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# ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 3, No. 4

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

January 27, 2012

## JBER commander hosts civilian call to discuss cuts

By Luke Waack  
 JBER Public Affairs

Air Force Col. Robert Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander, hosted two town hall-style meetings Tuesday to address reductions in the civilian work force at JBER.

The meetings were held in response to Air Force officials in Washington announcing a second round of cuts to JBER's civilian work force Jan. 10.

At JBER, this means the loss of 44 additional positions, Evans said, 17 of which are currently filled by JBER employees, with the remaining positions vacant.

When added to the first round of cuts announced Nov. 10, reductions have affected 70 employees at JBER.

Evans said, of the employees affected by the November cuts, approximately one third have been placed in new jobs.

To begin the first meeting at the Elmendorf Theater, Evans recognized the service members and units who train here and go overseas.

"There are more than 4,000 Soldiers and Airmen from JBER currently deployed, the largest contingent from the 4-2-5 airborne brigade (4-25th Airborne Brigade Combat Team)," Evans said. "Twelve percent of the U.S. Army Soldiers in Afghanistan are stationed in Alaska. Three out of four U.S. Army Alaska Soldiers are currently deployed. We are a nation at war. And we're a nation that's reducing the size of our military."

Evans addressed some of the reasons why reductions are happening, chief among them, the U.S. economy.

"That is the context that underpins the reductions we're talking about today," Evans said. "It doesn't make it any easier - these are agonizing

See Civilian call, Page A-3



## Wolverines deploy

Soldiers of 98th Maintenance Company mark deployment to Kuwait

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf  
 JBER Public Affairs



ABOVE: Pfc. Marquis Dreher, of Hopkins, S.C., steadies the 98th Maintenance Company, 17th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, unit guidon as the unit commander, Capt. Timothy Galloway, of Grand Forks, N.D., and 1st Sgt. George Fox, of Cottonwood, Calif., prepare them for casing during the unit's deployment ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory Monday.

TOP: Sgt. Yanira Lopez, 98th Maint., keeps watch Aug. 30, 2011, during convoy lane training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army photos/Percy G. Jones)

The 98th Maintenance Company hosted a deployment ceremony Monday at the Alaska National Guard Armory at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The company will deploy to Kuwait in February to assist in repairing equipment coming out of Iraq and going into the Army Supply System.

The deployment is set for nine months, when approximately 135 Soldiers will provide vehicle maintenance, welding and fabrication and repair parts sent to them.

Army Capt. Tim Galloway, 98th Maint. Co. commander, faced a time constraint challenge in order to meet the Army mission.

"A normal unit usually gets anywhere between a year and 180 days to prepare for a deployment," Galloway said. "I got a notice in mid-December that I had 90 days to get the company ready and, when you look at it with all the holidays and weekends, I had roughly 47 to 49 days of training time to get a whole company ready to deploy."

The 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion hosted classes to help the company meet their 90-day training time.

"There is a set program of training that

See Wolverines, Page A-3

## Army chief of staff visits JBER Soldiers

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

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno underscored Alaska's importance as one of the Army's premiere training locations during a Jan. 20 visit to U.S. Army Alaska headquarters.

Odierno's visit to Alaska was part of an Asia-Pacific theater tour, his first overseas trip as Army chief of staff.

He learned about U.S. Army Alaska's mission and capabilities, as well as its family- and Soldier-support programs.

USARAK Commander Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo highlighted the principles that guide the Army in Alaska.

"Ready units, strong families and arctic tough leaders is our mantra up here, sir," Palumbo said. "Some of the enchanting appeal of the Alaskan environment can change minds about life up here. Some people come up here kicking and screaming, only to later not want to leave."

Palumbo also pointed out the tactical and training benefits of the expansive joint military training areas in Alaska.

"I would like to see this (resource) used more Armywide and invite others to come train up here and make the use of our training areas," Palumbo said. "At 45 degrees below zero and moving through five feet of snow, it can add to the

training experience of any unit."

Odierno concurred with that assessment of Alaska's training value, citing the Army's Northern Warfare Training Center as an example.

"It is critical to sustain Army capabilities in Alaska; if anything ever happens in the world that demands operations in this type of environment, this is where we will come for the expertise," Odierno said.

Some of Alaska's wilderness resembles the rocky, mountainous terrain of northern Afghanistan, which adds realism to pre-deployment training here, noted Col. Gary Agron, USARAK chief of staff.

"People can look at photos of our mountains and later ask, 'Is this Alaska, or Afghanistan?'" Agron said.

Odierno spoke about the way ahead for the Army, echoing his recently published "Marching Orders" pamphlet which outlines his intent, priorities, principles, expectations for leaders and the Army's role.

He addressed concerns about looming reductions in force across the Army, stating that such moves would be tempered by lessons learned over the past 10 years of war and conducted in a professional and responsible manner over a five-year period.

In Alaska's below-zero temperatures, Odierno got an up-close look at equipment unique to Alaska during his stop here,



Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army, presents a coin to Spc. Marchal Mitchell, 56th Engineer Company, 6th Engineer Battalion, during a visit to U.S. Army Alaska Headquarters at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead)

including Small Unit Support Vehicles, which support units during operations in arctic and alpine conditions.

Soldiers from the Army's Northern Warfare Training Center

displayed such mainstays of winter operations as skis, snowshoes, heaters, extreme cold weather tents and arctic climbing equipment.

During his visit, Odierno praised USARAK's commitment

to the nation and the military.

"The fact that you currently have two brigades out and about in a deployment setting from Alaska really says a lot about what you are doing up here," Odierno said.

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### Community

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

**COMMUNITY**  
 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson  
 January 27, 2012

Preparing changes... SNIPPY... Connecting calls... Connecting lives... JBER's phone operators continue legacy of service behind the switchboard

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# THE TYRANNY OF 'NOW'

Lance Cpl. Brent Skelton, D Company, Anti-Terrorism Battalion, rushes an objective, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's squad battle course. Though immediacy is often required in combat situations, Air Force Lt. Col. Shawn Smith said he believes discretion is often prescribed in day-to-day business. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)

## Immediacy not always the best prescription

Commentary by Air Force Lt. Col. Shawn Smith  
Air Force News Service

Be careful what you wish for. George Bernard Shaw is famously quoted as saying, "There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart's desire. The other is to get it." Our modern colloquial version of the sentiment is expressed in the proverb, "Be careful what you wish for; you might get it."

In no aspect of our lives is this truer than in our roles as leaders and supervisors, especially in the direction we give our subordinates and teams. Our direction carries the weight of authority and, by virtue of its source, has the power to redirect, reprioritize, correct course and even disrupt other important work.

There is no doubt that subordinates and teams should respond professionally and promptly to legal and moral direction from their leaders. However, in this age of technologically-enabled immediacy,

what is in doubt is the increasing need for "now."

I call this the "tyranny of now": the increasingly common demand for immediate responses and action, where an otherwise dispassionate assessment might instead reveal a less urgent, less disruptive timeframe for response.

I call it tyranny because tyranny is defined as the arbitrary or unrestrained exercise of power. In this case, it is probably restraint that is lacking. Tyranny implies a degree of injustice that could be simply unjustified rather than morally unjust.

"Now" has a high cost. Now tells teams to stop or defer other work. Now is inherently less efficient and consumes more resources than the same task with the same suspense date given sufficiently early to deconflict other work and ensure availability of key resources.

Now often results in poor results because there is less time to gather and organize information, less time to develop and employ tools, less time to employ critical thinking,

analyze the problem from different angles, and prepare an adequate or even excellent response.

Is now worth the cost? Sometimes, the answer will be obvious: secure the gate, take cover, evacuate, return fire, batten down the hatches. In those cases, the question of "now" answers itself.

In less obvious circumstances, the authority and power of the leader to give authoritative direction entail a corollary obligation to examine and understand the costs and impacts of the direction.

When do I need it, is it more important than other work in-progress, will the team sacrifice themselves, their families or their future capacity to meet the task? When I know the answers to these questions, I am better prepared to give direction that meets my intent and keeps faith with my team.

Now affects everyone; leaders are not immune. We may be driven by the now of a higher authority, by necessity, by a perceived need originating in a habit of immediacy or

by our well-intentioned desire to portray our organizations as responsive.

Our teams and subordinates often lack insight into the pressures leading to now tasks. Lacking this insight, they try to meet their leaders' requirements at the task level rather than the potentially more effective, efficient and resilient level of intent.

Under the worst of circumstances, with a steady stream of other now tasks flowing at them, they will spend little time developing better processes, honing tools, and developing integrated, collaborative capacity.

Not every task needs an eight-step process or a comprehensive analysis. As Voltaire said, "The perfect" is often "the enemy of the good." However, when "now" is involved, particularly when the task is resource intensive, we owe our missions and teams a measure of deliberation to ensure the urgency is justified, the importance is valid and supports our strategic goals, and the method sufficient and efficient.

Leaders, start your engines of change: Choose your "nows" carefully.

## As Army downsizes, Soldiers must remain competitive

By Rob McIlvaine  
Army News Service

The past 10 years of war assured many Soldiers an assignment or promotion with a high degree of certainty, said an official with the Promotions Branch. That's no longer necessarily the case.

"It has always been in the Soldier's best interest to ensure this or her personnel file is up to date. But as history tends to repeat itself and the Army scales back its force structure, having an accurate, updated and complete service record is now more important than ever," said Gerald Mayer, chief of Department of the Army Promotions Branch.

Soldiers need to know how to present themselves to the board in the most positive and professional manner, Mayer said.

All Soldiers need to be on top of their personnel file at any given time because not only is the file looked at for promotion boards, but it's also looked at for assignments as well, he said.

"If it's not kept current to where you feel that you're being best represented, then you might fall short somewhere," Mayer said.

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Department of the Army Secretariat convenes about 80 selection boards each year, for promotions, command assignments, professional devel-

opment and schools for officers, warrant officers, and senior non-commissioned officers.

But if a Soldier doesn't do his or her due diligence, "the assignment that you want could go to someone else or you could not get promoted," Mayer said.

The Army will continue to promote its most qualified and experienced officers and noncommissioned officers based on potential and performance, he said. But he added this also means that boards will only select the best qualified out of the field of fully qualified Soldiers.

"The Army recommends that every Soldier, at a minimum, should maintain contact with their branch manager; check their DA photo, with emphasis on the proper wear and placement of the awards and to ensure that the data matches their officer records brief or enlisted records brief, and what's filed in their Official Personnel Management File, or OPMF, which is their electronic record depository," said Randy Gillespie, chief of the Officer Promotions Branch.

Gillespie added that everyone should:

- Ensure that their assignment data on the ORB/ERB is accurate.
- Ensure that all awards and badges are properly annotated on their ORB/ERB and filed in the OPMF.
- Confirm that all evaluations are

properly posted in their OPMF and that SSN, height/weight data, and duty title/description are correct.

• Review and certify their "My Board File" promotion information is correct.

"So don't fall short and think that if you don't put any emphasis on your personnel file, which is kind of your resume and kind of your handshake to whomever is looking at your file, because if it's not up to date, this could send the message that you're not diligent enough, or that you don't care what's happening to you in your career. After all, this is a profession of arms, and it doesn't speak highly of an individual if he or she presents themselves in a way that is unprofessional or fails to show due diligence," Gillespie said.

Prior to a promotion board, DA Promotions Branch publishes a military personnel or MILPER message that gives Soldiers guidelines on what they should do to ensure they are portraying themselves in the most favorable light.

"If a Soldier takes the time to read the correspondence sent to them, they are told exactly what to do and how to do it, and who may help them. There's no guess work in this process," Mayer said.

Every Soldier, said Gillespie, should have the habit of updating their records as they change. This makes sure they go down the right path to get the right evaluation to

ultimately show how they rate against their peers.

"It's not how you stack up against the Army standards, it's how you rate against your peers because most boards have a maximum selection objective that restricts the number to be recommended for promotion based upon the needs of the Army," Gillespie explained. "If there's 100 people on that board and the Army can only promote 80, even though they may all be top-notch Soldiers, it's how they rank among themselves provided that they are all fully qualified."

The Army, Mayer said, is an organization that truly cares about its people, but it also knows that not all Soldiers can be promoted. There's not that much room at the top.

"So we don't want anyone to fall short and think something is happening or there's an expectation when there's not. Promotion is not a right or an entitlement. It must be earned," he said.

A Soldier, he said, may say he did all that's required.

"OK, you did all that's required, but how well did you do it?" Mayer said. "Therein lies your efficiency report that talks to a Soldier's potential for advancement to the next higher rank."

"So we're just trying to alert Soldiers that (their) record could be looked at for just about anything, so just keep it up to date and make sure there's a validating document to support whatever entry is in (the) file," Mayer said.

Furthermore, commanders and supervisors can assist by monitoring preparation efforts and reviewing ORB/ERB, OPMFs, and DA photos prior to the board-convening date. The boards will require complete record evaluations as outlined in their respective MILPER Messages.

At a minimum, these senior leaders should ensure that their officers have an official DA photo on file, along

with completed evaluations that are processed by the established cut-off dates with emphasis on clear, concise, quantified narrative comments that leave no doubts as to where these Soldiers stand against their respective peers, Mayer said.

Finally, he said all Soldiers should view the detailed Department of the Army Secretariat video on the actual promotion board process to maximize success at DA boards and for their own professional development. This video is available at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/promotions>.

## ARCTIC WARRIOR

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# Air Guard rescue squadrons save tough hunters

By Airman 1st Class Yash Rojas  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE — The 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, mobilized rescue crews to search for and rescue two hunters stranded near Bird Creek, Dec. 31, 2011.

The 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons traveled through Eielson Air Force Base to rescue a father and son when, during a hunting trip, their snowmobile left them stranded 20 miles from their truck.

The two men decided to make the long trek back to the truck only to find their vehicle would not start. They made shelter in a snowmobile trailer, prepared to spend more than 36 hours in temperatures as low as 35 degrees below zero before their rescue arrived.

While the two stranded hunters braved the elements, family members reported their loved-ones as missing and gave Alaska State Troopers their last known position.

The RCC mobilized an HH-60G Pave Hawk with a crew of four as well as an HC-130 P/N King with a crew of seven at 12:30 a.m. Both aircraft had pararescuemen and combat rescue officers, also known as "Guardian Angels."

Several hours later, between 6 and 6:30 a.m., the rescue was underway with an HC-130 flying ahead to provide aerial support.

According to Maj. Glenn Ott, a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 co-pilot, Guardsmen use every available resource to help bring survivors home safely.

"Once you trigger that switch for the



Two 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters fly a training mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Sean Mitchell)

(Air) National Guard to come help, we go full bore," Ott said. "We are going to give every effort we can to help those survivors."

It was not long before the hunters were found exactly where their family had said they would be — near their vehicle. The two survivors were bundled up with furs and were said to have brought appropriate gear for the trip.

"It is a busy time of the year," said Air Force Master Sgt. Chris Robertson, a 212th Rescue Squadron pararescueman. "We flew in to the last known location when we saw

a tent on a snow trailer. They waved at us through the darkness and they looked like mushers in the Iditarod with bundled up faces and frosted with ice."

The two individuals were pretty tough and well prepared, Robertson said. When asked how they were doing, the survivors had no complaints, simply asking for a jump for their truck.

"We can't jump you with the helicopter," Robertson said.

Robertson told the two hunters they would have to come to Eielson where they

could make arrangements.

"They sucked it up," he said. "With no injuries and only a few icicles on their beards, they were moving well, showing no signs of frostbite. To them, it just seemed like no big deal."

"You could tell these guys know how to survive in the arctic," he added.

The 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons rely on the total force — the use of active duty, Guard and Reserve people and assets — to achieve successfully coordinated search and rescue missions.

# Pay attention to winter road conditions at JBER

JBER Public Affairs news release

There is no telling when the Anchorage Bowl will be hit with the next large snowfall. When this does happen, members must know base procedures during inclement weather.

Base officials have three options when winter weather makes driving conditions hazardous for JBER drivers:

**Mission essential reporting:** Only mission-essential people, as determined by unit commanders and supervisors, are required to report to duty. Unit commanders must specifically identify who they determine as mission essential in advance. If you have not been told, ask your supervisor.

**Delayed reporting:** All members report for duty while exercising caution and arriving as soon as conditions permit. Expected reporting time will be specified, but it will normally be a two-hour delay.

**Early release:** Unit commanders are responsible for managing early release within their organization when the installation commander initiates this action. The goal is to stagger departure times to alleviate congestion and to allow those who live farthest from the base to leave first.

These options give the base the flexibility to balance safety and mission needs against

the weather situations. However, this is Alaska, and with snow and ice no stranger to the area, motorists can expect these options to be used infrequently. When conditions at home are severe enough to warrant changes to normal reporting times and no option has been directed, people must coordinate with their supervisors and unit commanders to modify arrival times and work schedules.

When the installation commander decides to initiate any of these actions, the command post is notified and disseminates the information and specific reporting procedures. The public affairs office notifies local news media and initiates changes to the JBER Information Line (552-INFO/4636), JBER web page, Facebook, and Twitter sites with the latest reporting instructions, as directed.

If the base goes into mission-essential reporting, dining facilities and lodging will continue to operate to the maximum extent possible to meet the needs of customers, officials said. However, AAFES and commissary facilities may be closed. Call AAFES at 753-4422 and the commissary at 580-4425 for operating hours.

A related concern is driving under snowy and icy conditions. Drivers operating vehicles on JBER during inclement weather

need to slow down and drive with the conditions of the roadways. Speed, following too closely, and decreased visibility are major problems to safe driving. Nothing is more important than the safety of our forces and families.

Road condition advisories for JBER are:

**Green:** Roads are clear and dry. Drivers will comply with normal vehicle operating procedures and posted speed limits.

**Amber:** It has been determined that roads may be slippery due to snow, ice, or reduced visibility. Drivers will exercise caution.

**Red:** It has been determined that roads may be hazardous due to snow, ice, or reduced visibility. Drivers will exercise caution and reduce speeds by 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit.

**Black:** It has been determined that road conditions are extremely hazardous due to ice, snow, or reduced visibility. Vehicle

dispatching is prohibited unless directed by command authority. Only operate mission essential and emergency response vehicles. Drivers will exercise extreme caution and reduce speeds by 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit.

Road conditions are determined primarily from prevailing conditions on JBER. Command does work with Anchorage Police Department and considers off-base conditions when determining whether base closure or delayed reporting is in order.

Road conditions will be posted at all the gates and will be displayed on Top Cover and the Commander's Access Channel. In addition, the base installed electronic road condition signs

at various locations to keep on-base drivers aware of the current road conditions.

A good dose of common sense, slower speeds, and increased spacing between vehicles will help everyone get to their destination unscathed.



## Civilian Call

From Page A-1

decisions, decisions that are going to impact people — but I think it's important that we understand the context."

The Department of Defense ordered a reduction in the civilian work force, Evans said.

"The Air Force response to that OSD or Secretary of Defense guidance came out in a resource management directive, number 703, that directed cuts," Evans said.

RMD 703 directed a return to Fiscal Year 2010 manning levels.

"We're committed to supporting you the best way that we can as we work through this transition," Evans said.

The Air Force has implemented both the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program and the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority program to lessen the impact of the cuts. Deadline for VERA/VSIP application is Feb. 3.

According to the Civilian Personnel Office, 10 people took VSIP or VERA offers of the 19 who were offered.

Evans thanked the civilian workforce for the support they provide to troops and families.

"The civilian workforce in Alaska is magnificent," Evans said. "It's like no other civilian workforce I've seen and I mean that."

Evans turned the floor over to Dave Owens, American Federal Government Employees union, Local 1101 president.

As union president, Owens has been working since November to get answers for AFGE members about the cuts from members of Congress, as well as adding programs for affected employees, he said.

Owens explained some of the correspondence he has engaged in since the first round of cuts in November.

Angie Horn, JBER civilian personnel office chief, and Air Force Col. Ed Thomas, 673d Mission Support Group commander,



ABOVE: Air Force Col. Robert Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander, speaks to Department of the Air Force civilians and military leaders during a civilian call at the Richardson Theater Tuesday.

RIGHT: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 3rd Wing Department of the Air Force civilians and military leaders attend a civilian call meeting at the Talkeetna Theater Tuesday. The call was convened to address any issues about the second round of civilian workforce reductions. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera)

spoke to the audience as well and answered questions.

"We care very deeply about each and every position," Thomas said. "And sometimes at certain levels of the organization that message doesn't get communicated very well. It's our job to take care of people and we want to take care of everybody as we take care of the mission."

Thomas encouraged civilians to be persistent in seeking information.

"Use your chain of command," Thomas continued. "If you're not getting your questions answered, if you're not getting the information you need, use your chain."

A special customer support cell has been established to take questions and track customer service efforts in seeking answers.

Horn described the CPO efforts to place those affected by the cuts.

"We are working with management to review all vacancies that are available in the work force

and match people into vacant positions that are in jobs that have been identified under the RMD 703 reductions," Horn said.

Civilians with questions can call the CPO special cell at 552-3572, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The JBER website, www.jber.af.mil, hosts information on under the Featured Links/services tabs.

The official JBER Facebook also has a note dedicated to civilian reduction information.



## Wolverines

From Page A-1

is set up in three tiers," Galloway said. "If any of our guys need to go into Iraq, they have the facilities in Kuwait to get all the training needed."

This will be the first deployment for some of the Soldiers.

"I am excited but nervous at the same time," said Spc. Jacqueline Estabrook, chemical specialist with the company.

Others are more experienced when it comes to deployments. There are a few who sought a waiver for their dwell time in order to be able to deploy with the 98th.

Dwell time is time earned while deployed and spent at home getting reintegrated. Depending on where they are deployed, Soldiers can earn up to one month dwell time for every month deployed.

Sgt. 1st Class Mario Smith, the company's maintenance supervisor, was one of those who sought out a waiver so he could go with the company.

"I am new to the unit and I wanted to be there to support the unit's mission but also to support my Soldiers and to be there with them the whole time," Smith said.

For the other experienced veterans, many are excited about the prospect of a nine-month versus a 12-month deployment.

"I look forward to it because it's a change of pace and maybe easier on the families," said Staff Sgt. Francisco Espinoza, operations noncommissioned officer of the company.

Some of the Soldiers' families were also happy about the shortened deployment.

"It will hopefully be a lot easier than the other 12-month deployments," said Matt Morgan, son of Sgt. Shane Morgan. "We hope and pray that it goes well."

At the end of the ceremony, company leadership cased the guidon in preparation for deployment. The guidon will remain cased until the company arrives in Kuwait.



## Airborne Engineers begin construction of road for Border Patrol

By Natalie Lakosil  
Fort Huachuca Public Affairs

The first phase of a new road being constructed by 40 airborne engineers from Alaska will pave the way for quicker Border Patrol response times along the U.S. and Mexico border.

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

"The Soldiers have begun construction on close to a mile stretch of road for the U.S. Border Patrol," said U.S. Border Patrol Supervisory Agent, Steven Passement, Tucson Sector public affairs officer. "The road will facilitate a quicker reaction time for agents responding to illegal crossings and drug trafficking."

The mission will be completed Feb. 24 and is the first of three phases.

"We have done the cutting, clearing and grubbing. Incoming units will do drainage and the shaping of the road," said 2nd Lt. Michelle Zak, mission commander, 84th ESC.

"This is definitely a win-win situation to support the Border Patrol and get training at the same time," she added. "This is important because the Soldiers need to know how to operate in tight spaces and steep hills, and we get that here."

"This is an opportunity to get real world training that the Soldiers can use overseas, and Border Patrol gets a new all-weather road," Passement said.

"We drive on whatever roads are accessible, and where there aren't roads we get out and hike it. In the past it would have taken an hour or two hours to drive what just took us 10 minutes, because of the new road," he said. "During the monsoon season, roads get washed out and we have to go around, but they are creating all-weather roads that should hold up for a while."

There have been some challenges with

the terrain, getting pieces of equipment that weigh tons up and down these hills.

"We have made a lot of head way, we created a rough road cut out and a brand new road," Zak said.

"It has been a great training opportunity for us because we don't get this type of terrain or training in Alaska," she added.

"It is 25 degree (below zero) weather in Alaska, with 15 inches of snow or more right now, that affects the equipment and the morale of the Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class, Everell Gustave, 84th ESC.

"If the morale is low because the Soldier is so cold that they don't want to operate the machinery, then it makes it that much tougher to meet the mission intent; morale is key to getting an operation done," Gustave said.

"It is important for us to train in this environment because it is not organic to us, we are not used to these conditions," he added.

The mission site is located three miles west of the Nogales Mariposa Port of Entry, along the U.S. and Mexico border.



ABOVE: Soldiers of 84th Engineer Support Company build a road Jan. 20 for the U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector. TOP: Soldiers of 84th ESC reflect on the job ahead. (U.S. Army photos/Staff Sgt. Sun L. Vega)







# Briefs and Announcements

## Disposition of personal effects

Army Capt. Brett Haker, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Sgt. Shane L. Guszregan, 1-207th Avn., as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Haker at 428-6326.

## Utility allowance changes

The utility allowance has been 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.

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

As is currently the case, when the credit balance of accounts exceed \$250, Aurora will issue a refund check.

If an account reflects a debit balance in excess of \$250, customers 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 during July, customers will either be refunded any accumulated credit or invoiced for any amount owed, regardless of the dollar amount.

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.

## Otter Lake fishing

The sport fishery on Otter Lake has been liberalized to allow harvest of 10 rainbow trout per day, 10 in possession, effective until Oct. 1.

There continues to be no bag, possession or size limits for northern pike.

Additionally, the legal gear for ice fishing on Otter Laker is increased to five lines with up to two hooks per line as long as both hooks are attached to the same

single piece of bait.

For more information call 267-2153.

## Dorm tax filing

Representatives from 673d Air Base Wing Staff Judge Advocate will help Airmen file 1040 EZ tax forms from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Wired Cafe.

Airmen need to bring identification, a leave and earning statement, Form W-2 and interest statements from banks.

For more information call 552-3048.

## 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.

## Shuttle service ended

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

## Furnishings management

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

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

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

These items are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The service member is responsible for transporting these furnishings. Airmen should take a copy of PCS orders to the Government Housing Office at 6346 Arctic Warrior Drive to schedule delivery. Call 552-2740

for any questions regarding the FMO program. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Soldiers can call 384-0092 for the JBER-Richardson FMO.

## Rental Partnership

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

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

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

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

An allotment must be executed

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

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

## U-Fix-It Store reopened

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

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

The items available are subject to change and limits and some may have a cost.

There are also American flag kits, and fire extinguishers available. U-Fix-It work includes all home maintenance activities.

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

This allows tenants to do work in their homes themselves, thus improving the appearance of the interior as well as the exterior of the home.

There are two stores located on base. The JBER-Elmendorf location is 6350 Arctic Warrior Drive and it is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch noon to 1 p.m.).

The JBER-Richardson location is Building 706 1st St., open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A window blind cleaning machine is currently located at the JBER-Elmendorf location.

A “reservation required to use” policy is in place with the priority going to military members PCSing. For more information, call 375-5540.

## 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 JBER Installation Guide and Phonebook

(limited supply), Air Force Priorities poster series (large and small sizes), and Airman Magazine.

City of Anchorage maps are also available.

Call 552-8918 for information.

## 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.



## Correction

A headline on the front page of the Jan. 20, 2012, edition of the Arctic warrior was incorrect. It read “732nd AMS Airmen prevent mission freeze.” It should have read “Deicer keeps the mission from freezing,” to reflect deicing contributions of 3rd Maintenance Group Airmen.







## Preparing champs

Air Force boxers get ready for the championship, Page B-4

We Support

John Q. SNUFFY

## Campaigns are hot

That six-foot political banner on your going-to-work truck is not, Page B-6

www.jber.af.mil/news

# COMMUNITY

Volume 3, No. 4

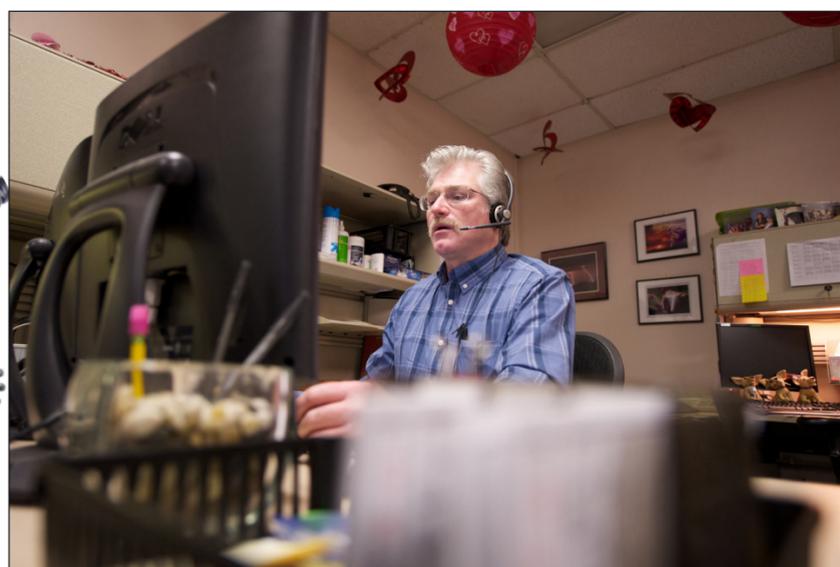
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

January 27, 2012

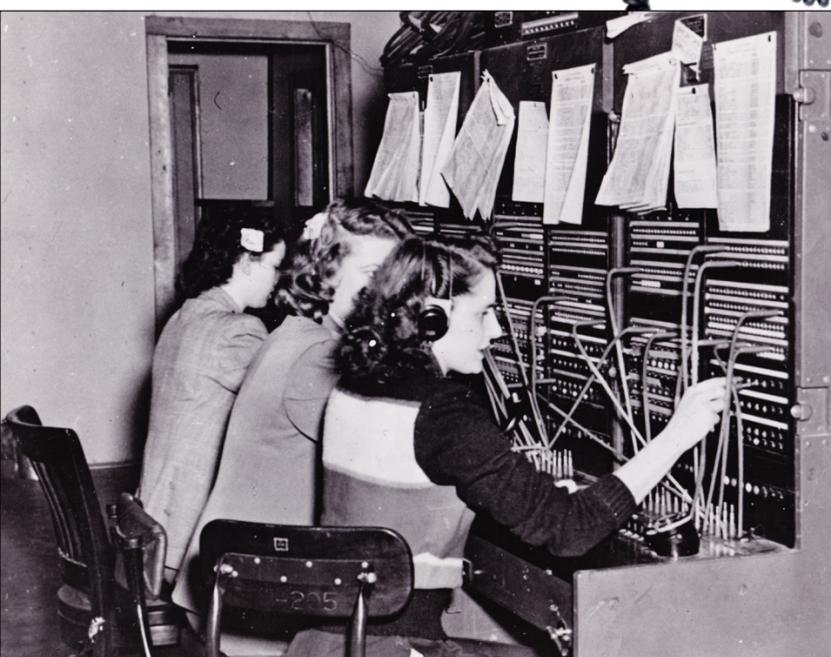


## Connecting calls

## Connecting lives



ABOVE: Doug Osborne, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson telephone operator, connects a call Jan. 20 at Telephone Operations. The Wasilla native said he most enjoys connecting deployed troops with their families at home. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)



LEFT: Fort Richardson telephone operators Hilda Dahler, Arlys Berggren and Ruthie Duguid connect calls in 1950. The operators use the fort's first switchboard, which was based on a field tactical model. (U.S. Army file photo)

## JBER's phone operators continue legacy of service behind the switchboard

By David Bedard  
JBER Public Affairs

Very few people find themselves as personally attached to their work as Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson telephone operator Doug Osborne did late one night in 2005 when he connected a call between a Soldier deployed to Iraq and his wife who was in labor with the couple's child.

The emotional call was the culmination of a long series of conversations Osborne connected during the couple's extended time apart.

The Wasilla native said he couldn't help but be touched during the connection, when the thousands of miles separating the family was bridged through the circuits of his computer console.

"I connected him to her in the hospital and, as I connected them, she answered," Osborne recalled. "I could hear the baby crying in the background and it just brought tears to my eyes; it reminded me of my own

kids being born."

The call was one of millions connected during the past 60 years by the Telephone Operations Section, Operations Flight, 673d Communications Squadron, based at JBER and currently serving their home base, Fort Greely and Fort Wainwright.

Maureen Hamel, chief operator, said her section has slowly assumed responsibility over the years for telephone operations from U.S. Army Alaska's installations as the command first eliminated midnight and swing shifts before entirely consolidating their operations at the former Fort Richardson.

Last October, the telephone operations contract was eliminated at the former Elmendorf Air Force Base, and responsibility of the joint base fell entirely on Hamel's section, the Providence, R.I. native said.

Because seven Department of the Air Force personnel are now doing the work recently handled by 14 operators, Air Force Capt. David Ritter, Operations Flight commander, said it's important for callers to be understanding if there are delays getting through to an operator.

"We have been inundated with calls," the Red Wing, Minn., native said. "I know there's some frustrations out there with calls, and we've asked people to be patient."

With JBER's 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, and Fort

Wainwright's 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID deployed to Afghanistan, Ritter said Telephone Operations is handling approximately 60,000 calls every month.

He said callers can reduce wait times for directory assistance by first checking list-ings on JBER's website at [www.jber.af.mil/phonebook](http://www.jber.af.mil/phonebook).

Despite today's era of broadband Internet, smart phones and video teleconferencing, Ritter said the austere conditions at combat outposts often require the use of trusty old land lines to reach family. He said this requirement in particular helps the Telephone Operations Section to understand they are an important link between deployed units and their families as well as official contacts back in the states.

"There are a lot of demands placed on those operators," he said. "The way they handle those demands is impressive – with a smile on their face – and that can be attributed to the fact they know they're part of a bigger mission."

That tradition of supporting the mission dates back to 1949, Hamel said, when Fort Richardson telephone operators handled calls through a small arrangement similar to a contemporary field tactical switchboard used by the military in the field.

She said the older switchboard was replaced by a far more advanced model in 1951, which she used when she started work at Fort Richardson in 1973. Each operator had five panels that could service one caller each, with a spaghetti-like arrangement of extendable wires serving as manual connections between callers.

As more and more service members settled in the then small community of Eagle River, it became critical to get the fledgling suburb connected to the rest of world. Hamel said Fort Richardson established two lines to Eagle River and callers had to get on a waiting list to talk.

"That was an unusual period when you stop and think about it," she explained. "Now, you can dial loved ones with your cell phone. Then, you couldn't dial to Eagle River."

In 1991, the long-serving switchboard was finally replaced by operator consoles about the size of a suit case. Hamel said she missed the switchboard because of the character it brought to her profession.

She said, at the time, the fort's day care had regular tours of Telephone Operations, when small children would marvel at an operators' ability to deftly tame a swirling network of snaking cables in an effort to connect their customers.

Somehow, the mystique was lost when the charming board was replaced by drab, beige, yet highly efficient consoles.

"They brought the kids in twice after that, and they were bored stiff," Hamel said with a hearty laugh. "There was nothing going on."

Though computers no different than common desktops have long replaced switchboards and consoles, Hamel said the human element of telephone operators has not changed.

"I do not care if they have ever been a telephone operator before," she said in reference to potential hires. "What I look for is strong customer service skills, because that's what it takes when they're dealing with people of all different personalities."

Not that she has to hire operators that often, because her staff averages more than 12 years of service.

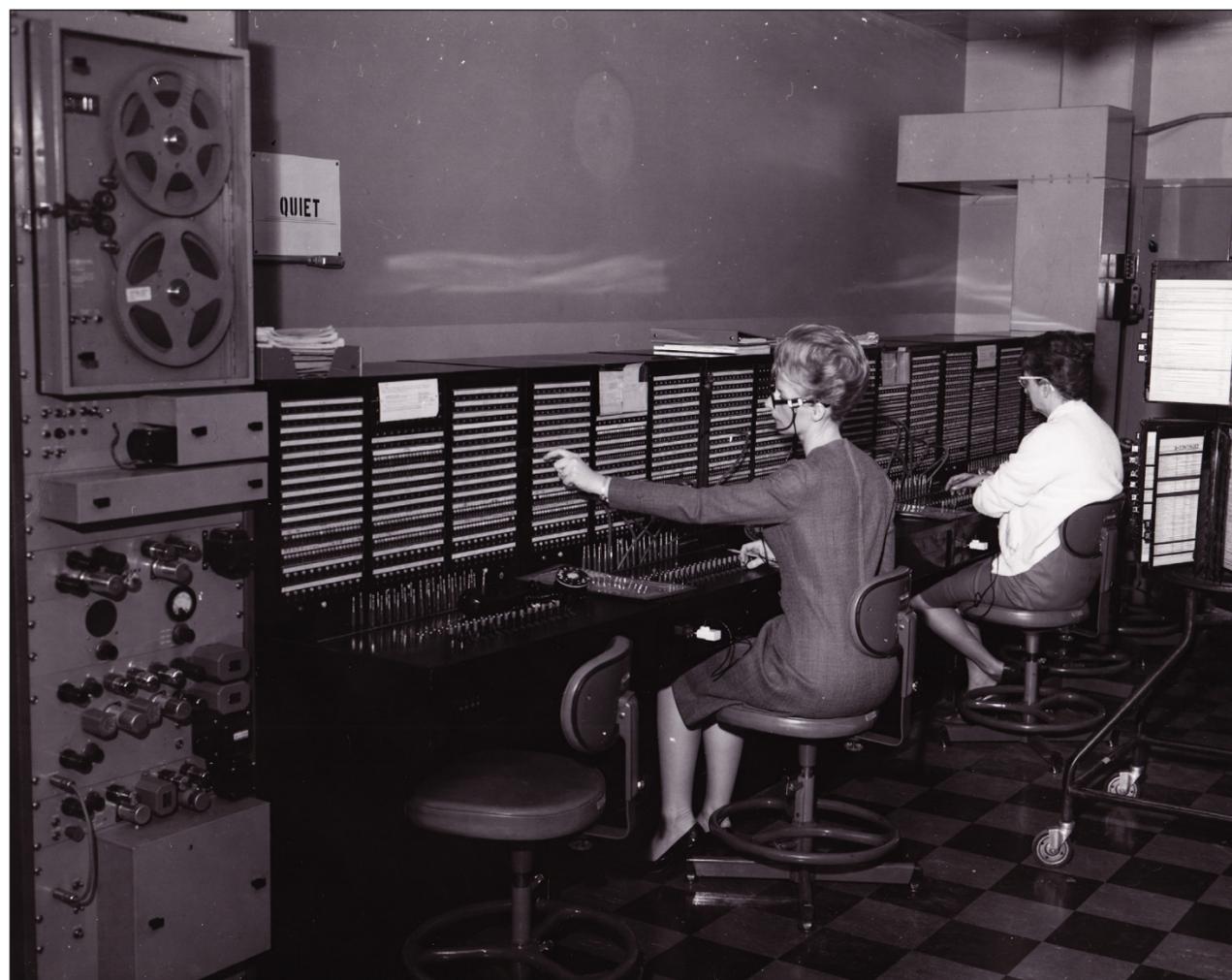
"When people get in here, they have a tendency to stay," she said with a nod.

For his part, Osborne said he enjoys the work because of the connections he makes everyday.

"It's pretty fulfilling being an operator, because we bring people together," he said. "And, at times, we get to share a bit of their lives."



A wall of clocks at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Telephone Operations helps operators keep time with locations their callers may be deployed to. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)



Fort Richardson telephone operators Pat Hayes and Clair Koski connect calls March 31, 1967. The switchboard they used was in operation from 1951 to 1991. (U.S. Army photo/Pfc. James Lopez)

# Army chaplaincy to celebrate 237 years of relevance and help

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Marmor WTB

I have on the walls of my office, 12 pictures of Army chaplains throughout the history of our nation.

The pictures begin with the Revolutionary War and go through the Vietnam War, as well as in peace time (we need some pictures of Iraq and Afghanistan in the mix).

As you look at these pictures, you see men who have stood with Soldiers on the battlefield and provided whatever ministry they could.

One picture shows a chaplain at Valley Forge, Penn., praying over the Soldiers and Gen. George Washington also kneeling in reverent prayer.

Another picture fasts forwards you to the Civil War and depicts two chaplains, one from the North, the other from the South, standing on a battlefield praying over the dead, while in the background, you see the officers ride off.

Fast forward again and there is another picture showing a chaplain on horseback out on the frontier visiting Soldiers and their families in a western fort, (my personal favorite).

Another picture shows a chaplain in World War I and then we head on to World War II. One picture shows the chaplain in the forefront of the Bataan Death March.

You can recognize the chaplain because of the cross on his bag he is carrying. The last and final picture I will mention is of

chaplains performing services at all capacities.

Now, let me ask you a question. What do all of these pictures of chaplain's have in common? From the beginning of our nation, through today, the Army chaplain has been on the scene, whether on the battlefield, in the rear or safe in a garrison environment, he is giving everything he has to the Soldier.

This year the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps will celebrate its 237th year in existence. Gen. Washington recognized the importance of the chaplaincy in the armed forces of the colonies.

He recognized the need for spiritual leadership in the ranks. He being a devout Christian himself knew that spirituality was an integral and meaningful part of life.

The pictures I mentioned showed chaplains in different eras of our history during war and peace doing something that was bigger than themselves. The chaplains – although artist's conceptions – are replicas of today's chaplains.

Chaplains today are giving themselves over to something they know is a calling. Why else would they leave their families behind and deploy for a year in a country where we are at war?

Why else would they put themselves through school and the training required in order to help soldiers and their families? It is because they regard it as God's call upon their lives.

When one answers the call of God upon his life, he is answering to something bigger than himself.

He is answering a call from God to go and serve the greatest nation in the world alongside of the greatest Soldiers in the world. Our call sometimes will take us away from our families not just for deployments but something as simple as a hospital visit.

We have to remember we are serving someone bigger than ourselves.

We work for the E-1 as well as our commanders, and sometimes we forget that.

Sometimes we can involve our families into our ministry. On Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, I brought my three daughters with me as I visited soldiers in the barracks to make sure they had something to do or somewhere to go for those days. The Soldiers we met with were glad to see us. The girls enjoyed being there. It was a win-win situation.

Our call does not always have to be hard or done single-handedly. We can involve our families just like in the example above.

However, we are still giving ourselves and at the same time teaching our families that ministering to others is not for the reason of "what do I get out of it" but to be thinking of others and meeting their needs.

The chaplain has an important role in the military. Again, I as look at the pictures around my office, it is easy to see. All through our history, the chaplain has been a major part in the lives of his Soldiers.

Whether the ministry takes him away from his family or he takes his family to his ministry, our calling as United States Army chaplains is a calling higher than we could ever imagine.

We have the opportunity to connect with Soldiers and their families in ways others do not. Every chaplain is different in how they achieve that goal.

For some, building trust with the Soldier and finding common ground is first in developing a relationship.

The best way to do that is to do what the Soldier is doing. When the unit is in the field, on road marches, or doing PT in the mornings, then the chaplain should be doing the same things with the Soldiers.

Soldiers gain trust in the chaplain and thereby will be able to come to him with any issues that they facing. It is also good for morale for the Soldiers to see their chaplain doing the same things they are doing.

They need to feel the chaplain is a part of them and then they can relate to the chaplain better.

I have been on those long road marches, and have done PT with different platoons as well as participated in officer PT. That builds trust with everyone in the unit.

As I close, again this is a calling from God. I remember when I was praying and fasting about coming into the chaplaincy, a verse came readily to mind. Isaiah 6:8. It says, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

I answered that call to serve in the greatest Army in the world, for the greatest nation in the world, for the greatest people in the world. Many others have as well. May God bless you richly this year as you serve our great country!

## Remembering isn't just an annual event

Commentary by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul D. Sutter Eielson Air Force Base

I recall reading about a group of people hiking along the edge of a wooded area.

At one point, they spotted tombstones just inside the tree line, overgrown with brush.

They cleared away branches and weeds from one of the markers. To their surprise and dismay the following words were revealed, "We will never forget their sacrifice."

A well-intentioned sentiment had somehow gotten lost and neglected over time.

How many of us have said something like "I will never forget you," or "I will remember you in my prayers," only to fail to do so? Even the best of intentions and

memories fade over time.

As poignant as the experience of Sept. 11, 2001, was for many of us, the intensity of those memories have diminished and subsequent generations will only know of the events from that day by reading historical accounts.

Dec. 7, 2011, marked the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

I must confess, while I took note of that day, my thoughts paled in comparison to the vivid memories of members from previous generations particularly the 100 or so survivors who gathered in Oahu that day.

The start of a new year is always a good time to pause and remember events from the last as well as previous years.

Such remembrances help us give thanks for blessings we have received, mourn significant losses, and celebrate joyful memories once again.

So important is remembering to the human psyche that we set aside specific days to pause and remember as a nation, and some like Memorial Day, Veterans Day,

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Presidents' Day are even holidays.

Most of us know failure to remember birthdays, anniversaries and Valentine's Day gets us in big trouble with loved ones.

We have just concluded a major holiday season where extra effort was made to remember friends and loved ones by making phone calls or sending emails, cards and gifts.

Perhaps we simply posted our greetings via Facebook, Twitter or some other social network.

Such annual surges of remembrance are important but it is equally important to regularly express our care to others.

So why is remembering even the important stuff so hard

at times?

I must confess, I don't know or can't remember the answer to that question and find strange consolation in the words of the ancient teacher in Ecclesiastes, "All is vanity."

We can get worked up over so many things that in the end have no eternal impact or meaning. As we become overwhelmed by our daily tasks, one of our biggest struggles is simply to remember to be kind to one another.

The older I get, the more I realize the importance of relationships. Keeping relationships healthy requires us to put the needs of others first and be quick to forgive when we feel neglected or forgotten.

On occasion, I have been asked

if I remember a kind word I spoke or deed I performed. Sometimes I do, but often not.

The individual then usually reports how much such words or acts meant during a difficult time I didn't even know they were going through.

However, I do know I have been the recipient of such kindness myself.

Even chaplains have bad days and need to hear a word of support from others.

I can testify many of you have encouraged and motivated me and as well as others to persevere through tough times.

Thank you. You never know when a simple word or gesture of kindness can make a difference in the life of another person or even save it.

It is certainly impossible to remember everything all the time. Try as we might to remember we will only fail over time.

But try we must; one day at a time. Ultimately, we can take comfort in the knowledge that God will never forget us. Therein rests our hope.



## Experience Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

**Football Frenzy**

Come Cheer on Your Team

Enter to Win an iPad2

**SUPER BOWL XLVI**

**FEBRUARY 5**

Kick-Off at 2 p.m. • Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

18 years and older

**Chill**

Bldg 655 • 384-7619

**Sweetheart Scotch Doubles**

February 11

6:30 p.m. • Sign up 6 p.m.

\$24 per couple

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Cash Prize + a Night Stay at The Alyeska Resort + two skilift tickets!

Polar Bowl • Bldg 7176 • 753-PINS (7467)

**Winter Reading Program**

January 30 - March 7

JBER Consolidated Library

Bldg 7 • 384-1640

**Get Crafty!**

**January 28**

"Basic Framing for Adults"

10:30 a.m. \$30

**January 29**

"Valentine's Day Flower Pot for Ages 10 & Up" Noon \$10

**Polar Express Arts & Crafts**

JBER Richardson

Bldg 755 • 384-3717

**TONIGHT January 27**

"Crop Time for Ages 13 & Up"

6 - 8:30 p.m. \$12

"Kids Glass Fusion for Ages 8 & Up"

4 - 5 p.m. \$15 - \$30

**Far North Arts & Crafts**

JBER Elmendorf

Bldg 6136 • 552-7012

**Free Movie and Popcorn**

**TONIGHT**

January 27

6 p.m.

**THE SMURFS**

Arctic Oasis COMMUNITY CENTER

Stop by the Arctic Oasis Community Center for Fun-Filled Activities and Events

**552-8529**

# Community happenings

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
**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.

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**  
**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 [alaska-kennelclub.org](http://alaska-kennelclub.org) or call 346-1601.

**SUNDAY**  
**Night with the Stars**  
 The Eagle River Nature Center hosts astronomer Jose Francisco Salgado for the Alaska premier of "Moonrise." The event includes dinner, questions and answers, and other festivities. Seating is limited; for information email [info@ernc.org](mailto:info@ernc.org) or 694-2108.

**TUESDAY**  
**Dads 101 classes**  
 Family Advocacy hosts this class on the basics of being a dad. This three-session class meets from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 31 through Feb. 2. For information on this or any other programs offered by Family Advocacy, call 580-5858.

**Museum free day**  
 The Anchorage Museum hosts this free day in recognition of the late Alfred Hanisch, a World War II veteran with a passion for history and museums. Hanisch was one of the first to drive the Alaska Highway in 1946. Admission to the museum is free all day.

**FEB. 3**  
**3rd Wing awards banquet**  
 Join 3rd Wing Airmen as they are recognized for their achievements at Hangar 1 at 6 p.m. For information call 551-3011 or 551-2932.

**FEB. 3 AND 4**  
**The Capitol Steps**  
 Former Congressional staffers turned comedians travel the country satirizing the people and places that once employed them. This timely skewering of headlines uses costumes, props and music to illustrate the goings-on in Washington. The show plays at 7:30 p.m. both nights at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. For information, call 263-ARTS.

**FEB. 4**  
**New Year for Pets**  
 Alaska Mill and Feed hosts this fair for pets, featuring discounted rabies vaccinations, door prizes, a pet talent show, and demonstrations from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. For information call 343-8138 or visit [www.muni.org/animal](http://www.muni.org/animal).

**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 [anchorsaveighboatshow.com](http://anchorsaveighboatshow.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 274-1177.

For information call 274-8668 or visit [anchorage-symphony.com](http://anchorage-symphony.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. 14**  
**Valentines Luncheon**  
 The Richardson Spouses' Club hosts "Loving Yourself From the Inside Out" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Naval Operations Center at the corner of D St. and Otter Lake. For information visit [frsc.shutterfly.com](http://frsc.shutterfly.com).

**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. 16**  
**Couples Communication**  
 Family Advocacy hosts this one-hour session at 10 a.m. the JBER-R Starbucks to help couples – dating or married – learn to communicate more effectively. For information on this or any other programs offered by Family Advocacy, call 580-5858.

**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.

**FEB. 25**  
**Silent Auction for troops**  
 The Richardson Spouses' Club

hosts a support-the-troops silent auction at the Alaska Native Heritage Center from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. For information visit [frsc.shutterfly.com](http://frsc.shutterfly.com).

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

**Scholarship opportunities**  
 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 [frsc.shutterfly.com](http://frsc.shutterfly.com).

The Elmendorf Officers' Spouses' Organization is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors who are dependents of active duty or retired service members. Application deadline is Feb. 27; for information or an application, visit [www.elmendorfosso.com](http://www.elmendorfosso.com) or visit a school guidance counselor.

## Chapel services

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

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

**Confession**  
**Sunday**  
 4:30 p.m. – Soldiers' Chapel  
**Monday through Friday**  
 Before/after 11:40 Mass – Soldiers' Chapel

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

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

**Model railroading**  
 The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers meets 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/msmrrre](http://www.trainweb.org/msmrrre) or email [bjorgan@alaska.net](mailto:bjorgan@alaska.net).

## Beat the Winter Blues by Staying Active

**ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON**

**Willow Snowmachine Trip**  
 January 28: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$150

**Petersville Snowmachine Trip**  
 February 4: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$150

**Snowmachine Safety Course**  
 January 31 & February 1:  
 Noon - 1:30 p.m. & 5:30 - 7 p.m. on each day. \$40  
 16 yrs and older with license

**JBER Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center**  
 To register, call 384-1475 or 1476

**Hillberg Ski Area**  
 Fri, Sat & Sun: Noon - 8 p.m.  
**"Dorm Dwellers Day"**  
**February 3**  
**Dorm & Barracks Residents Ride for FREE**  
 Noon - 8 p.m.  
 Includes chair lift tickets & equipment rentals. Excludes tubing  
**\$10 Ski or Snowboard Lesson**  
 5 - 6 p.m.  
 For First-Timer Dorm & Barracks Residents

**Cross-Country Skiing at EAGLE GLEN GOLF COURSE**  
 Groomed Trails Always Open for both Nordic & Skate Skiing  
 Call 552-3821 for updates

**"Fit to Fight" Program**  
 Challenge Yourself!  
**FREE Day-Use Ski Package:**  
 Everyday (Excluding Holidays)  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 (Ski Package must be returned by 3 p.m.)  
 Season Rental Packages available at JBER Outdoor Recreation Centers  
 Call 552-2023 for more information

**JBER Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center Presents:**  
**FREE Cross-Country Ski Waxing Clinic**  
 January 28 • 1 p.m.

**Cross-Country Ski Lesson**  
 January 29 • 1 p.m.  
**\$10 per person • 13 years & up**  
 Class Size is Limited & Advanced Sign-Up is Required.

To Register, call JBER Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center: 552-2023

**JBER Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center Presents:**  
**Indoor Rock Climbing Clinic**  
 February 2  
 6 - 8 p.m. • \$25

Learn Basic Climbing Skills & Rope Techniques. Climbing Wall is Located at JBER Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg 7301.

To Register, Call JBER Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center: 384-1475 or 1476

**HILLBERG SKI AREA**  
 LITTLE HILL...BIG FUN!

**Lesson Center**  
 552-5026

**Ski Hotline**  
 552-4276

facebook.com/hillbergskiarea

**Hillberg Ski Area**  
 552-4838

**DYEA SKI CENTER**  
 Tubing Hill: 50 min. for \$3 pp.  
 Downhill Ski, Snowboard & Cross-Country Skiing  
 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.

**Get out and enjoy Alaska this year – and be sure to do it safely!**

# Beating winter blues away at the JBER fitness centers



Sarah Brewer, standing far left, leads the "Abs, Butts and Guts" class at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Fitness Center Tuesday. The ABC class – which attracts JBER personnel of all ages – meets on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and does a variety of exercises designed to work the three body parts. The course is available to active duty, retired service members, spouses and civilians. Brewer is a full-time personal trainer for the fitness center, and also teaches suspension training or TRX on Thursdays at 4 p.m. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)



Carole McClendon works out during the "Abs, Butts and Guts" class at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Fitness Center Tuesday afternoon. The ABC class is led by Sarah Brewer, a full-time personal trainer for the fitness center. McClendon is retired Army National Guard.

## Air Force boxers prepare for Armed Forces Championships

By Jose T. Garza III  
Air Force News Service

The goals are still the same for Air Force boxing coach Steven Franco during the Air Force Boxing Camp at the Chaparral Fitness Center: Defeat the other military branches to win medals.

"Like I tell these guys from day one, I don't care if I take one guy or all 10 guys from different weight classes, my goal is to win medals," Franco said. "Our motto is to train, box, and win."

Franco and his team of aspiring pugilists have been preparing for the Air Force Box-Offs, which began Friday at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and continue over a two-week period. After the box-offs, Franco will determine which boxers he will take to the Armed Forces Championships.

The difference between this camp and last year's is the amount of experience the Air Force fighters have picked up throughout the past 12 months.

"We have more potential than last year," Franco said. "We should be taking a larger team than last year."

Out of Franco's nine-boxer camp, six or seven of his fighters are open fighters with at least 10 bouts under their belt.

The Air Force boxing hopefuls are doing better on training runs thanks to an increased emphasis on physical training, the coach said.

"Before, they used to quit (before finishing the run)," he said. "The first couple of days they couldn't do 3.5 miles. Now more can complete those runs, no problem. Some still struggle (with the runs) because others are in better shape."

The daily training schedule begins at 7:45 a.m. It includes runs, sprints, and plyometrics.

"That's just the morning stuff," Franco said.



Senior Airman Kent Brinson, 13th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Carson, Colo. (red headgear) spars with Tech. Sgt. Forrest Booker, 423rd Civil Engineer Squadron, RAF Alconbury, Jan. 10 during the Air Force Boxing Camp, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alan Boedeker)

Jump rope, neck, and abdominal exercises are part of the afternoon training routine. And just because aspiring hopefuls are physically fit, it doesn't necessarily translate to the boxing training regimen.

"Their mentality is like 'Oh, I can do whatever I want,'" Franco said. "True, but it takes a couple of years, not a couple of days. When they get in the ring, it's a reality check."

Kent Brinson, who competed in the Armed Forces Boxing Championships last year and has been boxing for five years, said he continues to work on boxing basics, which include jabs and stepping back.

"Boxing is about learning how to be a fighter in the ring and behave like a fighter," Brinson said. "It doesn't come natural to everyone, it takes time. To have guys put

in their time makes a huge difference here in camp."

Super heavyweight Forrest Booker, who recorded his first career knockdown at last year's box-offs, is working to improve his stamina and become a better defensive fighter.

"My stamina is getting better as a super-heavyweight," said Booker, a United Kingdom native. "I don't care who you are, carrying weight around the ring is super tough."

Booker's goal is to represent the Air Force to the best of his ability at the Armed Forces championships.

"That's my drive and motivation," he said. "A lot of (boxers) say they want to box, but when the going gets tough in the ring, they start to retreat and duck. Those are the guys you don't see at the gym very much

because if you can't take the punches, you won't be able to give any when you gain experience."

Franco always goes back to Boxing 101, no matter what experience a boxer has, when camp commences every year.

"When you're in the ring and it comes down to slugging it out, getting tired, and guys coming at you, a lot of times you have to go back to your basic jabs to keep your opponent away," he said.

Thanks to the assistance of first-year assistant boxing coach and longtime training partner Bobby DeLeon Jr., instruction, sparring, and gloving is quicker for Franco.

"We have the experience of going to the Armed Forces championships, nationals, and Golden Gloves," Franco said. "Bringing that experience back to the

team helps."

Franco didn't see a lot of potential in the pugilists entering camp, but after a couple of weeks of harsh critiques, his views are different.

"I don't know if the (critiques) encouraged them, but something's been triggered and it impresses us," he said. "We talked with the ones that have impressed us and told them to keep up the good work and keep working hard."

The Air Force coach won't try to be like New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan and make a prediction on how well his team will do in the Armed Forces championships. However, he believes the team is better than last year's.

"I think we will be competing at a higher level," Franco said.

## Glaucoma can rob you of sight — get a checkup

By Michael D. Pattison  
Army Public Health Command

National Glaucoma Awareness Month is in January and it was set aside to help educate people on the leading cause of preventable blindness in the world.

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that damage the optic nerve in the back of the eye, which can result in a loss of vision.

The biggest problem is that most people are usually not aware of any changes in their sight until they have lost around 40 percent of their total vision.

This loss normally starts in the periphery or side vision and can progress to total blindness.

More than two million Americans have glaucoma, with approximately 120,000 being blind because of the condition.

The troubling fact is that most experts estimate that half of those people are not even aware that they have it.

The best way to prevent significant vision loss from glaucoma is early detection through a periodic, comprehensive eye examination



from an eye doctor.

This is especially important in African-Americans, Hispanics, the elderly, and those with a family member who has glaucoma since these people are more likely to have glaucoma.

How often a person should be examined can be determined between the individual and his doctor.

Those in higher risk groups can expect to be required to have an eye examination more regularly.

Vision screenings where only the pressure in the eyes is checked

are not the same as a comprehensive eye exam.

High pressure in the eyes alone does not necessarily mean a person has glaucoma.

Additionally, a person does not need to have high pressure in the eyes to have glaucoma.

When seeing an eye doctor make sure to ask for a comprehensive eye exam.

If diagnosed with glaucoma and it is detected early, treatments such as eye drops or surgery can usually stop or slow the progres-

sion of vision loss.

Currently, there is not a cure for glaucoma, although a lot of research is being done to find one.

One important thing to know is that the vision loss caused by glaucoma does not return with treatment; vision loss that has already occurred is permanent.

Treatment only stops or reduces the rate of new vision loss, which is why periodic comprehensive eye examinations are so important.

Choosing an eye doctor is important because glaucoma, like

high blood pressure and diabetes, is a disease which needs to be treated for life.

Be willing to discuss any side effects or symptoms resulting from medication, and make certain there is a clear understand and written directions on how and when to take medicine. Make certain to take medicine as it is prescribed.

Remember, the most important thing in preventing the loss of vision due to glaucoma is early detection. Sight is a precious gift; take good care of it.

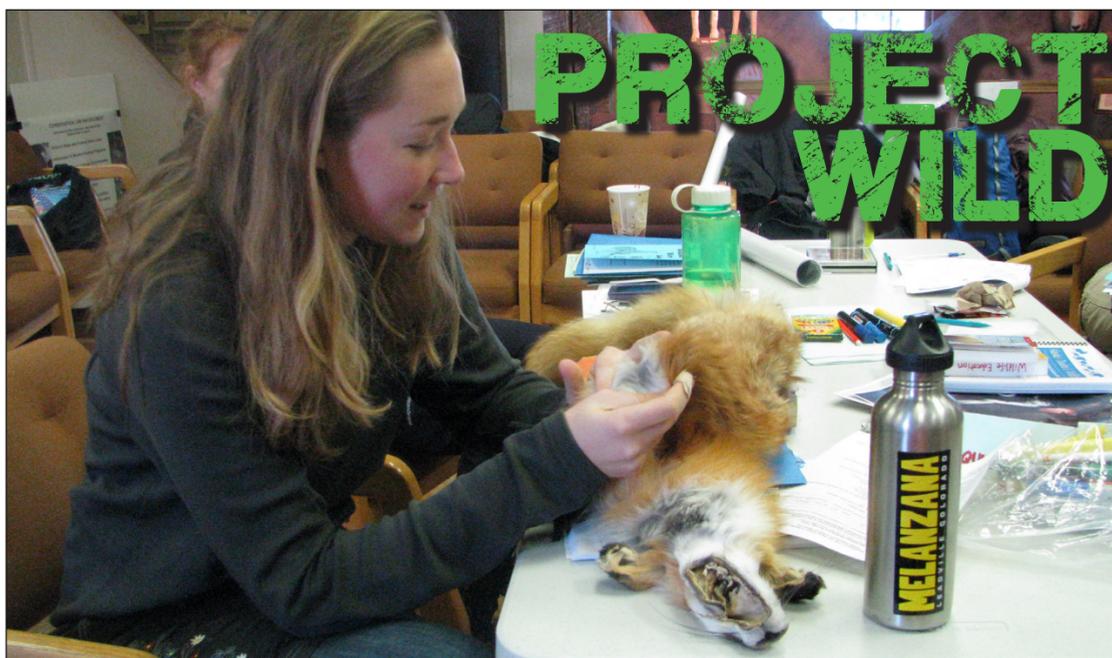
## Course helps JBER get WILD about Alaska ecosystem

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spalding  
JBER Public Affairs

Children may be amazed or terrified of wild animals that live in the wilderness of the Alaskan outdoors, but a little education can leave their parents a little more at ease.

"My fondest memories as a young child in the backwoods of Pennsylvania were not watching cartoons and playing video games, but exploring all plants and animals I could find in the woods," said Sarah Jones, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson wildlife education center coordinator.

A Project WILD – or Wildlife in Learning Design – course now offered through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is available on JBER for anyone who wishes to attend. Educators, teachers and homeschoolers can earn a college credit through University of Alaska-Anchorage for the course. The course can also be used for professional development purposes or



Hannah Brewster examines the fur on a red fox pelt at a Project WILD class recently on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Classes are available to those who want to educate themselves or others about the ecology of Alaska, and can earn students a college credit. Alaska's rich variety of wildlife provides plenty of course material. (Courtesy photo/Sarah Jones)

salary advancement.

Workshops can be customized to cover different topics like "Growing up WILD" to "Winter Adaptations." The classes consist of lectures and hands-on activities.

The Project WILD curriculum gives educators of military children the opportunity to take the classroom outdoors and use wildlife to teach a wide variety of basic skills

such as observation and analyzing and vocabulary. It also integrates the outdoors with science, math, English, mathematics, geography, government, citizenship, art, and Alaska culture. The course also thoroughly explains the Alaska state standards and the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum Series.

Courses vary from two to 15 hours depending on the cur-

riculum. They can be beneficial to installation educators and military families wanting an understanding of Alaska's wildlife and ecosystem.

The course cost is \$20, plus additional charges for college credit.

For more information and future Project WILD workshops, visit the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website, [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=curricula](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=curricula).

*workshops.* Future workshops will also be announced through the JBER Wildlife Education Center Facebook page.

To contact the Project WILD state coordinator, Brenda Duty, at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, call 267-2216 or email [brenda.duty@alaska.gov](mailto:brenda.duty@alaska.gov).

## TriWest health care helps support Alaska military community programs

TriWest Healthcare  
News Release

Thank You.

It's an expression of sincere gratitude that TriWest Healthcare Alliance is committed to saying over and over again to Alaska's military members and their families.

TriWest – which manages the military's TRICARE healthcare program for 21 western states, including Alaska – offers its thanks through supporting a variety of Alaska-based charitable organizations that aid the military community.

### Helping Alaska's Military Community

TriWest's giving program aims to enhance the continuum of care provided to Alaska's more than 84,000 TRICARE-eli-

gible Service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees and their families.

All told, TriWest supports more than 40 local programs, as well as national community partners that host events in Alaska.

"The men and women from Alaska have sacrificed a tremendous amount to defend the freedom of all Americans," said TriWest president and CEO David J. McIntyre, Jr. "It's our duty – and a true privilege – as their fellow citizens to honor that service and provide these courageous families with ongoing support."

### TriWest Giving Overview

Following are some of the dozens of events TriWest has been proud to sponsor in Alaska. TriWest contributes funds toward the events and had company representatives on

hand to discuss TRICARE benefits:

**Challenge Alaska Snow Blast:** Hosted in Anchorage, disabled veterans competed in hockey, skiing and other sports, at [www.challengealaska.org](http://www.challengealaska.org).

**Armed Services YMCA Father/Daughter Ball:** Dads danced with their daughters and enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow service members. Visit [www.asymcaofalaska.com](http://www.asymcaofalaska.com).

**Alaska PTA "Dialogue for Military Families":** Offered parents and teachers the opportunity to learn about issues relevant to military children. Visit [www.alaskapta.org](http://www.alaskapta.org).

**Fisher House of Alaska:** Donated to the opening of a "home-away-from-home," where families can stay while their loved one recovers from injury. Visit [www.akfisherhouse.org](http://www.akfisherhouse.org).

**Lt. Dan Band concerts:** Sponsored con-

certs with the USO in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Kodiak. Visit [www.ltdanband.org](http://www.ltdanband.org).

Learn more about TriWest's ongoing community outreach efforts to military families.

Find out how TriWest is on a mission to serve service members – a mission that promises to connect military families with high-quality, affordable health care.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance partners with the Department of Defense to do "whatever it takes" to support the healthcare needs of 2.9 million members of America's military family. A Phoenix-based corporation, TriWest provides access to cost-effective, high-quality health care in the 21-state TRICARE West Region. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook or visit [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) for more information.

# Politics can be a hot-button topic, so be careful with words

By Chris McCann  
JBER Public Affairs

Anyone who has spent time in uniform knows there are limitations to a service member's freedoms. You're not free to wear body piercings, hats are required outdoors while in uniform, and you are, technically speaking, on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are also limitations on free speech



Expressing your opinion is fine – but don't cross the line. Soliciting donations, influencing others' decisions, and wearing a uniform to political gatherings are all violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. (Graphic by Chris McCann)

– and as elections draw closer, opinions can become a hot-button issue. A Soldier recently got in trouble for speaking in uniform at a political rally for a candidate.

But what about Facebook? Twitter? What if your settings only allow friends and family to see your post – can you still rant about Romney or stump for Santorum?

In a word, carefully.

"You can express your personal opinion, as long as you're not attributing it to the branch of service or the Department of Defense," said Capt. Amanda Snipes, a Judge Advocate officer with the 673d Air Base Wing on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. "As long as you're not implying that it's policy (it's OK)."

Facebook is a gray area, Snipes said. The regulations don't address social media.

"It's OK, but be aware – if you're posting political stuff, don't use a profile photo of yourself in uniform. Be cognizant of how people can take it as a totality."

Privacy settings can make a big difference, Snipes said.

"If it's a personal page for friends and family, they know you and that that's your opinion. If it's a public politics page, that's another story."

The regulations state uniformed service members can join partisan or non-partisan political clubs as long as they don't attend in uniform, so "friending" a candidate is fine – but again, don't use a uniformed photo as a profile picture.

Civilian DoD employees cannot solicit donations at work and are otherwise subject to the Hatch Act for political activities, but with fewer restrictions than uniformed service members.

Another case not covered in the regulation is commenting on news stories. Plenty of people weigh in on every news story imaginable. But should you bring your status as a military member to bear on a news story?

Commenting is fine, Snipes said, again with the caveat that posters be careful their words are not an endorsement – or even creating the perception

of endorsement. And, of course, being mindful of operational security.

And what about chatting with co-workers about your political leanings?

"I advise against talking politics in the workplace," Snipes said. "Talking in general is OK, but you can't try to influence people. In a political discussion, things can get heated, and there could be undue influence or a perception of undue influence."

And, of course, uniformed service members are forbidden to use contemptuous language about the commander-in-chief.

"The most important thing, I think, is to be cognizant of what people could hear or how they could take words," Snipes said. "Things taken out of context can be bad, so be aware of who is listening."

A bumper sticker for a political candidate, in good taste, is allowed on a personal vehicle, but for those in base housing, yard and window signs are not. In housing not on the installation, signs are fine – as long as they don't imply military or DoD endorsement.

Displaying large signs in or on a vehicle is not permitted to anyone on the installation, whether they're service members, employees, or retirees using installation facilities, said Laura Patterson, an Administrative Law

attorney with 673d ABW.

"(Retirees) can't be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, obviously," Patterson said. "But they can be escorted off base" for violations. Signs must be taken down before entering the gate and replaced upon leaving.

Service members can attend – but not participate in – fundraisers, as well.

"If you're paying for a ticket, that's allowed," Snipes said. "Selling tickets, even off base or in civilian clothes, is not."

Direct donations to candidates are forbidden, but donations to political action committees or party committees are acceptable.

Violations of the regulations can lead to serious penalties, although Snipes said issues seldom go so far as to necessitate legal involvement.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice, nonetheless, provides a maximum punishment of a court-martial, reduction in grade, dishonorable discharge, forfeitures and two years of confinement under Article 92.

Get involved with the political process; it's a right and a responsibility granted by the Constitution.

But be sure to exercise your freedoms with good judgment.



# 17th CSSB supports Anchorage's 50 Bikes for 50 Kids

By Nicole Finkelstein  
17th CSSB FRSA

Soldiers from the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion helped local children build their own bicycles Jan. 16 at the Anchorage Park and Recreation department's 50 Bikes for 50 Kids event.

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation hosted the program on Martin Luther King Day at the Spenard Recreation Center.

The 50 Bikes for 50 Kids program gives children unassembled bikes, which are then put together with the volunteer assistance of community members, including Soldiers from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Recipients are chosen from the various community organizations who nominated them. They must demonstrate the "Six Pillars of Character" set forth by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

These principles are: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Jeremy Carson, one of the local children who received a bike, told this volunteer helpers that it was the fourth bike that he will own.

Jeremy's father, Richard, explained that Jeremy's last bicycle was stolen from the front of his house.

After the bikes were built, the children moved to the final station where they received a bike helmet, a map of the Anchorage bike paths and a card on which they detailed their lifelong dreams.

The cards were to be placed inside each bike's seat post, to ensure no matter where the children go on their bikes, their dreams go with them.



Army Maj. Brian Brobeck and 1st Sgt. Aaron Tyler of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, assemble a bicycle for Sorenson Meyer Jan. 16 at the Spenard Recreation Center. (Photo by Nicole Finkelstein/17th CSSB)

