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# ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

December 9, 2011

## Updated base access system requires registration

By Senior Airman Jack Sanders  
 JBER Public Affairs

iel Coon, 673d Security Forces Squadron.

People who need to register for DBIDS should visit either the Boniface or D street visitor control center. Both centers are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

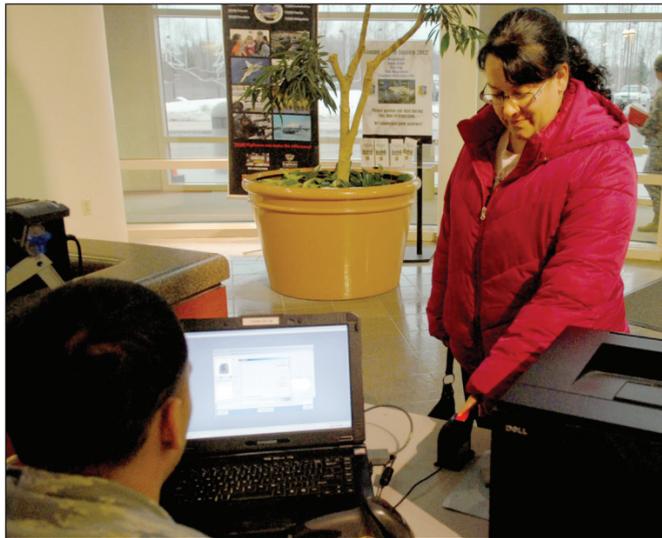
DBIDS registration can also be done at the People Center, Building 8517, in Room 100, or the JBER Hospital lobby, Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

"DBIDS is a Department of Defense system developed by the Defense Management Data Center as a force protection and identity management program to manage personnel, property and base access," Coon said.

DBIDS is a DoD program, worldwide.

"It was originally developed in Korea and is now used everywhere, including bases in Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia," Coon said.

The new program may come with growing pains, but it will be beneficial to the base, Coon said.



Quintana Luanner, a military family member at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson registers in the Defense Biometric Identification System at the JBER hospital. The DBIDS registration deadline is Jan. 12. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jack Sanders)

"It means a more secure and safe environment for the JBER residents," Coon said.

"To date DBIDS has identified

seven people who were barred from the installation."

Coon said the system works by using two different authen-

tication systems to verify a person's identity.

"First, it checks a person's identity via the DEERS program," Coon said. "Secondly, it uses the biometrics of an individual's fingerprint as a final verification for base access. This check is all done wirelessly through the hand-held scanners to the computer data base."

Anyone with a common access card, dependent ID card or retiree ID card can register for the system.

"Registration takes approximately one to three minutes," Coon said.

"There is no minimum age to register as long as the dependent has a dependent ID card, but teens 16 and older need to be registered. It's beneficial to register children between the ages of 10 and 16 because it aids law enforcement with things like identifying a sponsor's personal information, address, phone number, etc."

Coon advised anyone needing base access to avoid the rush and preregister for DBIDS.

## JBER leadership gives civilian workforce reduction update

Commentary by Air Force Col. Robert Evans  
 JBER/673d ABW commander

mately 30 employees matched by week's end.

Our Civilian Personnel Office will continue to work with the respective commanders and management to reassign positions as openings become available.

However, it may take several months to place affected employees and we have no guarantee all can be placed.

Please know our intent in to find open positions for all employees as we are keenly aware of the critical contributions of our civilian team members.

I'd also like to clarify how we got to the reductions we face today.

While the specific Resource Management Directive 703 positions cuts – 256 positions in total – were mandated by Air Force-level directives, base-level adjustments were permitted on a limited basis.

Some changes were made in order to preserve jobs and were made based on the availability to exchange targeted position cuts with vacant positions or projected vacancies.

Our civilian personnel and manpower professionals did a commendable job in limiting the impact on individuals in our workforce, but much work remains as we seek to place our affected teammates.

Additionally, as most of you know, a second round of civilian reductions is set to be announced at the end of January.

Air Force wide, 4,500 additional civilian positions will be eliminated.

However, cuts in Pacific Air Forces and outside contiguous United States bases are expected to be far fewer than the first round announced last month.

We will continue to keep you

updated as information becomes available.

Also announced this week is a "partial" lifting of the civilian hiring freeze for OCONUS commands.

I say partial because PACAF, which manages our civilian pay dollars, does not currently have the funds to pay civilian salaries for all of the command's vacancies.

We do expect that some of our highest priority fills will be made.

We will also be "stockpiling" some vacancies to provide job opportunities for employees affected by the ongoing civilian reductions.

Protecting the employment of our current civilian employees is tremendously important to maintaining the strength of our team.

Finally, our base and wing leadership continues to work through potentially significant budget re-

ductions this year as the nation grapples with reducing our now \$15 trillion national debt.

We are in constant dialogue with PACAF, our Army partners and Headquarters Air Force to ensure the most mission-critical functions continue.

Our leadership team encourages feedback from our entire force as we seek to reduce costs and ensure the nation gets the most combat capability we can provide here in Alaska.

Solid communication is essential during these difficult times so please don't hesitate to approach your chain of command with questions or call Mabel Binns, chief of civilian staffing, at 552-7549, or Al Anderson, labor relations officer, at 552-7409.

Have a great weekend and thank you for all you do for our Army, our Air Force and the nation.

## Base lights holiday tree with snow, music and cheer

By Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead  
 U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs

said Cheri Terhorst, volunteer.

JBER and 673d Air Base Wing Commander, Air Force Col. Robert Evans thanked those responsible for making the event happen and fired up the crowd by asking the children in the theater if they had been good for Santa.

Evans passed the microphone to USARAK Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Raymond Plaumbo, who expressed his thanks on the behalf of USARAK.

"Now after the music I want you to grab your parents and we're going to go outside and across the street and turn on that tree; because we want to make sure Santa sees us and lands here," Plaumbo said.

The Air Force Band of the Pacific "Greatlanders" played traditional Christmas carols and even a few with a modern jazz sound, as families listened and sang along.

After the concert, the crowd moved outside to the base of a large tree in front of USARAK headquarters where Plaumbo invited all the children to come help him light the tree. With a "3, 2, 1" countdown the lights on the tree sprung to life and a team of reindeer pulled a sleigh to the base of the tree for family members to take photos with Santa.

Children played on the snow as they waited to tell the man in red what they wanted for Christmas and to explain certain events over the course of the year which might produce coal instead of toys.

"This has been great, I'm really glad I



Service members and families gather in front of the U.S. Army Alaska headquarters building Dec. 1 at the JBER holiday tree lighting ceremony. (U.S. Army photos/Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead)

got to do this before I deployed," said Spc. Michael White, an Army parachute rigger with the 725th Brigade Support Battalion as his family waited for photos with Santa.

His wife Brittini and four children: daughter Kylee and sons Trenton, Ian and Tyler all clung to him as they inched toward the sleigh.



Santa greets children at USARAK Dec. 1.

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**Solar eclipse Saturday**

Scientists predict a solar eclipse will be visible in Alaska Saturday, weather permitting. Left, the final full moon of 2010 coincided with winter solstice and a total lunar eclipse visible from JBER. (U.S. Air Force illustration/John Pennell)

# A day that lives in infamy, 70 years later

Commentary by Gen. Gary North  
Pacific Air Forces commander

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Wednesday marked the 70th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941, attacks on Oahu.

It is important that we take a moment to reflect and remember this seminal event in our nation's history.

December 7th is the day that lives in infamy. It is the day we got caught with our guard down. And it was tragic, to be sure.

On that fateful Sunday morning, more than 350 Japanese fighters and bombers took off from their aircraft carriers 200 miles north of Oahu.

The Japanese set out to attack not just Pearl Harbor, for which this day is often remembered, but also the Airmen and aircraft of the Hawaiian Air Forces, along with U.S. Marine Corps forces at Kaneohe Bay. They set out to destroy our ability to wage war in the Pacific.

They also aimed to destroy our morale, and with it our will to fight back. They underestimated us as individuals and America as a nation.

There were many acts of heroism by Airmen that day. Just as battle stations were manned on the battleships in Pearl Harbor, our Airmen at Hickam Field ran to ammunition storage houses, desperate to fight back.

Some risked their lives to move supplies and aircraft out of the line of fire.

Some jumped directly in those aircraft and took off to challenge the enemy in the sky. And while the day seemed to be a crippling defeat, the enemy ultimately failed in their objectives.

For nestled within the American spirit is strength and resolve. And in short time we recovered, regrouped, and rebuilt. And in due time we won.

Today, all those who work in and visit the Pacific Air Forces headquarters building can see the scars remaining from those attacks.

Those scars remind our Air-



**A U.S. Army B-17E at Hickam Air Field, after landing safely during the Japanese air raid not far from Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. In the background is a B-17C (or B-17D). Smoke from burning ships at Pearl Harbor is visible in the distance. Wednesday marked the 70th anniversary of the attack which destroyed 188 aircraft and damaged 159, the majority hit before they had a chance to take off. The attack sank or damaged 21 ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. American dead numbered 2,403. There were 1,178 military and civilians wounded. (U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Archives collection)**

men, families and all visitors of the ultimate sacrifice paid that day by 238 of our fellow warriors.

But they also remind me of how across our country, our service members and our community pulled together, in response to meet the challenges of World War II combat operations.

Fast forward 70 years...today the U.S. and Japan are strong part-

ners who work tirelessly together to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pacific Air Forces, along with all components of U.S. Pacific Command, regularly exercise with Japanese forces to ensure interoperability – which we saw so effectively demonstrated by the U.S. response in Operation Tomodachi earlier this year, when more than

6,000 of our PACAF Airmen supported Japanese relief operations after their earthquake, tsunami and nuclear plant issues.

Many of the remaining veterans of the December 7th attacks will make their way back to these sites on Oahu this 70th Anniversary.

We honor their courage, their service, their sacrifices and their legacy.

We are grateful for the example they gave us of perseverance and the American spirit.

We owe it to ourselves to deliberately pause and reflect on moments like this in our history. We owe our veterans nothing less. We honor their memory and continue their proud tradition of service.

They showed us how to "AIM High" and "fly, fight, and win!"

## Don't drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Commentary by George Mongar  
JBER Employee Assistance program

In December we throw the spot light onto 3D awareness (The National Drunk and Drugged Driving prevention awareness month) and hopefully with awareness we can achieve prevention.

The first step to awareness is knowledge and I would like to provide some basic knowledge about the how and who of alcohol and drugs impairment on driving abilities.

Let's first look at alcohol and drunk driving according to the ABC's of Blood Alcohol Content by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2005.

At a BAC of .02 we begin to experience loss of judgment and have trouble doing two tasks at the same time.

At .05 we have reduced coordination and ability to track objects along with difficulty steering.

At .08 we are over the legal limit and have trouble controlling speed and difficulty processing information and reasoning. In Alaska, .08 percent is considered automatic impairment.

At .10 we have markedly slowed reaction time and difficulty staying in lanes and braking when needed.

At .15 we experience serious difficulty controlling the car and focusing on driving.

What this means is after two drinks of alcohol a driver has already experienced loss of judgment, though this driver's BAC may be below the legal "limit" to drive, it does not mean that they are not impaired and thus have an elevated risk of having an accident.

As the BAC goes up the proportional risk of accidents also climbs.

According to the CDC in 2010, U.S. adults drove under the influence of alcohol 112 million times with the results that alcohol-impaired drivers were involved in one in three of all crash deaths in the U.S., resulting in nearly 11,000 alcohol related deaths in 2009.

Another way of looking at it is every day almost 30 people in the U.S. die in a motor vehicle crash that involves an alcohol impaired driver; this is one death every 45 minutes.



**Alaska statute defines driving under the influence of alcohol as a person driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle with a blood-alcohol level of .08 or higher. (U.S. Air Force illustration/Senior Airman Mike Meares)**

How we drink can make a big difference as to what the outcome is. For instance, in 85 percent of all alcohol-related drinking and driving incidents, the driver had been binge drinking (Binge drinking is defined as five or more 'regular' drinks for men and four or more for women during a short period of time.)

When we look at gender, men accounted for four in five episodes of drinking and driving in 2010. This does not let the ladies off the hook because you have to become a defensive driver with all the impaired drivers on the road.

In November 2011 over 188 drunk drivers were caught by the police within Anchorage, an increase from 169 in November of 2010. The Anchorage Police Department will be performing an increased number of targeted Operating Under the Influence stops

in December along with a drunk and drugged driving awareness campaign.

Now let's look at drugged driving. A drugged driver is anyone who takes a drug, either their own prescription, some else's prescription, or an illicit drug that impairs their ability to function at 100 percent.

The principal concern regarding drugged driving is that driving under the influence of any drug that acts on the brain could impair one's motor skills, reaction time, and judgment. Drugged driving is a public health concern because it puts not only the driver at risk but also passengers and others who share the road. Many tend to forget over-the-counter medications can and do negatively affect a person's ability to multi-task which is required when driving.

We think, since these medications are available off the store shelf, they can't

be dangerous.

Due to recent studies public officials are giving a greater attention to drugged driving. In most studies exploring and comparing alcohol incidents to drugged automobile incidents, alcohol is the leading contributor.

There have been recent regional studies of trauma centers which have shown drug positives in almost twice as many trauma center injuries as those with alcohol only-positives.

In cases of drug-impaired driving, marijuana is the most common illegal drug detected and the rate of drugged driving in 2009 was the highest among adults ages 18 to 25.

It is my hope that the above information will sway your decision about driving drunk or drugged. Always remember, before we celebrate, we designate and the one we designate is the driver who does not drink or drug.

## ARCTIC WARRIOR

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# Air Force rolls out new rifle qualification course



**Air Force Maj. Gerald Stevenson, the 52nd Comptroller Squadron commander, moves forward to engage a target during the new weapons qualification course at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Oct. 13. Air Force leaders have modernized the rifle qualification course by adding movement while engaging targets to better train and equip Airmen for today's fight. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis)**

By Tech. Sgt. Joseph Sanchez  
37th Training Support Squadron

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas – Airmen taking the new Air Force Rifle Qualification Course are finding themselves learning more than just basic marksmanship skills.

Changes requiring more intensive weapons training were published in September by

the Air Force Security Center and officially took effect Dec. 1.

“Our combatant commanders identified over the last 10 years that we needed to move away from the Cold War-era style of qualification and give our Airmen quality training,” said Master Sgt. Scott Brown, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe combat arms program manager at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. “More and more Airmen are actively engaging the

enemy down range, and they need to have a higher standard of weapons training.”

Although there are numerous differences between the new and the old courses, the most significant change is the emphasis on combat engagement and developing shooter survivability skills.

Previously, the “just-in-time” training prior to a deployment or permanent change of station ensured Airmen had the general

Thieken said. “However, as we continue to support contingency operations with more and more Air Force personnel performing missions outside the wire, it was imperative that our training evolve to meet the changing environment.”

The new course incorporates target acquisition, threat discrimination, multiple-threat engagement, and surviving weapon malfunction and stoppages.

The major changes in the qualification course include more stringent time constraints, required wear of a combat helmet and body armor, movement during fire, and different firing tactics, said Staff Sgt. Marc Rodriguez, a 52nd Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. Also, there are now three skill assessments, or tables, in which some Airmen will participate.

Table 1 encompasses the positions currently in the rifle qualification course. Table 2 involves new movements and short-range marksmanship. Table 3 involves night firing and is primarily for career fields where Airmen require advanced weapons training, like security forces.

As an example of the new course's difficulty, Rodriguez said that during the move and shoot portion, Airmen will have seconds to advance to the firing line, shoot while standing, crouch, and shoot while kneeling. Rounds not fired within the time limit don't count toward qualification.

“There are time constraints on all the firing positions to increase your heart rate and make you nervous,” said Tech. Sgt. Robert Duerr, a 52nd SFS combat arms instructor. “At no point downrange will you be shooting at a stationary, small black target with a circle on it. This training will definitely make the individual more competent and confident in their handling of the weapon.”

As a result of the training changes, the number of rounds fired and the additional qualification stages increase the length of classroom training as well as time on the range. Bases that have already used the new curriculum have found the course now takes 10 to 12 hours to complete.

Growing pains are expected with the new course, Duerr said. However, the training is intended to hone Airmen's weapons skills to provide a better equipped and trained warfighter to combatant commanders downrange. The training may be difficult, but it is not impossible.

Preparation for the course is essential, Thieken said. He recommended Airmen brush up on weapons training by reading their Airman's Manual.

## Airmen in base operations work to maintain airfield

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf  
JBER Public Affairs

Airmen in the 3rd Operations Support Squadron, Base Operations are responsible for all the aircraft inbound and outbound to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and support multiple units including the 3rd Wing, the U.S. Army, and civilian aircraft.

“If we fail to operate, no aircraft can take off or land and then we don't have a mission,” said Airman Joshua Merritt, native of Grants Pass, Ore.

The work Base Operations Airmen do behind the scenes keeps the air field from becoming chaotic. These Airmen showed Chief Master Sgt. Steven Bohannon, 3rd Wing command chief, some of the specific tasks with of their jobs Nov. 30.

“I come out to hang out with you guys because where I sit, my perspective on things in the wing is a view of how the whole of the wing is doing, but what I don't get is how things look from your perspective,” Bohannon said.

The visit isn't a tour of the facility or the equipment used by the Airmen; it is an actual “teach me your job” visit. Chief Bohannon said he wants to learn the jobs and do them shoulder to shoulder with the Airmen.

“I found that if I get down and get my hands dirty with you (Airmen) and you teach me your job and I get appreciation of how much work and skill it takes, that you will drop your guard a little bit and would tell me things you've noticed that you might not



**Airman 1st Class Aubrey Gregoire, 3rd Operations Support Squadron airfield management operations coordinator, shows Chief Master Sgt. Steven Bohannon, 3rd Wing command chief, how to log a flight plan into their log at Base Operations Nov. 30. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)**

normally talk to a command chief about,” Chief Bohannon said.

Airmen showed Bohannon the ins-and-outs of airfield operations.

“I make sure the airfield runs smoothly by ensuring all the parking areas are safe for aircraft to land and park without any incidents,” said Airman 1st Class Aubrey Gregoire of New Braunfels, Texas.

As part of the visit, Bohannon learned

how to enter a flight plan into a log and keep track of when aircraft are coming in and when they are taking off. Gregoire led the first session with Bohannon and then took him out to perform a runway condition reading.

“A runway condition reading is the number that we take for snow or ice on runways and taxiways to make sure they're safe for aircraft movement,” Gregoire said.

The device used to take these reading is a Bowmonk Airfield Friction meter called a Bowmonk Mark 3. This device is a portable electronic instrument for measuring and recording the maximum deceleration possible on a runway or road surface. Basically, Airfield Management personnel drive between 20 and 25 miles per hour on the airfield, induce a skid, letting off the brake prior to stopping. This action allows the Bowmonk to provide a numerical reading of the pavement's braking action.

Airfield Management personnel decipher that information and translate it to Technical Order standards so that pilots know the required braking action for their specific aircraft types, Gregoire said.

After the condition reading, Senior Airman Joshua Mariscal, native of San Jose, Calif., showed the chief how to send a Visual Flight Rule outbound message to multiple airports.

The procedure is important because flying VFR means the aircraft is invisible to radar and we send a report to wherever the aircraft is going, saying they will be there at a certain time, and if they aren't there something is going on, Mariscal said.

“Our initial job is ground safety operation of all aircraft,” Mariscal said.

From tracking the schedules of incoming flights to measuring ice and snow on the runway and making available adequate aircraft parking, Airmen of the 3rd OSS, Base Ops, play a key role in the overall 3rd Wing mission.

## 6-17th Cav home for the holidays

**Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Folk of 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade exchanges holds his son Ethan at Fort Wainwright after the squadron's return Tuesday from a 10-month deployment to Iraq. The redeployment makes the 6-17th one of the last active-duty Army units to leave Iraq. While deployed as Task Force Saber, the squadron was responsible for full-spectrum aviation operations. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy)**



## State partnership program medal awarded for service with Mongolia

Alaska National Guard  
Public Affairs

Alaska Guardsmen are now eligible for the State Partnership Program Ribbon as a result of a successful partnership with the Republic of Mongolia through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

“In order for Soldiers or Airmen of the Alaska National Guard to receive the ribbon, they must have deployed to the Republic of Mongolia or any other country with a Mongolian delegation in support of the SPP for a period of at least seven days including travel,” said Maj. Wayne Don, Alaska State Partnership Program director.

The Alaska National Guard SPPR is divided into three vertical sections of blue, gold and red, representing the significance of the partnership between Alaska and

the Republic of Mongolia by representing the colors of each of their flags.

The blue also represents the eternal skies expanding above both nations, the red symbolizes progress and prosperity and the gold signifies wealth.

“Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard who meet the criteria to receive a ribbon, may be retroactively awarded,” Don said. “We have been authorized to award the ribbon for service all the way back to September 2003, when the State Partnership Program began.”

Don said that Alaska National Guard members who traveled and participated in exercises in Mongolia are eligible to receive the ribbon because they have played an integral role in developing the relationship between the sister countries.

# USARAK Soldier weds at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

*Soldier survives IED attack in Afghanistan in July, weds high school sweetheart in October*

By Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy  
U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs

Dana Wille and Sgt. Davin Dumar had known each other since high school and ran on the track team together.

They admittedly had crushes on each other, but each was too shy to profess his or her love for the other.

"Davin was a senior while Dana was just a freshman", said Laura Wille, Dana's mother, "And they kept in touch via the Internet."

She said she didn't think the two talked to each other that much; just "kept track" of each other.

Dumar joined the Army in 2005, a year after high school, and except for a one-year tour at Fort Bragg, N.C., was stationed in Alaska.

This April, during Dumar's second Alaska tour as an infantryman with the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, he unexpectedly got back in touch with Dana when he commented on the Facebook site of a mutual friend who, unbeknownst to him, had passed away.

Dana saw Davin's comment and she thought it best to let him know what had happened to their friend, according to Laura Wille.

Soon they started calling and texting each other.

"I couldn't tell you how many pages of text I saw on her phone bill," Laura Wille said.

When Dumar deployed to Afghanistan



**Dana and Sgt. Davin Dumar share in a bite of their wedding cake during Oct. 8 nuptials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. (Courtesy photo)**

with the 1-25th SBCT in May, the two kept in touch as much as possible.

Dumar said he wrote more than 30 letters in that time and had decided he

wanted to spend the rest of his life with Dana Wille.

He said he was going to surprise her with a marriage proposal on his mid-tour leave

in August, but an unforeseen event July 7 changed those plans.

Dumar was injured in an attack and had to be transported to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for treatment.

Dumar's father notified Dana and she got to the hospital as soon as she could.

"She never wavered, never looked back," Dana's mother said.

"She just couldn't wait to get down to see him in person and reassure him that she was still there for him."

"I think he proposed to her the day after she got there and she thought he was out of it on his medication or just joking with her," Laura Wille said.

"She said 'yes,' but then she just pushed it aside thinking this was not for real, but a day or two later he reassured her that he was dead serious."

"She was kind enough to stay with me when I lost my leg," Dumar said, "I figured if she could stick with me through that she could stick with me through anything."

"My dad had my credit card and I had him run it for her to buy her own ring because I was in the hospital and couldn't do it," he said.

Dana Wille started planning the wedding. She made all the arrangements and the date was set: Oct 8.

A few friends, doctors and nurses and the bride and groom's parents were in attendance, along with a surprise visit from U.S. Army Alaska's Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo and Command Sgt. Maj. David Turnbull.

Dana Wille and Dumar were wed at the Walter Reed Chapel and plan to have another ceremony next November in Michigan so the rest of their friends and family can attend.

Dumar said he plans to stay in the Army, but will have to talk it over with his new bride ... after the honeymoon.

## Recovery care program assists wounded, ill or injured Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Chris Powell  
Defense Media Activity

FORT MEADE, Md. – When an Airman becomes seriously wounded, ill or injured, the little things have a tendency to fall through the cracks as they focus on recovery and rehabilitation.

These little things, like paying the bills for instance, have the potential to turn into major problems for Airmen and their families if they're left unresolved.

That's when Air Force Recovery Care coordinators step in.

They find service members who are wounded during war, injured in an accident or diagnosed with a serious illness and provide them with nonmedical support throughout their recovery, rehabilitation and re-integration stages.

That help includes transporta-

tion, housing, finances, legal assistance and even child care.

"We're not here to fill the role of a commander or first sergeant; they still have a very unique role in what they're doing," said Stephen Page, the Air Force Recovery Care program manager. "I spent 11 years as a first sergeant and had some of the toughest squadrons you could ever throw at a human being, and I'm here to tell you I would kill (to get) an RCC on my base to help me get my Airmen to where they need to be."

When a coordinator finds an Airman who wants their assistance, the RCC completes a comprehensive recovery plan with the service member to establish goals and identify nonmedical areas where help is needed. "Even if it's something as simple as them needing glasses or if they're trying to get

nonmedical attendant orders, we do all that for them," said Donald Damron, an RCC at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

For Senior Airman Mike Malarsie, who was blinded by a roadside bomb in 2010 while deployed to Afghanistan, that meant Damron had to assist in finding him and his family base housing at Lackland Air Force Base that was compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"Mike is a perfect example of what our program does. He has had four RCCs from the time he came out of the theater and was at (Walter Reed National Military Medical Center)," Damron said. "From there, he went to the Palo Alto Rehabilitation Center in California, then to New Mexico and now he's stationed here in San Antonio. (The recovery care

coordinators) took him all the way from the recovery stage, through the rehabilitation stage and now I have him (during his) reintegration stage. We do a smooth hand off and make sure that nothing's dropped, the wheel's not reinvented every time, and we're there."

Malarsie's wife, Jesse, said she is pleased with the assistance the coordinators have provided her husband and family.

"I have been really impressed. They have been there through everything," she said.

The majority of the coordinators are former first sergeants, command chiefs or colonels, Damron said.

The experience the RCCs gained during their time in the Air Force enables them to provide better service to Airmen because they understand how the system works.

"As a former first sergeant, I'm used to dealing with financial issues, marital issues, substance abuse issues, and I think a lot of that prepared me for the job I do today," Damron said. "We network with support agencies, agencies within the Department of Defense and agencies within the local communities, so we can cut through a lot of the bureaucracy for the military member."

The Air Force RCC program began in November 2008.

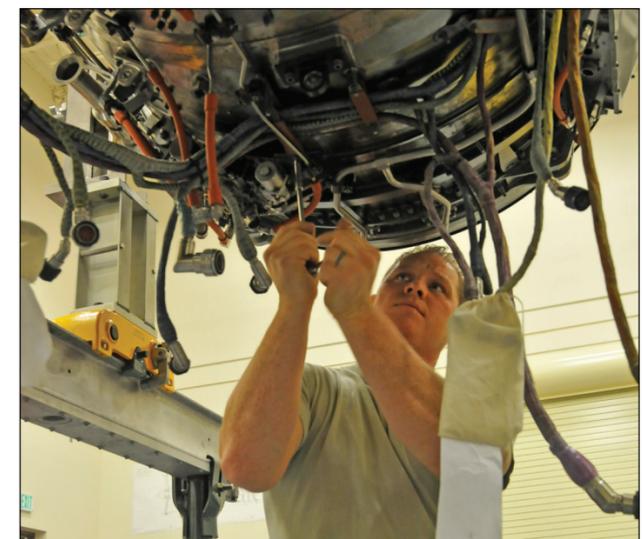
Currently, there are 33 RCCs in the program located throughout the continental U.S. as well as one in Hawaii and Landstuhl, Germany, serving more than 1,100 wounded, ill or injured Airmen, Damron said.

They're strategically stationed at hospitals and other locations where high volume of wounded, ill or injured Airmen are being treated.



LEFT: Air Force Staff Sgt. Jose Caballero, left, controls a hoist as Tech Sgt. Daniel Powers guides the upper fan duct removal from a F-119-100 Pratt-Whitney engine from a F-22 fighter. Caballero and Powers are assigned to the 3rd Maintenance Squadron, 3rd Wing. RIGHT: Tech. Sgt. Daniel Powers, 3rd Maintenance Squadron, from Edgewater, Florida, works on a F-119-100 Pratt and Whitney engine for a F-22 Raptor. Powers is attending a 173 hour training course on the engine. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steve White)

## Field training division offers F-22 engine classes



A F-119-100 Pratt and Whitney engine, 16.5 feet long, weighs 5,000 pounds and costs \$10 million and is only half of the power plant for a F-22 Raptor. ABOVE: Tech Sgt. Dan Oden, originally from Anchorage, returns as an instructor for the 32nd Training Squadron, Detachment 14, on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Oden has 13 years experience with engines for F-15 and F-22 fighters. LEFT: Air Force Staff Sgt Jose Caballero, 3rd Maintenance Squadron, from Springfield, Massachusetts, works on the F-119-100 Pratt-Whitney engine for a F-22 Raptor.





# Briefs and Announcements

## Government employee union meeting

American Federation of Government Employees 1101 will hold a meeting Tuesday in the People Center at 5 p.m.

The 2012 federal budget will be reviewed and discussed.

All members please plan to attend. For more information call 753-7154.

## Disposition of effects:

Air Force 1st Lt. Drew Rimelspach, 381 Intelligence Squadron, is authorized to make disposition of the personal effects of Airman 1st Class Robert W. Koyle III, 381IS, as stated in AFI 34-511.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Rimelspach at extension 552-5761.

## Employee assistance

The Employee Assistance Program is confidential, voluntary, and at no cost to the employee. The screening and referral service is provided to supervisors, civilian employees, their spouse, retired military and disabled veterans.

For the supervisor, the EAP provides expert consultation and training for organizational leadership, (e.g. management, supervisors, and union stewards) regarding the problematic or troubled employee, enhancing the work environment and improving employee performance.

For the employee and all other eligible clients, the EAP provides confidential problem identification and assessment services.

For cases where referrals are required, case monitoring and follow-up is provided.

The EAP also conducts training for civilian employees on topics such as drug free workplace, workplace violence, customer relations and other tailored training that contributes to the overall welfare of the civilian workforce.

For more information contact George Mongar at 384-0863 or in person at Building 658, 1st floor on 5th Street, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

## Survey for medical staff

The Department of Defense Patient Safety Program asks that

all Military Treatment Facility staff complete the Tri-Service Survey on Patient Safety by the Dec. 19 deadline.

All staff members in direct-care facilities are invited to complete the anonymous survey, which will allow the DoD PSP to:

- Learn about staff opinions of military patient safety culture
- Health system facilities
- Raise awareness about patient safety issues
- Prioritize safety efforts to continue to provide safer care
- Assess safety culture changes over time

Survey results will be released in Spring 2012, and will convey staff perceptions of areas essential to a safety culture, including: reporting errors, communicating feedback on errors, learning from errors, working in teams, handling care transitions and engendering management support for patient safety.

If you have not yet completed the survey and wish to do so, talk to your facility's patient safety manager. For more information about the survey, visit the PSP website at [www.health.mil/dodpatientsafety/CultureSurvey.aspx](http://www.health.mil/dodpatientsafety/CultureSurvey.aspx).

## Defense Biometric ID System registration

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 will incur delays at the gate and be forced to the already busy Visitor Control Center to gain access to JBER.

## Renters insurance

Aurora Military Housing is providing free renter's insurance to tenants of all Joint Base Elmen-

dorf-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](http://www.auroramilitaryhousing.com).

## First time homebuyer

The 673d Civil Engineer Squadron, Capital Asset Management Office offers a First Time Home Buyer's Seminar two times each month through the Volunteer Realtor Program.

We cover home loan prequalification, negotiations, offer acceptance, inspection, title search, available types of loans, and the closure process as well as many other aspects of interest to a prospective home owner.

If you are interested in becoming a home owner and wish to attend please contact our office at 552-4439 to be included on the sign-up sheet.

## Furnishings management

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

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

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

These items are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The service member is responsible for transporting these furnishings. Airmen should take a copy of PCS orders to the Government Housing

Office at 6346 Arctic Warrior Drive to schedule delivery. Call 552-2740 for any questions regarding the FMO program. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Soldiers can call 384-0092 for the JBER-Richardson FMO.

## Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program is available to all eligible active-duty members and consists of two options. The first option, RPP Plus, includes utilities and sometimes cable costs providing an easier budget with a set rental payment year round.

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

Both options are made available with no deposits or fees to the member with the exclusion of pet fees as it may apply. This program is designed to provide active-duty military personnel, enlisted and officers, accompanied and unaccompanied with affordable off-base housing.

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

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

## U-Fix-It Store reopened

The U-Fix-it Store, previously known as the Self Help Store on JBER-Richardson, reopened in Building 706 to all Aurora Military Housing tenants.

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

The items available are subject to change and limits and some may have a cost. There are also American flag kits and fire extinguishers available. U-Fix-It work includes all home maintenance activities.

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

This allows tenants to do work in their homes themselves, thus improving the appearance of the interior as well as the exterior of the home. There are two stores located on base. The JBER-Elmendorf location is 6350 Arctic Warrior Drive and it is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch noon to 1 p.m.).

The JBER-Richardson location is Building 706 1st St., open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday; Saturday usage will require using the JBER-Elmendorf location.

For U-Fix-It information call 743-9070. A window blind cleaning machine is currently located at the JBER-Elmendorf location.

There will also be window blind cleaner installed at the JBER-Richardson within one or two months.

A "reservation required to use" policy is in place with the priority going to military members PCSing. For more information, call 552-4439.

## MiCare registration

MiCare, the online personal health record and secure messaging application, has been available to patients and medical group staff at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson since December. More than 2,400 patients have already signed up to take advantage of the ability to communicate with their primary care clinicians online.

Registered patients also have access to electronic records, allowing them to view and maintain their health records. The 673d Medical Group is the first Air Force site to test this system. Once registered, patients have the ability to participate in the study by completing a short series of surveys during the course of the next year.

This provides an opportunity for all active-duty, retired and dependent patients to have an impact on shaping the future of Air Force health services.

To register, visit the Military Treatment Facility, where enrollment specialists are available in each primary care clinic. All beneficiaries who are enrolled in the family health, pediatrics, flight medicine and internal medicine clinics are eligible to participate.





## Beat winter blues

Knock out the darkness with activities and excitement on JBER, Page B-4



## Raptors and reindeer

Santa visits 90th FS children, Page B-8



[www.jber.af.mil/news](http://www.jber.af.mil/news)

# COMMUNITY

Volume 2, No. 49

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

December 9, 2011

# ...LET IT SNOW

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding  
JBER Public Affairs

Hillberg Ski Area is open for the season, after a ceremonial first run.

The first to conquer the snow Saturday were Army Col. Timothy Prior, 673d Air Base Wing vice commander, and Air Force Col. Edward Thomas, 673d Mission Support Group commander.

"I would like to thank the MSG and the Force Support Squadron for all the hard work in getting Hillberg ready," Prior said. "All the members of the ski team

are here, and it's the best way to learn how to ski — they'll have them up and going in no time."

Hillberg is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. The ski hill will also be open during the holidays and for spring break.

Thomas quoted poet Jim Vaughn by saying, "Skiing is for dinosaurs and for old people, and any 13-year-old kid can tell you that," so without further ado let's open the hill and have a great season."

Hillberg has a full staff of snowboard and ski instructors this year, four of which are snowboard instructors. JBER is the first military base to have the Burton Learn-To-Ride system. Next week, Burton instructors will be holding a course for Hillberg's snowboard instructors on how to operate, use and maneuver the new boards.

There's not only skiing and snowboarding offered, there is

also tubing, ice skating, dog sledding, sledding and ice-fishing available at Hillberg. This year's manager, Trevor Bird, said he plans to have competitions to give away prizes, to include a series of Rail Jams.

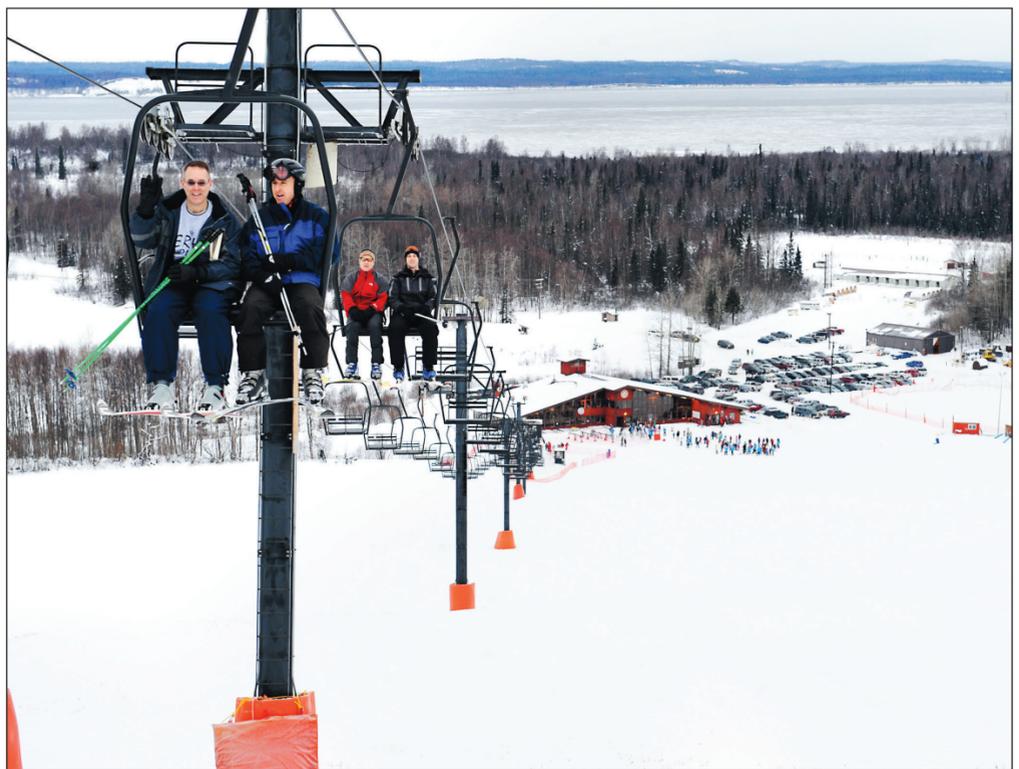
This will be held Dec. 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. Anyone with base access is welcome to rent gear and participate in activities Hillberg offers.

Due to recent weather, Hillberg may have certain area closures. Call the Ski hotline at 552-4276 or 552-4838.

For more information on what Hillberg has to offer, visit [www.elmendorf-richardson.com/Dyea&Hillberg/](http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com/Dyea&Hillberg/). They can also be found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/hillbergskiarea](http://www.facebook.com/hillbergskiarea).



Trevor Bird, Hillberg Ski Area manager, shows off the smallest and largest snowboards Hillberg now has available this year as part of the new Burton collection Saturday. JBER is the first military base to have the Burton Learn-to-Ride system.



Col. Timothy Prior, 673d Air Base Wing vice commander, waves as he and Col. Edward Thomas, 673d Mission Support Group commander, make their way up the ski lift at Hillberg Ski Area Saturday. Both commanders made the first trip down the hill to officially start the season. Hillberg is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 8 p.m., weather permitting. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)

# TOPS IN BLUE



ABOVE: Senior Airman James Santos performs a trumpet solo at the Talkeetna base theater Monday. Santos is from Vacaville, Calif.



Tops in Blue Airmen dressed as Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley perform at Talkeetna Theater Monday. Tops in Blue is the all-Air Force show that travels the world, entertaining Airmen and families with song and dance. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)



RIGHT: Air Force Staff Sgt. Derek Speights (right) and Senior Airman Alexandria Salinas performs a '50s dance number at the Talkeetna Theater Monday. Speights is from Chesapeake, Va. and Salinas is from Hopkinsville, Ky.

# Advent season: Investing in traditions for the family

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Col.) Richard Quinn USARAK Chaplain

Another holiday season is upon us. Unfortunately, I "accidentally" slept in on Black Friday and missed the "thrill" of camping out on the frozen sidewalk of some big box store for a five-dollar door-buster purchase.

Instead, I spent the day at home in the garage with a piece of driftwood I collected from the beach at Homer, making a new Advent centerpiece for our family evening devotions.

Advent? Never heard of it! In the Christian tradition, Advent is a time for preparing my heart and life for the advent (coming) of Jesus into this world as a baby 2,000 years ago.

It is also a time to do a personal inventory of my spiritual life in preparation of His promised return, the second advent.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas with the weekly themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

We started the practice of Advent in our

home when we came on active duty 27 years ago at Fort Benning, Ga.

The chapel had a mammoth Advent wreath with purple and pink candles which they lit on Sunday; we made a little wreath with four candles for our home during the week.

Each night for four weeks my wife and I, and later our two children, would light a candle as each week progressed in countdown for Christmas.

We then sang a Christmas carol, read a passage of scripture and story from a small devotion book and prayed for family, friends and anyone who sent us a Christmas card.

Then we would sing an-

other carol and blow out the candles.

On Christmas morning, before opening our gifts, we lit the candles for the last time along with a white candle in the center signifying the birth of Jesus.

I read the Christmas story from Luke 2 and we prayed as a family in thanksgiving for all the incredible blessings bestowed upon us by a loving God to include the gift of his son, Jesus.

My children are now in their 20s and my son is newly married.

Sunday night he and his wife lit their Advent wreath candle to continue a rich tradition of faith and expectation into another generation.

My daughter did the same with her dorm-mates at college, and will continue with my wife and me next week when she returns to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson for Christmas.

Anyone visiting our home for the next four weeks including in-laws and outlaws, young and old, will be a part of our family tradition.

In the Quinn home, we would not trade these next four weeks of "family investment" for all the gifts in the big box stores, Black Fridays, and cyber Mondays combined.

Think about it... What's your tradition? Is it something that draws you together and is cherished on to the next generation? Or does it only last until the batteries run out?



## Planning can make the holiday season joyous – instead of a stress marathon

Commentary by Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Husfelt Air Force News Service

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" isn't just a familiar line of a classic Christmas song.

Instead, the phrase resonates with our culture because November and December offer times of splendor and recollection unlike any other time.

Things like trips to grandmother's house for Thanksgiving, early morning shopping trips the next day to find those one-of-a-kind bargains, decorating our homes and offices to reflect the seasonal joy, and numerous opportunities to connect at our places of worship all combine to make this particular time of the year one which is filled with powerful memories and unwritten, and sometimes unreachable, expectations.

So why the connection with concerns of stress and even suicide?

Obviously, that question is too deep for a brief commentary, but I do offer a few thoughts on how this joyous season sometimes stresses out even the jolliest among us, and why it is important to proactively work against the holiday blues.

So if you want to experience a joyous holiday season without all the unwanted stress, here are a few suggestions.

First, take control where you can, and develop a list of this year's seasonal goals.

Think about what you want to

experience, accomplish and feel.

What will help you get there?

If you want a simple "old-fashioned Christmas," because last year was just too artificial for you, then maybe decorating the house with every item on the market should be left for your neighbor.

If you want to make it through the party season and still look good in your clothes, limit the amount of festive foods and work hard at maintaining your gym regimen.

The point is that you probably know what is most important to you about the holiday season.

So take the time to figure out the best way to make what is most important to you a reality.

Second, temper your expectations. You don't have to attend every Christmas party (or every special worship service for that matter) that you hear about.

You don't have to buy a gift for everyone you meet.

Decorating your home with simple or loud seasonal symbols can be very uplifting, but you don't have to use every plug in the house to make the season bright.

Though competition with neighbors can be fun, I do think this is one area where it really shouldn't be a competition.

Third, take charge of your money. Spending outside of your budget is another area which adds to the holiday stress.

If budget is a dirty word to you, try using "spending plan" instead.

It may be a little too late to entirely

implement this year, but if you are still planning to buy more gifts and host more parties, developing a reasonable and affordable spending plan can save you tons of stress.

Develop a list and spending limit to help you feel more in control and make wiser shopping decisions.

The stress relief will continue over the next couple of months as the credit card bills come due and you actually have the money to pay them off.

Fourth, develop a spirit of grace for yourself and those around you.

For instance, if your parents or other significant family members still bring up the time when you didn't live up to their expectations, try not to repeat the same family argument again this year.

This could be the perfect time to proactively engage and where appropriate confess your sins to one another.

Ask forgiveness, forgive if you need to, including forgiving yourself, encourage restoration and move on.

If the offended party isn't ready to forgive, you can't control that, but you can control your attitude as they deal with their own.

Don't escalate the situation. Don't debate. A simple, "I am really sorry you feel that way, but I hope you will learn to forgive me as I have forgiven myself (or as I have forgiven you)" may be the



Courtesy photo

best response.

Whether you are a person of faith or not, December should be a time of hope for all, that disappointments of the past are behind us and the dawn of a new year is just around the corner.

This truth can be hard to see if you feel out of control.

Try implementing the suggestions above and you should feel better.

However, if you still feel

more blue than joyous, please remember that we have a network of helping agencies ready and willing to help you find reasons to keep on living.

The chaplain corps is here to help and will also help you find additional resources to overcome whatever is taking away your joy this holiday season.

If you need more information, please give your chaplain a call.



## Experience JBER Elmendorf-Richardson

### NFL GAME SCHEDULE

#### Win NFL Tickets

#### Super Bowl Party Package

#### Weekly Prizes

#### New Football Menu



FREE Breakfast for Members: Sundays • 8 a.m. Non-Member \$6<sup>50</sup>

Call for more info: 384-7619



The Arctic Chill • Bldg 655

Sundays • 8 a.m. Mondays & Thursdays • 3 p.m. Fridays • 3 p.m. - 3 a.m. Saturdays • 6 p.m. - 3 a.m.

#### WEEK 14

##### Sunday, December 11

Houston at Cincinnati	9 a.m.
Minnesota at Detroit	9 a.m.
Oakland at Green Bay	9 a.m.
New Orleans at Tennessee	9 a.m.
Philadelphia at Miami	9 a.m.
Kansas City at NY Jets	9 a.m.
New England at Washington	9 a.m.
Atlanta at Carolina	9 a.m.
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville	9 a.m.
Indianapolis at Baltimore	9 a.m.
San Francisco at Arizona	12:05 p.m.
Chicago at Denver	12:05 p.m.
Buffalo at San Diego	12:15 p.m.
NY Giants at Dallas	4:20 p.m.

##### Monday, December 12

St. Louis at Seattle	4:30 p.m.
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#### WEEK 15

##### Thursday, December 15

Jacksonville at Atlanta	4:20 p.m.
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##### Saturday, December 17

Dallas at Tampa Bay	4:20 p.m.
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##### Sunday, December 18

Miami at Buffalo	9 a.m.
Seattle at Chicago	9 a.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis	9 a.m.
Green Bay at Kansas City	9 a.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis	9 a.m.
New Orleans at Minnesota	9 a.m.
Washington at NY Giants	9 a.m.
Carolina at Houston	9 a.m.
Detroit at Oakland	12:05 p.m.
New England at Denver	12:15 p.m.
NY Jets at Philadelphia	12:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona	12:15 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego	4:20 p.m.

##### Monday, December 19

Pittsburgh at San Francisco	4:30 p.m.
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**Arctic Oasis**  
**Winter Wonderland**  
 December 17 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 \$5 per person - Lunch Included  
 Limited Availability  
 Visit With Santa  
 Take a Horse Drawn Carriage or Dog Sled Ride  
 See the Reindeer  
 Do a little Holiday Shopping and.....  
 Don't forget your camera!

**Indoor Skateboard Competition**

Saturday, December 10 • 1 - 5 p.m. at The Deck Teen Center, 753-2371 For Ages 13 - 18: \$5

**Christmas Toy Bingo**  
Win Kids Christmas Toys

Saturday, December 10 • 2 p.m. until all prizes won Adults Only • \$3 per card

**NOON Year's Eve**  
 December 31 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sparkling Cider Toast • Noon  
 \$3 per person  
 Tickets on sale December 15\*  
 Hats • Noise Makers • Confetti • Popcorn • Cotton Candy  
 Snow Cones & Bouncy Land  
 Limited availability  
**2ND ANNUAL COUNTDOWN TO..... NOON**

For more information on these events and more call The Arctic Oasis Community Center 552-8529

# Community happenings

**THROUGH THURSDAY**  
**Anchorage Film Festival**  
 This provocative showcase of some of the best independent film and video from around the world kicked 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](http://www.anchoragefilmfestival.org) or call 338-3690.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
**Alaska Aces games**  
 The Aces face off against the Utah Grizzlies at Sullivan Arena at 7:30 p.m. both nights.  
 Visit [www.alaskaaces.com](http://www.alaskaaces.com) or call 258-2237.

**Nutcracker: All Jazz'd Up**  
 Anchorage West High Dance presents the Nutcracker Ballet in a jazz motif. Visit the West High auditorium at 7 p.m. Saturday or at 3 p.m. Sunday for a matinee with Santa and his elves.  
 For information, call 742-2500.

**SATURDAY**  
**Annual TubaChristmas**  
 Begun in 1974 as a tribute to the late artist and teacher William J. Bell, TubaChristmas is presented in 200 cities around the world. Anchorage's version is in the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 1 p.m. Decorated tubas and a festive atmosphere are great family fun.  
 For information call 263-ARTS.

**Family holiday ball**  
 Join the Alaska Dance Theatre for an evening of music, dance, and entertainment. Live dolls, the Sugar Plum Fairy, and holiday activities are on the docket, and a silent auction will be held for holiday tree creations.  
 For information call 277-9591.

**Alaska Holiday Train**  
 Get into the holiday spirit with a train ride from Anchorage to Indian and back.  
 Each two-hour ride features a visit from Santa and a magician, coloring contests, door prizes and carolers.  
 For information call (800) 544-0552.

**SUNDAY**  
**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.

**DEC. 16**  
**Curator's Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center tour**  
 The Anchorage Museum hosts a tour of the Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center, with more than 600 Alaska Native artifacts on loan. Curator tours are offered on the third Friday of each month at noon.  
 For information call 929-9200.

**DEC. 16, 17, AND 18**  
**Alaska Aces games**  
 The Aces battle the Ontario Reign at 7:15 p.m. all three nights at the Sullivan Arena.  
 Visit [www.alaskaaces.com](http://www.alaskaaces.com) or call 258-2237.

**DEC. 17**  
**Christmas Village**  
 The Dena'ina center hosts the fourth annual Christmas Village, featuring 200 vendors selling an assortment of gifts for everyone on your list. Admission is free.  
 For information call 272-5634.

**Christmas Around the Samovar Russian style**  
 St. Innocent Russian Orthodox Cathedral hosts this festival of food. Gourmet cookies, tea, Christmas foods, fish pies, clam chowder, borscht and more provide a taste of Russian culture from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 For information call 338-1440.

**Gingerbread carnival**  
 Get into the holiday spirit with the kids by making and decorating gingerbread houses, having photos taken with Santa and making presents for friends. Head to the Spenard Recreation Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Parents must stay with the children.  
 For information, call 343-4495.

**Anchorage Ballet Christmas 2011**  
 International guest artists join the Anchorage Ballet performing favorites from "The Nutcracker" at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Guests include the

Momentum Dance Collective.  
 For information visit [www.anchorageballet.com](http://www.anchorageballet.com) or call 569-3267.

**DEC. 18**  
**Family Holiday Pops**  
 The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts hosts this holiday concert starting at 4 p.m. to put you in the mood for the season.  
 For information call 263-ARTS.

**DEC. 21**  
**Night Lights bus tour**  
 See Anchorage's brightest houses from a comfortable motor coach with plenty of refreshments. Be at the Sears Mall parking lot for the tour which starts at 5:45 p.m.  
 For tickets and information, call 350-4869.

**THROUGH DEC. 21**  
**It's A Wonderful Life**  
 The beloved holiday classic comes to life as a 1940s radio broadcast at Cyrano's Off-Center Playhouse. Get into the holiday spirit with this classic.  
 For information call 274-2599.

**DEC. 29 AND 30**  
**Mannheim Steamroller**  
 Wrap up the holiday season with America's favorite holiday celebration. The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts hosts this dazzling multimedia show starting at 7:30 p.m. both nights.  
 For information call 263-ARTS.

**DEC. 31**  
**Fire and Ice celebration**  
 Come to the town square at 5 p.m. in downtown Anchorage for the Fire and Ice New Year's Eve celebration, featuring fire jugglers, silk acrobats, a light show, music and more. Ring out 2011 with the 8 p.m. fireworks spectacular.  
 For information visit [www.anchoragedowntown.com](http://www.anchoragedowntown.com) or call 279-5650.

**New Year's Eve dance**  
 Dance your way into the New Year at the Dena'ina Center with Five Star Entertainment's DJs and three different themed dances.  
 For information visit [www.fivesteralaska.com](http://www.fivesteralaska.com).

**JAN. 7**  
**Silent film double feature**  
 Revisit the first days of cinema

with Buster Keaton's "One Week" and Harold Lloyd in "Safety Last" at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. These classic film showings start at 8 p.m.  
 For information, call 274-8668,

**JAN. 12 THROUGH 21**  
**Beauty and the Beast**  
 Disney's animated hit comes to life in Anchorage in this Broadway musical. Times of the show vary, usually at 7:30 or 8 p.m. with matinees available.  
 For schedule and information, call the ACPA at 263-ARTS.

**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.

**1, 2, 3 Magic classes**  
 Family Advocacy hosts this class on handling difficult behavior in children and encouraging good behavior in a clear, fair way. The techniques work even for children with disabilities and attention deficit disorder. 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.

**Wired Cafe for Airmen**  
 The Wired Cafe is located at 7076 Fighter Dr., between Polaris and Yukla dormitories.  
 The cafe has wireless Internet and programs throughout the week. There are also free home-cooked meals Thursday evenings, served at 6:30 p.m.  
 For information, call 552-4422.

## 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

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

### Christmas, holiday services at JBER chapels

**Soldier's Chapel**  
**Dec. 24, 5 p.m.** - Christmas Vigil (Children's Mass)  
**Dec. 24, 7 p.m.** - Christmas Eve candlelight service  
**Dec. 25, 9 a.m.** - Christmas Mass (usual time)  
**Dec. 25, 11 a.m.** - Christmas Day Protestant service  
**Dec. 31, 6 p.m.** - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God vigil  
**Dec. 31, 8 p.m.** - New Year's Eve Watch Night service

**Chapel One**  
**Dec. 17, 5 p.m.** - Simbang Gabi (Filipino Mass)  
**Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.** - Christmas Eve pageant  
**Dec. 24, 7 p.m.** - Christmas Eve candlelight service  
**Dec. 25** - Sunday services as usual  
**Dec. 31, 6 p.m.** - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God vigil  
**Dec. 31, TBD** - New Year's Eve Watch Night service  
**Jan. 2, 8:30 p.m.** - Epiphany Mass



## Experience JBER Elmendorf-Richardson

**JBER Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center Special Trips**

**Alyeska Ski/Snowboard Trips**  
 December 10: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cost \$100.00  
 (Includes lift ticket, equipment rental and transportation)

**Hatchers Pass Snow Shoe Adventure Trip**  
 December 17: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cost \$75.00  
 (Includes snow shoe rental and transportation)

**Snowmachine Safety Course**  
 December 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 23, 27 & 28:  
 Noon - 4 p.m. or 5:30 - 7 p.m. Cost \$40.00  
 (course required to operate snowmachines on JBER)

**To register, call 384-1475 or 1476**

**Hillberg Ski Area is Open:**  
**Fri, Sat, Sun**  
**Noon - 8 p.m.**

**Dog Sled Rides**  
 December 18

**Open Winter Break**  
 December 16 - Jan 2

**Closed**  
 Christmas & New Year's Day

**Lesson Center**  
**552-5026**

**Ski Hotline**  
**552-4276**

facebook/hillbergskiarea

**Hillberg Ski Area**  
 552-4838

**Cross-Country Skiing at EAGLEGLLEN NOW OPEN EVERY DAY!**

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Excluding Holidays  
**FREE Cross-country Skis**  
**For Day Use Only as Part of the "Fit to Fight" Program.**  
*Skis must be returned by 3 p.m.*  
 Season Rental Packages available at JBER Outdoor Recreation Centers.  
**Call 552-2023** for more information.

**Sking & Tubing at DYE A Ski Center**

Tubing Hill: 50 min. for \$3 pp.  
 Equipment Rentals  
 Hillberg Season Passes Honored  
**OPEN CHRISTMAS BREAK:**  
 December 16-23 • Noon - 8 p.m.  
 December 27-30 • Noon - 8 p.m.  
 December 31 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Closed December 25 & 26**  
**Closed January 1 & 2**  
**Call for updates:**

**Dyea Ski Center: 384-2960**  
 Fridays • 3 - 8 p.m.  
 Saturdays & Sundays • 12 - 8 p.m.

**Outdoor Recreation Elmendorf**

**Rifle Cartridge Reloading**  
 December 9 • 5:30 p.m. • \$5

**Cross Country Ski Waxing Clinic**  
 December 10 • 1 p.m. • FREE

**Cross Country Ski Lessons**  
 December 11 & 18 • 1 p.m.  
 \$10 per person • 13 years & up  
*Class size is limited.*  
**Advanced Sign-Up required for all ORC trips/classes.**  
**CALL 552 - 2023**

**Ice Skating 24/7 & FREE!**

**JBER Richardson**  
 Behind the Buckner Physical Fitness Center

**JBER Elmendorf**  
 Off Fighter Dr. on Doolittle Ave. near the Art & Crafts Center and also one on the far side of the Hillberg Lodge

**NOTICE FOR SALE**

Force Support Squadron used equipment to be auctioned off beginning Dec. 3. Includes:  
 ATV's Campers, Boats, Snowmachines Exercise Equipment and more!

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

# Enjoy winter in Alaska – safely!

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Members of the intramural basketball teams from the 673d Civil Engineering Squadron and the 673d Contracting Squadron compete at Elmendorf Fitness Center Nov. 30. Intramural sports are just one way to stay fit during dark Alaskan winters at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

# THE WINTER BLUES

By Senior Airman Blake Mize  
JBER Public Affairs

As the seconds ticked away on an early-season intramural basketball game between teams from the 673d Contracting Squadron and the 673d Civil Engineering Squadron at the Elmendorf Fitness Center Nov. 30, Senior Airman Tyler Ingalls, 673d CONS, drove to the basket with his team down by two with a chance to tie the game.

Ingalls' layup was half-way down before it finally rimmed out ending a furious rally by the CONS team and giving the 673d CES a 60 to 58 victory.

This intramural game is just one example of the many opportunities offered at JBER for community members here to stay active during the winter months and not become bogged down by the short days and low temperatures.

According to *mayoclinic.com*, Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, is a type of depression that occurs at the same time every year.

Symptoms ordinarily start in the fall and may continue into the winter months, draining energy and making sufferers feel moody.

Less often, SAD causes depression in the spring or early summer.

Along with making indoor settings sunnier and brighter and getting outside as much as possible to soak up fresh air and outdoor light, the website stresses the importance of exercise to combat this disorder.

Exercise relieves stress and anxiety, both of which can increase SAD symptoms. Also, being more fit can increase self esteem, which can lift one's mood.

That said, there are several activities offered at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson facilities, including intramural sports, that ensure service members here have the opportunity to avoid the symptoms of SAD as well as staying in shape.

The Arctic Oasis Community Center, located at 9497 20th St., offers myriad activities for people of all ages and fitness levels.

Within the facility, there are two playgrounds for children, a fitness center that overlooks the playgrounds, an archery simulator, a 30-foot rock climbing wall, an indoor skate park, an 18-hole miniature golf course and an indoor golf simulator.

In addition to the many facilities the Arctic Oasis offers, guests also may take part in martial arts or dance classes offered there or enjoy an array of massage options.

Also located within the Arctic Oasis is JBER's Health and Wellness Center, which offers a variety of programs that can be individualized to fit the needs of those interested.

The HAWC offers everything from fitness education to nutrition counseling.

Resources available to JBER members are the Elmendorf Fitness Center, located in building 9510, and Buckner Physical Fitness Center, located in building 690.

The Elmendorf facility encompasses eight specialized training areas, an indoor running track, six racquetball courts, several basketball courts, a swim-

ming pool, free weights, cardiovascular equipment and much more.

Buckner Physical Fitness Center is similar in composition.

The fitness centers also offer several organized classes including spin, circuit, yoga and Zumba classes as well as personal trainers for those who want guidance and motivation included in their workout.

The newest addition to JBER's fitness facilities is Hangar 5, located in building 7309.

The 12,000-square foot facility is filled with equipment and offers an alternative workout similar to CrossFit or P90X as well as an indoor track.

The Arctic CrossFit Club is currently conducting introductory CrossFit courses Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Finally, for those who can brave the arctic temperatures, the Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center offers several outdoor activities, including Hillberg and Dyea Ski Areas.

The office also rents out the equipment like skis, snowboards, boots, bindings and even clothing needed to enjoy the unique, on-base ski slope.

Whatever the activity, the important thing is that activity is being done. Physical fitness is an important aspect of life for anyone, anywhere.

However for military members in Alaska, it is even more vital.

For more information on the facilities mentioned above, call:

- Arctic Oasis: 552-8529
- Buckner Physical Fitness Center: 384-1308
- Elmendorf Fitness Center/Hangar 5: 552-3624
- Outdoor Recreation: 384-1475/1476

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Members of the intramural basketball teams from the 673d Civil Engineering Squadron and the 673d Contracting Squadron compete at the Elmendorf Fitness Center Nov. 30. Intramural sports are one way to stay fit in the winter at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Blake Mize)



## TRICARE has vaccine options

By Tyler Patterson  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

It's flu season, and you know what that means: time for your flu shot.

You probably already knew that TRICARE covers seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at retail pharmacies.

And you probably also knew that TRICARE covers those vaccines at 100 percent, with no copay. Combined, that means you and your family can get any of those shots at any retail pharmacy in the TRICARE network.

It's convenient and there's no copay. So how can the benefit get any better?

It's a tough question, but one that TRICARE's got an answer for: they've added more vaccines to the list.

### Expanded vaccination coverage

Now, in addition to flu and pneumonia vaccines, you can also head to any TRICARE-network retail pharmacy to get immunized against measles, mumps, shingles and many other preventable diseases. Be sure to visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

[www.tricare.mil/vaccines](http://www.tricare.mil/vaccines) to see the full list.

Once you've made the decision to get the shot, finding a network retail pharmacy couldn't be easier.

Find a pharmacy online at [www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/pharmacy/](http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/pharmacy/) or just call (877) 363-1303. You'll also want to get in touch with the pharmacy itself to make sure it actually carries the shot you need.

### Even more no-copay benefits

Don't forget, vaccinations aren't the only no-copay preventive care benefits.

TRICARE covers most recommended health screenings, too.

Check out TriWest's screening guide to see what screenings are recommended for you.

Keep in mind that while the care itself is covered, you may still need to pay a cost share or copay for the office visit.

Check your TRICARE plan for details.

While you're online, you should also visit [www.tricare.mil/homedelivery](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery) and find out how to have 90 days of most generic prescription drugs delivered right to your door, with no copay.

## All Army spouses, children can now apply for AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief  
News Release

Army Emergency Relief funds scholarships for children and spouses of Soldiers. Dec. 1 kicked off the new year for scholarships.

### For spouses

The Spouse Education Assistance Program is a need-based education program designed to provide spouses of active duty or retired Soldiers with financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree.

Applicants must apply each year, and scholarship awards do not exceed four academic years.

The application for the 2012-2013 academic year is available.

The scholarship application is available on [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).

All spouses will be allowed to attend school part-time or full-time.

Part-time students must take a minimum of six credit hours per semester. Full-time students must take a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.

Scholarship eligibility for part-time students will be eight years. Scholarship eligibility for full-time students will be four years.

Scholarship funding will be for the fall and spring semesters only.

To apply, complete an online application and mail the supporting documents by the applicable deadlines as described in the online instructions.

The scholarship application must be submitted online and on time, and all required documents must be received by the established deadline dates to be considered.

### For children

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program assists children of Soldiers in obtaining a 4-year undergraduate degree.

The applicant must be the dependent of a Soldier on federal active duty, a retiree, or the dependent of a deceased active or retired Soldier.

An eligible dependent must be registered in DEERS and under the

age of 23 for the entire academic year. (Eligibility ends at the end of the semester/term in which the student reaches their 23rd birthday.)

Unmarried for the entire academic year.

The applicant must be a full time undergraduate student for the entire academic year at a school accredited by the U.S. Department of Education, and maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.

To apply, complete an online application and mail the supporting documents by the applicable deadlines as described in the online instructions.

The majority of students who successfully meet the deadline dates receive a scholarship.

The application is available each year after December 1st at [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).

Academic achievements and individual accomplishments may be considered.

The scholarship application must be submitted online and on time, and all required documents must be received by the established deadline dates to be considered.

## Births

### Nov. 15

A daughter, Sophia Mackenzie Beaulieu, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces, at 9:47 a.m. to Mandy Lea Beaulieu and Sgt. David Joseph Beaulieu of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

### Nov. 16

A son, Eshan Aalee Keith, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces, at 7:54 a.m. to Ayesha Aaliyah Keith and Spc. Braskin Fashawn Keith of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

A son, Kaden Paul Overstreet, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces, at 4:33 p.m. to Kayla Marie Overstreet and Spc. Kristopher Paul Overstreet of C Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

### Nov. 18

A daughter, Hannah Grace Emery, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces, at 5:11 a.m. to Mindi Joy Emery and Air Force Maj. Robert Lewis Emery of the 673d Surgical Operations Squadron.

A daughter, Annaleise Evinette Sexton, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds 12 ounces, at 10:42 a.m. to Evinette Rochelle Sexton and Army Staff Sgt. Dale Francis Sexton II of the 6th Engineer Battalion.

### Nov. 19

A daughter, Alexis Ranae Piercy, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces, at 4:56 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Ashley Marie Piercy of the 381st Intelligence Squadron and Zachary Lee Piercy.

A son, Isaiah Cristian Whitaker, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces, at 2:37 p.m. to Spc. Akknia Lawanna Patrice Whitaker.

### Nov. 21

A daughter, Suzanna Macy Ammer, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces, at 7:59 p.m. to Samantha Marie Ammer and Gunnery Sgt. Steven Gregory Ammer of D Com-

pany, Antiterrorism Battalion.

### Nov. 22

A son, Noli Lagade Batac, was born weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces, at 2 a.m. to Monica Lagade Batac and Army Staff Sgt. Noli Cruz Batac of Joint Forces Headquarters, Alaska Army National Guard.

A son, William James Leitz, was born 21.75 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces at 8:58 p.m. to Michelle Leigh Leitz and Airman 1st Class James Christian Leitz of the Mission Support Group.

A son, Jackson Paul McCart, was born 21.75 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 4:36 a.m. to Denise Jaclyn McCart and Air Force Staff Sgt. Bryan Anthony McCart of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron.

A son, Abel Elijah Rogan, was born 20.5 inches long and

weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 6:13 p.m. to Candice Channel Rogan and Senior Airman Jonathan Wayne Rogan of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.

A daughter, Hailey Kay Wahlstrom, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces at 7:30 a.m. to Shawna Marie Wahlstrom and Sgt. Carver Anthony Wahlstrom of Company C, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

### Nov. 23

A daughter, Karen Ruth York, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 1:54 a.m. to Heidi Ashlynn York and Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Melvin York of the 673d Medical Group.

### Nov. 24

A son, Keegan Lawson Markovich, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 5:26 p.m. to Jacquelyn Marie Niven and Senior Airman Steven Anthony Markovich of the 673d Communications Squadron.

### Nov. 25

A son, Christian James Bramlett, was born 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 5:52 p.m. to Faith Nicole

Bramlett and Army Staff Sgt. Justin Neal Bramlett of the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

Twins, John Isaiah Cruz, born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 3 ounces at 12:29 p.m. and Annalise Ruth Cruz, born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 12:28 p.m. to Rebekah Ruth Cruz and Sgt. John David Cruz of the 164th Military Police Company.

### Nov. 26

A son, Bryson Chan Mong, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 5:45 a.m. to Rita Mong and Sgt. Bounmie Chan Mong of the 1st Squadron, (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

A son, Bentley John Murphy, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 5:31 a.m. to Allison Shea Murphy and Airman Peter Allen Murphy Jr. of the 525th Fighter Squadron.

A daughter, Paisley Ann Wilbanks, was born 19 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 1:59 p.m. to Jessica Patter-son Wilbanks and Spc. Taylor Kyle Wilbanks of the 56th Engineer Battalion.





# TOPS IN BLUE

Tops in Blue members perform a Yankee Doodle medley at the Talkeetna Theater Monday. Tops in Blue is the traditional Air Force show which travels the globe entertaining Airmen with melodies and choreography. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)



## Raptors and reindeer and whiskers on kittens...

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf  
JBER Public Affairs

I caught up with Santa's helper, Col. Terry Scott, 3rd Operations Group deputy commander, and got an inside scoop on Santa and the F-22 Raptor.

**SSgt. Zachary Wolf:** How did you become Santa's helper?

**Col. Terry Scott:** As you know Santa is very busy this time of year; he gave me a call and asked if I could fill in for his planned visit to the Dicemen (90th Fighter Squadron) kid's party.

**Wolf:** When did you become Santa's helper?

**Scott:** This is the second year I have been helping out Santa since I transitioned to the F-22. Santa thought since it was a fairly fast machine, it would be useful for quick visits to and from the North Pole and it would be a reasonable substitute for a team of reindeer.

**Wolf:** What can you say to the rumors that Santa is looking to use the F-22 as his new sleigh or using one to pull his sleigh?

**Scott:** This is a complete rumor; even though the F-22 is one of the most powerful and fastest fighters in the world and could do the job of pulling Santa's sleigh very well, it is no comparison for a team of reindeer!

See, in the F-22 you have about 68,000 pounds of thrust in full afterburner. That pales in comparison to the thrust of a single reindeer and Santa has a team of nine reindeer!

Additionally, the F-22 does not have the appropriate lighting of at least a 1.21-Gigawatt-powered red light in the nose.

**Wolf:** Have you and Santa talked about how much faster it would be to use a Raptor rather than reindeer?

**Scott:** We did discuss using a team of F-22's to pull the sleigh, but Santa decided he would stick to the tried and true power and speed of the reindeer.

**Wolf:** An F-22 is equivalent to how much of Santa's reindeer power?

**Scott:** Reindeer power is about a zillion more times powerful than the F-22's engines.

**Wolf:** Why would Santa look at using a Raptor to make his runs?

**Scott:** The 3rd Wing's F-22's are on standby in the event Santa needs some help delivering toys to the kids.

**Wolf:** Where would Santa put the presents if he used the Raptor?

**Scott:** We would put them on Bomb Release Units in the internal and side weapons bays if required.

**Wolf:** Would Santa need in-flight refueling or would the same thing happen to the F-22 that makes the reindeer fly?

**Scott:** The F-22's would require in-flight refueling to get around the world to support Santa. That's why the reindeer are so much more efficient as they only require some oats and hay that can be carried on board the sleigh.

**Wolf:** How do you think Santa's image would change if kids saw him flying an F-22 instead of a sleigh?

**Scott:** I think Santa has a great image of doing great things for the kids and community, so no matter what he arrives in; it's always Christmas when he arrives!

As kids eagerly awaited to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas, I spoke to two sisters about Santa's arrival in an F-22.

**Wolf:** What did you think of Santa's new sleigh that you saw him arrive in?

**Kynzee Coarsey:** It was really cool and I would like to see Santa fly around in it more.

**Kylee Coarsey:** It was cool but



Santa's helper, Air Force Col. Terry Scott, 3rd Operations Group deputy commander, waves to children at the 90th Fighter Squadron Saturday. Scott visited the 90th Fighter Squadron in costume to give gifts to the boys and girls in attendance. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

it was a lot different and I like the sleigh and the reindeer better.

**Wolf:** How many reindeer do you think it would take to make an F-22 fly?

**Kynzee:** 10.

**Kylee:** 100.

"We think it's important at the 90th Fighter Squadron to have a Dicemen family identity and this is just part of it," said Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Kunkel, 90th FS commander.

"We try to do things to get the families together at least once a month and we thought it would be a great idea to have Santa come down here and give gifts to the boys and girls," he said.



Kynzee and Kylee Coarsey, daughters of Air Force Staff Sgt. William Coarsey, 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, pose with Santa's helper, Air Force Col. Terry Scott, 3rd Operations Group deputy commander, at the 90th Fighter Squadron Saturday. Santa's helper visited in an F-22 Raptor.



