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## Kodiaks build roads

Engineers of 84th Engineer Support Company jump into Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Page A-3



www.jber.af.mil/news

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 3, No. 2

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

January 13, 2012



Pfc. Dustin P. Napier

## Stryker Soldier killed in firefight

U.S. Army Alaska news release

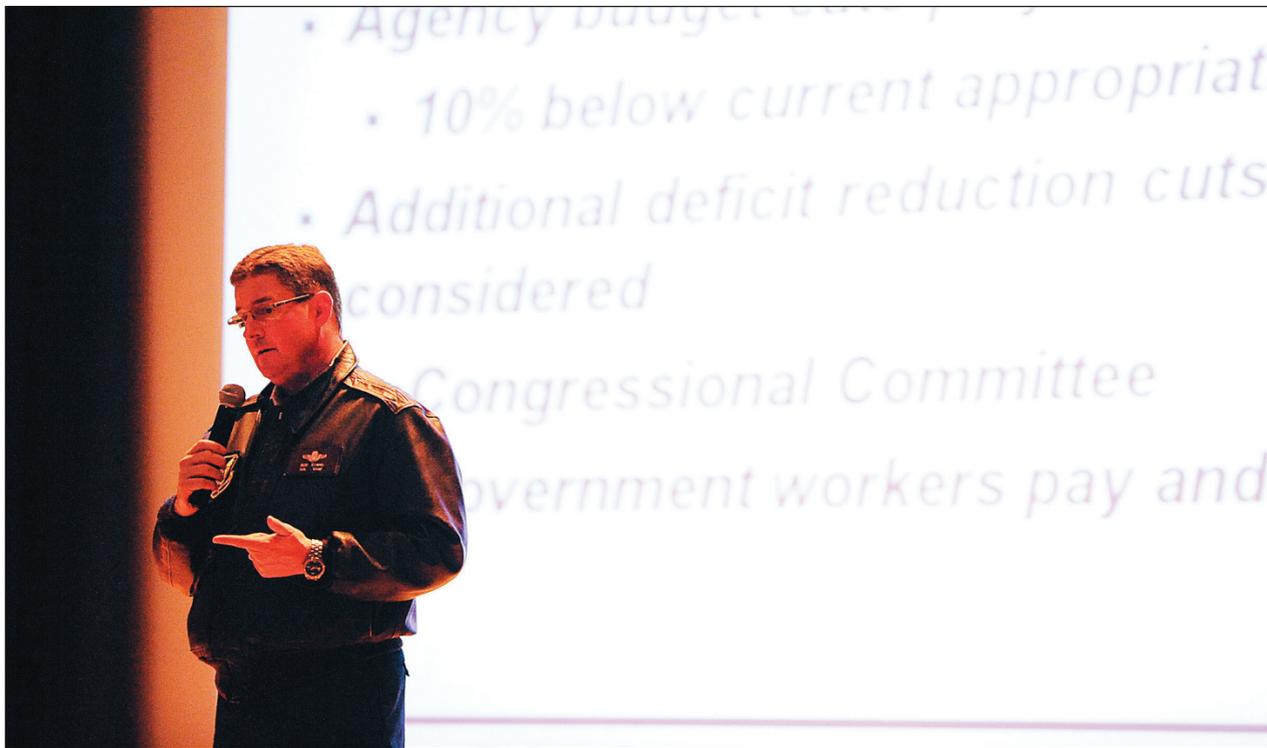
A Soldier assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, at Fort Wainwright died in an exchange of small arms fire in the city of Qalat, in Afghanistan's Zabul Province Sunday afternoon.

Two other Stryker Soldiers were wounded in the incident. All three Soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, of the Stryker Brigade.

Pfc. Dustin Paul Napier, 20, was from London, Ky. He joined the Army in July 2010, completed Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga. and arrived at Fort Wainwright in November 2010.

He deployed to Afghanistan with his 4,000-Soldier brigade in April 2011 for a one-year tour of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The next of kin have been notified.



Air Force Col. Robert Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander, speaks to JBBER civilians during a civilian commander's call Sept. 19, 2011, about the first round of civilian workforce reductions. Evans will host another civilian commander's call Jan. 24 to discuss the second round of Air Force civilian workforce reductions that affect both 673d Air Base Wing and 3rd Wing personnel, time and place to be determined.(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding)

## Air Force announces additional civilian workforce cuts at JBBER

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson News release

Air Force officials in Washington announced Wednesday 44 additional Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson civilian positions across the base will be cut, bringing the total cuts to Air Force civilian positions since November 2011 to about 300.

Of the 44 positions set for elimination, 17

are currently filled by JBBER employees. As base officials continue to work to place affected employees from the first round of cuts announced during November, they remain optimistic that jobs will be available for most of the affected employees from both rounds.

"We have been successful in placing many of the employees affected in the first round of cuts," said Col. Robert Evans, the JBBER installation commander. "It may not

be possible to find jobs for every affected employee, but that is our goal."

Evans explained through natural attrition at the base, moving affected employees into vacant positions, and Air Force officials offering early retirement and separation incentives is helping mitigate the impact of the current reduction actions aimed at

See Cuts, Page A-3

## National Guard helps Cordova dig out of historic snowfall



ABOVE: Alaska National Guardsmen clear a building roof in Cordova Monday. There are currently 57 National Guardsmen assisting citizens in this small Alaska town to dig out from a series of winter storms.

RIGHT: Alaska Army National Guard members ride on a bus from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to Whittier Sunday before getting on a ferry to Cordova. There are currently 57 National Guardsmen assisting citizens in this small Alaska town to dig out from a series of winter storms. (U.S. Army photos/Spc. Balinda O'Neal)



Air Force Maj. Guy Hayes Alaska National Guard

Alaska National Guard members arrived in Cordova Sunday afternoon to help the citizens in this small Alaska town dig out from a series of winter storms.

Termed Operation Deep Dig, 57 Alaska National Guardsmen arrived on the state's ferry system with shovels in hand ready to assist but keeping safety the number one priority according to Alaska Army National Guard Capt. Chad Ausel, 761st Military Police Company commander.

"As soon as we got here, we identified a priority list for safety and familiarization training with Cordova," Ausel said. "We asked for a subject matter expert on how they've cleared snow here safely and then completed training on harnesses, ropes and knots to make sure the Guardsmen are trained to do the mission safely."

With training complete, Ausel is now focused on getting his Soldiers out in the community today to assist wherever they're needed.

"We have everything staged, equipment ready and the Soldiers are ready to go," Ausel said. "The city officials identified three locations this morning, and we're going to stay in squads to clear those areas."

With more snow and rain on the way, the Alaska National Guard has arrived at a crucial

time to assist before things potentially get worse.

"We are concerned about heavy and wet snow on roofs," said Allen Marquette, public information officer with the city of Cordova. "Some structures have already collapsed. We are trying to get those prioritized and shoveled off and assist residents in anticipation of the new snow and rain that's coming."

Mayor Jim Kallander of Cordova also commented on the response to his community and how pleased he is with the assistance the city of Cordova has received from the state.

"I can't say how impressed I am with the homeland security response, the governor's office response and now the National Guard is stepping up to the plate," Kallander said. "It's exactly what we needed."

As the first military responder in all domestic emergencies, the Guard is focused on doing everything it can to help the community, and according to Ausel, Guardsmen will stay as long as they're needed.

"We hope to leave Cordova in a better situation," Ausel said. "If that means staying here until the next snow storm goes through, then we will. I'm very proud of my Soldiers and the job they've done so far. They are working with a sense of urgency and are very proud to serve the community down here. This is why they signed up to serve in the National Guard."

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### Community

Check out the community section for the latest sports, family and recreation news for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the Anchorage Bowl Area

COMMUNITY

January 13, 2012

**FISHER HOUSE**

Facility opens on JBBER

PERMIT NO. 220  
ANCHORAGE, AK  
**PAID**  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PRESORTED STANDARD

# Command Emphasis



## Evans: Communication is key in working through civilian cuts

Editorial by Air Force Col. Robert Evans  
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and  
673d Air Base Wing commander

The Air Force notified Congress Wednesday of the second round of civilian personnel cuts. At JBER, we will lose 44 additional positions; 17 of these positions are currently filled by JBER employees with the remaining positions vacant.

These employees were notified by their commanders Wednesday and provided additional information. When added to the first-round cuts announced Nov. 10, we have about 70 affected employees at JBER.

Of the employees affected by the November cuts, we have placed about a third in new jobs.

You have our commitment that we will continue to work hard to place as many people as possible. However, it may take several months to place impacted employees and there is no guarantee all can be placed.

The initial reductions, voluntary separation and early retirement incentives have not produced the civilian workforce reductions

the Department of Defense required of the Air Force, leading to the additional cuts announced today.

In total, the Air Force moved to cut a total of about 4,500 positions in this round in addition to the approximately 9,000-position reduction in November.

Reductions at JBER from both rounds total approximately 300 and when new positions, including the hiring of new Air Force civilian gate guards, are included the net civilian position loss is approximately 220.

The Air Force also announced this week another survey for Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Program. Information about this will be disseminated by the civilian personnel office by the end of the week. If you are interested, please ensure you complete the survey and provide it to CPO.

However, please do not apply unless you are reasonably certain you will take VERA/VSIP if offered. We will plan to use any created vacancies to try to place our affected employees from both rounds of reductions.



Col. Robert Evans

Communication is the key to working through challenges like this. During these uncertain times, we will do our best to keep you informed. I will hold a civilian call Jan.

24 to provide an update and discuss the way forward. I also plan to release information through subsequent e-mails and articles in the Arctic Warrior paper. For additional information or assistance please contact the civilian personnel office at 552-3572.

This will be a challenging year and we will likely see some reductions in the levels of service we provide. However, I remain fully confident that we will continue to deliver world-class installation services, supporting our Soldiers, Airmen and their Families, while enabling their missions.

Our magnificent civilian workforce is the cornerstone of our success, and I am enormously grateful for your dedicated service to our nation.

These reductions, while necessary to operate within the constrained fiscal environment, do not reflect on the value or contributions of individual employees. Without your help, we could not be successful. Thank you for all that you do.

Arctic Tough, Mission Ready, Family Strong!



## Army equips troops with shoulder-fired recoilless rifle

By Kris Osborn  
Army News Service

Soldiers in Afghanistan are now firing an 84-mm, reusable, recoilless shoulder-fired conventional munition able to destroy enemy targets hidden behind rocks, trees and buildings, service officials said.

The weapon, called the Multi-Role Anti-Armor, Anti-Personnel Weapons System, known as the Carl-Gustaf, was ordered by the Army in response to an Operational Needs Statement from Afghanistan seeking to procure a direct fire, man-portable, anti-personnel and light structure weapon able, among other things, to respond to insurgent rocket-propelled grenade, or RPG, fire, said Bhuvanesh Thoguluva, chief of Vehicle Protection, Rockets & Shoulder Fired Weapons Branch, Munition Systems & Technical Directorate, Armament Research Development and Engineering Center, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

The Carl-Gustaf, which is manufactured by Saab, includes an airburst capability with its high explosive round, Thoguluva said.

"The HE round does have an airburst capability. It is the one that is utilized most often because of its effective range. It uses a mechanical time fuse which is set prior to loading the weapon system," he said.

Airburst rounds can be pre-programmed to explode in the air

at a precise location, thereby maximizing the weapon's effect against enemy targets hiding; for example, behind a rock, tree or building.

Several Carl-Gustafs are already in Afghanistan as part of a limited operational assessment, which may indeed result in more deliveries. The Army purchased the weapon by joining with U.S. Special Operations Command in a combined purchase from Saab.

"Thus far, the weapon has been very effective," said Thoguluva.

The weapon, now being evaluated by the Army, has been used by Army Rangers, Navy SEALs and Special Forces since the late-80s, Thoguluva said.

The recoilless rifle is 42-inches long, weighs 21 pounds and can fire up to four rounds per minute, said Wes Walters, executive vice president for marketing, Saab North America.

"It is not a guided munition," Walters explained, adding that the weapon can utilize thermal sight to provide Soldiers with the ability to shoot at night and reach the proper range.

The Carl-Gustaf is also able to fire anti-tank, flechette, illumination, enhanced armor, smoke and high-explosive dual-purpose rounds, Thoguluva explained.

"The High Explosive Dual Purpose round gives you two different capabilities. In impact mode, the round goes off immediately as soon as it hits the target. In delay mode, the round penetrates the target and then goes off," he said.



Australian privates Matthew Sherring and Jeffery Gambell watch paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), jump out of a C-17 Globemaster III during Talisman Sabre 2011 at Kapyong Drop Zone in Shoalwater Bay Training Area July 17, 2011. The latest U.S. defense strategy calls for strengthening alliances within the Pacific Rim. (U.S. Army photo/SpC. Marcus Fichtl)

## President outlines priorities for 21st century defense

**Editor's note:** President Barack Obama wrote this introduction to the document "Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense." The document, in its entirety, can be read at [www.defense.gov/news/Defense\\_Strategic\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.defense.gov/news/Defense_Strategic_Guidance.pdf)

Our nation is at a moment of transition. Thanks to the extraordinary sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, we have responsibly ended the war in Iraq, put al-Qaeda on the path to defeat – including delivering justice to Osama bin Laden – and made significant progress in Afghanistan, allowing us to begin the transition to Afghan responsibility.

At the same time, we must put our fiscal house in order here at home and renew our long-term economic strength.

To that end, the Budget Control Act of 2011 mandates reductions in federal spending, including defense spending.

As commander in chief, I am determined that we meet the challenges of this moment responsibly and that we emerge even stronger in a manner that preserves American global leadership, maintains our military superiority and keeps faith with our troops, military families and veterans.

I therefore directed this review to identify our strategic interests and guide our defense priorities and spending over the coming decade.

This review has been shaped by America's enduring national secu-

ity interests. We seek the security of our nation, allies and partners. We seek the prosperity that flows from an open and free international economic system. And we seek a just and sustainable international order where the rights and responsibilities of nations and peoples are upheld, especially the fundamental rights of every human being.

Indeed, as we end today's wars, we will focus on a broader range of challenges and opportunities, including the security and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific. As a new generation across the Middle East and North Africa demands their universal rights, we are supporting political and economic reform and deepening partnerships to ensure regional security.

In contrast to the murderous vision of violent extremists, we are joining with allies and partners around the world to build their capacity to promote security, prosperity, and human dignity.

And the growing capabilities of allies and partners, as demonstrated in the successful mission to protect the Libyan people, create new opportunities for burden-sharing.

Meeting these challenges cannot be the work of our military alone, which is why we have strengthened all the tools of American power, including diplomacy and development, intelligence, and homeland security.

Going forward, we will also remember the lessons of history and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past when our military was left ill-prepared for the future. As

we end today's wars and reshape our armed forces, we will ensure that our military is agile, flexible and ready for the full range of contingencies.

In particular, we will continue to invest in the capabilities critical to future success, including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; counterterrorism; countering weapons of mass destruction; operating in anti-access environments; and prevailing in all domains, including cyber.

Most importantly, we will keep faith with our troops, military families and veterans who have borne the burden of a decade of war and who make our military the best in the world.

Though we must make hard fiscal choices, we will continue to prioritize efforts that focus on wounded warriors, mental health and families. And as our newest veterans rejoin civilian life, we continue to have a moral obligation – as a government and as a Nation – to give our veterans the care, benefits and the job opportunities they deserve.

The fiscal choices we face are difficult ones, but there should be no doubt – here in the United States or around the world – we will keep our Armed Forces the best trained, best-led, best-equipped fighting force in history. And in a changing world that demands our leadership, the United States of America will remain the greatest force for freedom and security that the world has ever known.

## ARCTIC WARRIOR

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## 84th Engineer Support Company carry out a **BORDER DROP**

# Kodiaks to construct new roads for Border Patrol

By Natalie Lakosil  
Fort Huachuca Public Affairs

Alaska-based engineers completed the first airborne operation into Fort Huachuca in more than a decade Jan. 6.

The 30 airborne Soldiers successfully jumped into East Range, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., from a 517th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III aircraft that transported them from Alaska to Arizona, after completing a seven-hour flight.

The Soldiers from the 1st Platoon, 84th Engineer Support Company, 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), based at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, arrived at Fort Huachuca to execute a Joint Task Force North engineer mission in support of the U.S. Border Patrol's Tucson Sector.

"The combat engineers deployed from Alaska to construct 0.7 miles of border road and lookout roadways, along with the required road drainage systems, in support of the U.S. Border Patrol," said Armando Carrasco, Joint Task Force North public affairs officer.

"The mission site is located three miles west of the Nogales port of entry, along the U.S. and Mexico border," Carrasco said. "This is phase one of a three phase project that will be completed in (fiscal year) 2012."

Fort Huachuca provides training and logistical support to military units and government partners as part of its support of the nation's homeland defense mission.

"Partnerships forged and the synergy

created by working and training together strengthens the homeland defense mission," said Angela Moncur, Fort Huachuca public affairs officer.

As part of continuing inter-agency operations, JTF-North routinely deploys military units and assets to support the Border Patrol mission. According to the Border Patrol's website, they have a "priority mission of keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. It also has a responsibility for securing and facilitating trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations, including immigration and drug laws."

"The Department of Defense partners constructing the new border access roads and drainage systems in the Nogales area is valued support to the Border Patrol mission," said Steven Pasement, Border Patrol's Tucson Sector, public affairs officer, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent.

"JTF North engineer support mission provide the Soldiers with great training opportunities that are directly related to the military duties, while netting the U.S. Border Patrol additional infrastructure that will enhance their agents' response times to any threats along border," Carrasco said.

Military engineer units from all services execute approximately 12 JTF-North engineer support missions along the Southwest border annually. JTF-North engineer missions offer military engineer units unique training opportunities in a variety of construction projects to exercise multiple skill level tasks, Carrasco said.



**ABOVE: Soldiers from the 84th Engineer Support Company, 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), conduct parachute landing falls during an exercise at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. A parachute landing fall breaks a paratrooper's fall in an effort to prevent injury.**

**ABOVE TOP: Soldiers of 84th ESC exit a 517th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft Jan. 6 at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., during an exercise in support of Joint Task Force-North. (U.S. Army photos/Sgt. 1st Class Dexter Marquez)**

## Cuts

From Page A-1

drawing down the size of the civilian workforce.

Along with the targeted workforce reductions, other civilian positions have come to JBER to meet specific mission needs. Taking into account all losses and gains, the total net reduction in civilian positions is about 220. This includes in-sourcing initiatives such as converting the contract gate guard positions to government jobs as well as other changes adding more than 70 local government positions.

"There is something decidedly different about the Department of Defense workforce here in Alaska. The high caliber of our civilian teammates is clear and we cannot accomplish our mission without them," Evans said.

The cuts come in response to DoD directive to stop civilian growth above fiscal year 2010 levels. As a result, 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 Air Force has drawn down approximately 13,500 positions from installations across the Air Force.

These adjustments reflect several initiatives designed to align limited resources with Air Forces priorities. This process is an ongoing effort to increase efficiencies, reduce overhead and eliminate redundancy.

"We fully support the Department of Defense efficiency efforts and we are committed to gaining the greatest value we can from taxpayer investments," Evans said. "We are also mindful of the great contributions of our dedicated civilian employees in providing quality services to JBER Soldiers, Airmen and families and the stress caused by uncertainty. We will continue to do our best to retain impacted civilians and keep them informed."

# Obama: Future force will be smaller, agile, ready

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

At a moment of national transition, the U.S. is reshaping defense priorities and its military force to sustain U.S. global leadership and respond to changing security and fiscal needs, President Barack Obama said Jan. 5 at the Pentagon.

Obama, the first president to address reporters in the Pentagon briefing room, joined Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to introduce a new military strategy that sets priorities for a 21st-century defense.

"The United States of America is the greatest force for freedom and security that the world has ever known," Obama said. "In no small measure, that's because we've built the best-trained, best-led, best-equipped military in history – and as commander in chief, I'm going to keep it that way."

Even as the tide of war recedes and U.S. forces prevail in today's missions, he added, "we have the opportunity and the responsibility to look ahead to the force we need for the future."

Looking beyond the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and long-term nation-building with large military footprints, Obama said, the U.S. will be able to ensure its security with smaller conventional ground forces and by investing in capabilities that include intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and the ability to operate in environments where adversaries try to deny access.

"Yes, our military will be leaner," he said, "but the world must know the United States is going to maintain our military superiority with armed forces that are agile, flexible and ready for the full range of contingencies and threats."

Panetta said the department would need to make a strategic shift regardless of the nation's fiscal situation.

"We are at that point in history," the sec-

retary added. "That's the reality of the world we live in."

But he stressed the U.S. military will remain capable across the spectrum.

"We will continue to conduct a complex set of missions ranging from counterterrorism, ranging from countering weapons of mass destruction to maintaining a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent," Panetta said, adding that the department will be "fully prepared to protect our interests, defend our homeland and support civil authorities."

The Defense Strategic Guidance document says the future force will be led by the world's finest, best cared for and battle-tested all-volunteer military – one that will be smaller, but that also will be flexible, agile and ready.

The force will be leaner, further reducing the cost of doing business and finding efficiencies in overhead, business practices and other support activities, according to the guidance. It also will be technologically superior, the document adds. The strategy also outlines a force that will be able to regenerate and mobilize for an unpredictable future, preserving the U.S. industrial base.

"As a global force, our military will never be doing only one thing," Panetta said. "It will be responsible for a range of missions and activities across the globe of varying scope, duration and strategic priority. This will place a premium on flexible and adaptable forces that can respond quickly and effectively to a variety of contingencies and potential adversaries."

With the end of U.S. military commitments in Iraq and the drawdown under way in Afghanistan, the secretary said, the Army and Marine Corps will no longer need to be sized to support the kind of large-scale, long-term stability operations that have dominated military priorities.

Continuing investments in special operations forces, in new technologies such as ISR and unmanned systems and in space and especially cyberspace capabilities will help the force "retain and continue to refine and institutionalize the expertise and capabilities

that have been gained at such great cost over the last decade," Panetta said.

Most importantly, the secretary added, "we will structure and pace reductions in the nation's ground forces in such a way that they can surge, regenerate and mobilize capabilities needed for any contingency."

Building in reversibility and the ability to quickly mobilize will be critical, he said.

"That means re-examining the mix of elements in the active and reserve components," Panetta said. "It means maintaining a strong National Guard and Reserve. It means retaining a healthy cadre of experienced [noncommissioned officers] and midgrade officers, and preserving the health and viability of the nation's defense industrial base."

The strategy, Dempsey said, is sound. "It ensures we remain the pre-eminent military in the world," the chairman told reporters, "it preserves the talent of the all-volunteer force, it takes into account the lessons of the last 10 years of war, (and) it acknowledges the imperative of a global, networked and full-spectrum joint force."

The strategy calls for innovation – new ways of operating and partnering, Dempsey said, adding that it rebalances the defense focus by region and mission and makes important investments in emerging and proven capabilities such as cyber and special operations.

"Fundamentally," the chairman said, "our strategy has always been about our ability to respond to global contingencies wherever and whenever they happen. This does not change. We will always provide a range of options for our nation. We can and will always be able to do more than one thing at a time. More importantly, wherever we are confronted and in whatever sequence, we will win."

All strategies accept some risk, he acknowledged.

"Because we will be somewhat smaller, these risks will be measured in time and capacity," the general said. "However, we have to be honest – we could face even greater risks if we did not change from our current approach."

# ICE BREAKER

## Healy makes way for tanker Renda



The Coast Guard Cutter Healy breaks ice around the Russian-flagged tanker Renda 250 miles south of Nome Jan. 6. The Healy is the Coast Guard's only currently operating polar icebreaker. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 1st Class Sara Francis)

## Coast Guard works with Russian ship to relieve Nome

Coast Guard District 17  
News release

Coast Guard inspectors completed a port state control exam on the double-hulled ice-classed Russian tanker Renda Jan. 3 in Dutch Harbor.

"The tanker vessel Renda met all applicable federal laws and regulations and can operate in U.S. waters following the successful completion of a required Coast Guard port state control examination," said Coast Guard Rear Adm. Thomas Ostebo, commander District 17. "Our daily discussions will continue with our federal, state, local, tribal partners, and the marine industry to ensure the highest standards of safety and compliance are in place to mitigate risks to the people of Nome, the crews of the vessels, and the environment."

Sea ice has developed around Nome which has prevented delivery of fuel by

barge. Foreseeing a fuel shortage, Sitnasuak Native Corporation of Nome has signed a contract with Vitus Marine LLC to deliver 1.5 million gallons of petroleum products to Nome via the Renda in early January.

If successful, this will mark the first time petroleum products have been delivered by sea to a western Alaskan community in winter. The transportation cost will be substantially lower than the cost of the standard winter delivery method using an air tanker.

"Ensuring the safe and expeditious transport of fuel to the people of Nome is consistent with the heritage of the Coast Guard in Alaska," Ostebo said. "I recently met with Healy's crew and they understand the importance of this mission and are committed to assisting. I could not be more proud of them."



Crewmembers of the Coast Guard Cutter Healy observe the tanker vessel Renda as it follows their trail through the ice. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Seaman Benjamin Nocerini)

See **Ice breaker**, Page A-7







The tanker vessel Renda follows a path made in the ice by the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Healy Jan. 6. The Renda is carrying more than 1.3 million gallons of fuel to the city of Nome after a winter storm restricted a scheduled delivery. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Seaman Benjamin Nocerini)

## Ice breaker

From Page A-4

The Renda will be escorted by the Coast Guard Cutter Healy, which will lead the Renda through 300 miles of ice to within a half mile of the harbor entrance.

"Upon arrival, the Renda will transit the remaining distance to stable ice close to the harbor entrance to transfer fuel via hose under approved procedures," said Coast Guard Capt. Craig Lloyd, District 17 chief of response, who is coordinating the mission. "University of Alaska personnel are in Nome to assist in determining the thickness

of the ice outside the harbor entrance. Due to a large ridge of ice at the harbor entrance, the Renda is unable to enter the actual harbor."

The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security approved a Jones Act Waiver Dec. 30 to Vitus Marine authorizing the foreign-flagged tanker to deliver gasoline from Dutch Harbor to Nome. Renda arrived in Dutch Harbor laden with diesel fuel that was on loaded in Asia.

The Jones Act waiver was required since Renda could not load the gasoline cargo in Asia due to weather and scheduling constraints. The vessel took on additional cargo of gasoline in Dutch Harbor.

The Healy's participation was contingent

upon the following items: the Renda passed the port state control exam, there were no inordinate delays, the fuel transfer plans met federal and state requirements and on scene weather conditions permit safe passage.

"This has been and continues to be a highly orchestrated effort between all stakeholders to ensure mission success," Ostebo said. "As we have done for more than 220 years, the Coast Guard is dedicated to ensuring the safe and secure transfer of maritime commerce. The Healy, our nation's only operating polar ice breaker, and its crew are committed to upholding our long history of service to the residents of Alaska."

The Healy is named after Coast Guard Capt. Mike Healy, an 19th-century Coast

Guard hero. As the commanding officer of numerous Coast Guard cutters, "Hell Roaring Mike," enforced federal law, provided search and rescue, and provided humanitarian assistance along Alaska's 20,000 mile coastline in the late 1800s. The cutter is 420-feet long and has extensive scientific capabilities.

Homeported in Seattle, the cutter has a permanent crew of 80 and was originally scheduled to return home in mid December. The primary mission is scientific support but it is capable of other Coast Guard and defense operations such as search and rescue, domestic ice breaking, environmental protection and the enforcement of laws and treaties in the polar regions.



ABOVE: The USS Anchorage (LSD 36), the last ship to bear the name, sails off the coast of Darwin, Australia, in 2000. (U.S. Navy file photo)

ABOVE TOP: The USS San Antonio (LPD 17) transits through the Suez Canal. San Antonio is the lead ship of the class; the USS Anchorage is the most advanced. (U.S. Navy photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason R. Zalasky)

RIGHT: The USS Anchorage undergoes construction at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding. (Photo courtesy Naval Sea Systems Command)



## USS Anchorage to be commissioned in Anchorage

Public Affairs staff report

Alaska's congressional delegation announced Monday the commissioning ceremony for the USS Anchorage (LPD 23) will be hosted in Anchorage next September or October.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus personally delivered the good news to each member of the delegation via telephone calls Monday.

The news comes in response to letters the delegation members wrote to Mabus in November requesting the ship be commissioned in the community for which it is named to give locals a chance to show how proud they are to have a U.S. Navy vessel named for the city.

"Alaskans are among the strongest supporters of the U.S. military and have a long tradition of building relationships and supporting our active duty members and veterans," Sen. Mark Begich said. "This commissioning will give Alaskans from across the state a chance to come out and show the pride and respect we feel for having a Navy vessel bear the name of Alaska's largest city."

Sen. Lisa Murkowski said the commissioning may be a harbinger of things to come.

"Secretary Mabus' phone call today was welcome news for Alaska's military community and the civilian neighbors who support them," she said. "Alaska has missed the Navy's year-round presence since the closure of the Adak station almost 15 years ago, so we hope this is the first step in a more significant naval operation as the U.S. presence in the Arctic develops."

Rep. Don Young echoed the sentiments of his colleagues.

"This is good news not only for the city of Anchorage, but for all Alaskans," He said. "Whether it's the thousands of active-duty men and women that call our state home or the crucial role we play in defending this nation, Alaskans know and are proud of the unique bond we have with the military."

The USS Anchorage launched Feb. 12, 2011, from Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding's Avondale, La., shipyard, marking a milestone in the ship's construction process.

Due to extensive pre-outfitting efforts, Anchorage will be the most complete ship in the class at the time of launch.

"We started construction on the first ship of the LPD 17 class 11 years ago," say Jay Stefany, LPD 17 program manager for the Navy's Program Executive Office Ships. "As the seventh ship of the class launches, we know she will continue to benefit from

the serial production efficiencies and mature design products that will result in delivering a quality warship at a predictable cost to the fleet."

Anchorage is the seventh ship of the San Antonio-class of landing platform docks.

The ship's sponsor is Annette Conway, wife of the 34th U.S. Marine Corps Commandant, retired Gen. James Conway. She christened the ship last May in a traditional Navy ceremony.

The ships of the San Antonio class functionally replace more than 41 ships (LPD4, LSD 36, LKA 113 and LST 1179 classes of amphibious ships), providing the Navy and Marine Corps with modern, sea-based platforms that are networked, survivable and built to operate with 21st-century transformational platforms.

The ships incorporate both a flight deck to accommodate CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters and MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, and a well deck that can launch and recover landing craft and amphibious vehicles.

The San Antonio class' increased vehicle space and substantial cargo-carrying capacity make it a key element of 21st-century Amphibious Ready Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups or Joint Task Forces.

In addition to performing their primary mission, Anchorage's sister ships have

already served as flagships for anti-piracy operations and have provided humanitarian assistance and foreign disaster relief operations in support of the people of Haiti.

The act of placing a ship in commission marks her entry into active Navy service. At the moment when the commissioning pennant is broken at the masthead, a ship becomes a Navy command in her own right and takes her place alongside the other active ships of the fleet.

The ceremony continues a tradition some three centuries old, observed by navies around the world, and by the U.S. Navy since December 1775, when Alfred, the first ship of the Continental Navy, was commissioned at Philadelphia.

Once in commission, the commanding officer and crew are entrusted with the privilege and the responsibility of maintaining their ship's readiness in peace and of conducting successful operations at sea in time of war.

USS Anchorage (LSD 36), a dock landing ship and the lead of her class, was the last ship to bear the city's name and was decommissioned in 2003.

**Editor's note: Information provided by the Alaska's congressional delegation and Naval Sea Systems Command.**

# Briefs and Announcements

## DBIDS 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 were required to be registered as of Jan. 1. With nearly 50,000 registered, it is estimated a few hundred will need to re-register due to technical difficulties.

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.

## Dining facility change

The Kenai Dining Facility is closed.

The remodeled Iditarod Dining Facility is open for all meals.

## Dining facility change

The Wilderness Inn, in Building 647 assumed all JBER-Richardson dining facility operations Oct. 31.

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

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.

## Retiree Council

The Alaska Retiree Council will begin hosting council meetings twice a month starting Thursday in order to allow more opportunities for retirees to attend.

Meeting times will be noon to 1 p.m. at the Iditarod Dining Facility (Elmendorf) and 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Wilderness Inn dining facility (Richardson).

## Snowmachine orientation

Snowmachine orientation is required for all personnel intending on riding the Elmendorf side of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The orientation is hosted every Thursday at 5 p.m. at Building 7210.

For more information, call 552-2023.

## Chief Master Sergeants' Recognition Ceremony

The Chief Master Sergeants' Recognition Ceremony and Dinner will be hosted Jan. 27 at the Hilton Hotel. The social begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m.

A choice of dinner is offered between chicken cardinale and or beef forestiere.

RSVP by Jan. 23 through squadron chief master sergeant.

## Shuttle service ended

Due to fiscal constraints, high operational mileage rates and low passenger use, effective Monday, the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Elmendorf transportation base shuttle service will discontinue service.

JBER customers may contact the Vehicle Operations Control Center at 552-4475 to request vehicle support for official business.

For other questions concerning the termination of service, call 552-3400 or 552-2744.

## Air Force ID card changes

Due to long wait times for walk-in customers, 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://673fssmpscustomerser.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 for appointments to be made for civilian employee, dependent, Reserve, National Guard and retiree ID cards.

## 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.

## MiCare registration

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

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

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

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

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

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

The enrollment specialist will

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

The project team is monitoring results in order to develop future implementation plans.

The Air Force is also interested in understanding how this new technology impacts the quality of health care provided to patients, as well as the overall well being of the patient population.

A research team is conducting a study in conjunction with this pilot program.

## 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 PCS-ing. For more information, call 552-4439.

## Quartermaster Laundry

The Quartermaster Laundry, located at 726 Quartermaster Road, cleans TA-50 gear for free and is open Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Military publications

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.



JBER family keeps growing,  
Page B-4

Siblings meet up in  
Afghanistan for the  
first time in years,  
Page B-7

www.jber.af.mil/news

# COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 2

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

January 13, 2012

# FISHER HOUSE

## Facility opens on JBER

By Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Cynthia Spalding  
JBER Public Affairs

The Fisher House of Anchorage officially opened its doors Dec. 22 to family members of military patients.

"The Alaska Fisher House is a compassionate-care facility located within walking

distance of the (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson) hospital and the Veterans Affairs Center," said Air Force Lt. Col. Andrea Vinyard, 673d Medical Support Squadron commander. "The house provides a comfortable place to stay at no cost to the guest."

The Fisher House serves patients and families from all branches of the military receiving active medical treatment at the

base hospital or local area hospitals.

The house provides a safe and comfortable home-away-from-home for families in need.

There are a total of 12 rooms available. "We are thrilled to have a Fisher House on JBER and we are extremely grateful for the incredible generosity and graciousness of the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Foundation," said Air Force Col. Robert Evans, 673d Air Base Wing and JBER commander. "Their overwhelming support to military communities, over many years, has made an enormous difference in the lives of so many of our families during the most difficult times.

"Their generosity is evident in this beautifully appointed Fisher House; every detail is perfect. The warmth of their love will be felt by all who stay here," Evans said.

Fisher Houses have only a few regulations about who can stay and when.

Eligible guests are active duty, Reservists, Guard, retirees and those receiving care through the Veteran's Administration, and their families, at the base hospital or a local Anchorage facility.

Guests must live outside a 50-mile radius of the hospital unless the active duty member resides in a dorm in which case their family is eligible to stay while caring for the patient.

Guests must be able to care for themselves independently and be able to exit the building in an emergency.

Family members wanting a room must not be involved in a domestic violence situation that may pose a threat to others, or themselves in the house.

Transportation is not provided, so guests must be able to provide their own. The base hospital is just across the parking lot.

Housing is not available to guests that require care or assistance, that are a threat to themselves or others, and guests that live within a 50-mile radius of the hospital, except with the previous caveats.

Units are encouraged to carry out drives for supplies that are needed for the house or to "adopt the pantry" and help fill the cupboards with non-perishable snacks and staples.

Units or organizations can also sponsor one night a month to cook a meal for guests. This must be coordinated in advance so guests know about it and so units know how many people will be eating.

Currently there are a variety of needs – paper products like toilet paper, towels, napkins and printer paper, as well as cleaning supplies (brooms, mops, toilet brushes, etc), small trash cans, liquid laundry detergent, and dryer sheets. Dishwasher soap and non-perishable food products are also welcome.

To arrange a stay, visit [www.akfisherhouse.org](http://www.akfisherhouse.org), email [Jeffery.temple@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:Jeffery.temple@elmendorf.af.mil), or call the House directly at 222-1673.

A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony will be hosted Feb. 17.



ABOVE: Air Force Col. Robert Evans, 673d Air Base Wing and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson commander, hangs an ornament on a Christmas tree at the Alaska Fisher House Dec. 22. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Feb. 17.

BELOW LEFT: This single bedroom is one of 12 rooms offered to house military families at the Alaska Fisher House, which opened Dec. 22. The Fisher House serves patients and families from all branches of the military receiving active medical treatment at the base hospital or local area hospitals. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding)



## Fallen military working dogs receive a somber send-off

By Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Sheila deVera  
JBER Public Affairs

It was a solemn service for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson as the 673d Security Forces Squadron bid farewell to two of their own – fallen military working dogs Jack and Benjo, at Chapel 1 Dec. 15.

"Trust in me my friend, for I am your comrade," said Tech. Sgt. Lealofi Lealofi, Jack's handler, during the service. "I will protect you with my last breath when all others have left you and the loneliness closes in, I will be at your side."

Jack and Benjo came to then-Elmendorf Air Force Base on May 13, 2003 and July 24, 2004 respectively, after completing more than 100 days of Military Working Dog Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"A man's best friend is not only true but a reality for Jack and I," Lealofi said. "Jack has been there for me in many ways from just cracking me up when I'm down to missing the family during our deployments," said Lealofi.

Like any military working dogs, both Jack and Benjo were dual-certified in explosive detection and patrol dogs. While assigned to then-Elmendorf Air Force Base, they conducted more than 1,000 hours of search time and 400

foot patrols combined.

"Jack and Benjo could detect a wide range of explosives and kept JBER safe and secure," said Air Force Lt. Col. Erick Bruce, 673 SFS commander. "They will remain in all our hearts and forever be part of the great long-standing history of military working dogs."

While both deployed to Iraq on separate occasions, Jack discovered over 2,000 pounds of explosives in a set-up trap with an armed anti-personnel mine in June 2006, saving a Soldier's life. Upon his return, Jack received a Bronze Star.

"Jack and I were like clockwork," Lealofi said. "We had a system that was flawless and only we knew what it was."

"We would be conducting searches of more than 300 vehicles a day in the sandbox, or just eating a burger celebrating being alive and we both knew it was magic."

"Most would say Jack was a Samoan Shepherd," Lealofi said. "He was very laid back and mellow like the lyrics in the Bob Marley song – 'Don't worry about a thing cause every little thing gonna be alright.'"

"Because of the way Jack and I conducted business, I knew we were going to be alright and he would always reassure me with his ears up and big brown eyes, and tilt his head and just smile," Lealofi



Photos and a plaque mark the memory of two military working dogs during a memorial ceremony held at Chapel One on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Dec. 15, 2011. While assigned to the installation, the dogs tallied up a combined more than 1,000 hours of search time and over 400 hours of foot patrol. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

reminisced.

"Jack was more to me than my military working dog.

"He was my partner, my best friend, and a member of our family. Thanks for bringing me home each time we deployed together, and all

the great memories we shared," said Lealofi.

In 2006, Benjo and his handler, Staff Sgt. Christopher Jones, braved small arms and sniper fire and explosives to locate 15 weapons caches, 98 mortars and 70

pounds of TNT.

These two warriors will never know how many lives they saved or how many homes they protected. All they did was work, and working was their life, said kennelmaster Tech. Sgt. Christopher Wilson.

# Winter is still a time for celebration, joy – even after holidays

Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph P. Palermo  
17th CSSB, 2EN BN

“Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!”  
Psalm 98:4

Psalm 98:4 gives excellent advice for this time of year. Indeed, as we celebrate in our respective faith traditions, it gives each of us time to pause and reflect on the question “What does it mean to praise God?”

Here in Alaska, we have the

opportunity to reflect on God’s creation.

Breathtaking mountain scenes, gentle snowfalls, powerful wildlife such as moose and grizzly bear, and even wood frogs with an amazing ability to survive freezing temperatures all speak volumes of God’s creative hand at work.

Through taking in God’s creation, we can also pause to give thanks to God for making such a wonderful playground for us.

Surely, giving thanks to God is one way to praise him.

In your family tradition, this

holiday season might be a time to read sacred texts such as the Bible or Torah and think about how such written words have impacted your way of life.

Have you held true to your faith this past year?

Are there prayer or meditation disciplines to which you would like to dedicate more time?

Getting back to the basics of your faith can really be as simple as opening a familiar text and brushing up on what is important in your life.

In essence, another way to

praise God could be to try to improve your way of living for and with him.

In my faith tradition, this is a time of year for giving thanks to God for Jesus.

We do this through prayer, special meals, attending worship services, quiet time with family, exchanging gifts, and even decorating a tree.

To praise God for my family means to do all these things with the constant reminder that God gave Christians the gift of his son.

For us, surely this is a reason to celebrate and “break out in praise”!

Friends, no matter your faith background, the words of Psalm 98:4 give a good reason to celebrate during this time of year.

You are surrounded by the work of a loving creator.

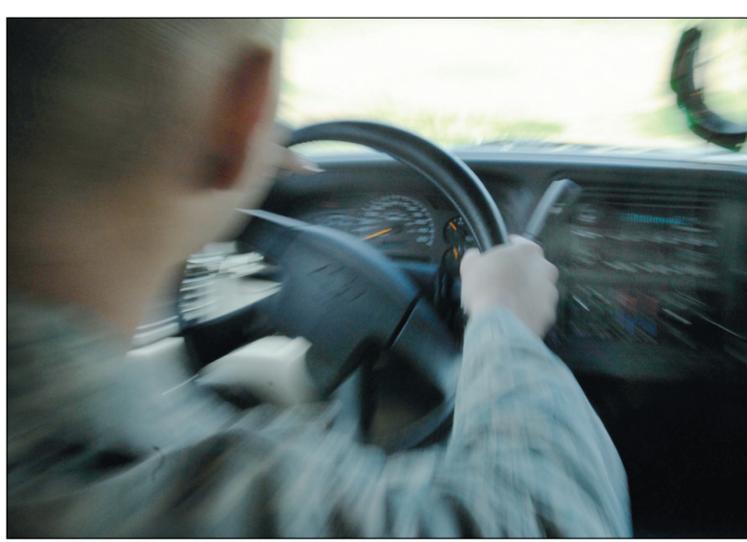
Your faith can be re-inspired by reviewing the book or books upon which it was founded.

Finally, there is a loving God who knows you, who cares about you, and to whom you can turn not only now, but for all eternity.

Yea, praise him, all the earth!

# Alcohol doesn't have to run your life

Commentary by Air Force Lt. Col. Anthony Carr  
Air Force News Service



(U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Airman 1st Class Laura Max)

As we begin 2012, it’s the perfect moment to reflect on alcohol-related incidents.

Gen. Jimmy Doolittle was famous for saying “if we must fight, we should do so from the neck up rather than the neck down.”

He was talking about thinking our way through the fight before it ever begins. There is a useful parallel in how we approach drinking.

Rather than fixating on how to cope with consequences, we should devote more energy to thinking our way through alcohol use before it becomes abuse.

The human relationship with alcohol is complicated. In modern times, it has been glorified as the key to a good time and demonized as a symbol for irresponsible partying.

These oversimplifications mask the complex truth: while alcohol sometimes contributes to disciplinary issues, human decision-making is the universal root cause in alcohol-related incidents.

This is a fact worth investigating more closely, but first we must first confront two common myths.

Myth #1: Drinking is for “idiots.” Alcohol is woven into our societal fabric and its use is not limited to those having poor judgment or low intelligence.

The first evidence of wine production dates back more than 10,000 years and the rise in alcohol use has paralleled the advance of civilization.

The industrial production of alcohol for sale and export accompanied the ascent of the Roman Empire; it played economic and spiritual roles in the world’s first superpower society.

Leaders, followers and peers alike must internalize that alcohol is a fixture in our way of life.

Rather than discount it as a lesser activity or futilely try to engineer it out of our collective behaviors, it is best that we approach it thoughtfully.

Myth #2: Alcohol is for troublemakers.

Devout monks are just as likely to have a drink in their spare time as serial felons.

As a supervisor and commander at multiple levels, I’ve dealt with

many alcohol-related incidents. Occasionally, they involve Airmen with troubled records on their way out of our service. More often, they involve good people who engage in unexpected and uncharacteristic actions.

I’ve yet to come across an Airman who woke up one morning determined to ruin his or her life. If we pretend alcohol-related incidents are reserved for those who are prone to trouble, we will make a critical mistake in incident prevention.

These myths are mental shortcuts that allow us draw convenient but false conclusions concerning alcohol use.

When we get past these shortcuts, we begin to see alcohol-related incidents as stories of good people making bad choices.

In my experience, three main drivers explain most disciplinary incidents that include alcohol use.

Thinking about these drivers before we drink is the key to keeping ourselves and our wingmen out of trouble.

Driver #1: Low self-awareness.

Why do we drink? It’s a tough question because we’re socialized to consider drinking and thinking mutually exclusive.

We must move past this mindset. We should all understand why we’re engaging in this activity in order to build objectives and avoidance areas that will apply.

My theory is that some people who drink do so for the feeling of being a little out of control.

Adult human beings are subject to professional, personal and societal limits on behavior and can’t help but enjoy the feeling of liberation that accompanies a relaxed behavioral grip.

Up to a certain point, there is nothing wrong with this. However, we each have a transition point from an acceptable to an unacceptable loss of control.

Beyond that point, behavior is unpredictable, sometimes uncharacteristic and often beneath reproach, which is never OK.

This transition point is difficult to define and different for each situation.

Only through self-awareness can we learn how much alcohol can lead to a loss of control and learn to recognize and arrest its onset.

Driver #2: Lack of planning.

When it comes to alcohol, failing to plan is planning to fail. Planning is easier said than done because we’ve been socialized to consider drinking a carefree activity.

This is the wrong mindset; it leads to personal and professional ruin. Plan your night.

At a minimum, know where your journey will begin, transit and end; who you will spend your time with; and how much you will drink.

Once you have that plan, hold on to it as your playbook for responsible fun.

Driver #3: Impaired decisions.

After even one drink, your decisions are compromised.

At a mild level of intoxication, you will readily set aside rules because you’re feeling less inhibited.

At a medium level of intoxication and beyond, you’ll make poor decisions based on shifting criteria.

Unacceptable outcomes are a likely result.

People who get into trouble while drunk are often mystified at their decisions, feeling as though they were made by someone else.

The difficult truth is that we are all poor decision makers when we drink.

Therefore, no important decision should be made once drinking has commenced.

Anticipate situations and decide on responses while you’re still sober.

Do your best to ingrain proper decisions into your thought patterns before you chemically disrupt normal brain function.

Alcohol, for better or worse, is a part of our culture and has been for thousands of years.

We can’t wish it away and we can’t engineer it out of our activities.

What we must do is reason through the human-alcohol relationship and ingrain patterns of action and decision to keep ourselves and our teammates within the bounds of acceptable conduct.

Alcohol can be enjoyed responsibly given a high degree of self-awareness, good planning and sober decision making.

If we actively think through our interface with it and learn to master it “from the neck up,” we can eliminate its unfavorable consequences.

Please continue to think before you drink and carry these ideas into your safe New Year.

## Indoor and Outdoor Winter Fun!

**Petersville Snowmachine Trip**  
January 14: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$150

**Snowmachine Safety Course**  
January 17: Noon - 1:30 p.m. & 5:30 - 7 p.m. \$40  
16 yrs and older with license

**Seward Polar Bear Plunge**  
January 21: 6 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$125

**JBER Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center**

To register, call 384-1475 or 1476

**Outdoor Recreation Elmendorf**

**FREE Cross-Country Ski Waxing Clinic**  
January 14, 28 • 1 p.m.

**Cross-Country Ski Lessons**  
January 15, 22, 29 • 1 p.m.  
\$10 per person • 13 years & up  
Class size is limited.  
Advanced Sign-Up required

**Handgun Cartridge Reloading Class**  
January 20 • 5:30 p.m. • \$5

Call 552-2023 for More Details

**Indoor Rock Climbing Clinic at JBER Elmendorf OAP**  
January 19  
6 - 8 p.m. • \$25

Learn Basic Climbing Skills & Rope Techniques

To register, call 384-1475 or 1476

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

**Rail Jam Competition**  
January 21  
Ride the Rails & Show off Your Skills  
Call 552-5026 to Sign-up

**Dog Sled Rides**  
January 21 & 22  
Noon - 5 p.m.  
\$10 Adults, \$5 Children

Lesson Center 552-5026  
Ski Hotline 552-4276

facebook.com/hillbergskiarea

Hillberg Ski Area 552-4838

**Cross-Country Skiing at EAGLE GLEN GOLF COURSE**

Open Everyday 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.

**DYEA SKI CENTER**

Tubing Hill: 50 min. for \$3 pp.  
Downhill Ski & Snowboard  
Daily Lift Tickets: \$5  
Equipment Rentals Available  
Hillberg Season Passes Honored  
Call for updates:

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

# Community happenings

**SATURDAY**

**Josh Ritter concert**

Americana singer Josh Ritter, hailed as a gifted arranger and lyricist, brings his unique style to the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m.

For information call 263-ARTS.

**Rage City Rollergirls**

Anchorage's own flat-track roller derby takes over the Dena'ina Center once again, with plenty of action. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and wheels roll at 7 p.m. For information, visit [www.ragecity-rollergirls.com](http://www.ragecity-rollergirls.com).

**THROUGH JAN. 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.

**JAN. 18**

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson celebrates the birthday of the civil rights hero at the Arctic Warrior Events Center from 3 p.m. until 4. All are welcome to attend. The guest speaker for the event will be the Rev. Alonzo Patterson. For more information call 552-2056.

**JAN. 19 THROUGH 29**

**Anchorage Folk Festival**

Anchorage unplugs with folk performances from local musicians and masters from beyond the state. Hundreds of acts from all over the world converge on Anchortown, all free.

For information call 566-2334.

**JAN. 19**

**Movie night for spouses**

The Richardson Spouses' Club hosts a movie night and white elephant gift exchange at Soldiers' Chapel at 6:30 p.m.

For more information visit [fisc.shutterfly.com/](http://fisc.shutterfly.com/).

**JAN. 21**

**Cheap Date Night**

The Elmendorf Officers' Spouses' Organization hosts a "cheap date night" for couples starting at 6 p.m. in Anchorage.

For information, visit [\[mendofoso.com\]\(http://mendofoso.com\) or visit them on Facebook.](http://el-</a></p>
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**Model railroading**

The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers presents Model Railroading Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in basement Room 35 of Matanuska Hall, 7153 Fighter Drive. Anyone interested in model railroading is invited.

The club regularly meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays with work sessions at 1 p.m. Saturdays in the same room.

For information, call 552-5234, visit [www.trainweb.org/msmre](http://www.trainweb.org/msmre) or email [bjorgan@alaska.net](mailto:bjorgan@alaska.net).

**JAN. 27 AND 28**

**Mike Garson in concert**

Famous for years of touring with David Bowie, keyboardist Mike Garson pushes any and all limits with a seamless blending of rock, classical and jazz music.

Check him out at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

For information call 263-ARTS.

**JAN. 28 AND 29**

**Anchorage Symphony**

The Anchorage Symphony presents "Out of This World," a collaboration with Emmy-nominated astronomer and artist Dr. Jose Francisco Salgado.

Together they present an awe-inspiring music and video performance of "The Planets" at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday.

For information call 274-8668.

**AKC dog show**

The Alaska Kennel Club hosts a dog show at Egan Center, time to be determined, in conjunction with the Kenai Kennel Club.

For information, visit [alaskakennelclub.org](http://alaskakennelclub.org) or call 346-1601.

**FEB. 3**

**3rd Wing award ceremony**

Join 3rd Wing Airmen as they are recognized for their achievements at Hangar 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Anyone with base access is welcome to attend the ceremony. For information call 552-7519.

**FEB. 5**

**Alaska Ski for Women**

Ski for Women takes over

Kincaid Park in this annual event.

Costumes make this a great spectator event that encourages women of all ages and abilities to get involved with Nordic skiing.

For information call 276-7609.

**FEB. 9 THROUGH 12**

**Anchors Aweigh show**

The Dena'ina Center hosts this boat show with boat safety classes and plenty of booths. Whether your interest is river rafting or boating, ocean vessels, you'll find something here.

Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

**FEB. 10 AND 11**

**The Music of Queen**

The Anchorage Symphony Orchestra will rock you with this tribute to the music of Queen.

Featuring the ASO and rock musicians as well as a 50-voice chorus, this show takes place at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

For information call 274-8668 or visit [anchoragesymphony.com](http://anchoragesymphony.com).

**FEB. 10 THROUGH 18**

**The Blue Bear**

Based on the book by Lynn Schooler, this performance is about finding and losing a close friend.

Schooler grows to trust again as he creates this portrayal of a remarkable friendship.

The show plays at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.

For information call 263-ARTS.

**FEB. 15**

**Alaska fight championship**

Who needs UFC when there's the Alaska Fighting Championship?

Alaskan fighters – some of whom go on to large-market venues – battle it out at Sullivan Arena starting at 7:30 p.m.

For information email [sarah@alaskafighting.com](mailto:sarah@alaskafighting.com) or call 351-8184.

**FEB. 24**

**Fur Rendezvous kicks off**

Celebrating winter like nowhere else, Alaska's largest and oldest winter festival features tons

of fun events.

All around Anchorage are events like outhouse races, snowshoe softball and the Running of the Reindeer, a mass dash down Fourth Avenue with sprinting caribou giving chase.

For information, call 274-1177.

**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 for single Airmen living in the dorms.

There are also free home-cooked meals Thursday evenings, served at 6:30 p.m.

For information, call 552-4422.

**Sing-a-long at the Zoo**

Pre-school aged kids can explore the world of animals through music with musician Annie Reeves.

Children can sing along with the guitar, or play with the musical instruments for kids.

Sing-a-longs are held at 10:30 a.m. Mondays at the coffee shop greenhouse.

For information email [klarson@alaskazoo.org](mailto:klarson@alaskazoo.org).

**Planetarium shows**

Through 3-D graphics, surround sound and a dome screen, the Anchorage Museum's planetarium offers a fascinating way to learn about astronomy, the solar system and more.

## Chapel

### services

**Catholic Mass**

**Sunday**

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

5 p.m. – Soldiers' Chapel (Evening Mass ends Dec. 18)

**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 though 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.)

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

**Scholarship opportunity**

The Richardson Spouses' Club is accepting scholarship applications for 2012.

The scholarship program is open to all eligible JBER military and retiree dependents, and can be used toward undergraduate studies.

Deadline is Feb. 29. For information, visit [fisc.shutterfly.com](http://fisc.shutterfly.com).



## Experience Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

**AQUA JOG  
FUN RUN**  
Running Minus the Harm

**January 23**  
9 a.m. or 1 p.m.

How many laps can you do in 20 minutes?  
**SIGN-UP now and find out!**

Aqua jogging is an aerobic activity where you use all the large muscle groups in your body to move forward against the resistance of water. Come try a new workout today.

**Buckner Physical Fitness Center Pool**  
Find out more about aqua jogging from our fitness specialists: 384-1305/1311

**WARRIOR ZONE OLYMPICS**  
January 14  
2 p.m.

Pool • Ping Pong • Air Hockey • Darts • Foosball  
Prizes for Top 3 Teams (2 Person Teams)

Bldg 655 • 384-9006

Bldg 665 • 384-9023

**Youth Swim Lessons**  
Sign-up NOW  
Classes begin January 17

JBER Elmendorf Fitness Center  
Bldg. 9510 • 552-5353

**Last Chance to Register for Indoor Soccer**  
Ages 5 & up • \$55  
Registration ends January 13

For More Information  
Kennecott Youth Center, 552-2266  
Two Rivers Youth Center, 384-1516

**Be sure to enjoy Alaska safely in the new year!**

# Births

## Nov. 29

A daughter, Angel Mefiposeta Rehedul, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 8 ounces at 6:32 a.m., and a son, Jeremiah Kimo Rehedul was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces, was born at 5:02 a.m. to Sabrina Rene Rehedul and Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Neil Rehedul of the 95th Chemical Company.

## Nov. 30

A daughter, Michelle Rae Lynn Dimick, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces at 5:37 a.m. to Angel Michelle Dimick and 1st Sgt. Brandon Clark Dimick of Company C, 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

A daughter, Olivia Bell Keenan, was born 20.25 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce at 11:51 p.m. to Roberta J. Keenan and Army Capt. Thomas John Keenan of the 56th Engineer Company.

## Dec. 1

A son, Jonathan David Stimac, was born 20.25 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces at 7:49 a.m. to Christine Kay Stimac and Air Force Col. David Ryan Stimac of the 3rd Maintenance Group.

## Dec. 2

A daughter, Sophia Leeann Dodd, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 10:56 a.m. to Elizabeth Ann Dodd and Airman 1st Class Patrick McDuffie Dodd of the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

## Dec. 3

A son, Ian Matthew Ferguson, was born 17.75 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 4:45 a.m. to Air Force

Capt. Stephanie L. Illanes of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron and Matthew Raymond Ferguson.

A daughter, Alexys Marie Hatch, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 11:57 p.m. to Chastity Lynn Hatch and Senior Airman Matthew Robert Hatch of the 773rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

## Dec. 5

A daughter, Maxine Kumiko Camacho Cabrera, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 5:31 a.m. to Cpl. Valerie Nicole Camacho of the Forward Support Company, 6th Engineer Battalion, and Sgt. 1st Class Maximo Prudencio Cabrera of the 716th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company.

## Dec. 6

A son, Brayden I. Harding, was born 21.25 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 12:20 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. LaKeithia S. Harding and Air Force Staff Sgt. William R. Harding Jr., both of the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

A daughter, Scarlett Costarella Lawson, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 11:20 a.m. to Nicolina Costarella Lawson and Senior Airman Christopher Dillon Lawson of the 3rd Munitions Squadron.

## Dec. 7

A son, Joseph Chase Avellino, was born 20.75 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 6:36 p.m. to Danelle Lyn Avellino and Tech. Sgt. Michael Anthony Avellino of the 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron.

A son, Gabriel Joseph Houde, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces at 5:12 p.m. to Tech. Sgt. Micahah Denise Houde of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Joseph Houde of the 773rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

## Dec. 8

A son, Isac Donnie Dibler, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 1:30 a.m. to Kristin Dibler and Spc. Mark Dibler of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

## Dec. 9

A son, John Frederick Duke, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 5:47 a.m. to Caryn Ann Duke and Army Staff Sgt. Frederick William Duke of the Sgt 1st Class Christopher Brevard Non-commissioned Officer Academy.

A daughter, Edyn O'Neal Josey, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 11:09 a.m. to Kassi Harris Josey and Sgt. Stanley Adam Josey of Company A, 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

A son, Cayson Craig Lynn, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 10:35 a.m. to Sarah Ann Lynn and Spc. Cory Lee Lynn of the 6th Engineer Battalion.

## Dec. 10

A son, Mason Lee Bair, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces to Malorie Anne Bair and Sgt. Matthew Brian Bair of Company F, 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

A daughter, Liliana Marie Bintliff, was born 20.25 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 5:50 p.m. to Spc. Christina Marie Miller of the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and Damien Joel Bintliff.

## Dec. 11

A son, Holden Bryant Gill, was born 22 inches long and weighing 10 pounds at 5:35 p.m. to Amanda Leigh Gill and 1st Sgt. Herbert Blouin Gill of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

A son, Karson Charles Viars, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 8:46 a.m. to Amber Richard Viars and Sgt. Nathaniel Kyle Viars of Company B, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

A son, Caidan Tyrann Semaj Williams, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 1:12 p.m. to Swanniqya Annetta Williams and Pfc. Corey James Williams of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

## Dec. 12

A son, Daniel Joshua Kerrigan, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 11:45 a.m. to Air National Guard Maj. Stephanie Lynn Kerrigan and Army National Guard Col. Hunt Webster Kerrigan.

A son, Braxten Alexander Reagan, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces at 5:13 p.m. to Brandy Cahill Reagan and Sgt. Brandon Michael Reagan of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

## Dec. 14

A son, Denali Chimaobim Duplessis, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces at 2:10 p.m. to Chineneye P.A. Duplessis and Gunnery Sgt. Duke Michael Duplessis of the U.S. Marine Corps.

A son, Clifton James Allen Gregory, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds at 5:26 a.m. to Jessica Elizabeth Gregory and Army Staff Sgt. Jesse Harlan Gregory of the Warrior Transition Unit.

A daughter, Elianna Faith Lockett, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 11:53 a.m. to Arjanna Lockett and Spc. Lee Lockett of the 98th Maintenance Company.

## Dec. 15

A daughter, Makayla Renee Dixon, was born 23 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 4:51 p.m. to Veronica Fay Dixon and Army Staff Sgt. Michael Blanche Dixon II of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Engineer Brigade.

A daughter, Paxton Ann Howard, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 6:14 a.m. to April Ann Howard and Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas Adam Howard of the United States Marine Corps.

## Dec. 16

A daughter, Adriana Jamiyah Laws, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 10:25 a.m. to Aquilia Fakhirah Laws and Army Staff Sgt. Adam James Laws Sr. of the 6th Engineer Battalion.

## Dec. 17

A son, Gabriel James David Hilbert, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 4:14 p.m. to Jamie Hilbert and Spc. Nick Hilbert of the 98th Maintenance Company.

A son, Daniel Wesley Obremsky, was born 21 inches long and weighing 10 pounds at 5:33 a.m. to Diana Marie Obremsky and Sgt. Mark Adam Obremsky of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, U.S. Army Alaska.

A son, Justin Anthony Young Jr., was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at 1:16 a.m. to Gabrielle Briana Young and Spc. Justin Anthony Young of the 84th Engineer Support Company, 6th Engineer Battalion.

## Dec. 18

A son, Preston Brock Quenneville, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces, at 1:19 a.m. to Spc. Kristen LeAnn Quenneville of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 793rd Military Police Battalion, and Sgt. Dylan Brock Quenneville, of the 545th Military Police Company.

## Dec. 19

A son, Callen Ernest Nibbelink, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 7:49 a.m. to Renee Jennifer Nibbelink and Air Force Capt. Daniel Keith Nibbelink of the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron.

A son, Luis Giovanni Quiles, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 9:40 a.m. to Brooke A. Quiles and Sgt. Joel Quiles of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

## Dec. 20

A daughter, Kaila Shay Bustos, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces at 8:36 a.m. to Courtney Michelle Bustos and Spc. Mario Enrique Bustos of the 23rd Engineer Company.

A son, Isaiah James Carlos, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 7:45 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Arlene Urueta Almanzar of the 176th Operations Support Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard and Air Force Staff Sgt. Sonny Nicholas Carlos of the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

## Dec. 21

A son, Connor James Bryan, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 8:34 p.m. to Air Force Capt. Tania Marie Bryan of Alaskan Command and Air Force Capt. Matt John Bryan of the 537th Airlift Squadron.

A daughter, Melanie Marie Roberson, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces, at 10:51 a.m. to Shana Marie Roberson and Tech. Sgt. Christopher David Roberson of the 611th Air Space Operations Center.

A daughter, Daysha Lucille Goodman, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 9:21 p.m. to Crysta Nadien Goodman and Spc. Ryan George Goodman of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

A daughter, Willow McKinley White, was born 18.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces at 5:45 a.m. to Tiffany Michelle White and Tech. Sgt. Scott McLean White of the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

## Dec. 22

A son, Zachary Daniel Nelson, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces at 5:53 a.m. to Megan Elizabeth Nelson and Spc. Eric Matthew Nelson of the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

## Dec. 23

A daughter, Averie Arlee Campisi, was born 19.25 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 3:02 a.m. to Mandie Arlene Campisi and Army Staff Sgt. Dustin Lee Campisi of Company C, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

A son, Gunnar Allan Matuse, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 6:41 p.m. to Allana Jane Matuse and Spc. Kelly Dwayne Matuse of the Forward Support Company, 6th Engineer Battalion.

A daughter, Meghan Alexandra Seher, was born weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 10:34 p.m. to Arael Candelaresi Seher and Air Force Capt. Theodore K. Seher of the 537th Airlift Squadron.

A son, Trevor Nathaniel Trejo, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 12:18 p.m. to Julie Ann Trejo and Spc. Daniel Natividad Trejo of Company A, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

## Dec. 24

A daughter, Aubrieta Ruth Williams, was born 19.25 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 6:01 p.m. to Iris Deanna Williams and Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Lee Williams of the 716th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment.

## Dec. 27

A daughter, Faye Leigh Faulkner, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces at 8:46 a.m. to Jena Leigh Faulkner and Sgt. Steve Lee Faulkner of the 297th Engineer Company.

A son, Cillian Francis Maples, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 5:05 p.m. to Air Force Capt. Katie Michele Raychel of the 673d Inpatient Squadron and Army Capt. Sean Christopher Maples of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

A daughter, Avery Elizabeth Thorne, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces at 10:36 p.m. to Casey Ann Higgins and Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Leon Thorne of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron.

## Dec. 28

A daughter, Molly Olivia Girdner, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces at 12:54 p.m. to Crystal R. Girdner and Air Force Capt. Barney D. Girdner IV of the 673d Comptroller Squadron.

A son, Dominic Andrew Lizana, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 4:11 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Angela Marie Corrales and Tech. Sgt. Anthony Ray Lizana, both of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.

## Dec. 29

A daughter, Tatianna Anhk Guiste, was born at 4:18 p.m. to Tonja Leona Guiste and Kihwaesi Leonidas Guiste of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

A son, Vashan Mauricio Robinson, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces, at 4:27 a.m. to Mayra Edith Robinson and Sgt. Victor Maurice Robinson Jr. of the 109th Transportation Company.

## Dec. 30

A daughter, Isabella Christine Finkelstein, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce at 4:01 p.m. to Jacqueline Elizabeth Finkelstein and Sgt. 1st Class Damien Finkelstein of the 545th Military Police Company.

A daughter, Evelyn Grace Halvorson, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces at 8:28 a.m. to Jaime Marie Halvorson and Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan James Halvorson of the 3rd Operations Support Squadron.

## Dec. 31

A daughter, Cerafina Grace Hansen, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 10:08 a.m. to Susie Marie Hansen and Senior Airman Eric Stanley Hansen of the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

## Jan. 3

A son, Mylan David Ramey, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 12 ounces at 8:03 a.m. to Monika V. Ramey and Army Staff Sgt. Michael D. Ramey of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.



# Vehicle service flight gets parts in right hands

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

When aircraft break down, parts are always handy to get it back in the air as quickly as possible. When a ground vehicle needs parts, sometimes the specific part isn't easy to come by. That's where the 673d Vehicle Management Flight, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, comes in. They operate a maintainer network called Vehicle Parts Supply Organization. "Here's a program that grew out of need, it is the only one of its kind in the entire Air Force," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patricia Csank, 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. "The Pacific is unlike any other theater in the world, because our bases face a tyranny of distance defined by the vastness of oceans. That means it takes transportation longer to get parts out to some of the outlying bases like Diego Garcia."

The Pacific Air Force program is managed by PACAF and executed by the flight, said Master Sgt. Ronald Cole, 673d Vehicle Management superintendent.

"We supply hard-to-find vehi-



Tech. Sgt. Oliver Lucero, right, purchases a valve stem, lug nuts, an air filter and an engine oil filter from Tom Parsons at an auto vendor in Anchorage, Jan. 10. The seemingly common parts are hard to find at some locations like Diego Garcia, so they are obtained through Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's 673d Vehicle Parts Supply Organization. Parsons retired from vehicle maintenance in the Air Force in 2004 and since then has worked as a parts technician where he works regularly with JBER's VPSO office. The VPSO office specializes in obtaining ground vehicle parts for PACAF. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

cle parts. For example, if someone can't find a part for an American vehicle, they can give us a call and we'll go out on the economy here, track it down and ship it to them," he said. "Or we'll go to the lower 48, have it shipped here, and then get it to them."

Their area of responsibility ranges from South Korea to Diego Garcia, an in the Indian Ocean, Cole said.

"The original idea in 1997 was to capitalize on our unique location in Alaska and source hard to find parts locally for mechanics in more geographically or economically

challenging areas," said Air Force 1st Lt. Dayton Blume, Vehicle Management flight commander. "The hard to find parts may not necessarily be available on the internet, so they come to us. However, if a mechanic is really what they need, VPSO mechanics will work with local vendors to customize parts to specification."

It makes sense to have some parts centrally located, Cole said, but not hard-to-find parts. In today's fiscal environment, it isn't cost-effective to keep large stocks.

"We are available to support all bases throughout PACAF," he

said. "Korea might not have the capability to re-chrome a hydraulic cylinder ram, whereas VPSO could have it re-built and re-furbished, then sent back to the user."

The program also played a combat role.

"VPSO provided support for functions in Afghanistan up until 2006," Blume said. "As vehicle mechanics deployed from PACAF bases in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom over the past 10 years, they took contact information for VPSO with them in their tool kits. At the time, Elmendorf Air Force Base's VPSO

became a trade secret passed along to successive rotations of mechanics, making the Logistics Readiness Squadron's mission truly a capability to leverage globally."

VPSO is gaining popularity.

"Its gained publicity recently among vehicle maintainers in Europe, it's worth talking about this kind of ingenuity," Csank said. "It's the vehicle maintenance community networking to fill what the enterprise would view as a very small demand but no less critical for vehicle maintenance ... There's nothing like it in the entire Air Force."

## Aurora Housing utility payment allowances change beginning Feb. 1

Aurora Military Housing  
News Release

Starting in January 2012, the utility allowance will be adjusted for all Phase I (Sunflower – those units on Fairchild Ave., Dallas, Silver Run and Chugach housing areas) metered housing units to reflect decreases or increases in electricity and natural gas rates Aurora pays to the government and a local provider, respectively.

The new rates are generally published in January and will be included in the monthly utility statement.

Implementation of utility allowances for metered Phase II housing units (Moose Crossing, Denver, Houston, General Officers' Quarters and Dayton Housing Areas) will be initiated on Feb. 1.

Five consecutive years of natural gas and/or meter reads have been compiled for these metered housing areas.

The Phase I and Phase II utility allowance is a portion of the basic allowance for housing that Aurora sets aside to cover the gas and electric utility costs for each house.

Aurora pays for each resident's water and sewer costs regardless of the usage.

The utility allowance encourages energy conservation.

In accordance with the agreements between Aurora and the Air Force, Aurora is required to annually adjust the utility allowances based upon actual metered usage data and current utility rates.

In calculating the allowances, consumption is based upon 110 percent of the actual metered average consumption data for units in your housing area from the past five years.

As an example from last year, based on a five-year period, Chugach housing area residents consumed an average of 7,920 kWh/month and have received an allowance equal to a consumption rate of 8,712 kWh/month (110 percent of 7,920) times the electric rate the Air Force charges Aurora.

In an attempt to minimize the seasonal effects of utility usage and limit tenant utility payments, Aurora will again be providing tenants whose utilities are metered with a quarterly adjusted utility allowance.

Without quarterly adjusted utility allowances, residents would likely find themselves in a position of making a payment in the late winter and obtaining a refund in the late summer or fall.

Aurora will continue to read utility meters monthly and provide a statement reflecting your actual consumption, your quarterly allowance amount and the resulting balance of your account.

As is currently the case, when the credit balance of your account exceeds \$250 Aurora will issue you a refund check.

In the alternative, if your account reflects a debit balance in excess of \$250, you are required to make payment to Aurora in the amount of the account balance.

In addition, each account is annually reconciled and adjusted to zero at the end June.

This means that during July you will either be refunded any accumulated credit, or invoiced for any amount owed, regardless of the dollar amount.

By following just a few of the simple tips, residents can make their homes more comfortable and easier to heat and electrify – while saving money.

Heating your home uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system.

Turning your thermostats down when no one is at home or limiting opening your garage door to the shortest possible period

can result in substantial savings in natural gas usage.

Electricity and natural gas can be saved by making certain that the full capacity of the washer, dryer or dishwasher is being used.

Turning off lights in unoccupied rooms or during the daylight hours can have a significant impact on your electrical energy usage.

Aurora encourages tenants to call or stop by their office to discuss other energy savings tips, heat loss issues and to check out what items are available in the U-Fix-It store for energy conservation.

"Utilities rates on Elmendorf have been and continue to be lower than off-base," said David Germer of Aurora Housing. "As long as everyone exercises energy conservation measures, there will be no out-of-pocket expenses."

"However, for those who do not conserve energy, they may find themselves in the position of paying for the greater energy use than what is set aside by Aurora."

For any questions regarding the Utility Program or further information, please contact the Aurora Utility Staff at 375-0508 or Aurora Housing Office at 753-1023.



# FOB Salerno: family reunion hotspot for Spartan Brigade Soldiers

By Army Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson  
Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

**KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Having three deployed members in one family at the same time would seem unlikely; however, for the Hale family, it's a reality.

With a little help, they were able to reconnect after a four-year separation, at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Jan. 6.

Army Capt. Rikki Salyers of the Indiana National Guard's 4-19th Agribusiness Development Team and her two stepbrothers, Sgt. Nicholas A. Hale, a squad leader with C Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division; and Sgt. Adam M. Hale, an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade, came to the attention of Regional Command-East, after their father reached out to Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, Combined Joint Task Force-1 commanding general.

Though they are step-siblings, Salyers, a native of Oxford, Ind., stationed at FOB Salerno, refers to them as brothers.

"Technically they're my step-brothers, but I've never considered them (that)," Salyers, who

works with the women's outreach program, explained. "We've been together since I was in fourth grade, so they are my brothers."

The last time the siblings were united was four years ago, according to Salyers.

"Our parents flew us in to Arkansas," she said.

"That was our Christmas present. We actually got to come together for a family Christmas and get some pictures, so it was a really good time."

Nicholaus, serving at Combat Outpost Mizan, said his father was instrumental in getting the three of them together.

"I was actually at FOB Lagman in a transient tent, getting ready to head back to COP Mizan from R&R (leave), and I got forwarded an email from my dad that he had sent to Gen. Allyn, and (Brig.) Gen Schwietzer. He said they had planned on getting us back together."

Adam serves at Combat Outpost Zerok.

As the last of the siblings to join the Army, he talked to his brother about going to see him during this deployment.

However, no plans were ever actually made.

"It was a pretty new development," Adam said. "I feel pretty excited. I haven't seen my brother



**Sgt. Adam M. Hale, an infantryman with the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (left), U.S. Army Sgt. Nicholas A. Hale, a squad leader with the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Capt. Rikki Salyers of the Indiana National Guard's 4-19th Agribusiness Development Team share a laugh after being reunited on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, Jan. 7. The three siblings reunited after four years with help from Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, Regional Command East and Combined Joint Task Force-1 commanding general, who had received a letter from their father. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson)**

or sister for a few years, so it's pretty cool to see them over here."

After the three reunited, they spent the evening reminiscing

about old times and shared a few laughs.

"Just to be able to be with family here in Afghanistan is kind

of surreal," Sayers said. "To me family is everything, so it makes it all worth it with us being here and what we're doing."

## Stories help keep families connected despite separation

by Tech. Sgt. Vernon Cunningham  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** — Deployment can be hard on a family. It can be even harder for a service member who would normally read their children a good-night story but are not around to do so. However, the Pat Tillman Memorial United Services Organization here offers a service to help close that gap.

The program is a cooperative effort between the USO and the federal non-profit organization United Through Reading. It allows overseas personnel to read to their loved ones back home through

recorded video.

Cathe Ganley, the United Through Reading coordinator here, said the mission of the USO is to lift the spirit of the troops overseas or away from their family.

"One way we do that is by providing some of the comforts of home," she said. "Some of these comforts include free phone calls to the states so the children, mom, dad, grandma or whomever can read with them whenever they want."

With the United Through Reading Program, we record service members reading a book and send both the book and DVD home to the states so the children, mom, dad, grandma or whomever can read with them whenever they want."

USO patrons can bring their own book or choose from the selection provided. The USO has children's books for young readers and chapter books for older kids. They can read for up to 30 minutes while being recorded. Afterwards, USO personnel will package the book and disc and send them to the address provided by the service member.

Ganley said the Pat Tillman Memorial USO sends 60 to 100

packages to families in the U.S. every three days.

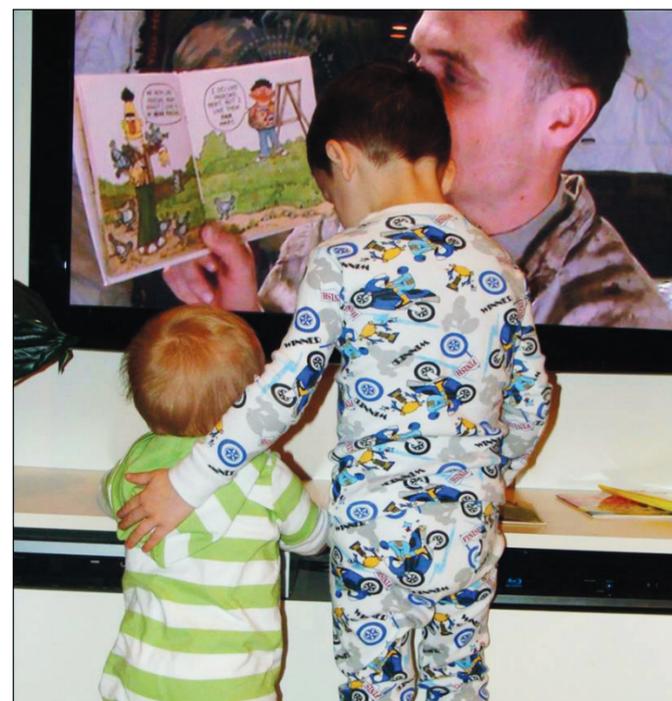
Air Force Master Sgt. Daniel Fish, deployed from the 623rd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, is a first-time user and took the opportunity to read to his two daughters.

"It's a little more personal than me just reading a book over the phone," Fish said. "My youngest daughter is in an accelerated reading program, so now I have a good reason to use the program and read with her. I know that my daughters will enjoy it."

Air Force Master Sgt. Santiago Belen, deployed from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard, read to his son, Justin, and daughter, Gabrielle. He read one book in English and the second book in Spanish.

Belen has shipped DVDs through the United Through Reading program several times.

"It's another way which the USO has given us to reach out to our families back home," Belen said. "More than phones and more than letters. I and my family definitely appreciate it."



**Two children in the United States watch a video recorded by their deployed father who used the United Services Organization's United Through Reading service at Bagram Airfield, Aghanistan. The USO records deployed servicemembers reading to their loved ones and sends the DVD and book back to the member's home. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)**

