



Veteran's Day

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World War II Soldier
becomes author**

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 2, No. 44

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

November 4, 2011

Air Force announces civilian workforce cuts at JBER

*Air Force wide:
9,000 positions
eliminated from
installations,
JBER loses 250*

JBER Public Affairs
News release

Air Force officials in Washington announced cuts to the civilian workforce at JBER that will reduce the number of civilian positions by about 250, of which 200 are vacant and 50 are occupied.

The base civilian personnel office is working to place approximately 50 JBER employees affected in other positions.

“Our joint community relies on the very talented civilian force that serves our nation alongside our military members,” said Air

Force Col. Robert Evans, JBER and 673d Air Base Wing commander. “We are doing everything we can to retain our talented Alaska workforce; however, we can no longer afford some of our current business models.

“Our military leaders are making difficult choices about how to deliberately restructure and posture the force to ensure we maintain the combat readiness that our nation deserves from us.”

The Pentagon-directed cuts come in response to direction from the secretary of defense for the Department of Defense to stop civilian growth above fiscal year 2010 levels.

The Air Force eliminated approximately 9,000 positions from installations.

Of those positions, 256 were identified at JBER.

Due to a large number of unfilled, recently created jobs here along with a high vacancy rate following a three-month hiring freeze, the impact of the cuts on the current workforce was reduced.

Among the areas hardest hit include base planning functions, centralized fitness testing, protocol, services and civil engineering.

These adjustments reflect several initia-

“Our joint community relies on the very talented civilian force that serves our nation alongside our military members ... Our military leaders are making difficult choices about how to deliberately restructure and posture the force to ensure we maintain the combat readiness that our nation deserves from us.”

— Air Force Col. Robert Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, 673d Air Base Wing, commander

tives designed to align limited resources based on Air Forces priorities.

This process is an ongoing effort to increase efficiencies, reduce overhead and

eliminate redundancy.

Upon receiving the secretary of defense’s 2010 memo directing that civilian manpower costs stay within fiscal year 2010 levels, the Air Force began a comprehensive strategic review of the entire Air Force civilian workforce to determine whether or not civilian authorizations were in the right places to meet mission priorities.

The strategic review revealed several imbalances.

Some high priority areas needed to grow, while some management and overhead functions needed streamlining.

These imbalances led to a variety of initiatives focused on realigning scarce manpower resources with the most critical missions.

In particular, the Air Force will grow by approximately 5,900 positions in acquisition, the nuclear enterprise, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance while reducing approximately 9,000 positions in management, staff, and support areas.

“We clearly understand the turbulence these and future reductions will cause in the

See **Civilian cuts**, Page A-3

Retiring commander looks back on time at Alaskan Command

By Senior Airman
Cynthia Spalding
JBER Public Affairs

After three and a half years of leadership in Alaska, Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, Alaskan Command commander, bids farewell Monday.

Atkins is the senior military officer in Alaska, responsible for the integration of all military activities in the Alaskan theater of operations.

He commands ALCOM, 11th Air Force, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region and Joint Task Force Alaska.

As he nears the end of his command, he shared what he’s gained.

“One thing I am going to take from here is it’s not my success, it’s the team’s success and that team here is a very dynamic



Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, Alaskan Command and 11th Air Force commander, and former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates meet at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson June 1, 2009. Atkins relinquishes command of ALCOM Monday in Hangar 20 at 9 a.m. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Laura Turner)

team. It’s an Air Force team under the 11th Air Force, a joint team under the JTF and ALCOM and an alliance team under the Alaska

NORAD Region,” Atkins said.

Atkins was afforded the opportunity to experience the making of a joint base environment as Airmen

and Soldiers came together.

“What I saw when the Air Force partnered with the Army to form a joint base, that was a real proud moment, it’s monumental,” Atkins said. “The memories of how joint basing came together and how we have collectively moved this initiative to develop Alaska as a premier exercise, training, test and evaluation environment under Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex was a remarkable accomplishment.”

Atkins explained how the military percentage in the Alaskan community has definitely played a significant role in the successes of the base.

“Alaska is unique,” he said. “A large percentage of the community is military in some sort or fashion. They’ve been in our shoes and understand our sacrifices and the constraints and they have a willingness to help you bridge those. They

do it better than any community I have ever been associated with.”

On a more personal level, Atkins described how some of the people he met developed into personal relationships and enduring friendships.

He also shared how his wife, Laura, and children were a big part of his successes not only in Alaska, but throughout his Air Force career.

“I have both tragic and euphoric memories. I think we have had more than our fair share of tragedies, on the flip side, organizationally and individually we’ve become stronger from these tragedies,” said Atkins.

While Alaska is very dynamic in its culture and size, it also is geographically different than the lower 48.

“One Alaskan experience I

See **ALCOM**, Page A-3



Additional phase for Afghan Campaign Medal

Department of Defense
News release

The Department of Defense announced today that an additional campaign phase has been approved for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Accordingly, an additional campaign star corresponding to the campaign phase is now authorized for wear on the ACM.

ACM campaign stars recognize a service member’s participation in DoD-designated military campaigns in the Afghanistan Campaign Medal’s area of eligibility.

Service members who have qualified for the ACM may display a bronze campaign star on their medal for each designated campaign phase in which they participated.

The stars are worn on the suspension and campaign ribbon of the campaign medal.

The additional ACM campaign phase and associated dates are:
Transition I July 1, 2011 through a date to be determined.

The four previously approved ACM campaign phases are:

Liberation of Afghanistan - Sept. 11, 2001 to Nov. 30, 2001

Consolidation I - Dec. 1, 2001 to Sept. 30, 2006

Consolidation II - Oct. 1, 2006 to Nov. 30, 2009

Consolidation III - Dec. 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

Service members should contact their respective military departments for specific implementation guidance.



Courtesy graphic



Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Rhonda Cornum, Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program director, and former prisoner of war gives an introduction to the two-week Master Resilience Trainer program at the Education Center, Monday. Cornum will speak at the Arctic Warrior Event Center Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. (U.S. Air Force photo/Luke Waack)

Army Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program director makes return visit to JBER

JBER Public Affairs
News release

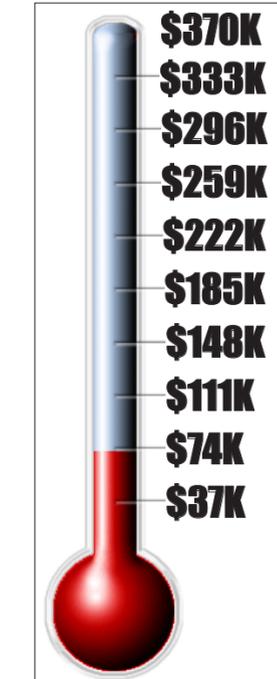
Deployed during the Persian Gulf conflict, Army Brig. Gen. (M.D., Ph.D.) Rhonda Cornum, Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program director, was then a flight surgeon.

While conducting a search and rescue mission, her Black-

hawk helicopter was shot down.

Five people were killed, three survived. Cornum became a prisoner of war.

Cornum will share her experience and her perspective in a free leadership lecture and hands-on training session focused on Army-endorsed holistic programs.



On Oct. 28, JBER had raised \$68,414 toward the 2011 Combined Federal Campaign goal of \$370,000. Call USARAK CFC/384-0995, 3rd Wing/551-9035 or 673d ABW/552-1060.

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Wake Island hosts Marine jets

Wake Island Airfield hosted a contingent of Marine Corps aircraft as it waited out a super-typhoon at the unit’s destination in Iwakuni, Japan, Page A-11



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PRESORTED STANDARD

President urges nation to honor military families, caregivers

By Elaine Sanchez
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Calling on the nation to celebrate military families' service and sacrifice, President Barack Obama signed proclamations designating November as Military Family Month and National Family Caregivers Month, Tuesday.

"With every step we take on American soil, we tread on ground made safer for us through the invaluable sacrifices of our service members and their families," the president said in his Military Family Month proclamation.

This month is devoted to celebrating military families' exceptional service, strength and sacrifice, he said. Their commitment to the nation, he added, "goes above and beyond the call of duty."

"Just as our troops embody the courage and character that make America's military the finest in the world," Obama said, "their family members embody the resilience and generosity that make our communities strong."

Families are weathering deployments and long separations while serving with heroism in their homes and neighborhoods, the president noted. Military spouses hold down home fronts, children step up to take on additional responsibilities, and parents and grandparents offer their quiet support as they wait for their loved one's safe return.

"To these families, and to those whose service members who never come home, we bear a debt that can never be fully repaid," the president said.

Obama cited the Joining Forces campaign as a way the nation can express its gratitude to troops and their families. First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, launched the campaign earlier this year to call on all Americans to support and honor service members,



In this file photo, Senior Airman Sheila deVera, 673d Air Base Wing, holds her son Jaiden, nine months old, while being pushed on the swing by her other sons Brian Jr., 4, center, and Daeshawn, 2, right, at a playground at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Sept. 15. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Stephanie Jacobs)

veterans and their families. This support, he added, should continue not just while the nation is at war, but during every stage of service members' lives.

Obama said his administration is committed to improving military families' lives by enhancing

learning opportunities for military children, aiding military spouses in their quest to advance their careers and education, and improving mental health counseling.

"Our service members swore an oath to protect and defend, and with each step we take on this

land we cherish, we remember our steadfast promise to protect the well-being of the family members they hold dear," he said. "Every act of kindness we can offer helps cultivate a culture of support for our military families, and I encourage each American to make a differ-

ence in the lives of these patriots."

Obama called on Americans to honor military families throughout the month, whether through personal actions or public service. In that way, he said, the nation can honor these families "for the tremendous contributions they make in support of our service members and our nation."

The president also urged Americans to celebrate and honor caregivers in his National Family Caregivers Month proclamation.

"Across our country, millions of family members, neighbors, and friends provide care and support for their loved ones during times of need," Obama said. "With profound compassion and selflessness, these caregivers sustain American men, women and children at their most vulnerable moments, and through their devoted acts, they exemplify the best of the American spirit."

Citing the contributions of all caregivers, he noted the importance of sustaining military caregiver support. "One of our nation's greatest responsibilities," he said, "is to ensure our veterans, their families, and their caregivers receive lasting and comprehensive support."

Obama noted that he signed the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act last year, which extends additional assistance to family members who care for severely wounded veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our military caregivers exemplify the heroism found not only on the fields of battle, but also in the hearts of those who tend to our wounded warriors when they come home," he said.

This month offers a time to honor the "tireless compassion" of all family caregivers, Obama said. "This month and throughout the year, let the quiet perseverance of our family caregivers remind us of the decency and kindness to which we can all aspire."

Veterans Day: a time to honor service, reflect

Commentary by Air Force Master Sgt. Elizabeth Holliker
180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For Air Force Staff Sgt. Tony Unum, a third generation military member, Veterans Day is a time to honor and reflect upon all veterans, past, present and future, quietly and respectfully.

Unum, a financial management systems technician at the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, enlisted in the Air Force Reserves in 1989 spending five years as a heating, ventilation and air conditioning journeyman with the 906th Civil Engineering Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

In 1994 he transitioned to the Air National Guard joining the 200th Red Horse Squadron as a knowledge operations craftsman before moving to the 180th Fighter Wing in 2001.

Originally not planning to pursue a military career, Unum thought about his family's long history of serving and felt that he needed to carry on that tradition.

Unum's grandfather served in WWI, his uncle in WWII and his father, the Korean War.

"There is a sense of pride that comes along with wearing the uniform," said Unum. "I now understand the pride they felt."

A combat veteran himself, Unum deployed to Bitburg, Germany with the 906th Civil Engineer Squadron in the spring of 1993.

"We had a layover at Dover Air Force Base, Del., and while waiting for our plane I noticed literature about the country of Somalia, including language translation dictionaries," Unum explains. "I didn't think much of it at the time, but remember telling my roommates that it would suck to be there."

Later that same year, Unum

found himself at Dover looking at the same information about Somalia again waiting on plane to take him to Cairo West Air Base, Egypt, where he was forward deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia.

"We all remember the movie Black Hawk Down," said Unum. "Eight weeks after the major firefight that inspired that movie, I was standing at that very intersection where the firefight took place."

At that moment he fully understood that pride and the sacrifice that comes along with wearing the uniform.

Unum completed his tour in March 1994 with the proud accomplishment of fulfilling his duty to this country.

"For the Air National Guard, our entire operations tempo has changed," said Unum. "We have gone from being a reserve defensive force to taking an active role in the defense of freedom and maintaining our way of life."

Prior to the events of September 11, 2001, activation of the guard and reserve occurred, but was not nearly as common as it has been post 9/11.

Though there are many benefits for those who choose to wear the uniform, Unum is a firm believer for those who volunteer to wear the uniforms of our armed forces that, "It shouldn't be just about the benefits, but what you can offer to your country in return."

Unum, who plans to continue his career and join the ranks of the senior non-commissioned officer ranks says, "Volunteering to take part in defending our freedoms and continuing to demonstrate the pride of wearing the uniform is the perfect way to honor and reflect upon all veterans, past, present and future who have and will continue the honor and tradition of defending our freedoms."



Daylight Saving Time ends, Sunday at 2 a.m. Be sure to set clocks back one hour. (Courtesy photo)

Fall back: Daylight Saving Time ends

USARAK announces Army wives casting call

U.S. Army Alaska
News release

The Army in Alaska is supporting an upcoming television docuseries focused on highlighting the lives of Army spouses in Alaska.

Does your husband or wife serve in the Army in the Anchorage or Fairbanks area?

When you hear the word "deployment", does it mean more to you than just a word heard on the evening news?

Do you find strength and community from other Army spouses while your loved one is serving our country?

If so, we would like to hear your story.

A production company is looking for Army spouses to feature in a docuseries for a major cable network that will put faces to the



Spouses march in 793rd Military Police Battalion Spouses Challenge on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Oct. 6. (U.S. Army photo)

names of unsung heroes like yourselves at home.

If you are interested in being part of "Army Wives of Alaska", please contact militaryprojectcasting@yahoo.com for more information. For more specific information on the casting and production, call (818) 760-4442.

For press inquiries, contact Army Lt. Col. Bill Coppernoll, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Army Alaska or Chuck Canterbury, Media Relations Officer, U. S. Army Alaska. The production company will be meeting spouses in person in Alaska the week of Nov. 28.

Alaskan Command/
11th Air Force
Commanding General
Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins (USAF)

U.S. Army Alaska
Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Raymond P. Palumbo (USA)

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

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

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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JBER civilian wins national award for work with families

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

The military can look, especially to a new recruit or a spouse, like a labyrinth of foreign words and ideas.

The chain of command and noncommissioned officers can seem impossible to understand; there are programs and briefings for so many things, and getting such a huge organization to change appears impossible.

Sometimes, it takes someone who can help slice through the confusing acronyms and get things done.

For her role in this, Frederica Norman, a civilian Department of Defense employee on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, recently received the Association of the U.S. Army's DoD Civilian of the Year for the Pacific Region award. "She's the best of the best of the best," said Marvin Dickerson, Army Community Service officer. "I've been working with ACS since 1995 and she's the strongest Army Family Action Plan and Army Family Team Building manager I've ever seen."

Since the merger that created JBER, it has been the Joint Army Family Action plan, said Norman. The Army is the only service to have the FAP, although they coordinate and format requests for all other branches of service.

Norman has worked, first on Fort Richardson and now at JBER, for three years in her current position. The transition was tough, she said.

"It was rewarding," she said. "I thought it was awesome. It was challenging, but worth it."

The tough part, she said, was that she was now responsible for almost twice as many service members who needed to be involved with the programs – and while 'Army' is in the names, they include the Air Force as well.

She revitalized the AFTB program – a series of volunteer-led instruction exercises primarily for new families.

"We had three volunteers when I started. Now we have 28. They teach people about the military, the norms, the ranks, protocol – everything."

To get the volunteers engaged, she networked, used word of mouth, and marketed – a lot.

"We get them at the classes," she said. "They have to want to do it. But they see the value of the program and they want to help out."

The program is made up of 60 modules in three levels, and just to learn it for the sake of teaching classes is no small task.

Norman took it upon herself to re-draft all the modules, bringing them up to date and making them joint-base friendly. As she finishes a module, she distributes the information as soon as she can.

"When the emcee spoke of her rewriting the 60 AFTB modules, even he was flabbergasted," said Rundy Galles, president of the local AUSA chapter. "He said it was a darn near impossible undertaking and said he was glad he wasn't responsible for accomplishing



(From left to right:) Larry Bethel, AUSA Alaska State President, Theodore G. Stroup, AUSA Education Vice President, Mrs. Frederica Norman, and Undersecretary of the Army, Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, pose for a photo after Norman was presented a plaque for her service to the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Army Family Action Plan and Army Family Team Building programs. (Courtesy photo)

that task."

The modules cover everything from the rank structure and protocol to how to read a leave and earnings statement, stress management, and what family readiness groups can do for spouses.

The Army Family Action Plan is a year-round program and conference, she said.

When a quality of life issue is brought to someone's attention and it's a whole-Army concern – for example, wanting to change the provisions of the GI Bill – the issues are brought to AFAP coordinators and then taken up to the congressional level, where they can be resolved.

"The Post-9/11 GI Bill was once an AFAP issue," Norman said.

"They went from the installation group to the region, then to the Department of the Army."

Requests are submitted in a non-service-specific format, she said.

"It's not 'The Army needs...,' it's 'Families need...,' she said. The increase in Servicemember's Group Life Insurance coverage from \$200,000 to \$400,000 started out as an AFAP issue, as did changes in Tricare coverage that provide insurance for dependent children up to age 26.

Norman had to learn the culture of the Army, and when JBER was created, she became an Air Force employee.

"I had to think - now the people I'm responsible for have doubled.

There were also the little things, like 'What's a squadron?' Learning Air Force culture was very challenging," she said.

She credited leadership on JBER with making it easier.

"(Air Force) Col. (Robert) Evans is awesome," she said. "He adopted and took our programs, and he learned them. Command buying in and taking joint basing seriously made my job easier."

In the future, she said, she wants to make sure that Army and Air Force cultures understand one another.

"We're not turning Soldiers into Airmen or Airmen into Soldiers," she said. "We're just working on the same missions. Families have the same needs."

Civilian cuts

From Page A-1

workforce," Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force said.

"We are making every effort to use voluntary measures to achieve reductions whenever possible," Schwartz said.

Beginning in May 2011, the Air Force implemented a series of hiring controls and voluntary separation programs designed to reduce overall manpower costs, but these hiring controls did not provide the results required to operate within our fiscal constraints.

"The initiatives announced Nov. 2 represent the next step toward that goal, but there is more work to be done," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso, Director of Manpower, Organization, and Resources.

"The Air Force remains over fiscal year 2010 manpower levels and will continue to develop enterprise-wide solutions to achieve our goals with minimal impact to mission," Grosso said.

The Air Force must still define an additional 4,500 civilian positions for reduction.

As details become final, officials will release information on the next set of initiatives.

Air Force-wide, local leaders will be sharing the results of the civilian manpower adjustments with their workforces over the next several days, Grosso said.

"Civilian manpower adjustments will occur at all levels of the Air Force," Grosso said. "We are focused on shaping the force within our fiscal constraints and are committed to maintaining our long history of excellence as we build the Air Force of the future."

"At this time, we are not sure whether a reduction in force will be necessary," she said.

"We are pursuing all available voluntary force management measures to include civilian hiring controls with the goal of avoiding non-voluntary measures," Grosso said. "Every vacancy we don't fill brings us one position closer to fiscal year 2010 levels, and reduces the possibility for a RIF."

Given the constrained fiscal environment, Air Force members should expect continued workforce shaping measures affecting military, civilian, and contractors, Evans said.

"We understand the stress caused by uncertainty and will do our best to share information across the JBER workforce as soon as it becomes available," Evans said.

ALCOM

From Page A-1

know I'll never forget was tagging on to a 47-pound King salmon," Atkins said. That's something etched forever in my mind in a very positive way."

As the general makes the transition into the private sector he is prepared for what is ahead of him.

"I know what I am going to take with me. I'm going to take with me this aspect of 'oh gosh, I wish I had it like it used to be,'" said Atkins. "Friends tell you about how the core values, the personal discipline, our ethics and everything that's good about us and our profession do not necessarily exist in the private sector."

With over 4,000 flight hours in fighter aircraft and after 36 years of service, both enlisted and commissioned, Atkins will retire from the military Jan. 1.

Shortly after he hands over his command responsibilities to Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog, former 9th Air Force commander, Monday, Atkins' plans involve a move to Augusta, Ga., where he will become president of The Augusta Chronicle.

Atkins said he's excited about



Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, Alaskan Command commander, suits up for a flight in a Navy F-18 during a Northern Edge exercise. Atkins is scheduled to pass command of ALCOM to Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog at Hanger 20 Monday at 9 a.m. (Courtesy photo)

the unique challenge he will face with maintaining, sustaining and even improving print.

"For me it all goes back to 1977 when my mom and dad were there and they pinned on those gold bars on my shoulders. I got there because people cared about me enough to set me on this

path," Atkins said.

Finally, the general shared how words will never be able to express how thankful he is.

"I have been remarkably blessed to have the people around me who make up the missions and the successes that we've had and that I have been afforded," said

Atkins. "Everything good in my life has Air Force tattooed on it; from the moment I was 18 years old, goodness has permeated my life."

"From meeting my wife to watching my children grow up in an Air Force environment, I thank you."

Officials continue enlisted rollback program

Air Force Personnel, Service and Manpower Public Affairs
News release

Air Force officials announced Oct. 28, plans to continue an enlisted date of separation rollback as part of its ongoing measures to manage the force and maintain a quality enlisted corps.

The DOS rollback will accelerate the date of separation for selected Airmen in the grades of senior master sergeant and below with fewer than 14 or more than 20 years of service as of March 31, 2012.

Under the DOS rollback, iden-

tified Airmen must separate no later than March 31, 2012 or retire no later than April 1, 2012, if they possess specific reporting identifiers, reenlistment eligibility, assignment availability and grade status reason codes.

Commanders will notify Airmen meeting eligibility and in most instances determine which Airman will remain eligible or ineligible for this DOS rollback.

Airmen identified for the rollback and eligible for retirement must submit their retirement request via the Virtual Military Personnel Flight by Dec. 1, 2011.

Airmen with at least 180 days

of active-duty service who are separated under the DOS Rollback are authorized transition assistance benefits. Those include 180 days of extended medical care for themselves and their families and an ID card allowing base commissary and exchange privileges for two years.

Those separated with more than six years, but less than 20 years total active service are eligible for one-half separation pay, but must sign an Individual Ready Reserve agreement to serve for a minimum three years following their military service obligation.

Those declining to serve in the IRR will be ineligible for

separation pay.

The Air Force will not recoup unearned portions of education assistance funds, special pay, unearned portions of bonuses or other monetary incentives under the DOS Rollback Program, officials said. Additionally, most Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits will not be impacted; however, the transferability of benefits to dependents may be affected. Airmen should consult their local education centers or the VA concerning transferability.

For information about this, and other personnel issues, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

Open season set for three civilian benefit programs

By Kathryn Iapichino
Air Force Personnel,
Services and Manpower

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Office of Personnel Management officials have announced open season for three civilian benefit programs will be Nov. 14 through Dec. 12.

Those programs are the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program and Federal Flexible Spending Account.

Federal Employees Health Benefits

Premiums for the 2011 FEHB program will increase 3.8 percent, half of last year's 7.3 percent increase. There are many plan choices in 2011, including high-

deductible and consumer driven health plans.

Employees should review their health care coverage during open season, not only to make desired changes, but to ensure their plan continues to meet their medical needs, or has not been altered or discontinued.

Employees should also review their plan premiums for 2011 since some will see bi-weekly cost increases.

To review 2011 FEHB premium costs, open season comparison guides and individual plan brochures, go to www.opm.gov/insure/health/planinfo.

Air Force-serviced civilian employees can make their FEHB open season enrollments or changes by one of two methods: the Employee Benefits Information System or

Benefits and Entitlements Service Team phone system.

EBIS, a secure web application, is located behind the Air Force Portal and AFPC secure website.

Employees making an election via EBIS have the advantage of printing a copy of the Standard Form 2809, Health Benefits Election Form, as soon as they complete the election.

The Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program provides supplemental dental and vision insurance coverage.

FEDVIP is group coverage under which employees pay 100 percent of the premiums.

Four plans offer nationwide and overseas dental coverage, and several regional plans are available to choose from this open season.

There are three vision plans to

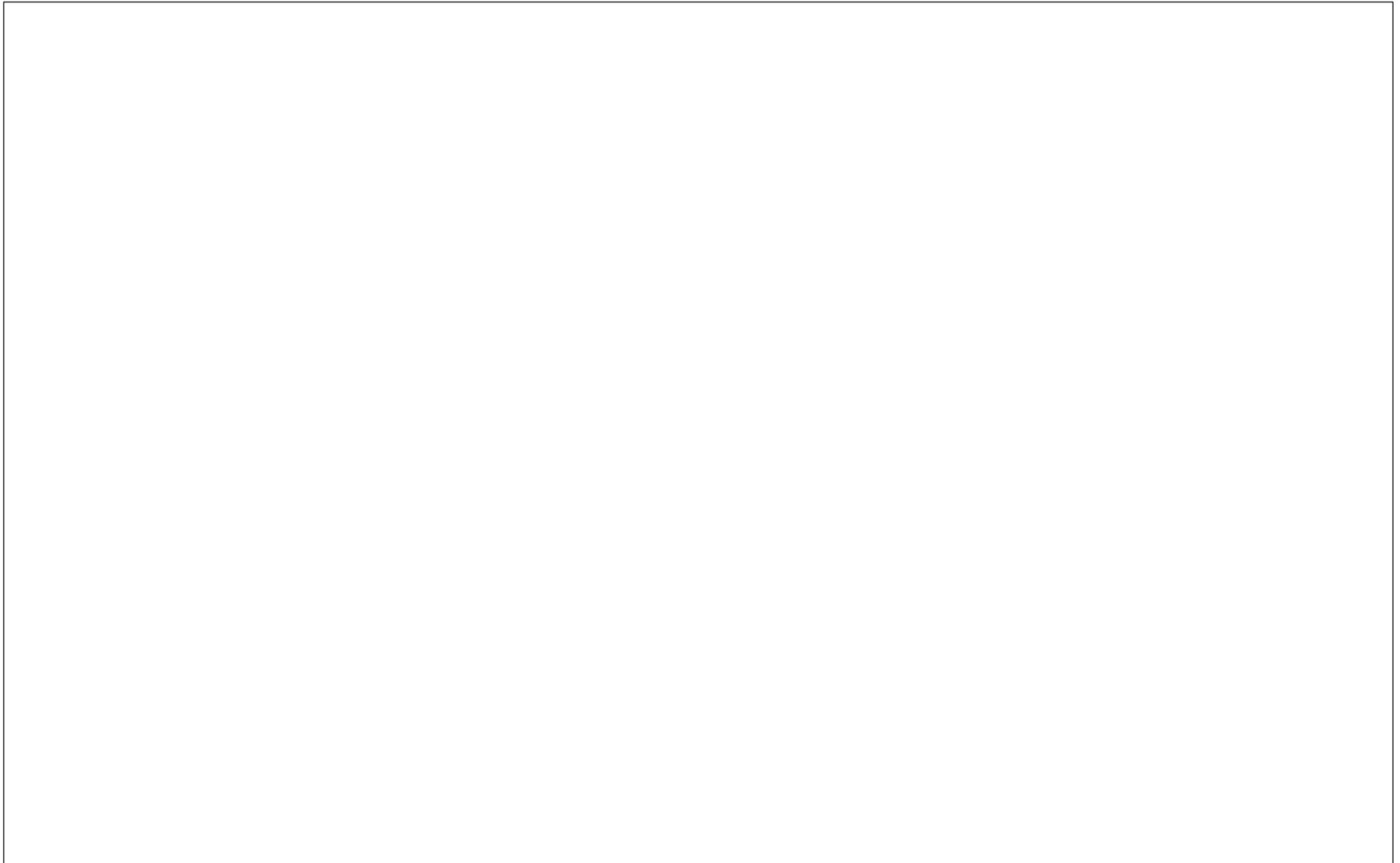
choose from, and all plans provide nationwide as well as overseas coverage.

Three enrollment categories are available: self only, self plus one, and self and family.

Coverage and benefits vary, but they generally include preventive-care services, oral and eye exams, orthodontia, and a variety of eye- and oral-care products and procedures.

FEDVIP and FEHB are entirely separate programs. Federal employees eligible to enroll in the FEHB program may enroll in FEDVIP, even if they have not enrolled in FEHB. Eligibility is the key.

FEDVIP enrollment automatically continues from year-to-year like FEHB enrollment. FEDVIP enrollment also continues when enrolled employees retire.



Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson honor guard members visited Abbott Loop Elementary school to demonstrate military courtesies and procedures for rendering honors to the national flag as well as other military movements for students Oct. 19. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding)

Honor Guard puts on ‘show and tell’ at school

By Senior Airman Jack Sanders
JBER Public Affairs

Members of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Honor Guard visited a local elementary school Oct. 18 to demonstrate proper flag folding techniques and instruct children on how to display the proper respects to Old Glory.

Students of Abbot Loop Elementary School got a surprise when members of the JBER honor guard marched into their classroom and began folding and unfolding the flag.

The honor guard demonstrated both the six-man flag fold and two-man flag fold techniques to the students.

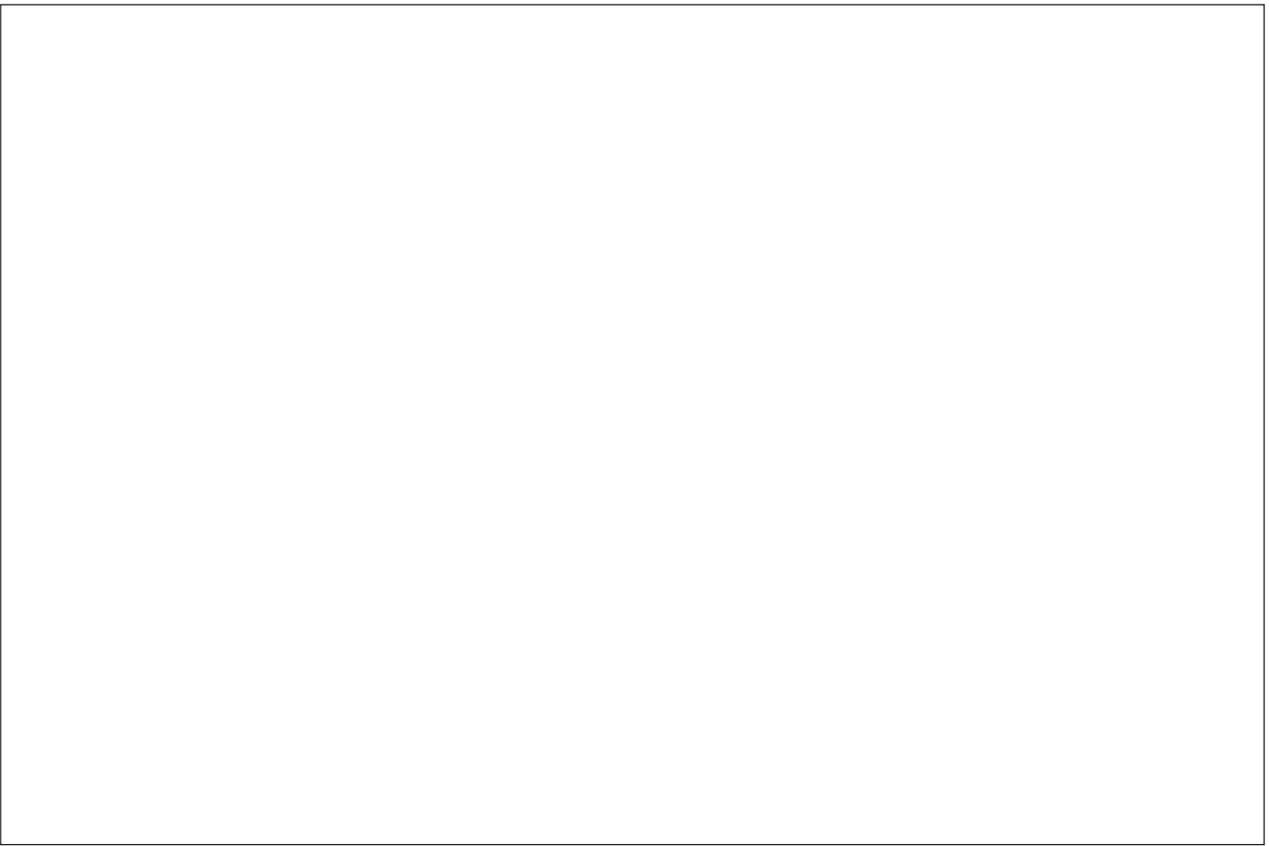
“A six-man flag fold is the typical flag folding ceremony you would see at a funeral, while the two-man flag folding ceremony would be used in a case where the remains were cremated or missing,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Kristen Griswold.

Between each fold the honor guard took time to introduce themselves to the students and take questions ranging from military service to personal beliefs surrounding the flag.

“How did you learn to do that,” one student from Mrs. Bell’s third-grade class asked in awe after watching the team perform a six-man flag fold.

“We all had to join the base honor guard first,” said Airman 1st Class Timothy Washington, honor guard member. “It took years of practicing too.”

“Base honor guard members symbolize the Air Force to America and foreign dignitaries at public ceremonies in the local area,” according to www.honorguard.af.mil. “They participate in Air Force and joint service



Airman 1st Class Timothy Washington, left, and Airman 1st Class Jose Mejia, perform the two-man fold of the US flag for a third grade class Oct. 19. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Honor Guard members visited Abbott Loop Elementary school to demonstrate proper flag folding procedures and ceremony movements and procedures for students in Mrs. Bell’s third grade class.

arrival and departure ceremonies for the president, foreign heads of state, and other national or international dignitaries.

It is their responsibility to perform mili-

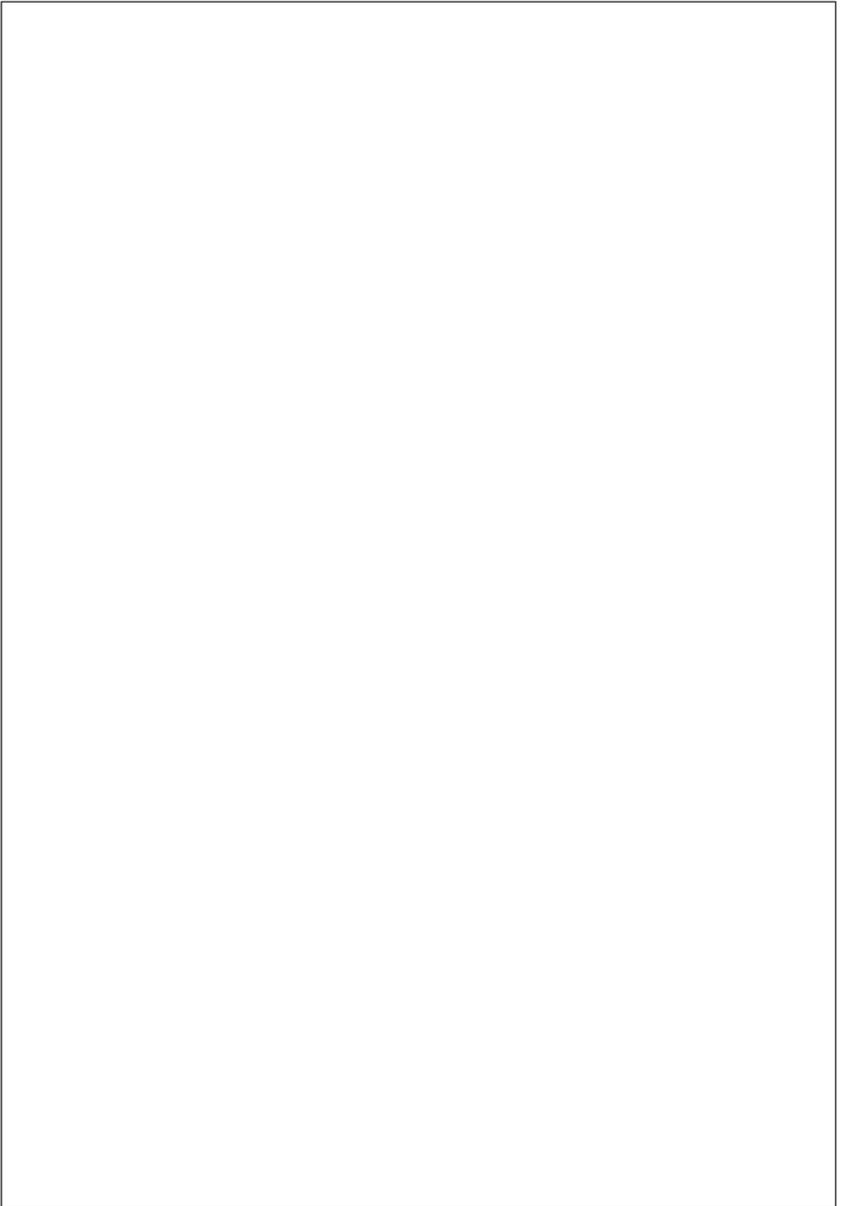
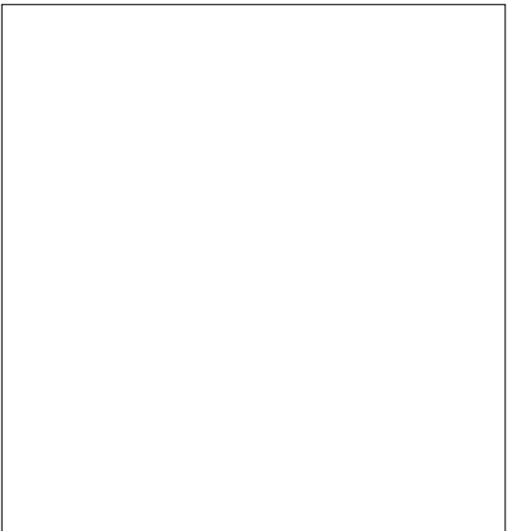
tary funeral honors for Air Force active-duty, retired personnel, and veterans according to prescribing publication.”

Since the Air Force’s earliest years, the

Air Force Honor Guard has led the way as representatives of all Airmen serving around the world.



ABOVE: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Honor Guard members demonstrate a six-man flag fold, the typical flag folding ceremony for a funeral with a casket. The honor guard visited Abbott Loop Elementary School Oct. 18 to demonstrate proper flag folding techniques and instruct children on how to display the proper respects to Old Glory. FAR RIGHT: Airman 1st Class Jose Mejia, left, answers questions about the U.S. flag for a third grade class at Abbott Loop Elementary Oct. 19. RIGHT: Senior Airman Larry Markwell, right, and Airman 1st Class Josh Lemke perform the two-man fold of the US flag for a class of third graders at Abbott Loop Elementary Oct. 19.



Briefs and Announcements

Retiree Appreciation Day

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Retirement Services program will host its annual Retiree Appreciation Day Saturday at the JBER-Richardson Theater and Building 600.

A health information booth, crafts, outdoor recreation and more will be available. Flu shots will be available as well as ID card services.

For more information call 384-3500.

Bargain shop

The Bargain Shop will be open Saturday, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The shop is located at 8515 Saville Ave. Stop by to shop, volunteer or drop off donations. Add the Bargain Shop on Facebook. Become a fan and get weekly updates.

Dining facility change

The Wilderness Inn, in Bldg. 647 assumed all JBER-Richardson dining facility operations Monday.

The Gold Rush Dining Facility in Bldg. 655 closed Sunday and is scheduled to reopen 90 days after the return of 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division next year.

Effective Monday, new hours for the Wilderness Inn are:

- Monday thru Friday
- Breakfast: 7-9 a.m.
- Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dinner 5-6:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday
- Breakfast: 8-10 a.m.
- Lunch: noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Dinner 4-5:30 p.m.

Housing snow removal

Aurora Military Housing provides snow removal on traffic surfaces within its housing communities.

Snow removal will be conducted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. Safety is Aurora's first concern: vehicle passage is essential for the safety of all residents.

Please limit on-street parking in all areas during plowing/sweeping activities. To enhance emergency vehicle passage, AMH encourages tenants with front yards to shovel their snow into their yards. Those that do not have front yards, can place their snow in the streets with the understanding that they do so

prior to the snow plows removal of snow.

Although not preferable, AMH does allow the snow from resident's homes to be placed into the street for the plowing equipment to remove; but only if the placement is done prior to the snow equipment coming through the subdivision.

The snow placed in the road right-of-way is not to be in piles or mounds that prohibit vehicle passage, create an obstacle or impede traffic. Use caution around all snow plowing equipment and maintain a minimum distance of 50 feet at all times. Obey speed limits; 15 mph is the on-base housing speed limit. Keep children from using snow piles as play areas, forts or sledding hills.

In an effort to help keep our residents safe, the snow contractor will attempt to avoid times when school buses are en route with children on the curbs.

Each neighborhood situation (small yards, narrow streets, dense areas) will have a different solution for snow placement; the policies are rooted in "common sense."

Please be patient: The snow removal contractor will be in your housing area as soon as possible. Snow removal begins after two inches of snow has accumulated. Clearing of the major roadways and sidewalks is priority. Wind rows will be created from the clearing and later picked up by the equipment.

The contractor will place more cut outs of these wind rows to allow easier access to homes. Do not attempt to go through a wind row, instead, take the time to find the next cut out to make your turn. Please be considerate: It is extremely important for everyone to consider when placing snow into the roadways that you are not creating vehicle and emergency hazards. Please limit on-street parking in all areas during plowing/sweeping activities. This will allow for quicker and safer vehicle flow patterns, while reducing tenant inconveniences.

Please be responsible: Residents are responsible for the removal of snow and ice from driveways, all sidewalks, decks, porches, mail boxes and fire hydrants located within 75 feet, within 24 hours after snow fall.

Air Force active duty officers, senior captains, majors or lieutenant colonels, interested in opportunities to help build and sustain international relationships can apply for attaché duty at locations ranging from Burma to the United Kingdom.

Government employee union meeting

American Federation of Government Employees 1101 will hold a meeting Tuesday, in Building 8517, Room 130 at 5 p.m. The meeting is limited to bargaining unit employees. Call 753-7154 for information.

Renters insurance

Aurora Military Housing is providing free renter's insurance to tenants of all Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson housing.

The renter's insurance will be provided, at no cost, to all existing and future JBER residents under a blanket policy with Great American Insurance.

For those tenants currently under the Aurora Allstate Policy, conversion to the new policy will be totally transparent and will be taken care of by Aurora.

Aurora will continue to honor its reimbursement arrangement with those tenants who have previously elected renter's insurance coverage by an insurer other than Allstate.

These tenants will be grandfathered under the previous reimbursement option and will continue to receive reimbursements during their stay with Aurora.

A copy of the insurance policy will be available at the Aurora Military Housing office or visit www.auroramilitaryhousing.com.

Defense attaché officer

Air Force active duty officers, senior captains, majors or lieutenant colonels, interested in opportunities to help build and sustain international relationships can apply for attaché duty at locations ranging from Burma to the United Kingdom. AFPC and the Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs are accepting applications for senior defense official/defense attaché, air attaché and assistant air attaché duty at nine locations, with selectees reporting for training be-

tween April 2012 and April 2013.

Applications must be received by AFPC and SAF/IA by Dec. 15. Several defense attaché offices have C12 aircraft assigned, so applicants for those offices will need to be fixed-wing pilots. An operations background, foreign language skills and experience in the region are highly desired, although not mandatory. Applicants must have taken the Defense Language Aptitude Battery, and all their immediate family members must be U.S. citizens. The application can be downloaded from the Air Force Portal.

Check your university

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, an academic institution must have signed a Department of Defense memorandum of understanding and be on the list of participating institutions in the DoD Tuition Assistance Program to be eligible to receive funds from the Service's Military Tuition Assistance program.

MiCare registration

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

Military publications available

Visit the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Public Affairs Office, 10480 22nd Ave., Suite 123, for copies of the following official military publications: the 2011 JBER Installation Guide and Phonebook (limited supply), Air Force Priorities poster series (large and small sizes), and Airman Magazine (2011 almanac issue). City of Anchorage maps are also available.

Call 552-8918 for information.

Defense Biometric ID System

All DoD ID card holders are required to enroll into the Defense Biometrics Identification System on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to include Active Duty, Reserve, Army National Guard family members and retirees.

All personnel are required to be registered by January 2012. Register at the People Center, Building 8517, Room 100 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at the main entrance

of the JBER hospital. People can also register at the Visitor Control Center which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Personnel not registered by January 2012 will incur delays at the gate and be forced to the already busy Visitor Control Center to gain access to JBER.

Air Force ID card changes

Due to long wait times for walk-in customers, effective Monday, all military members or Department of Defense civilians will be required to schedule an appointment via the Military Personnel Section Customer Service Appointment website at <https://673fssmpscustomerseer.clickbook.net>.

The MPS will only see military members on a walk-in basis if their card is lost, needs to be unlocked, certificates need updating, or it ceases to function.

It is also highly encouraged appointments be made for civilian, dependent, Reserve and retiree ID cards.

November flu vaccine

The 673d Medical Group Immunization Clinic will be offering influenza vaccines to all TRICARE beneficiaries aged 8 years and older at the Joint Military Mall Nov. 8-10 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Influenza vaccines are available on a walk-in basis. A valid military identification card must be presented to receive the vaccine.

Travel charge card changes

Effective immediately, personal use of the controlled spend account government travel charge card is not authorized. The CSA card may only be used for expenses related to official government travel.

Payments in excess of overall expenditures placed on the CSA card, after completion of official travel (credit or residual balance), can be obtained by the traveler through electronic transfer to a personal account through Citi's on-line access system or by phone, request check by Citi, a check automatically mailed to cardholder after 60 days of activity, or ATM withdrawal (two percent fee).

Commanders levy Articles 15

673d Air Base Wing
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
News release

Several Airmen assigned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson received nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice during the month of September 2011.

A staff sergeant from the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for assault.

The punishment consisted of reduction to senior airman, forfeiture of \$400 pay, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman first class from the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron received an Article 15 for false official statement and failure to go to the appointed place of duty.

The punishment consisted of suspended reduction to Airman, forfeiture of \$411 pay per month for two months, 45 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman from the 673d Communications Squadron received an Article 15 for failure to go to the appointed place of duty.

The punishment consisted of suspended reduction to airman basic and forfeiture of \$733 pay per month for two months.

An airman first class from the 673d Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for being absent without leave (leaving local area before actual leave start date).

The punishment consisted of suspended reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$191 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant from the 703d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for wrongful use of marijuana.

The punishment consisted of reduction to senior airman, 30 days extra duty with 15 days suspended, and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron received an Article 15 for larceny.

The punishment consisted of suspended reduction to airman first class, suspended forfeiture of \$975 pay per month for two months, 45 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

The military justice system is a commander's program designed to support good order and discipline in the unit and to ensure mission accomplishment.

One important aspect of the military justice system is nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

When commanders decide to impose nonjudicial punishment, they can choose from a variety of punishments.

For enlisted members, the potential punishments include reduction in grade, forfeiture of pay, restriction, extra duties and a reprimand.

Officers may receive forfeiture of pay, arrest in quarters, restriction and a reprimand.

When using nonjudicial punishment, commanders take into account the member's duty performance, attitude, potential for rehabilitation and disciplinary history.

Civilian deployment equals desire to serve

By Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Civilian deployment is not for everyone. The hours are long, there are few (if any) days off, and those are still spent in potentially dangerous, often austere locations for up to 12 months, all without loved ones nearby to offer comfort.

But, for the right person, deployment is an opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with uniformed members in a fight that transcends personal comfort or safety.

It is an opportunity to learn more about national defense from the rubber-meets-the-road perspective, and to give back to your country, said Tom Kelly, Air Force Personnel Center Civilian Expeditionary Workforce program manager.

"There must be an intrinsic desire to serve," he said. "Certainly, there are tangible benefits for civilians who deploy, but volunteers generally have a deep desire to serve their nation."

Most CEW deployments are for requirements in Iraq and Afghanistan, Kelly said.

Routinely there are around 1,000 rotating requirements per year for positions that range from civil engineering, intelligence and contracting to human resources and public affairs.

"We have more requirements than military members can fill, and we have some requirements for skill sets that the military doesn't have," Kelly said, "so civilian support is critical to mission accomplishment."

It is a view held at every level of national defense, including the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, who called an agile civilian workforce with expeditionary capabilities a critical component in the fight against terrorism.

Civilian Airmen who want to deploy may be reluctant to do so because of career impact concerns, Kelly said.

But a deployment is far more likely to have a positive than



Donna Rathbun, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing sexual assault response coordinator, deployed to Southwest Asia as a civilian. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua P. Strang)

negative affect on a career, he explained.

"Career-wise, you will be protected. You won't be required to resign your permanent appointment or give up the position you have now, and in fact you will remain on your unit manpower documents while deployed. You'll have return rights, will retain all your benefits, and you'll be compensated financially as well," Kelly explained.

In addition, deployed civilians develop a deeper understanding of the national defense "big picture."

They will see first-hand how their contributions affect national security and relationships with America's allies.

"More important, they will be part of the daily activities that help us strengthen relationships around the world, and they will be able to work to help people in need and immediately see the benefit of their work," Kelly said.

Civilians who deploy will be involved in a variety of missions, from humanitarian support to contingency programs, and from reconstruction to combat operations, Kelly said. "That experience and broadened awareness makes them prime candidates for additional growth and development opportunities, and obviously promotion potential goes up as well," he said.

According to Kelly, CEW is a developmental opportunity few civilians have been allowed to experience.

CEW integrates the civilian workforce in a way that working stateside in an office cannot equal.

The work stateside may be integral to mission accomplishment, but deployment does something more, he believes.

"CEW puts civilians in the fight. It allows us to contribute our skills in the combat arena, and even though that puts us in danger – the same physical danger as our military counterparts – it is the truest evidence of total force equality and shows the high-value we add to national defense," said Kelly.

"The bottom line is that combatant commanders need civilians in the field, more than ever."

Deployment may be far from easy, he said, but those who have the required skills – who want to fully immerse themselves in their nation's defense – can get more information about opportunities at the Office of the Secretary of Defense civilian expeditionary workforce website (www.cpms.osd.mil/expeditionary), the Civilian Readiness community of practice page (<https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=AF-DP-00-37>), or the Air Force CEW program office, afpc.dpieceworkflow@us.af.mil.

For more information about CEW and other personnel issues, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.



Courtesy graphic

Wake Island provides crew rest for fighter jets

By Air Force Capt. Amy Hansen
11th Air Force Public Affairs

WAKE ISLAND AIRFIELD, Mid-Pacific – Wake Island Airfield's regular billeting of 182 male beds and 16 female beds was recently near to capacity as a joint TRANSPAC – a fighter jet and support team movement – made its way from Hawaii to Japan.

Although the tiny three-island atoll in the mid-Pacific known as Wake Island has only about 135 permanent party workers, it can support nearly twice as many people during military deployments across the Pacific Ocean.

"Basically, a TRANSPAC is any fighter movement across the Pacific that brings along support," said Air Force Maj. Tammy Dotson, 611th Detachment 1 commander on Wake.

These movements are also commonly called fighter drags or Coronet missions.

During the most recent outbound TRANSPAC, a crew of F-18 Hornet pilots and maintenance specialists from VMFA-115, based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., stopped at Wake on their way to Iwakuni, Japan.

According to Dotson, Wake is a perfect crew rest and refueling spot due to its location, roughly 2,000 miles west of Hawaii and 2,000 miles east of Japan.

"We're here as part of a TRANSPAC going to Iwakuni in support of the unit deployment program," said Marine Capt. Torrey Brissette, VMFA-115 pilot. "At Iwakuni we will be training in support of Marine Air Group 12 for several months."

Marine Sgt. Joshua Upton, VMFA-115 airframe mechanic, was part of the trail maintenance crew handpicked to keep the Hornets flying on their 10,000-mile journey from South Carolina to Japan.

"Our goal is just to get the jets over the pond. Even though these are the oldest aircraft in the Marine Corps, we haven't had too many problems," he said.

The Hornets were accompanied by a Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135 from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, a KC-10 from the



A row of F-18A Hornets from VMFA-115, based out of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., sits on the ramp at Wake Island Airfield, Mid-Pacific during a recent TRANSPAC from Hawaii to MCAS Iwakuni in Japan, Sept. 3. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Amy Hansen)

9th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and a C-17 Globemaster III from the 517th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"Basically, we are here in support of the Marines and their deployment of the F-18s," said Air Force 1st Lt. Andre Silva, 517th AS pilot. "We're stuck here because there is a typhoon outside of Japan, but it's been nice getting to hang out with the Marines. We don't usually get to do that."

Troops supporting the TRANSPAC found many things to do in the turquoise lagoon or on the 5 by 2.5-mile atoll while waiting for the super-typhoon to pass.

"Wake is nice. There is a surprising amount to do here, like snorkeling, kayaking, and sailing," said Brissette.

Regarding staying on Wake for a few days instead of just overnight, Upton said, "It's nice in a way – this time I was able to get in the water. You see it and it's so pretty, probably the clearest I've ever seen."

"I don't mind being stuck here a few days," said Senior Airman

Nicholas Kenny, 517th AS loadmaster.

Some crews also went hiking to see the historical artifacts and buildings from Wake's much-storied role in World War II.

Just after Pearl Harbor was bombed in December of 1941, Wake Island came under Japanese attack from the air and sea.

About 2,000 Marines and civilian contractors repelled the first attack and sank a Japanese destroyer, providing the U.S. with a morale boost when it was desperately needed.

A few weeks later, the Japanese returned with a much larger naval contingent and forced the surrender of the island.

Most of the U.S. survivors spent the rest of World War II as prisoners of war, and Wake was under Japanese control until the end of the war.

"It's really cool to walk around and see the bunkers and everything. It was awesome seeing the things we learned about in Marine history," Brissette said.

After World War II, Wake changed hands a number of times,

with the Navy, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Department of the Army all taking a turn managing the airfield.

Now the Air Force runs operations on the atoll, which technically belongs to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Wake's main purpose is to support military contingency operations, emergency diverts, trans-pacific missions, and miscellaneous missions with the approval of the 15th Air Wing senior airfield authority at Hickam Air Force Base, according to a 2010 memorandum signed by Air force Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander.

Civilian air traffic is not generally allowed.

The airfield and the runway, which at nearly 10,000 feet is the longest in the Pacific Islands, are operated by a crew of contractors from Chugach Federal Solutions, Inc, with the oversight of four Air Force personnel from the 611th Air Support Group.

The contractors, including over 100 workers from Thailand, run everything from base operations

to the dining hall.

When a TRANSPAC comes through, the contractors kick into high gear to deliver nearly twice as many daily meals, prepare and clean hundreds of billeting rooms, and deconflict more than 20 aircraft as they land and depart, in addition to showing visitors some island-style hospitality.

"The Thais made us feel really welcome," said Marine 1st Lt. Ben Golata, 9th ARS first pilot. "We went fishing and caught a yellowfin tuna. Then we ate sashimi at the Ioke beach house."

The welcoming attitude found on Wake is particularly impressive since about 16 scheduled inbound and outbound TRANSPACs come through each year, according to Major Dotson.

"This is my first experience with TRANSPACS. It's been a great, great learning experience and I've put all my problem solving abilities to the test," she said.

"We are happy to be in a strategic location and serve as part of the fight, and it's great that the people who stop over here are part of the joint mission."

Swimmers dive into competition

JBER swim meet coverage, Page B-4

You can keep CFC donations local



Alaska charities are on the list, Page B-5

www.jber.af.mil/news

COMMUNITY

Volume 2, No. 44

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

November 4, 2011

JBER children enjoy

HALLOWEEN FUN



Hundreds of children and their parents walked along their trick-or-treat route throughout the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Hospital Friday. Air Force Staff Sergeant Justin Goodwin of the 673d Medical Support Squadron, dressed as Mario, and Senior Airman Marc Thompson of the 673d MDSS, dressed as Luigi, hand out candy to two young ghostly ghouls, Anterriyon Moore (foreground) and Terriyon Moore. (U.S. Air Force photo/Johnathon Green)



Colton Gross gets ready to knock on a door while trick-or-treating in JBER's Moose Crossing housing area Monday. Children were able to trick-or-treat from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. during Halloween. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christopher Gross)

Zombies briefly take over JBER fitness center

Mouflage team uses holiday as a reason to show off skills and practice thrills

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett
JBER Public Affairs

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson fitness center was an unusual place Monday; there were zombie sightings in the midst of the first snow day and Halloween.

First there were only a few, but then they caught more attention as their numbers grew.

They roamed around inside the gym and were seen taking on 673d Security Forces by the main entrance. After multiple sightings of attacks and blood even on the ceiling, things returned to normal.

What might have been overlooked were the mysterious containers brought in first thing that morning, and the group of normal volunteers that gathered in a room away from the work-out areas.

The containers were opened to reveal fake blood, various sponges and other mouflage equipment.

This team's mission: to turn the volunteers into zombies. Those who have been through training exercises involving medical response would likely be familiar with this mouflage team.

They normally perform similar services in order to make the casualty scenarios look and feel as real as possible – without hurting anyone or causing real damage.

"We support training, no matter where it is," said Gavin Gardner, the simulation coordinator for the mouflage team. "Our simulation center is the first PACAF tier one site; we mentor other sites across

PACAF. That's what we're here for, and it's also fun."

In the spirit of Halloween, Gardner's team chose to keep up their skills by creating zombies.

"This is the first time I've done zombies," said Air Force Master Sgt. Michelle Long, a mouflage team member. "I'm the NCOIC for Dental Records and Reception. I started working with medical readiness in 2005, and they do exercises, so that's how I got involved." At her previous bases, Long worked with kids to help create scenarios at off-base schools.

"It was really fun for the community," she said. "They got really elaborate; they even hold mock funerals. It was huge and a lot of services really got together for that. Most of the time we only do mass casualty exercises."

At the mention of using zombies to train, other services once again joined in.

"I definitely wanted to do this," said Marissa Carrillo, a simulation operator from the University of Alaska in Anchorage. "I like to participate in the community and work with the military. I got a call to do this and

I said yes."

Not all team members were new to this sort of thing.

"I have done zombies before, back in theater at Los Angeles," said Will Enfinger, a mouflage simulation operator. "Zombies are fun, but I like being able to do this because it shows that we are versatile and that we can support things across the wing."

The volunteers also enjoyed the training. Air Force Master Sgt. Brian Goodman, 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Support Squadron superintendent, and his wife Kendra love zombies and enjoyed being made-up like the undead.

"You are the best zombie I've ever seen," Goodman told his zombified wife. "I've never been more in love with you than I am right now."



ABOVE: Mouflage team members from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson hospital's Simulation Center and the University of Alaska in Anchorage use their skills and talents to visually turn volunteers into zombies at the JBER Fitness Center Monday. The mouflage team partners with off-base organizations to enhance community relations by working together to create realistic scenarios. The Simulation Center normally works on mass-casualty scenes for the base emergency services to respond to, and for physicians to practice on.

RIGHT: Airman 1st Class Alannah Holbrook tests the realism of the mouflage work during a simulated zombie invasion in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Fitness Center on Halloween. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)



Sgt. Brian Pismeny proposes to Spc. Chloe Varnum at the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion ball Oct. 6. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead)



Troops, spouses renew vows

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf
JBER Public Affairs

"I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. Sara, it is from experience and trust that I commit myself once again to be your friend, soul mate and your husband," said Sgt. Victor Arias, 725th Brigade Support Battalion, a transportation technician.

"Upon your return, we can go from a couple to a family. No one has ever or will ever hold on to my heart as you do," said Sara, Arias' wife.

Pre-deployment consists of many things; there are appointments for shots, weapon qualifications, re-certifications and more. One thing that Soldiers from the 725th BSB added to that list was renewing their vows.

Six couples gathered with friends and family in the Soldier's Chapel on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on October 27. These couples decided to strengthen their bonds before the deployment to Afghanistan.

"I think it's definitely important to make the statement of faith and that pledge to your

spouse, that you are still in love with them," said Army Capt. Christina Cogen, 725th BSB chaplain.

For some of these couples, it hasn't been the first deployment or first time they renewed their vows.

"It's like getting another wedding and doing something special before you leave," said Sgt. Nathaniel Russ, 725th BSB ground support equipment non-commissioned officer in charge.

"This is our fourth ceremony, three of which were before deployments," said Debra, Russ' wife.

The renewals also allow Soldiers to connect with those with whom they will be deploying and build camaraderie.

Something that helps before the deployment is seeing the other Soldiers here and how much they care for their family as we prepare to go into a warzone, said Sgt. Arias.

It's not just for the Soldiers, but also brings a connection for the spouses.

"You get to make new relationships that can help with the ... deployment because they have someone deploying too," said Sara.

"It's important to me to let her know that if something bad was to happen to me, that I do love her and I will always love her," said Sgt. Arias.

Spartans celebrate families

By Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead
4-25 BCT Public Affairs

A celebration of marriage, a proposal and a first dance marked this year's 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Ball Oct. 6.

Typically, a military ball is a special event where family members and Soldiers of all ranks can come together and celebrate their accomplishments over the past year.

For three couples, though, the event was even more memorable.

They chose the annual ball, among friends and comrades, as the perfect opportunity to mark special moments in their own lives.

Spc. Anthony Couch, a training room assistant assigned to C Company, 425th BSTB, took to the dance floor for the first dance of the evening with his new bride Christy Couch, a paralegal from N.C., who flew in under the assumption she was just going to be Anthony's date for the evening.

The couple had been dating off and on for years and decided to get married at 8:45 a.m. the morning of the ball. They were married by C Company's 1st Sgt. Brandon Dimick.

A second couple took to the floor midway through the evening.

To the applause of everyone in the room,

Sgt. Brian Pismeny proposed to his longtime girlfriend, Spc. Chloe Varnum.

The attending guests stood and cheered as the presiding commanders at the head table beamed with pride over their Soldiers.

"We are here to keep traditions alive," said Army Col. Morris Goins, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division commander. "Despite the strenuous requirements of an impending deployment, we have remembered our traditions tonight."

A third couple gained the attention and praise of the crowd when they announced that they were about to celebrate their first official dance since their marriage in October 2008.

Spc. Timothy Flournoy, a driver for the brigade commander, and his wife Marlana Rae Flournoy, danced to a song by Journey as friends and co-workers celebrated.

"This has been a great year for us," Flournoy said. "Our daughter, Sydney Rae Flournoy, was born in April of this year and we finally got our first dance tonight."

The rest of the evening had its share of heartfelt moments, but the three couples kept the morale and spirits higher than the rest.

There was no requirement to stay, but like a family gathered for a holiday, many did.



Sgt. Victor Arias, 725th Brigade Support Battalion transportation technician, and Sara, his wife, renew their wedding vows at the Soldier's Chapel on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson October 27. Six couples took part in the renewal of their vows, led by Army Chaplain (Capt.) Cogen, 725th BSB chaplain. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)



384-7619

The Arctic Chill open
Sunday • 8 a.m.
Monday & Thursday • 3 p.m.



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- NFL Tickets
 - Super Bowl Party Package
 - Weekly Prizes
 - New Football Menu
 - Free Member Breakfast - Sundays • 8 a.m. Non-Member \$6⁵⁰
 - Additional entries available
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2011 Schedule

WEEK 9	
Sunday, November 6	
NY Jets at Buffalo	9 a.m.
Seattle at Dallas	9 a.m.
Atlanta at Indianapolis	9 a.m.
Miami at Kansas City	9 a.m.
San Fran at Washington	9 a.m.
Cleveland at Houston	9 a.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans	9 a.m.
Denver at Oakland	12:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at Tennessee	12:05 p.m.
NY Giants at N. England	12:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona	12:15 p.m.
Green Bay at San Diego	12:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Pittsburgh	4:20 p.m.
Monday, November 7	
Chicago at Philadelphia	4:30 p.m.

The Chill
384-7619

Experience JBER Elmendorf-Richardson



NOV. 5

12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

SHOPPERS: VISIT OUR VENDORS FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS!
VENDORS*: RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW FOR ONLY \$20
CALL US TODAY AT 552-8529

*NO MEMBERSHIP SALES OR ADULT-ONLY ITEMS ALLOWED.
ARCTIC OASIS COMMUNITY CENTER

VENDOR DAY

The Alaska Aces will be at the Arctic Oasis
Wednesday • Nov 9 at 4 p.m.
Meet and Greet!



Get your tickets for Aces Hockey games at ITT!
Located in the Arctic Oasis Community Center
753-2378

Hillberg Pre-Season Pass & Season Rental On Sale Now!
Nov. 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18
Noon - 2 p.m.
Nov. 5 & 12 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Individual Passes	\$220
Family of 3	\$660
Family of 4	\$715
Family of 5	\$770

Hillberg Ski Area
Building 23400 • 552-4838
• Ski Hot Line 552-4276

Community happenings

THROUGH NOV. 15
1, 2, 3 Magic
 Family Advocacy hosts this class on how to handle difficult behavior in children and how to encourage good behavior in a way that is clear and fair.
 The techniques work even for children with disabilities, attention deficit disorder and those with speech or other impediments. This three-session class meets from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Education Center in Room 224.
 For information on this or any other programs offered by Family Advocacy, call 580-5858.

SATURDAY
Country Fair at Buckner
 The Country Fair will be hosted Nov. 5 at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This fair and bazaar is full of holiday gift ideas, book signings and crafts as well as food and is hosted by the Richardson Spouses' Club.
 For more information, contact FRSCcountryfair@yahoo.com.

Retiree Appreciation Day
 All retirees are invited to the JBER Retiree Appreciation Day. A health information booth will be available as well as craft, outdoor recreation, and other booths. Flu shots are offered and ID card services will be available, along with other services at the JBER-R theater and Building 600.
 For information, call 384-3500.

TUESDAY THROUGH NOV. 21
JBER ham radio classes
 The Elmendorf Amateur Radio Society hosts classes Monday and Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. for two weeks for those who want to earn a Technician license. Preregistration is required.
 For information call 552-2662 or visit www.kl7air.us.

WEDNESDAY
Women veterans event
 Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Kuehn is the keynote speaker at this event in the lower level of the Z.J. Lousac Library. Recognize women who have served with an information fair from 2 until 5 p.m. with the ceremony at 3.
 For information call 257-4737.

FRIDAY
Veterans Day roll call
 The University of Alaska-

Anchorage will join colleges and universities around the nation in a national roll call in honor of Remembrance Day at the Student Union Building, 2921 Spirit Way.
 Names of those killed in the Global War on Terrorism will be read at the top of every hour from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.
 For information call 786-1221.

Nov. 16
Don't just survive - thrive
 Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, will speak at the Arctic Warrior Event Center from 10 a.m. until noon in a hands-on training session.
 Learn to optimize your ability to thrive and to cope with life's challenges.
 For information, call 384-9005.

Nov. 17
Crafting social
 The Elmendorf Officers' Spouses' Organization will host a "Cards for the Troops" crafting social and special silent auction at the Dallas Community Center on JBER from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. There will be a buffet and beverages.
 For information visit www.elmendorfoso.com.

Nov. 19
Lutefisk and lefse dinner
 Discover where Vikings got their strength by sampling traditional Norwegian fare at 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. at the Viking Hall.
 Reservations are strongly recommended.
 For information call 349-1613.

Nov. 19 AND 20
James McMurtry concert
 This solo country acoustic concert features Texas singer-songwriter James McMurtry.
 Catch him at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 or at Vagabond Blues in Palmer Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.
 For information call 263-ARTS or visit www.whistlingswan.net.

Nov. 23 THROUGH 26
Great Alaska Shootout
 Eight men's and four women's collegiate teams battle it out at Sullivan Arena during the longest-running early-season basketball tournament.
 For information call 786-1230.

Nov. 25
Holiday tree lighting
 Meet Santa and the reindeer and watch the lighting of the tree in the Town Square in downtown Anchorage.
 The ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. and Santa will be available after 6:15 p.m. Cocoa and cookies will be provided.
 For information, call 279-5650.

Nov. 26
Police Navidad
 The Anchorage Police Department presents a new family holiday event. Celebrate "Christmas Around the World" featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus, holiday vignettes from different cultures, and performances at the Dena'ina Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 For information call 279-5650.

DEC. 1
Eagles hockey
 Need a fix of hockey? The Elmendorf Eagles duke it out with the Anchorage Fire Department at the Ben Boeke arena at 8:45 p.m.
 For information, call 552-0740.

DEC. 2-15
Anchorage Film Festival
 This provocative showcase of some of the best independent film and video from around the world kicks off Dec. 2 in various venues around Anchorage. Now in its 10th year, the festival is the biggest ever.
 For more information visit www.anchoragefilmfestival.org or call 338-3690.

DEC. 3
Rage City Rollergirls
 Anchorage's own women's roller derby features its third bout of the fourth season at the Dena'ina Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. and wheels roll at 7.
 For more information visit www.ragecityrollergirls.org.

DEC. 8
Nelly concert at Dena'ina
 Grammy Award winner Nelly plays at the Dena'ina Center at 8 p.m. Hits include "Hot in Herre," "Ride Wit' Me," and "Dilemma."
 For information call 263-2850.

DEC. 11
Holiday concert
 The Anchorage Museum hosts an afternoon of merry music at

the annual concert. Enjoy the "Wonderland of Toys" exhibit and listen to holiday favorites by the Anchorage Concert Chorus, the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School and other local musicians. Admission is free.
 For information call 929-9200.

ONGOING
Thursday Nights at the Fights at Egan Center
 Seven boxing matches at the Egan Center begin at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday evening. Tickets are available at the door or in advance through Ticketmaster.
 For information call 263-2800.

Flu shots available
 Flu vaccines, nasal or injected, are available on a walk-in basis at the JBER hospital's immunization clinic Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. except the third Thursday of the month.
 Vaccines will be available at the Joint Military Mall Tuesday through Thursday for ages 8 and older from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Watercolor exhibit
 From Friday through Nov. 27, the Anchorage Museum hosts the Alaska Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition with a variety of styles and subjects by Alaskan painters.
 For information, call 929-9200 or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

Model railroading
 The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers meets in basement Room 35 of Matanuska Hall, 7153 Fighter Drive at 7 p.m. Tuesdays with work sessions Saturdays at 1 p.m. Anyone interested in model railroading is invited.
 For information, call 552-5234 or 952-4353, visit www.trainweb.org/msmrr or email bjorgan@alaska.net.

"All That Glitters: Images from Alaska's Gold Rush"
 This exhibit uses photos to tell about prospectors who came north during Alaska's gold rushes.
 For information, call 929-9200, or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

Wired Cafe for Airmen
 The Wired Cafe is located at 7076 Fighter Drive between Polaris and Yukla dormitories.

Chapel services

Catholic Mass
Sunday
 9 a.m. - Soldiers' Chapel
 10:30 a.m. - Elmendorf Chapel 1
 5 p.m. - Soldiers' Chapel

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

Confession
Sunday
 4:30 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
Celebration 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

The cafe was built to serve Airmen who live in the dormitories with a home-away-from-home atmosphere. The cafe offers programs throughout the week.
 There are also free home-cooked meals Thursdays, with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.
 For more information call 552-4422.

Storytime at the Zoo
 Preschool-aged children can explore the world of animals with their parents by listening to a zoo storyteller Wednesday mornings at 10:30. Readings will be followed by a zoo animal encounter.
 For more information, email klarson@alaskazoo.org.

USING THE BRIGHT SIDE OF YOUR BRAIN

Got Art? Enter.

www.airforcegallery.com
 The Air Force Arts and Crafts Gallery showcases fine arts, crafts, digital art and photography created by military personnel and their family members.
 Call 552-7017 / 384-3712



PICK AND PAINT SPECIALS - ALL HARVEST AND FALL CERAMICS
 For the entire month of November Harvest, Fall, and Thanksgiving themed ceramics will have a waved sitting fee. Such items are leaf shaped candy dishes, corn shaped butter dishes, turkey napkin holders, walnut shaped candy dishes, small turkeys, pumpkin candy dishes, pumpkin and leaf magnets, and harvest inspired platters.

Kids Glass Fusion Classes:
 Ages 8 and up, 7 and under must have an adult present.
 \$15-20 based on project. Wednesday from 4-5pm

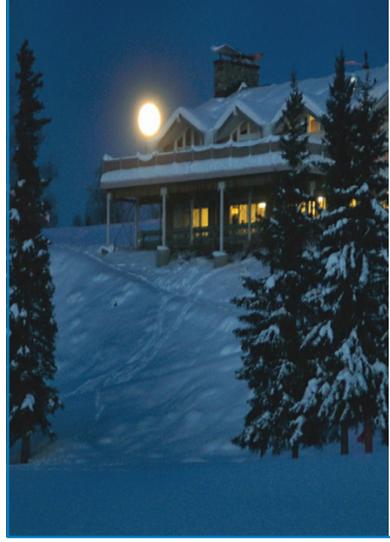
ENGRAVING MONTHLY SPECIAL
 \$5 off Piano Plaques. \$10 off White and Red Marble plaques with metal plate. Prices range from \$30-55 before the special.
 \$45 Gold Pans. While supplies last.

FAR NORTH ARTS & CRAFTS CENTER
 552-7012

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JBER Elmendorf Far North Frame Shop
 Open Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We Now Sell Prints by Alaska's own Aviation artist James R. Morris.



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Winter is here – be safe whether working or playing!



Lynette Lerch swims the women's 50-yard fly during the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson swim meet at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center pool Oct. 27. Lerch, swimming for the 673d Force Support Squadron team, was the only competitor in the event and finished with a time of 54.14 seconds. (U.S. Air Force photos/John Pennell)

Swimmers dive into competition



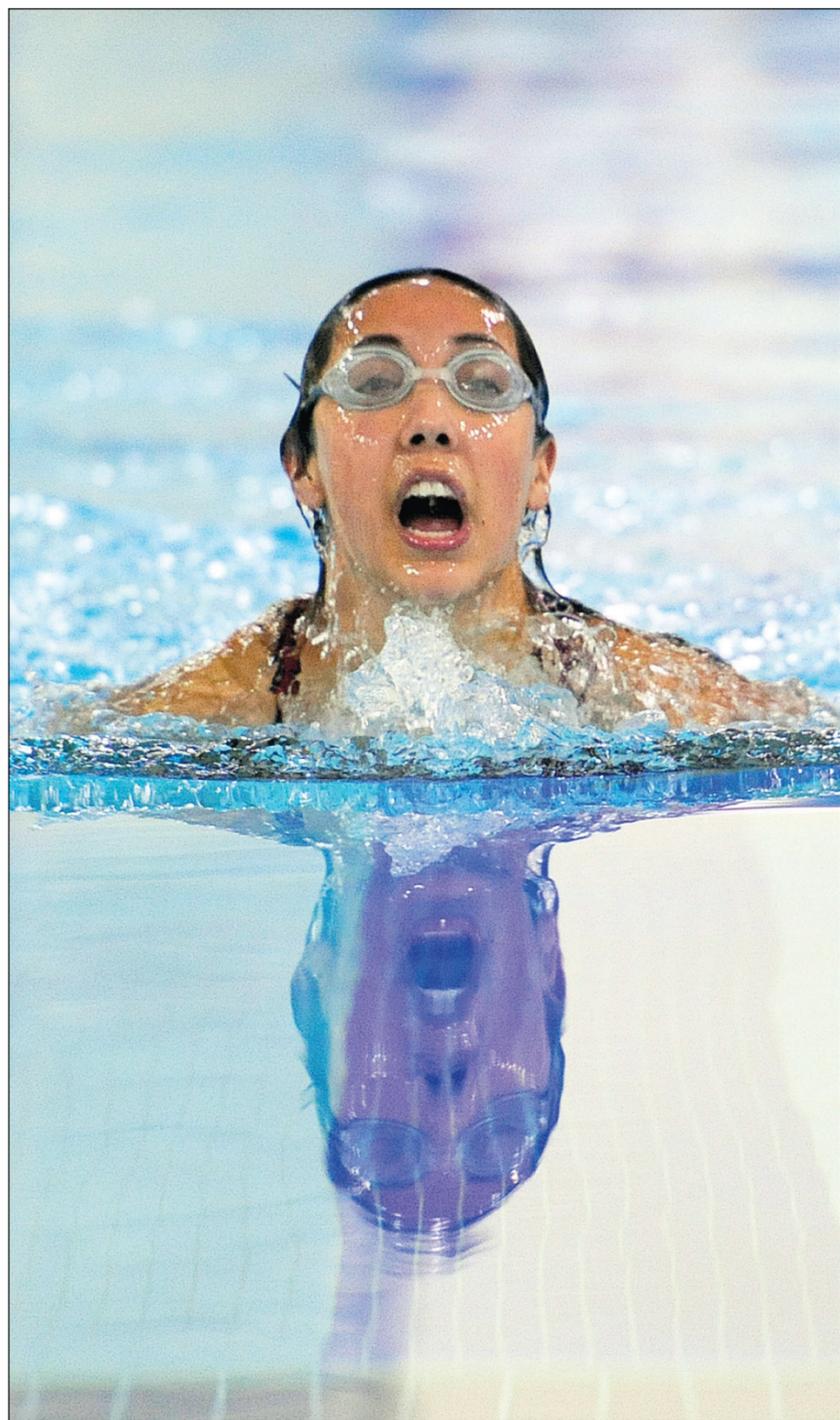
ABOVE: Matt Oberlander (bottom) keeps pace with Kenneth Cummings and Josh Bowen (top) in the men's 100-yard individual medley. The three swimmers were almost as close at the finish line, with Oberlander in first at 59.33 seconds, followed by Cummings at 1.02 and Bowen at 1.03. Oberlander swam for the 673d FSS, while Cummings swam for the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, and Bowen for A Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne).
LEFT: Kenneth Cummings blasts away from the wall at the start of the men's 50-yard backstroke. Cummings, swimming for the 4-25th ABCT, won the event with a time of 28.78 seconds.



Lee Daniels, swimming for the 673d FSS team, dives in to start the men's 200-yard individual medley during the JBER swim meet Oct. 27 at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center pool. Daniels finished second in the event with a time of 2:53.



ABOVE: John Lerch, swimming for the 673d FSS team, competes in the grueling 500-yard freestyle. Lerch finished second in the event with a time of 7:58.
RIGHT: Becca Powell, swimming for the 673d FSS team, competes in the 50-yard breast stroke Oct. 27 at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center pool. Powell finished first in the event with a time of 1:01. (U.S. Air Force photos/John Pennell)



Native American Heritage Month: an Inupiaq and a Marine

By Marine Cpl. Justin Boling
Marine Corps News Service

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – One Marine's decision to enlist took him from an icy landscape above the Arctic Circle to the dust-covered deserts of Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Lawrence Jones, a native of Noatak, Alaska, is a member of the Inupiat people. Only the town's gravel runway and the surrounding waterways provide access to the rest of the world.

Jones began the process of becoming a United States Marine with a phone call to a recruiter 400 miles away in Fairbanks.

He had to endure numerous 600-mile-long flights to Anchorage, Alaska through treacherous snow storms and arctic winds to complete the recruitment process.

Today a mechanic in Afghanistan, Jones is charged with maintaining the vehicles utilized by Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, which conducts aviation ground support for 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

His unit serves as the aviation combat element for the southwestern regional

command of NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

Growing up, Jones said his fondest memories involve trudging through the snow and ice of his home, rifle in hand, hunting moose, caribou and grizzly bears with his grandfather.

Jones said his relationship with his grandfather, who was a first sergeant in the United States Army, inspired him to enlist.

"I wanted to show my grandfather that I was strong like him," said Jones.

He has traded his old hunting rifle for a wrench to maintain Humvees, mine resistant ambush protected vehicles and fire trucks.

These vehicles provide the ground assistance for Marine Corps aircraft in their mission of supplying aerial support to ground troops.

In his Alaskan home the comfortable temperatures of summer give way to a winter with only 15 minutes of sunlight and temperatures reaching 40 degrees below zero.

Jones' work days in Afghanistan hover around 90 degrees, luckily for

him the Afghan nights grow colder in the final months of the year.

Living in Alaska has taught Jones to do the most with what he has. Jones worked tirelessly chopping wood, hunting and working to help his family.

Doing more with less is the spirit of mission accomplishment for the Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

"When I miss home I remember three sights that always bring me joy," said Jones. "I think of seeing a red sun dart across the horizon at 3 a.m., how the full moon lights up the sky during the months of darkness and the dancing colors of the northern lights."

"When I call home, I do not talk, I just listen," said Jones. "Before they hang up they tell me how proud they and our town are of me for being here."

After returning to the states, Jones said he looks forward to having more experiences to learn from, but like his grandfather he will one day return to his frozen homeland.

"The young kids are going to ask me about the military," Jones said. "I will say you will travel far and see many things."



RIGHT: Lance Cpl. Lawrence Jones, an Inupiaq Alaskan Native from Noatak, stands in front of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) equipment at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Jones left the Alaska Bush to be a Marine. Noatak is 70 miles north of the Arctic Circle and residents support themselves with subsistence hunting. (U.S. Marine Corps photo/Cpl. Justin Boling)

LEFT: In this file photo, D Company Anti-Terrorism Battalion, 4th Marine Division members stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, travel by snow machine to deliver "Toys for Tots" Dec. 17, 2009, near Kotzebue. Noatak is 55 air miles from Kotzebue. Airplanes and snow machines are the primary modes of transportation in the Bush in winter, because there are very few roads. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jack Sanders)



Want to make a difference in Alaska? Try local CFC donations

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

If you've been in or worked with the military in November, you've probably heard of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Created in the 1960s, the CFC helped reduce confusion and difficulties when various charities solicited donations from civil service. Presidents from Eisenhower to Nixon gradually streamlined the free-for-all into the CFC as we know it, which allows for payroll deductions and other convenient ways to donate.

According to the CFC website, all charities in the CFC are vetted. Employees can donate knowing that the organizations meet basic requirements for being legitimate charities.

But what if you want to keep your donations local so you can see the impact your donation has?

There are numerous Alaska charities in this year's CFC handbook. Some are even dedicated to helping service members.

To find them, you can get a CFC booklet from your unit representative.

Or you can visit www.cfc.alaska.org. Click "Search Charities" and enter "Alaska" and you'll find dozens of local charities, from assistance dogs to the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher House of Alaska.

Air Force Capt. Michael Frye, the CFC representative for the 3rd Wing, pointed out that local donations can make a big – and visible – difference in the community.

Each CFC listing shows a percentage, which is its administrative and fundraising rate. The lower the percentage, the more of your donation actually goes to the work the charity does.

Frye mentioned the Food Bank of Alaska, which is on the CFC list.

"Their AFR is 3.7 percent," he said. "Almost every penny donated actually goes to buying food."

Victims For Justice, Inc., is an Anchorage-based group that helps victims and families of victims of violent crime, including homicide.

The program offers outreach to rural Alaska, but much of their work is done in the immediate Anchorage area simply due to population.

The Blood Bank of Alaska may conjure images of blood drives – which it does.

But they are on the CFC list, because the bank doesn't only need blood.

"The donations may be used for cookies and juice at blood drives," Frye said. "There's volunteer recruiting and other overhead."

Since it's an Alaska blood bank, it all stays here, and with an AFR of only 13.2 percent, 87 percent of the donation goes toward getting the job done.

The Fisher Houses are particularly close to the hearts of many current and former service members.

The Fisher House of Alaska, located across the street from the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson hospital, is one of many Fisher Houses across the nation.

When a service member is seriously ill or wounded and must stay in the hospital, family often wants to be close. But meals, lodging and other expenses can rack up quickly. The Fisher Houses provide a place for families of sick or injured service members to stay in the house,

cook meals there, and be close – sometimes only steps away from their loved one.

Air Force Lt. Col. Andrea Vinyard of the 673d Medical Group is the project liaison for the Fisher House of Alaska.

She said that the 12-room house is slated to be finished in mid-December and families may be able to stay in it even prior to Christmas, although that's not certain.

The official grand opening of the facility will take place Feb. 15, and will be attended by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

"It's a home away from home," Vinyard said of the house. "There are pots, pans, dishes. Organizations have donated laptops for the house. Another company donated cable and wi-fi Internet."

Those who want to help the Fisher House can donate consumable goods, like paper towels or laundry detergent, or they can donate time, Vinyard said. Cookies are often appreciated, as is lawn work, watching the children so couples can have some free time, or just talking to families and offering a shoulder.

CFC donations are also appreciated – although the majority of the work on the house is done,

there are always needs.

Why donate through the CFC instead of directly to the charity?

According to the Alaska CFC website, it's easier for charities to process one check from CFC than many checks from individuals. They can also plan their budget and activities better, because they know at the beginning of the year how much donors have pledged to them for the following year.

Payroll deduction is also an easy way to donate a small amount each pay period – and in the end, it creates a larger donation than people could give up front in most cases.

When you sign up for a CFC payroll deduction, the deductions don't start until after the first of the new year.

You don't even have to specify a charity – you can donate any amount to the undesignated fund, which will be parceled out to charities.

If you don't care to donate to Alaska charities, there are thousands of other charities for almost any preference, in your home region, or even national and international organizations.

Alaska CFC's own AFR this year is seven percent – down two percent from last year.

When you fill out the "release of information" section of the form, you permit the charity only to send you a thank-you letter – any other contact must go through the CFC coordinator or you can contact them directly.

And all contributions are tax deductible.



Profile of a veteran: former Buffalo Soldier Ollen Hunt

By Luke Waack
JBER Public Affairs

Ollen Hunt, 88, is a World War II combat veteran, retired Soldier, successful businessman, author and longtime Alaskan.

Drafted in 1942, Hunt was trained in infantry skills and food service.

"I'm a Soldier, I always will be," Hunt said. "I'll tell any person ... how happy I am of the companies and what I did."

Hunt served in Italy, fighting the Nazis with the 92nd Infantry Division.

In Thanksgiving of 1944, when commanders wanted to give Soldiers a break from C-rations – the Meals-Ready-to-Eat of their day – Hunt's company was given the mission to prepare a hot meal for the unit, near the Italian city of Pisa.

"We came off the front line, went back and got the equipment and had a brick building designated to prepare the food in," Hunt said. "We had three days to prepare the food and give it to the troops."

Hunt and his team finished the task in two days, which was good.

"On the third day, the Germans melted that building," Hunt said.

German artillery leveled the building where they had been cooking just the day before.

"A service member protecting their country is a wonderful person," Hunt said. "There is no other job that's more important than protecting your country. I think that people should honor their Soldiers."

Hunt retired in 1963, after 21 years of Army service. He still looks back on his military career with fond memories of the people he served with and the others he met along the way.

"I must say one thing; that the military was – of course combat, naturally combat is always nasty – other than combat, the people I've worked with and the people

I've met in foreign countries and so forth, have been wonderful," Hunt said. "The Soldiers that I worked with – and I've worked with Soldiers from every state in the United States – it's been a wonderful thing."

Hunt said his parents prepared him well for life by instilling one basic idea at the beginning of regular family meetings.

His mother or father would always start with, "You're growing up. No matter who you meet, no matter where they're from and no matter where they're going – no matter what color they are, black, white or what not, no matter how rich they are or how poor they are, they're no better than you are and you're no better than they are and you treat them as a human being," Hunt said.

"My dad would say, 'You'll get married and you're going to move away from here and you're going

to go to other places and so forth. If I find out you're not following this rule, I'll come and straighten you out.' And he would have."

Hunt wrote a book about his life in and outside the military titled, "Buffalo Soldier: What I

Did for My Country, What My Country Did for Me," with help from a Veterans Administration project to help veterans record their history.

The book, published in 2006, has sold more than 6,000 copies.



Courtesy photo

Only the first cleanup of many



673d Civil Engineer Squadron personnel use heavy equipment to clear a parking lot on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Monday morning. Although only about an inch of snow fell on JBER, the CES was out in force to prevent things icing over. As more snow falls, the community is urged to use caution while driving and to plan outdoor activities with safety in mind. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jack Sanders)



ABOVE: Recreational vehicles and trailers sit in an RV storage lot on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. RVs can contain plenty of expensive equipment – sporting goods, camping supplies, and electronics. Make sure your gear is secured with locks, and thoroughly marked. While the storage lot is under video surveillance, and is kept locked, the 673d Security Forces Squadron urges those with items there to take care. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

Secure your gear!

673d Security Forces Squadron
News Release

Recently the 673d Security Forces Squadron has filed reports for property stolen from the RV storage lots on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

If you haven't checked on your equipment and property stored within the storage lots recently, you should make time to inventory and ensure your items are protected during the winter months.

Here are some recommendations you should use to identify and protect your property against theft and help law enforcement officials with recovery of lost or stolen property.

First, identify your property by recording serial numbers.

You'd be surprised at how many victims think they may have a serial number buried in their files, yet fail to find it.

Photographs are an additional technique

to help in property recovery – but a clear serial number is the number one tool.

Secondly, secure your property, either by lock, cable or chain but ensure that the thief has to break it to take it.

Many opportunist-thieves have been thwarted by a locked item, and many crimes have occurred because the victim neglected to secure their property, making it an easy target.

Nothing can stop a determined thief, but hardening the target (locks) and recording serial numbers can go a long way to aiding in the prevention of crime and recovery of your precious property.

Having a serial number and complete property description on hand when the first police report is filed (at the scene or at the Base Defense Operations Center) is important.

After a crime report is prepared and filed by a reporting officer, clerical employees will enter any serial numbers into the National Crime Information Center.

Other officers, coming upon serial numbered items during the course of their duties may check the serial numbers through NCIC and discover the item they are holding was reported stolen.

That means you, as a victim, will most likely get your property back.

Without a serial number, chances are

slim to none your property will be recovered.

Can it happen without a serial number? Yes, but it is rare.

If you have an item without a serial number, think about etching or engraving an identifying label on the item.

Usually a name alone is useless for computerized records although a hand-search based on a full name may further an investigation.

While follow-up reporting of a serial number may work for you, the sooner you make the report and submit the serial number(s) of stolen items, the better.

Sometimes, through inefficiency and neglect, the follow-up report may never be entered into NCIC.

You stand a much better chance of recovery if the initial crime report has the serial number of the stolen item included.

Pawn shops are often believed to be a good source for thieves to get rid of stolen property.

Most jurisdictions require pawn shop operators to report all transactions to the local authorities. This procedure works best when everyone follows the rules.

Unfortunately, some don't. There's no harm in canvassing pawn shops and notifying them about your stolen property.

But if you come across your stolen property in a pawn shop, ask them about it.

Then immediately notify the local police department and ask them to intervene.

Each jurisdiction may be different, but in many cases, the stolen property you've discovered in a pawn shop is yours, not theirs and they will surrender it to you after conducting their own investigation.

Ownership of property does not transfer to the pawn shop merely because they paid some thief for it.

Still, be cautious when dealing with these types of property recoveries.

Additionally, you should make a list of your belongings (be sure to keep receipts, especially for expensive items). Be sure to update this list periodically, especially after large purchases.

Keep copies of your inventory list and receipts in a safe deposit box or with a friend. (This is also important in the event of a house fire.)

Photographing or video recording your possessions are convenient ways to keep a record of what you own.

Engrave your property and valuables with an identification or mark to deter burglary and to prove ownership should the article be stolen and recovered by the police.

Consider insurance coverage that will protect items not at your home.

You may need to purchase additional coverage to protect special items.

