me share two things I chose to consider to have in common with Sikhs, going back to that memorable visit in 2004.

First, as a Christian, I believe God comes into my life in a special way through what Christians variously call “The Lord’s Supper” or “Holy Communion” or “The Eucharist” or “The Mass” or “The Sacrament of the Altar.”

As part of a Sikh worship service, the congregation (including all visitors) is invited to come forward and receive “prasad,” which is a sweet pudding considered to be a blessing from “The Infinite Word of God.”

I can relate to that. Second, as a Christian chaplain, I often refer to Jesus Christ as did John, the writer of the Christian gospel bearing his name.

John calls Jesus “The Living Word.”

For Sikhs, their sacred scriptures (called the Siri Guru Granth Sahib) are truly considered and treated as their “living word.”

In fact, following the worship service I attended, that “living word” was literally tucked into bed for the night, in a private room off the main sanctuary.

Did that act speak to me as a Christian? Absolutely! Did I translate that Sikh practice into my Christian one and celebrate what I shared with them rather than focusing on the differences between my religion and theirs? Absolutely.

Do you have a choice to either focus on what you have in common with another person – whether that “other” is of a different faith or

race or ethnic group or economic status – or to focus on your differences? I dare you to say no.

Will your focus eliminate the evil that leads to the killing of innocents, of truly peace-loving people like those in that Sikh community?

No, but you can indeed choose to take a step toward true understanding and acknowledgement (and, dare I say it, acceptance) of any peace-loving “other” (versus those whose ignorant hatred of the other fills their heart and leads to nothing but evil), instead of a step toward suspicion and misunderstanding and hate.

Which will you choose? Will you be part of the problem or part of the solution? It is up to you.

One of the best resources I’ve found on “understanding the other” is a two-volume paperback book set called How to Be a Perfect Stranger (A Guide to Etiquette in Other People’s Religious Ceremonies).

These provide not only very direct and practical advice about visiting and attending the religious ceremonies of 38 different faith groups and Christian denominations, but deliver enough “theology” to gain a much better understanding of each.

For example, the chapter on Sikhism includes info on topics ranging from what to wear when visiting a service in their temple, what to expect during that service, what may be expected of you, how to address their worship leaders, and special “life cycle events” such as a birth or marriage ceremony or funeral.

There are 28 pages on Sikhism which, I am certain, will help your understanding of this religion even if you never have the opportunity to visit a Sikh temple.

But if you’re interested in doing that as well, here (with the usual “no federal endorsement intended” disclaimer) is the website for the organization that still provides those World Religion immersion weeks in Toronto.

I can honestly say my week there was the most beneficial, most inspirational, most meaningful experience on the topic in my entire life.

For more information, visit www.worldreligions.ca.



Capt. (Dr.) Tejdeep Singh Rattan (right) checks in a patient during the triage portion of an exercise at Camp Bullis, Texas. Rattan is the first Sikh allowed to keep his articles of faith while in uniform. (U.S. Army photo/Steve Elliott)

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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 SIGN-UPS START AUGUST 1. TABLES ARE \$10
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Community happenings

THROUGH THURSDAY
Oil painting class
 Learn to create compelling and vibrant landscape art in oil paints with this class on color-mixing to achieve depth, distance and atmosphere.
 Hosted at the Anchorage Museum from 6:30 to 9 p.m.
 For information, call 929-9280 or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

AUGUST 17
Greek Festival
 Celebrate the best of Greek culture in Alaska at the 18th Annual Greek Festival.
 Traditional foods including lamb and vegan offerings and pastries meet up with Greek folk music and dance lessons.
 Greek books, jewelry and more are available, and plenty of activities for the younger crowd are hosted by the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox church on O'Malley Road.
 For information visit www.akgreekfestival.com.

AUGUST 18
Autumn Wings festival
 Join Bird TLC for a celebration of birds, wildlife, the outdoors, and Alaska's autumn.
 A live bird program featuring eagles, owls, falcons, hawks, corvids and songbirds, a bird-calling contest, and the release of a rehabilitated eagle are just a few of the activities planned.
 For more information, visit birdtlc.net or call 562-4852.

AUGUST 23
Women's Equality Day
 The 2nd Engineer Brigade and JBER Equal Opportunity Office host guest speaker Jane Angvik from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Frontier (Richardson-side) Theater in honor of women's suffrage.
 For information, contact the EO office at 552-2115.

EOSO welcome-back party
 The Elmendorf Officer's Spouses Organization hosts this Bunco event at the Arctic Warrior Events Center starting at 6:30 p.m.
 All officers' spouses, regardless of branch, are welcome; appetizers will be available and no experience at Bunco is necessary.
 For information, call 771-9098.

AUG. 23 THROUGH SEPT. 3
Alaska State Fair
 Visit the Palmer Fairgrounds for the 76th annual state fair. As usual, agriculture, produce, food, friends and family take center stage.
 Live music is also a hit; this year's lineup includes Styx.
 For information visit alaskastatefair.org.

AUGUST 29
PWOC kickoff event
 The JBER Protestant Women of the Chapel host an open house at the Soldiers Chapel from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30. Plans for the upcoming year will be discussed.
 For information, call 841-9425.

AUG. 31 THROUGH SEPT. 2
Girdwood Fungus Fair
 This celebration of edible fungus features scientists from around the Pacific Northwest as well as instructors who specialize in mushroom dyes, naturalists and mushroom cultivation.
 Learn to identify which mushroom are edible and which are dangerous at the Alyeska Resort.
 For information visit www.fungusfair.com or call 754-2348.

SEPT. 7
Mardi Gras Downtown
 Re-creating Bourbon Street on Fourth Avenue, this block party features local celebrity chefs with authentic Cajun cuisine, live music, street performers and much more from 5 p.m. until 10 between K and L streets on 4th Ave. in downtown Anchorage.

SEPT. 8
Vertical Challenge
 The 5th Annual Climb-a-Thon is an endurance event in which contestants walk, hike and run up the steep North Face Trail of Mount Alyeska and ride the tram down as many times as possible from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.
 Top competitors have climbed more than 20,000 vertical feet – equal to climbing Mount McKinley, but with only 10 hours in which to do it.
 For information, visit www.alyeskaresort.com.

Glenn Beck
 Talk radio and television star appears at the Dena'ina Civic and

Convention Center with his unique brand of political and historical discourse.
 For more information call 263-2850 or visit ticketmaster.com.

SEPT. 8 AND 9
Great Alaska Quilt Show
 A large variety of quilts made by members of the quilt guild are on show, from bed-sized to small art quilts, wearable quilt art, and playful quilts at the ConocoPhillips Auditorium.
 A silent auction and a raffle drawing mean you can end up with a quilt of your own.
 For information, visit anchoragequilters.blogspot.com.

THROUGH SEPT. 30
Science on McKinley
 "Ascent 20,320" looks at Mount McKinley through the lens of scientific expeditions from the first successful summit in 1913 to attempts to create a high-altitude scientific camp. National Geographic expeditions also feature in this Anchorage Museum display.
 For information, call 929-9200 or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

ONGOING
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 homestyle meals Fridays at 6 p.m. at the cafe.
 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 about meetings, work days, and shows, call 552-5234, visit their site at www.trainweb.org/msmrr 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.

Experience the Aurora
 It's the next best thing to the Alaska winter sky – and a lot more comfortable than standing around in a parka.
 The Anchorage Museum's planetarium provides an immersive show that explains the science behind the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.
 The show projects time-lapse footage of the lights in the Arctic Circle.
 For more information, call 929-9200 or visit anchagemuseum.org.

Spenard Farmer's Market
 Under the windmill between 25th and 26th avenues, you can find everything made, caught or grown in Alaska.
 Fresh oysters, organic bread, vegetables, flowers and reindeer sausage are just a few of the offerings on tap every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Sept. 29.
 For information call 563-6273 or visit www.spenardfarmersmarket.org.

Anchorage Market
 More than 300 booths offer a host of items weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue and E Street parking lot.
 With free entertainment and food vendors, the market is a family-friendly outing every weekend through the end of September, which is rapidly approaching.
 For information, visit www.anchagemarkets.com.

Chapel services

Catholic Mass
Sunday
 9 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
 10:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1

Monday through Friday
 11:40 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
 11:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel Center
Thursday
 11:30 a.m. – Hospital Chapel

Confession
Saturday
 6 p.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Monday through Friday
 Before/after 11:40 Mass – Soldiers' Chapel

Protestant Sunday Services
Joint Liturgical Service
 9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 2
Traditional Service
 9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1
Contemporary Protestant Service
 11 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Gospel Service
 Noon – Elmendorf Chapel 1
Contemporary Protestant Service
 5 p.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1

Buddhist
Soka Gakkai Goshu
 7 p.m., first Friday of the month – Chapel Center (10427 Kuter Ave.)

Road Warriors running
 Military, family members and civilians alike are welcome to train and get involved with running, biking and swimming events.
 For events and information, check the Road Warriors (Alaska) Facebook page or call 384-7733 or 552-1361.

FSS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

SKILL BUILDING



FREE SALTWATER BOAT TRAINING
 AUGUST 14 · 6 P.M.
 @ DYEA SKI FACILITY
THIS CLASS IS REQUIRED FOR RENTAL USE
JBER RICHARDSON OUTDOOR RECREATION
 BLDG. 794 · 384-1475/1476



ROCK CLIMBING 101
 AUGUST 16 & 30 · 6-8 P.M. · \$30
JBER ELMENDORF
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
 BLDG. 7301 · 552-4599



HANDGUN RELOADING CLASS
 AUGUST 17 · 5:30 P.M. · \$5
JBER ELMENDORF OUTDOOR RECREATION
 BLDG. 7301 · 552-2023



GEOCACHING CLASS
 AUGUST 19 · NOON · \$10
JBER ELMENDORF OUTDOOR RECREATION
 BLDG. 7301 · 552-2023

GET OUT THERE!!!



MONTANA CREEK GUIDED SILVER SALMON TRIP
 AUGUST 11 & 18 · 6:30 A.M. - 5 P.M. · \$99
JBER RICHARDSON OUTDOOR RECREATION
 BLDG. 794 · 384-1475/76



EAGLE RIVER RAFTING
 AUGUST 15 & 16 · 5 - 8 P.M. · \$49
JBER ELMENDORF
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
 BLDG. 7301 · 552-4599



JIM CREEK GUIDED SILVER SALMON TOUR
 AUGUST 22 · \$125
 TIME TO BE DETERMINED (TIDAL DEPENDENT)
JBER RICHARDSON OUTDOOR RECREATION
 BLDG. 794 · 384-1475/76



Civil Air Patrol hosts summer encampment at JBER

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

The Civil Air Patrol was founded December 1, 1941 by more than 150,000 citizens concerned about the defense of America's coastline, one week before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"The Civil Air Patrol became the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force in 1948; charged with three primary missions – aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services," said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Matt Gliński, Michigan Wing Civil Air Patrol. Gliński is here on a voluntary assignment and acted as the first sergeant of the encampment.

The encampment is a weeklong boot camp, which involves physical training, classroom seminars and proper military standards.

There are 1,100 senior members and 200 cadets in the Alaska Wing of the CAP who conduct 80 percent of all inland searches in Alaska. The air fleet of the Alaska Wing is composed of 36 corporate aircraft. The CAP in Alaska saved 140 lives during the past five years.

"The Civil Air Patrol encampment program is a great opportunity for individuals of all ages to participate in, especially those who have an interest for military enlistment," said Cadet Master Sgt. Daniel Bowen.

The CAP possesses their own ranking structure paralleling that of the Air Force, from airman basic all the way to general. Cadets are given a handbook known as the Basic Cadet Operating Instruction that contains courtesies, uniform and appearance policies, restrictions and the Airman's Creed.

"The CAP is a humanitarian and educational, non-profit organization of over 1,300 Alaskans who volunteer their time, knowledge, and energy to fulfill a threefold mission mandated by Congress," said Capt. Laura Gossel, Civil Air Patrol Eielson Air Force Base Alaska Wing.

Opportunities abound for volunteer members to participate in activities such as honor guard, survival training, search and rescue, disaster relief and flight training (powered and glider).

"I joined the CAP cadet program in 2006," Gliński said. "I've been to numerous programs such as the Pararescue orientation course, I've judged national cadet competitions, and attended other activities across the nation."

As volunteers serve more time in the program and obtain rank, they are given more leadership roles and opportunities to demonstrate Air Force core values.

"One of the things we strive to accomplish in the Civil Air Patrol is transforming individuals into

teams and leaders," Gliński said.

The CAP welcomes military members, be they active duty, Reserve, separated, or retired, enlisted or commissioned officers to join the program.

1st Lt. Adam Bowens of the CAP – formerly an Air Force staff sergeant of JBER fire protection, has been a member of the program since 1994 at the age of 12.

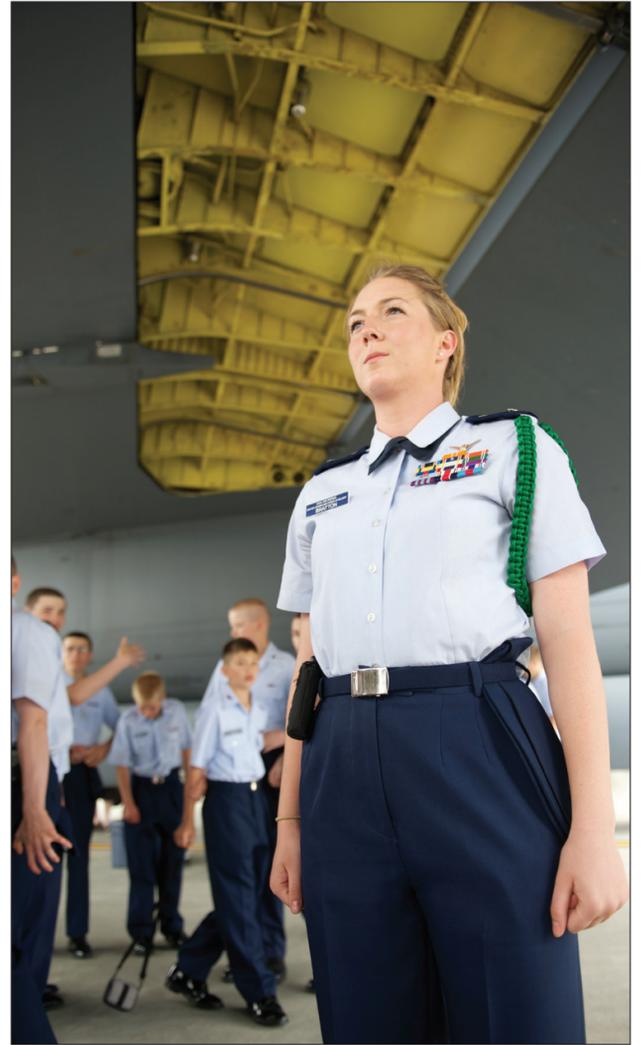
"When I joined the active-duty Air Force, I became a senior member and ultimately took the position of commandant during the Alaska Wing encampments," Bowens said.

People who participate in the encampment will also be awarded the Billy Mitchell award. The award gives recipients the chance to enlist in the Air Force with a guaranteed rank of E-3. The program also grants its members an opportunity to attend the Air Force Academy despite whether or not they have any college background.

"If you want to do something productive and life-changing, the CAP will surely have a spot for you," Bowens said.

If anyone is interested in becoming a part of the CAP program, the Alaska Wing contains three different squadrons in the area.

Bowens can be reached by e-mail at decpolaris@gmail.com or by visiting the CAP Alaska Wing website www.akwg.cap.gov.



ABOVE: Civil Air Patrol Cadet 1st Lt. Elizabeth Bratton stands at attention under a B-52 Stratofortress wing July 28 during the Arctic Thunder 2012 Open House on JBER hosted July 28 and 29. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)



LEFT: Civil Air Patrol members from various chapters around the country visited JBER for an annual encampment – a weeklong boot-camp type program featuring physical training, classroom seminars, and other activities. The Arctic Thunder 2012 Open House gave Civil Air Patrol members and visitors alike

a chance to check out planes like the Piper Cub as well as vintage aircraft like the B-25 Mitchell and B-52 Stratofortress. (U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Joel Cooke)



Births

JULY 20

A daughter, Adrianna Nikia Collins, was born 18.5 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 12 ounces at 12:38 a.m. to Nikia Ashley Collin and Spc. Adrian Marlon Collins of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

A daughter, Ava Florene Jordan, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces at 4:30 p.m. to Arianna Lynn Jordan and Pfc. Jackie Leon Jordan Jr. of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

JULY 21

A daughter, HarlowQuinn Avarie Brubacher, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces at 3:33 a.m. to Kathleen Martin Brubacher and Spc. Derrick Graham Brubacher of the 164th Military Police Company.

A son, Johnathan Kendall Pfriem, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces at 11:20 a.m. to Mackenzie Carrie Marie Pfriem and Pfc. Dallas Ray Pfriem of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

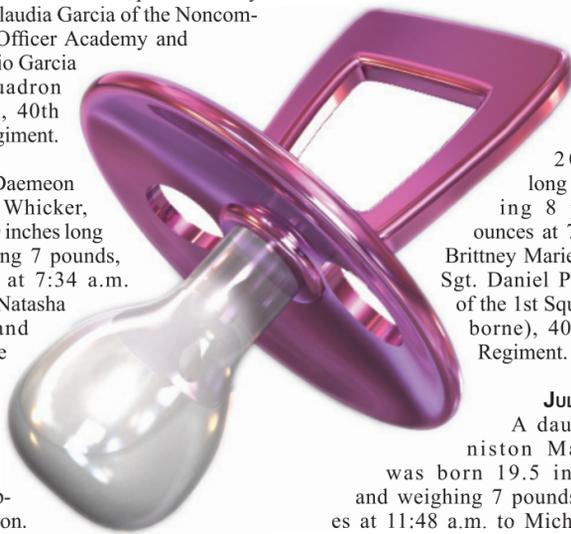
JULY 24

A daughter, Grace Noelle Yinkey, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 7:31 a.m. to Air Force Maj. Linda Marie Yinkey of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron and Christopher Ronald Yinkey.

JULY 25

A son, Gabriel Garcia, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces at 5:15 p.m. and a son, Daniel Garcia, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 5 ounces at 5:14 p.m. to Army Staff Sgt. Claudia Garcia of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy and Sgt. Dionicio Garcia of 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

A son, Daameon Alexander Whicker, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 7:34 a.m. to Tamara Natasha Whicker and Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Kyle Whicker of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.



JULY 26

A daughter, Adrielle Grace Palmer, was born 20 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces at 10:24 p.m. to Milagros R. Palmer and Army 1st Lt. Kedrick D. Palmer of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A son, Aidan Dean Thomas Whitaker Ritchie, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 2:18 p.m. to Angie Leigh Ritchie and Spc. Joseph Patrick Ritchie of the 95th Chemical Company.

JULY 27

A son, Brantlee Kason Graves, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds 13 ounces at 3 a.m. to Whitney Dianne Graves and Pfc. Kalyn Tyler Graves of the 109th Transportation Detachment.

A son, Cameran Allen Perkinson, was born 22 inches long and weighing 9 pounds at 12:41 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Valerie Michele Perkinson of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Allen Hewlett Perkinson of the 3rd Mission Operations Squadron.

JULY 28

A daughter, Sophia Ann Luker, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 6:52 p.m. to Ashley Crystal Luker and Sgt. Nathan Terry Luker of the 793rd Military Police Battalion.

JULY 29

A son, Aspen Charles Gleason, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 11:36 a.m. to Ji Chang Gleason and Sgt. Justin Charles Everett Gleason of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

JULY 30

A son, Damien Michael Welch was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 7:27 a.m. to Brittney Marie Welch and Sgt. Daniel Perry Welch of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

JULY 31

A daughter, Aniston May Lacey, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 11:48 a.m. to Michelle Elaine

Lacey and Army Staff Sgt. Lance Douglas Lacey of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Cavalry Regiment.

A son, Corban James Santiago Rothenberger, was born 22 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 10 ounces at 8:57 p.m. to Roxanne Anjelica Garcia Rothenberger and Sgt. Eric Vonn Rothenberger of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

AUGUST 1

A son, Nathaniel Lorenzo Goenner, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 7:06 a.m. to Lorimar Goenner and Petty Officer 1st Class Alec Randolph Goenner of the Electronic Systems Support Detachment – Anchorage.

A daughter, Brantleah Addisyn Hall, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces at 2:43 a.m. to Tiffany Alynn Hall and Army Staff Sgt. Blake Andrew Hall of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A son, Dominic Robert Silva, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 3 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Megan Tyler Silva of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron and Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Robert Silva of the 3rd Munitions Squadron.

AUGUST 2

A son, Bradley Martinez Jr. was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds at 1:51 a.m. to Airman 1st Class Rose Mary Martinez of the 673d Medical Support Squadron and Bradley Martinez.

AUGUST 3

A son, Rowdy Dean Felton, was born weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 1:52 p.m. to Chantel Marie Felton and Sgt. Casey Dean Felton of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

AUGUST 5

A daughter, Katherine McKenna Taylor, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces at 12:25 p.m. to Stephanie K. Taylor and Army Maj. William B. Taylor of U.S. Army Alaska.

AUGUST 6

A son, Logan Morris Lingnau, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 4:09 a.m. to Michelle Malyvanh Lingnau and Sgt. Jacob Morris Lingnau of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion.

Handbook helps spouses learn about Air Force

WASHINGTON — Taking care of Air Force families has been a passion of Suzie Schwartz, wife of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, and Paula Roy, wife of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy.

They have tackled challenges that have ranged from spouse employment to issues affecting the families of deployed Airmen and the exceptional family member program, in addition to listening to families directly during visits around the globe.

Through their efforts, a guide book has been developed to give spouses a “toolbox” of information, as well as a way to familiarize them with such things as the Air Force mission, organization, rank and traditions.

“Air Force 101” was developed in response to requests for a “spouse battlebook” — a one-stop resource on the basics of life in the Air Force.

This guide is designed to provide spouses with “enough information to know what questions to ask...and, who to ask to fully understand the answers.”

Schwartz, in a spouses’ forum at Maxwell Air Force Base in 2009, emphasized to the spouses that their role is an important one because the military spouse can more readily identify with the plight of fellow spouses.

“Spouses speak more clearly and honestly to each other,” she said.

She said key spouses can be a vital means of sharing info about base-level programs that may make their lives easier. She encouraged spouses to reach out to fellow spouses even if the member hasn’t been deployed.

“You don’t want to wait until they’ve deployed,” she said. “Develop relationships before that.”

The issues faced by military families are not limited to deployment-related difficulties, Schwartz noted.

Among the top issues facing military spouses across all branches of the military are spouse employment, education and housing — all aspects of ordinary life that become much more complicated due to military families relocating.

She gave the example of education, and how the quality and graduation requirements vary widely from locality to locality.

The guide is intended to help spouses understand not only the Air Force but also the resources available.

The active network of support helps families, and that makes a huge difference. To access a copy of the guide, go to: <https://www.usafservices.com/Home/SpouseSupport.aspx>.

