



**Training**

## Arctic Dragons engage

Soldiers of 95th Chemical Company train in techniques for civilians on the battlefield  
Page A-3

**Recreation**

## Golf course damage

Flood damage to JBER golf courses may affect other Force Support Squadron activities  
Page B-6



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# ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 3, No. 40

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

October 5, 2012

## REDEPLOYMENT FEATURE

# SPARTANS WELCOMED HOME



Army Capt. Sally Somoza welcomes her husband Army Capt. Antonio Somoza at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center Sept. 27 after his 10-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sally Somoza is a member of the 793rd Military Police Battalion. Antonio Somoza is one of 300 members of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, who returned home on the first main body flight. Their hometown is Richmond, Va. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

## Airborne brigade redeploys in numbers after 10-month Afghanistan deployment

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

**O**ne might expect a fitness center to be empty just past midnight on a Thursday morning; but when the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, is returning from deployment, wives and children were more than happy to do whatever it took to see their loved ones again.

"We got here at 2 a.m. and we started putting up signs," said Katie Medina, leader of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment Family Readiness Group homecoming chairman. "We're waiting for our husbands to get home. November 29 of 2011 is when they left; it's been 10 months."

Medina said she was practiced in preparing for his return.

"My biggest preparation for my husband coming home is probably grocery shopping," Medina said. "Getting back to the normal routine of cooking and picking up after a man, and the laundry; getting back to the routine of life. When he gets here he's going to want to be a man again, so I dusted off the stuff in the man cave and dusted off the Xbox, got Netflix back on."

While both Katie and her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Mark Medina, have been through deployments before, this one held some



Many of the nearly 300 members of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, hold flowers for their loved ones while waiting to be released to their families at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center Sept. 27.

significance for them both.

"This is my husband's first time coming home to a son," the Stanford, Ky., native explained. "He's never been able to do that before; he's always come home to his parents, or me, or nobody. It's not easy; you just do what you've got to do as a spouse. This is significant for him, and it's emotional for me because this is the first time he'll return to our two-year-old son. I've never seen a son go to his dad, so I'm very excited to see him. He knows his voice and he knows his picture, so when he sees him it's going to be really excited."

Army Col. Mark Davis, deputy chief of staff for U.S. Army Alaska, was the commanding officer welcoming the troops home.

"This is the return of one of the main body flights of 4-25th ABCT from Afghanistan," said Davis. "I think it was 296 paratroopers that returned home today. We

just say a few words because what's really on everyone's mind is reuniting the families with their Soldiers, and then this is the first place they come back together again after their 10 month, 12 month long deployment.

"The good thing about going home is you get to reunite with family," said Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Gardner, senior enlisted advisor to the brigade. "That's a key thing. I'll be happy to just get home and reunite with the wife and family."

Many of the spouses waiting for their loved ones were experiencing their first deployment.

"It's crazy," said Jordan Karg, a housewife and native of Clarion, Pa. "What's happening here is something I've never experienced in my life, like this is the best experience in the world. My husband is coming home right now. My best friend is finally going to be with me."

Karg said she missed her husband, and they took advantage of modern technology to keep their relationship strong.

"I've missed him," Karg said. "Even the stupid little things like if I heard a noise, or sleeping alone was the worst; just the little things. I constantly smell his deodorant, just because that's him. I keep in touch with him mostly on Facebook and Messenger. We did Skype a little bit but the Internet is so horrible. He called about once a week. We definitely kept the relationship alive that way."

As his wife, she said she knew what preparations to make for him coming home.

"The biggest step I've taken to get back into the routine is buying him the biggest case of beer I can find," she said. "And just having his truck ready, his garage ready, the beds freshly made, the little things that he missed; especially the beer."

The house wife said she understood why her husband had to go.

"His mission was to make sure we are safe back here," she said. "He knows that he has to do it, and it's just something he's grown up knowing that he wanted to do, was make sure we have our freedom, that we're safe at home."

As the troops come home, the spouses keep in mind deployments remain a very real fact.

"Once the rest of the brigade gets back, there will be a very large redeployment ceremony downtown in the Sullivan Arena," Davis said. "That'll be on the first of November. There'll be a 30-day period of leave for all the folks that were deployed. Then they'll come back and start retraining, re-equipping themselves and get ready for the next mission."

Karg said she accepted the probability of another deployment.

"If I were to do another deployment without the technology, it would be hard," she said. "We'd just end up using letters. And

See Spartans, Page A-3

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### Index

- The importance of ALIT.....A-2
- Combined Federal Campaign.....A-2
- Briefs and announcements.....A-7
- Honors to the flag.....B-1
- Chaplain's Corner.....B-2
- Community Calendar.....B-3
- JBER library re-opens.....B-4

### Community

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



# Command Emphasis

## The importance of Arctic Light Infantry Training

By Army Maj. Gen.  
Michael Garrett  
USARAK commanding general

Since its inception, our Army has faced the dire consequences of fighting in the bitter cold. In 1777, Washington's revolutionaries stumbled into Valley Forge. Many were barefoot and trailing blood behind them. The ill-equipped Soldiers settled in for a devastating winter through which 2,500 of those 12,000 Continental Soldiers died.

Nearly two centuries later, ill-equipped Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division fought through the cold of the infamous Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne. The Screaming Eagles suffered through frostbite, hunger and combat. Our Army learned through harsh experience the cold is ruthlessly unforgiving to those who aren't prepared to withstand it.

Troops trained to fight in sub-zero temperatures will be equally effective in more temperate environments. Soldiers who are only capable of fighting in warmer conditions won't have the training to survive, much less fight and win, while enduring the bitter cold.

Many duty stations in the Army are known for being the home of a unique branch, unit or skill. The Maneuver Center is at Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C., is the home of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Rucker, Ala., is synonymous with aviation. Just as all those places have their notoriety, we here in Alaska are recognized as the U.S. Army's premier cold-weather warfighters.

We are the military's experts on moving through the snow, surviving the cold, treating and preventing cold weather injuries, and fighting the enemy in below-zero temperatures. No one else in the U.S. military does what we do. That's what makes us Arctic Tough.

Winter is coming and we must



U.S. Army Alaska Soldiers participate in cold-weather training at Black Rapids Training Site. (U.S. Army photo/David Bedard)

take full advantage of the harsh arctic, sub-arctic and mountainous environments Mother Nature and this magnificent state afford us. We will follow the mantra of the Northern Warfare Training Center. Over the next six months, we will take every opportunity to get out there to battle cold and conquer mountains.

Arctic skills must be emphasized on every training schedule. Arctic-skills training is designed to ready our Soldiers psychologically and physically to operate both safely and effectively in some of the most inherently perilous climates on the planet.

Arctic Light Infantry Training is an annual requirement for every Soldier in this command and the

tenant organizations that support us. This instruction is designed to prepare our formations to safely train in an arctic environment. Every Soldier newly assigned to Alaska, regardless of rank, must complete ALIT level 1 before participating in any field training exercise and ALIT level 2 before participating in a field-training exercise during the winter months. Everyone else will complete ALIT at least annually.

I encourage each of you to make the most of your unit's ALIT training. Be involved. Know your equipment and know what to do when training in the cold. Learn how to prevent the cold weather from injuring yourself or your Soldiers. Especially know the proper

steps to take when someone does get frostbitten.

When you notice your buddy's face getting gray or waxy is no time to reach for a manual. Hesitation could be the difference between a quick recovery and disaster.

Prevention is the best treatment. We have the equipment, training and resources to keep our Soldiers safe. What we need are involved leaders and subject-matter experts who will take the time to conduct training correctly and make sure everyone in their formation is Arctic Tough.

I care about each of you. I love this Army and our Soldiers. I've been around our formations my entire life. For me, nothing is more heartbreaking than un-

necessary accidents, suffering and casualties. If we each do the right thing, plan properly and look out for our buddy, we can prevent cold weather injuries from afflicting our ranks.

I am extremely proud of each of you and the great work you are doing. Being a Soldier isn't easy and I respect the courage and strength it took every one of you to volunteer to serve our nation.

I promise to give you my very best each and every day. I expect nothing less from each of you. As amazing as this command is, together we can make U.S. Army Alaska even better. That is something I am excited to watch as we serve and grow together.

Arctic Warriors! Arctic Tough!

## CFC has simple message: 'Give a little ... help a lot'



U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher

Air Force Col. Brian Duffy, 673d Air Base Wing and JBBER commander, fills out a Combined Federal Campaign form Wednesday. In a message to the command, Duffy shared his insights about CFC:

"Arctic Warriors, in 2011, the Combined Federal Campaign celebrated its 50th anniversary with four simple words, 'Give Today...Change Tomorrow.'

"Chartered in Executive Order 10927 in 1961 by former President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, as part of the CFC, federal employees have pledged more than \$7 billion to charitable organizations across the globe.

"This week, as we kick off the 51st year of this opportunity, with this year's slogan of 'Give a little ... Help a lot,' I encourage you to take the opportunity to look at the various participating charitable organizations and decide whether this year's CFC campaign is a way you'd like to donate.

"It's a very personal choice, but one that can have a great impact on others ... our team of CFC key representatives across the installation stand ready to assist you."

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. Brian P. Duffy (USAF)

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/  
673d Air Base Wing Vice Commander  
Col. William P. Huber (USA)

## ARCTIC WARRIOR

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**ABOVE:** Pvt. Andrew Widell, 95th Chemical Company, of Grantsburg, Wis., pulls perimeter security during battle drills at the Infantry Squad Battle Course, Sept. 25.

**RIGHT:** An "insurgent" prepares a simulated suicide bomber's vest during battle drills. During the exercise, Soldiers were exposed to various scenarios requiring them to react to contact, react to ambush, react to and report improvised explosive devices, and interact with local indigenous personnel, to include key leader engagements.

**BELOW:** Army Staff Sgt. Jason Moore, 95th Chem., detains a simulated civilian on the battlefield suspected to be an insurgent during battle drills at the Infantry Squad Battle Course, Sept. 25. (U.S. Air Force photos/Percy G. Jones)



## Spartans

From Page A-1

letters, it connects you because it's more personal because you can see his handwriting. It would just get those little butterflies going again."

"We want to share our heartfelt gratitude for the support," said Army Col. Morris Goins, 4-25 ABCT brigade commander. "Not only that we received in Anchorage but also the state of Alaska. I can honestly tell you there's been a boatload of boxes coming to us. Everything from sausage made from moose to cards that we put up in our morning post from children across Alaska, as well as across the country.

"I give a special thank you to the JBER family," he said, "knowing about their support on post and to our families that pray for us and send Skype messages and post things on Facebook. There's a warm reception and some of it is already received because we do have a few Soldiers that have arrived back to JBER. It's always fortunate to see Soldiers redeploying and the gratitude that folks in Alaska show us."

The commander said he is amazed by how much they achieved while deployed.

"What we've accomplished across the battle space has been phenomenal," he said. "We came in with a requirement to neutralize a specific group of bad guys. Through our partnership with the Army, the Afghan Uniformed Police, the Afghan Border Police, as well as their National Security Agency, we have been able to detain a lot of bad people that are against the role of government. We've also been able to facilitate budget expenditures between Paktika/Khost as well with our provincial reconstruction team.

"We've been able to leverage



**Army Col. William Miller, Army Maj. Daniel Enslin, and Army Master Sgt. Jeremy Marr welcome back the 4th Brigade Combat Team (airborne), 25th Infantry Division troops as they disembark a plane on JBER Oct. 2. They returned from a 10-month long deployment to Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)**

several classes for the Afghan Army, who is now actually teaching the Afghan Border Police, as well as the Afghan Uniformed Police in many different things such as medical training.

"Again, it's now Afghans training Afghans in the medical community, it's the Afghans training Afghans in using the mortar systems that the Afghan National Army has as well as the Afghan Border Police to include Afghans training Afghans in artillery procedures that includes logistics, so what we've been able to achieve has been phenomenal.

"The last number I remember is we had sent 101 people to prison and about 52 to Afghan prosecution and that's bad people that have been putting in improvised explosive devices and smuggling

things into the country, so it's been a very phenomenal rotation for us both professionally and personally.

"Sergeant Major and I have had the opportunity over the past 10 months to watch America's finest do what America has asked us to do and that's to defend freedom and protect those that we don't even know. The ages of the Soldiers in this task force run from 17 or 18 years old to probably 70 years old. They always execute all their duties; it has been truly humbling to watch them. If you ever see a doctor that's in the military, give them a pat on the back, because we've had some of the best medical facilities and best doctors that the Army could provide us."

Goins said there will be some hurdles during reintegration.

"One of the challenges coming

home," he said, "is just getting accustomed to being back home as opposed to working roughly 18 to 22 hours a day depending on what the requirements are, going back to a normal eight or nine hour day is kind of odd. There are many different challenges, obviously nothing that we can't overcome based on being at war as long as we have been."

The commander said he is extremely grateful for the support JBER, families and the community have provided.

"If it wasn't for JBER, there'd be no reintegration really. All the resources that we need are there on the installation," Goins said. "The installation has taken great care of this brigade since we arrived and stood up in 2005. The doctors will be back in the hospital making sure

we're in good shape.

"As far as getting the rooms prepared for the soldiers when they get off the aircraft, the reception back into the barracks, as well as chaplains have programs that allow families to go off on retreats and do reintegration and the community has provided several different venues for families to begin the reintegration process as well to include some briefings that we have," he continued. "Not only the garrison at JBER but the community has provided many different outlets for the families, in some cases at no cost to the families to start that quality time and reintegration process that could take up several months."

Goins said none of their progress would have been possible without family support.

"While Soldiers do what Soldiers do, they are only as good as the support that they have at home," he said. "We often say that we can face whatever's in front of us as long as the family is in good shape behind us. They remain in good shape, so my hat's off to them. Not only as a Soldier, but as a father and a spouse, we truly want to tell them thank you for all the heart aches, all the lonely nights, all the worries that they have put up with, not only on this deployment, but on the many deployments they have suffered through.

"I want to tell them that publicly, any time you see a military spouse, they don't receive a military award or a pat on the back for the most part," Goins elaborated. "They are the unsung hero of our nation and so to them, that will be a debt that our nation can never repay, so thank you so very much to the spouses of the military service member. It doesn't matter what branch, as long as you are a spouse of the Department of Defense, you're doing all our nation asks of you and then some. God bless you."







# Briefs and Announcements

## Dining facility restriction

In accordance with 673d Air Base Wing policy, use of the Iditarod Dining Facility will be restricted until Oct. 23.

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.

## Firewood available

Following the recent storms, acquisition of firewood has become liberalized to clear excessive deadfall. A cord of wood can be taken at no charge to the user. However, permits are required so the installation can track natural resources leaving the base. People acquiring wood without a permit will be cited.

Obtaining permits for cutting and gathering firewood is done through iSportsman access, or by contacting Sarah Jones at the Wildlife Education Center at 552-0310.

As new woodcutting areas are approved and opened, new maps will be generated and placed on the iSportsman website on the Forestry page, at [www.jber.isportsman.net/forestry](http://www.jber.isportsman.net/forestry).

It generally takes two to three days to coordinate map updates after new information becomes available. The Facebook page for the WEC is updated as information becomes available also.

## Do not trespass

Trespassing on JBER-Elmendorf combat-arms firing ranges is both dangerous and illegal.

Firing on both ranges is done at random times, based on unit requirements.

The outdoor range is located approximately one mile north of Six-Mile Lake and the indoor range is at Building 4309 Kenney Ave.

For more information or to inquire about access to these areas, call Combat Arms at 552-1846.

## Lunch with a Lawyer

Judge Advocate General lawyers will meet with troops every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Iditarod Dining Facility to

answer general legal questions.

## Volunteer opportunity

The U.S. Army Alaska commanding general invites Soldiers to participate in a new partnership between the Alaska Military Youth Academy and U.S. Army Alaska.

This partnership involves voluntary mentorship of AMYA cadets, and is intended to support and enhance AMYA's mission to intervene in and reclaim the lives of Alaska's at-risk youth.

USARAK and AMYA seek to fill 25 to 30 mentor slots with capable and caring Soldiers by Oct. 1.

For more information, call 384-6120 or email [Deborah.morton@alaska.gov](mailto:Deborah.morton@alaska.gov).

## Koats for Kids

Army Community Service and the Military Family Support Center is hosting Koats for Kids, a program asking units, families and individuals to bring in gently used winter clothing such as coats, snow pants, snowsuits, boots, hats, gloves and mittens to help military families during a busy PCS season before the winter.

For more information on where to turn in equipment or how to set up a unit program, call 384-1517 or 552-4943.

## Voting assistance

To register, request a ballot, and vote absentee, visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to complete the Federal Post Card Application. The process requires less than 10 minutes to complete using the online registration and absentee ballot assistant.

## Road closures

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.

## USARAK survey

The U.S. Army Alaska Inspector General is sponsoring a command environment survey.

The survey takes about five minutes to complete and is for USARAK Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and family members.

The survey ends Oct. 21 and can be taken at <http://www.usarak.army.mil/main/survey-ca.cfm>.

For more information, call 384-3933.

## Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a Department of Defense program, which helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are needed.

An information briefing will be hosted at the JBER Richardson Education Center Oct. 16 at 11:30 p.m.

## 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.

## Spartan history book

The 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division Brigade History Book, chronicling the Spartans' 2011 to 2012 deployment to Afghanistan, is available.

For more information, email [charles.spears@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:charles.spears@afghan.swa.army.mil).

## Arctic Watch

The JBER Antiterrorism Office encourages all personnel to be vigilant against threats and report suspicious activities to iWatchArmy at 384-0824 or Eagle Eyes at 552-2256.

## Home buyer's seminar

The 673d Civil Engineer Squadron Capital Asset Manage-

ment 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.

## Find housing

Visit the Automated Housing Referral Network at [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com) to find housing before packing up.

Sponsored by the Department of Defense, the website listings include available community rentals, military housing, shared rentals, temporary lodging and military for sale by owner listings.

Listings include property descriptions, pictures, maps, links to local schools, and contact information.

Service members who would like to rent their homes, sell their homes, or are looking for another service member as a roommate in their current homes, may post an ad free of charge on the site.

For more information, call 552-4439.

## Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program at JBER 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 applicable.

This program is designed to provide active-duty military per-

sonnel, 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.

## Mortgage relief

Policies are in effect 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 384-0371 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.

## Giant Voice testing

Giant Voice mass notification system testing occurs every Wednesday at noon. If the announcement is difficult to hear or understand, please call 552-3000.

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

## Dining facility survey

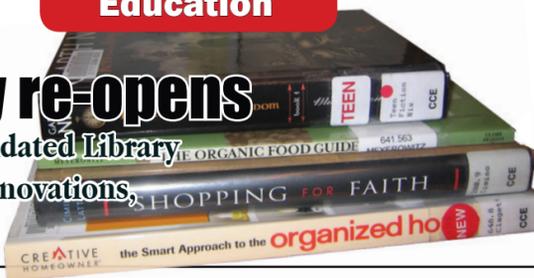
ARAMARK is conducting a survey to evaluate how the contractor can better offer dining service to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

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



## Library re-opens

JBER Consolidated Library open after renovations, Page B-4



## Storms may cut into morale programs

JBER hosts joint memorial for the fallen, missing, Page B-6



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# COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 40

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Oct. 5, 2012

## Rendering courtesy and honors to the

# FLAG

Staff Report  
JBER Public Affairs

Customs and courtesies during the daily sounding of “Reveille” and “Retreat” differ slightly between the Air Force and Army on JBER. The songs, played through the installation’s mass notification system, signify the raising and lowering of the national colors.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Call, 673d Air Base Wing command chief, and Sgt. Maj. Jesse Pratt, 673d ABW sergeant major, the differences pertain mainly to rendering honors, when driving a vehicle and in the numerous bugle calls encountered on the former Army garrison.

“On Air Force installations, the normal protocol is, if you are outside, in uniform, you should face the flag or the direction of the music if the flag is not visible, and render the proper honors: stand at attention and salute,” Call said. “If you are not in uniform, you would stand at attention, face the flag or the music, and you can use what is called the ‘civilian salute,’ place your hand over your heart, or you can just stand at attention. Civilians would basically be the same as a military member not in uniform.”

Call said honors are simple enough when driving a vehicle on JBER-Elmendorf.

“If you are in a vehicle, then you stop the vehicle, normally pulling off the road completely and sit quietly in the vehicle,” he explained.

Call said he turns off his radio in respect to the music honoring the colors, and opens his window so he can best hear the honors.

All too often, he said, motorists will ignore the signal.

Pratt said vehicle procedures on the former Army post differ in accordance with Army Regulation 600-25, “Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy.”

He said, during “Reveille” and “Retreat,” moving vehicles will stop. Military passengers and drivers will dismount and render the proper courtesies. When in buses and trucks, only the senior



Specialist Reese Dawson, assigned to 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry Regiment, of Philadelphia, Pa., left, renders honors to the colors during Retreat as fellow paratroopers catch the colors as it is lowered on Pershing Field at U.S. Army Alaska Headquarters, recently. Retreat, or To The Colors, signifies the end to the official duty day on U.S. military installations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

occupant will dismount and render courtesies.

“It’s important to understand there is a difference,” Call said of the two sides of JBER. “You need to do what your organization requires.” Since all U.S. flags on JBER-E, including those at the 3rd Wing headquarters, the POW/MIA memorial and the Yukla 27 memorial are lit 24/7, they are never lowered except in cases of severe weather. Because U.S. flags are not raised each morning, Reveille is only sounded to start the beginning of the official duty day and vehicles are not required to stop.

But that is not to be confused with Retreat, which signals the end of the official duty day and a

time to render honors to our nation’s flag.

“Is it wrong for an Air Force person, who may be on the Richardson side of the installation, who sees everyone jumping out of their cars, to do the same?” he asked. “Absolutely not. I would think that I need to show that commonality. We wear the uniform, we’re serving the same country, and neither is right or wrong. It’s simply a difference in the cultures of each organization.”

There are other major differences on the Richardson side.

Pratt said the garrison flag at Pershing Field is unlit and is raised and lowered by personnel from throughout U.S. Army Alaska

troops to perpetuate Army customs at JBER.

“Reveille” and “Retreat” are accompanied by a cannon salute fired from a World War II-era 75-millimeter pack howitzer using 10-gauge shotgun shells.

The Army senior NCO said although both installations play “Reveille” at the beginning of the day, the Richardson side plays “Retreat” and “To the Colors” at the end of the day, while the Elmendorf side base plays “Retreat” and the “Star Spangled Banner.”

Yet another difference, which may catch Air Force personnel off guard when visiting the Richardson side, is the series of bugle calls spread throughout the day.

According to Pratt, the garrison uses the mass notification system to play scheduled music, which includes everything from “Reveille” in the morning to “Tattoo” and “Taps” at the end of the day.

A pet peeve of both NCOs is people who make a mad dash for a building or a vehicle to avoid rendering honors at the proper times.

“Five o’clock is when ‘Retreat’ is sounded,” Call said. “It doesn’t matter what side of the installation you are on, or if you are halfway in between, we know at five o’clock, the flag’s coming down, whether it’s actually coming down on the Richardson side or symbolically on the Elmendorf side. Demonstrate the respect the colors deserve.”

## Spouses try out the

# RAPTOR



ABOVE: Michelle Stocker, wife of F-22 pilot Air Force Capt. Rich Stocker, tests her skills on a flight simulator. The spouses of active duty and Reserve F-22 pilots from the 525th and 302nd Fighter Squadrons received an up-close look at the F-22 mission during the Spouses’ Blue Carpet day Sept. 21.

RIGHT: Erin Coleman, wife of Air Force Capt. Mike Coleman, simulates using a parachute in the Egress Trainer. (Courtesy photos)



# Don't fight inevitable changes, embrace them

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rick Koch  
State Command Chaplain, Alaska National Guard

"Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is compelled to change by forces impressed upon it."

This is the First Law of Motion proffered by the father of modern physics, Sir Isaac Newton.

Sometimes I wish I could find that state of rest, but it seems that one of the "laws of life" is that we constantly have the forces of change impressed upon our days.

We are transitioning from summer to fall and, in Alaska, very soon to be winter; change.

Kids are back in school and working at the next grade up with new teachers and classmates; change.

People come and go in and out of our lives as careers move on; change.

On a personal note, my father died this past spring after struggling with an illness and a person I've known all my life is gone; change.

Then again, the promise of a new generation arose this past month with the birth of our first grandchild; change.

Our world is turbulent and the lives we're given upon this spinning ball are constantly confronted with the shifting sands of change.

I'm sure if you examined your own life, you could easily name at least a dozen changes that have occurred for you this past week.

Some changes are small, some big, some hard to confront and others are happy occasions.

Through it all, we have to deal with the transforming nature of life. That's the way it is. It's one of the laws of life.

It is out of the question to try and stop the growing, moving forces that continually shape and alter life.

The real question we need to ask ourselves is how do we cope with and navigate our way through change?

One of the classic missteps we tend to make is to try and control the world around us.

Maybe we can stop, or at least slow the forces of change down to a manageable level.

Imagine trying to hold back a stream of water with just your bare hands.

At first you'll succeed a little bit, but the water keeps coming and there's really no way to stop it from its inevitable course.

So, we can't control the world around us, yet we can control how we react to change.

Let me suggest that perhaps our first step is to embrace life and all the changes it brings.

Instead of trying to stop the stream, we float with the stream; and yes, sometimes we encounter rapids, but we go with the rapids and set a course that moves us safely through

the twists and turns of our journey.

It is all a matter of understanding our expectations.

If our expectations are to superhumanly stop the forces of change, then we will experience much disappointment.

If our expectations are that we will find a way through the adjustments of life, then we likely will succeed and thus find more opportunities for peace and happiness along the way.

Remember the Lord our God, the author of life and all its changes, continually offers us a place of rest even in the midst of stormy change.

We are promised that we have solid ground upon which to stand.

With God's blessings, embrace the changes that come your way and know that there is nothing to fear.

It is God who will help us set our course through change and God who will lead us home to rest.

## Sgt. Maj. of the Army Chandler: 'It's OK to seek help'

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — "It's a source of strength to ask for help and we are all about being strong in the Army," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, on the eve of the Army-wide suicide stand down.

He was referring to the importance of reducing the stigma in the Army concerning seeking help for thoughts or feelings of suicide.

Chandler acknowledged that suicides have been increasing in the Army and remain a huge problem.

"Suicide is an enemy we have yet to defeat," he said. "Our ultimate goal is to change mindset across the force, build resilience, strengthen life-coping skills and address the stigma associated with asking for help. We've got a long ways to go, but we're going to get there."

He drew a comparison between a Soldier and a police officer.

"Soldiers are asked to close with and destroy the enemy, and that means ultimately taking another human being's life," he said. "If you are a police officer in any community around the United States, if you draw your weapon

and shoot it, you are going to see behavioral health care, because we recognize that act is one that places extreme stress on an individual."

"For our Army and its culture, we will routinely ask you to close with and destroy the enemy, which means to possibly kill someone," he continued. "Being a Soldier and what we ask Soldiers to do is probably the highest level of performance we will ask of any human being. [Now], we ask you as a United States Soldier [to seek] behavioral health."

Those who have been in harm's way are not the only ones at risk for suicide, he said. "More than 50 percent of suicides are Soldiers who've never deployed. Our challenge is with each individual Soldier to reach out to them."

He called junior leaders "truly our first line of defense against suicides," adding that they "are fully aware of (the resources) out there and their responsibilities,

and we make it as easy as possible for them to get the help for their Soldiers that they need."

Chandler also encouraged family members to ask their Soldiers to seek help or to seek help for themselves.

"There are tremendous resources across the Army to help, but first step is for the individual to say 'I need some help,' or for a friend or loved one to say 'you may have some issues,

lets talk about getting some help.'"

Change is taking place for the better, he said. "I'm starting to see some traction around the force about it's okay to seek help — and that's a big deal for us."

He praised the quality of care that is available as well.

"We have tremendous behavioral health care specialists who serve our Soldiers. I'd place our medical community against anyone else's in the world."

One of the challenges facing the Army is hiring more behavioral

health care specialists, he added. "We're looking for more ways to bring them onboard."

Establishing a relationship of trust with the caregivers is just as important as reducing the stigma associated with seeking help for suicidal ideation, Chandler said. He lauded the effort to provide behavioral caregiving at the unit level.

"One of most exciting things we've done recently is to start with our embedded behavioral health care, pushing it down to the brigade level. That relationship building between the Soldier, leader and health care provider tells them that there's care available, easier to get to and to access. And then, the stigma and the walls start to break down."

Chandler was frank about his own behavioral health challenges regarding post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

"Around 2004 on June the 30th at 1600 in Baghdad, Iraq, a 122-mm rocket came into my room and blew up, knocking me around a bit," he said. "I had to face my own mortality and in doing that I made some decisions from an emotional standpoint that turned my feelings off, and in doing that I put myself

in a position over a period of years where I became less attached to those things most important in my life: my family, my wife, and instead, focused on those things I could control, which was my work environment."

"And that had a negative effect on me and I went into a downward spiral and started to make some poor decisions in life," he continued. "I got to a place where I needed help, and with the help of some friends and loved ones, recognized that and spent about two years in almost weekly behavioral health counseling."

"When I was interviewed to be the sergeant major of the Army by General [George W.] Casey, who was the chief of staff at the time, he asked me, 'is there anything I need to know about.' I told him I'd been in behavioral health care counseling for the past two years. He said, 'I see that as a strength and would ask if you can talk about it to Soldiers and families if selected,' and it's been a part of what I've done for about the last 20 months."

"Ultimately I'm a better person and a better father, a better husband, which in turn helps me to be a better Soldier because of it," he said.

“Suicide is an enemy we have yet to defeat.”

# FSS EVENTS

## ZOMBIE SURVIVAL 101 HOW TO SURVIVE IN THE POST-APOCALYPTIC WORLD

**Looking For a Great Gift Idea? The FSS Gift Card is for you!**

Use in NAF MWR activities including Aero Clubs, Arts & Crafts, Auto Hobby, Club, Fitness and Bowling Centers, Golf, Outdoor Recreation, and more!



[www.myfssgiftcard.com](http://www.myfssgiftcard.com)



Sign up at the WARRIOR ZONE by October 15



**Certified Class from the JBER UTT (Undead Tactical Team)**

**Class of 150 maximum**

**TIPS for:**

- emergency situations
- wilderness survival
- virus outbreaks
- ... and of course the undead

**BLDG. 655 • 384-9023**

**OCTOBER 20  
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
AT JBER ED. CENTER  
LECTURE HALL.**

# & ACTIVITIES

## Cocktails & Candy

**Singles Mixer • October 20 • 9 p.m. - 3 a.m.**

**Speed Dating. Drink Specials. Private Messages.**

**Win a VIP Pass for 2 to the Zombie Halloween Bash.**

**Bldg. 655 • 384-7619**



**Free gift for all single ladies (supplies limited)**



# Community happenings

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
Oktoberfest**

The German Club of Anchorage hosts this Oktoberfest gala at the Egan Center from 7 to 10 p.m. Celebrate your German heritage – or just the culture of the country. For information, call 263-2858.

**SATURDAY  
World Music Festival**

The Alaska Native Heritage Center hosts this eclectic gathering of musicians from around the world. Bad Haggis, H3, the Heritage Center Dancers, and many more perform.

For information, visit [www.alaskanative.net](http://www.alaskanative.net).

**FRIDAY THROUGH OCT. 14  
Shrek the Musical**

A score of 19 new songs and dancing make Shrek one of the hottest new musicals on Broadway.

The swamp-dwelling ogre and his wisecracking donkey friend come to the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts this month for a limited-run show.

For schedule and information, visit [www.anchorageconcerts.org](http://www.anchorageconcerts.org).

**MONDAY AND TUESDAY  
Alaska Aces vs. Wranglers**

The Aces hit the ice against the Las Vegas Wranglers at the Sullivan Arena. Faceoff is at 7:15 p.m.

For information, visit [www.alaskaaces.com](http://www.alaskaaces.com).

**THURSDAY  
Night at the Fights**

The Egan Center hosts boxing every Thursday night through early April in this 23-year Anchorage tradition. Doors open at 6:30 and fights start at 7.

For information, visit [thursday-nightfights.com](http://thursday-nightfights.com).

**Borealis Toastmasters**

Conquer your fear of public speaking with Toastmasters. This safe, friendly club helps build confidence through presentations, getting feedback and listening to others. Hosted in Room 146 of the BP building from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For information, call 575-7470.

**OCT. 12  
Hispanic Heritage day**

The JBER Hispanic American Heritage Month observance will

be hosted at Hangar 1 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eric Cordero Giorgana will speak.

For more information, call 552-2056.

**New York Polyphony**

The New York Polyphony is one of the world's finest vocal chamber ensembles and is widely acclaimed. This quartet comes to the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m.

For information, visit [www.anchorageconcerts.org](http://www.anchorageconcerts.org).

**OCT. 12 AND 13  
Kendall Hockey Classic**

Get your hockey on with the two-day tournament, featuring the hometown Seawolves, rival team the Fairbanks Nanooks, Air Force Academy Falcons and Canisius College Golden Griffins.

Games start Oct. 12 at 5 and 7 p.m. and Saturday at 4 and 7 p.m. at the Sullivan Arena.

For information visit [www.goseawolves.com](http://www.goseawolves.com).

**OCT. 13  
Zombie Runs**

Run from Goose Lake Park to the Kincaid Park Chalet as a zombie! Hosted by the Anchorage Running Club, this event has walkers starting at 9 a.m. and runners starting at 10 a.m.

For information, visit [www.anchoragerunningclub.com](http://www.anchoragerunningclub.com).

**Card Crafternoon**

The Elmendorf Officers' Spouses' Organization hosts this membership social at the Dallas Community Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Build cards to send to troops for Operation Write Home. RSVP by Oct. 12 to [reservations@elmendorfoso.com](mailto:reservations@elmendorfoso.com). For information, call 980-9944.

**OCT. 19 AND 20  
Alaska Aces vs. Grizzlies**

Polar bears and Grizzlies get into it on the ice at Sullivan Arena starting at 7:15 p.m. both nights.

For information, visit [www.alaskaaces.com](http://www.alaskaaces.com).

**OCT. 19  
Bootlegger's Ball**

Get out your fedora and feather boa – the Anchorage Museum

hosts this 1920s-style ball from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Step into the world of Boardwalk Empire and The Great Gatsby with a retro photo booth, flapper hairdos and more.

For more information, call 929-9200 or visit [www.anchoragemuseum.org](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org)

**OCT. 21  
Shakespeare Sundays**

Cyrano's Off-Center Playhouse hosts free Shakespeare films every third Sunday at 6 p.m.

After the film, Shakespeare experts are on hand to converse with filmgoers.

For information call 274-2599.

**OCT. 26  
Veterans' Stand Down**

The North Terminal at Ted Stevens International Airport hosts this program for veterans in need.

Legal, education and housing assistance, medical screenings, and much more will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Shuttle service will be provided for those with VA Identification cards.

For information, call 273-4050 or 257-5490.

**OCT. 26 AND 27  
Trick or Treat Town**

The Alaska Communications garage hosts this indoor trick-or-treating venue for the 21st year.

There will be candy, refreshments and entertainment.

For information, visit [trickortreattown.org](http://trickortreattown.org).

**OCT. 26 THROUGH 28  
Food and Gift Festival**

Get a jump on your holiday gift needs at the Dena'ina Center with a wide variety of gifts, handmade crafts, clothing, jewelry, food and more. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 26 and 27; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 28.

Visit [www.anchoragemarkets.com](http://www.anchoragemarkets.com) for information.

**OCT. 26 AND 28  
Alyeska Mystery Train**

Take the train along the scenic Turnagain Arm to the haunted Hotel Alyeska in Girdwoodvonia. Guests are encouraged to come in costume. Train departs at 4:30 p.m. from Anchorage.

For information, visit [www.alaskarailroad.com](http://www.alaskarailroad.com).

[alaskarailroad.com](http://alaskarailroad.com).

**ONGOING  
Discovery chapel classes**

Soldiers' Chapel hosts classes for all ages, from elementary school through adults, Wednesday evenings.

Generations of Grace, The Art of Marriage, an in-depth study of the Epistle to the Hebrews, and a Francis Schaeffer series are among the offerings.

A free meal begins at 5:45 p.m.; classes last from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nursery care is provided.

For information call 384-1461 or 552-4422.

**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 952-4353, visit their site at [www.trainweb.org/msmrr](http://www.trainweb.org/msmrr) or email [bjorgan@alaska.net](mailto:bjorgan@alaska.net).

**Experience the Aurora**

It's the next best thing to the Alaska winter sky – and more comfortable than being out in a parka.

The Anchorage Museum's planetarium provides an immersive show that explains the science behind the Northern Lights.

The show projects time-lapse footage of the lights in the Arctic Circle.

For more information, call 929-9200 or visit [anchoragemuseum.org](http://anchoragemuseum.org).

**Road Warriors running**

Stay fit with a group who can help you stay motivated right here on JBER.

## 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 Goshu**  
7 p.m., first Friday of the month – Chapel Center (10427 Kuter Ave.)

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.

## FOOTBALL FRENZY

**Sunday, October 7 @ 9 a.m.**

- Atlanta at Washington
- Green Bay at Indianapolis
- Cleveland at NY Giants
- Tennessee at Minnesota
- Baltimore at Kansas City
- Miami At Cincinnati
- Philadephia at Pittsburgh

**Games @ 12:05 p.m.**

- Seattle at Carolina
- Chicago at Jacksonville

**Games @ 12:15 p.m.**

- Denver at New England
- Buffalo at San Fran

**Games @ 4:20 p.m.**

- San Diego at New Orleans

**Monday, October 8**

Houston at NY Jets 4:30 PM

**Thursday, October 11**

Pittsburgh at Tenn. 4:20 p.m.



**CHILL**  
Bldg. 655  
384-7619

**Rifle Cartridge Reloading Class**  
October 5 • 5:30 p.m. • \$5  
JBER Elmendorf ORC • Bldg. 7301 • 552-2023

**Jim Creek ATV Trip**  
October 5, 13, 20 & 27  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • \$150  
open to ages 16 & up  
JBER Richardson ORC • Bldg. 794 • 384-1475/1476

**Coming Soon**  
**Fit To Fight Cross Country Ski Program**  
Skis can be checked out at no charge for daily use only  
  
552-3821

**Handgun Cartridge Reloading Class**  
October 19  
5:30 p.m. \$5  
  
JBER Elmendorf ORC  
Bldg. 7301 • 552-2023

**Check out the October Alaskan Adventurer (or go online)**  
**For a coupon and save at Polar Express Auto Hobby**

**CHECK US OUT ONLINE!**



<http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com>

# Library re-opens with wider selection of reading, class materials

By Airman Ty-Rico Lea  
JBER Public Affairs

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson consolidated library re-opened its doors after a month of remodeling, in hopes of garnering the attention of more service members and dependents. Library director Marcia Lee, 673d Force Support Squadron, welcomed military members and spouses with the help of the Air Force brass band, as they performed for the occasion.

"We have doubled our Common Access Card-accessible computers; now we have 27. We have also added a quiet study room for those who wish to read books in peace," Lee said.

The library is located on the first floor of room 123 Building 7 on Chilkoot Avenue, JBER-Richardson, and offers a wide variety of books, videos and electronic media. Building 7 also has an education center with additional libraries and classrooms open to military operations and individuals with CACs.

Classrooms also have college courses held for College Level Examination Programs and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support.

Language learning programs are also available to service members and dependents. Programs such as Rosetta Stone, Transparent Language and Mango provide visual and auditory learning sessions. Wireless Internet is also available for all patrons.

The remodeling of the library consisted of new paint, new carpeting and widened sections of reading material.

"All staff members at the library are trained to provide any information that is pertinent to all Soldiers' and Airmen's needs for online training courses ranging from college classes to mission readiness," Lee said. "Customers also have the option of requesting material not provided in the



**Misti Woodruff and her son, Hikam, take advantage of the library's re-opening and browse for family-friendly reading material. The library has broadened its selection since a recent remodeling. The library is a part of the JBER-Richardson Education Center which features classes and programs for online, college and mission readiness training. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Ty-Rico Lea)**

library which we would then order and have available at the library."

Lee went on to explain that the Consolidated Library is a full-service library that hosts various age-specific programs. Child activities include Dads and Duct Tape, Guy's Read, and Princesses and Pirates. Teen activities include Teen Read Week.

Adult activities include Foods Around The World, Tea Tasting and Crafting and E-reader instruction.

One new program that they provide is the Universal Class which provides online continuing education courses to schools, libraries, companies, educators and individuals throughout the world. It is designed to

advance intellectual exchange in teaching, research, and service with its technology and belief that lifelong learning should be affordable to all people of all cultures.

The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library can be reached at 384-1648.

## Midnight Sun Park playground on JBER-E closes after inspection

By Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

Children love playgrounds. Parents want them to be safe. Inspections are performed regularly to ensure all playgrounds on JBER maintain appropriate safety standards. Midnight Sun Park is closed after an inspection recently. Midnight Sun is the playground located behind Burger King on the Elmendorf side of JBER.

"This playground is more than 20 years old," said Raul Betancourt, 673d Wing Safety ground safety manager. "Back in that time-frame, this type of playground met the requirements. Things change, they might be a lot stricter now than they were back then. The

playground doesn't meet the current requirements.

"We inspected it with a certified inspector," he said. "We walked around and looked at all the possibilities for head entrapment or strangulation or anything that might pose a potential danger," Betancourt said.

He said the majority of the playgrounds on JBER fall under the Housing Office.

"Our main focus is the safety of the base populace, in this case, the children," Betancourt said.

The inspection was not due to any accidents on the equipment.

"We have no records of any injuries related to the playground since it was built," Betancourt said. "The reason it was looked at was because a new commander

questioned the safety of the park."

When the inspection was performed, CES immediately acted.

"I was asked by safety to do a playground inspection," said Lisa Dalton, a Force Support Squadron certified playground safety inspector. "I inspect playgrounds and make recommendations, I don't close them. Based on my recommendation, safety closed it the same day; they were on it, keeping our kids safe."

The safety inspector said Midnight Sun Park playground had some deficiencies in regards to surfacing and head entrapment and entanglement hazards.

"The biggest one is the surfacing," she said. "If children fall onto inadequate surfacing, the potential exists for life-threatening head

injuries to occur."

When the report was finished, the results were passed to the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

"We were contacted by both wing safety and our local safety representative about the deficiencies in the playground as far as safety and we got a copy of the report," said Darryl Parks, CES deputy of operations. "Based on the report, the recommendation was to close the playground, so our job was to secure the perimeter with fencing and place signs."

A sign posted on the fence warns people not to use the park.

Parks said no labor is currently being done on the playground.

"There are no new repairs or constructions at this point," Parks said. "Because it's a wooden play-

ground, we believe it's manufactured with treated lumber. We've taken a sample of that and sent it out for lab analysis. Normally playground equipment is not treated at all. It'll be either plastic or metal. The older structures were made out of cedar, a natural, long-lasting wood. Cedar would not necessarily be treated as it was naturally weather resistant."

Parks said they are waiting for the results to determine what needs to be done for the playground to meet modern safety requirements.

"The goal is to find out what the wood treatment is made of," he said. "We don't know when it will reopen until we get some results back and the wing makes a determination on what they want to do with it."

FILL

# Bad weather could end up costing JBER morale programs

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf  
JBER Public Affairs

Wind gusts and flooding have defined September for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. With Ship creek running right through the golf courses and trees everywhere, the potential for damage is very high.

"It's been a September to remember because we had a severe wind storm that came through here and devastated the golf course as far as knocking down lots of trees, ripping up our tents, and causing considerable damage," said Mark Dolejsi, 673d Force Support Squadron's Eagle Glen Golf Course manager. "Following that, Sept. 24, and the heavy rains and initial flooding closed us down again."

Dolejsi said wind took down hundreds of trees between the two courses, but it wasn't just the wind damage that affects the golf course.

"The flood damage is specifically all along the corridor for Ship Creek but to the left side of the 14th green, it has effectively removed about the size of a football field worth of material and cut a new channel and what was removed included about 95 percent of the 15th tee and approach to the tee," Dolejsi said.

The damage wasn't just specific to the Eagle Glen Golf Course, but also affected the Moose Run Golf Course.

"We lost our number three bridge on the creek course which is key to get across from hole two to three and 16 to 17," Amy Sexton, 673d FSS Moose Run Golf Course business manager. "We also had about 450 trees blown over on both courses earlier in the month," Sexton said.

The creek eroded a lot of the banks on both sides where the bridge connected.

"The creek became wider, so the bridge that existed before would no longer fit because of how wide [the creek] is," Sexton said.

Assessment of the damage is being made and plans to move forward to do repairs are in the process also.

"We have talked to different folks here on base and we estimate that we are well into the millions worth of damage," Dolejsi said.

"We are just in a holding pattern and there are a lot of people working on it,"

Sexton said.

Damage to the golf courses affects more than just the people that play golf.

"The golf facilities on JBER and the outdoor recreation facilities generate a tremendous amount of revenue and some of that goes into the general fund and helps support other activities that FSS provides," Dolejsi said. "And when that revenue drops, which it has this year, there is less of that money available for distribution."

Even though the damage looks gloomy, Dolejsi has a positive outlook for the future.

"We probably will have a couple years of work ahead of us, in stages," Dolejsi said. "Overall, we will survive and I anticipate we will be open again next spring and we will make the changes we need to make."

**LEFT: An aerial shot of the damage to golf course – funds from which support services around JBER. (Courtesy photo) BELOW: Damage from Ship Creek on Eagle Glen Golf Course on JBER Tuesday. Winds and flooding have damaged the golf courses and left it as a "September to remember." (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)**



## Lodging rates increase by 30 percent; first time in 4 years

Staff Report  
JBER Public Affairs

After four years without a rate increase, Air Force lodging rates went up beginning Oct. 1, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

The increase is necessary to ensure Air Force Lodging rates cover current operating and capital improvement costs, said Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart, AFPC commander.

As an example, the current \$39 nightly room rate for a visiting quarters room will be \$53.25 next week, and temporary lodging facilities will go from \$43 to \$55 per night.

Increased rates will fund costs for operations, room renovations and construction, Stewart said.

As the Air Force works to improve business processes, implement efficiencies and maintain lodging operations in a constrained

budget environment, other adjustments may be necessary, according to Col. Thomas Joyce, director, AFPC Services Directorate.

"We are committed to keeping room rates as low as possible while providing clean, comfortable, quality facilities," he said. "This is part of our commitment to caring for Airmen and we take that obligation very seriously. However, we must be realistic as well."

Even with next week's rate

increase, Air Force rates are lower than comparable commercial rates outside Air Force installations, the director said.

"Coupled with quality service, clean facilities and reasonably priced room rates, Air Force lodging facilities are still a great choice for Airmen, whether they're on temporary duty orders, retired and traveling, or just passing through," Stewart said.

Mike Higby, JBER lodging

general manager, said the increase is well overdue.

"Rates increased 30 percent across the board," he said.

Higby emphasized that due to the joint nature of JBER, the increase applies to lodging on JBER-Richardson as well.

"This is the first increase since September of 2008," Higby said.

JBER lodging provides about 230,000 bed-nights annually, Higby said.







