



# Alert and aware in the arctic

JBER Antiterrorism Office  
News release

Significant dates, including holidays, remain potentially appealing targets of opportunity for a terrorist attack on U.S. persons or interests. Terrorists or homegrown violent extremists may seek to exploit the psychological effects of an attack on mass gatherings.

Holiday parades, religious or cultural activities, and anniversary remembrances such as the upcoming 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks are likely to draw large crowds and increase vulnerability to attack by domestic or international terrorists.

On several occasions, domestic terrorists have attempted attacks on significant dates. In one example, a lone perpetrator plotted to explode a bomb at the Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland, Ore., where a large number of people gathered for the traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Thanks to suspicious activity reporting and attentive officials, the perpetrator was arrested and the plot thwarted.

No matter how well-trained and vigilant, law enforcement officials

cannot be everywhere at all times. The eyes and ears of service members, family and friends can be of help in preventing terrorism.

While service members are required to complete Level I Antiterrorism Awareness Training on a recurring basis, it is recommended family members become familiar with this training as well, which can be accessed at [www.at-awareness.org](http://www.at-awareness.org).

All members of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson community have the ability to enhance Force Protection through the JBER Arctic Watch Program. Remain vigilant and immediately report suspicious incidents or activities using the Arctic Watch hotlines at 552-2256 or 384-0823. In the event of an actual emergency, dial 911.

## Questions and answers:

What activities should I report?

Anyone who may be stockpiling an unusually large amount or type of weapons or explosive material, intentionally placed or unattended parcels like backpacks or boxes, or vehicles that look as though they have been abandoned or modified with extra parts or

wiring.

Additionally, you should be alert and report the following observed activities:

- Surveillance: Someone monitoring, recording or documenting activities in a secretive manner.
- Elicitation: Attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities or people.
- Testing: Attempts to measure security reaction times.
- Acquisition: Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, detonators, timers, etc.
- Suspicious persons: People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood etc.
- Practice: Conducting an attack dry-run by moving people into place and rehearsing activity without actually committing the act.
- Deployment: Moving people and supplies into position to commit the act. Maybe the last chance to alert authorities before an attack.

If I attend an event as part of a large gathering, is there an increased risk if I wear my uniform?

Antiterrorism officials recommend not wearing a DoD or unit-affiliated uniform while in a large off-base gathering, unless specifically required as a participant within the event.

Who do I report suspicious activities to?

Immediately report anything suspicious through the Arctic Watch hotlines or dial 911.



Spc. Christophe J. Marquis

## Stryker Soldier dies of wounds at hospital

USARAK news release

A Soldier assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division died Sept. 4 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany, of injuries sustained when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device exploded at the entry control point he was guarding in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on Aug. 27.

Spc. Christophe J. Marquis, 40, of Tampa, Fla., was assigned

to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright where he served as an infantryman.

Marquis joined the Army in April 2010 and graduated from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He arrived in Alaska in February 2011.

His 4,000-Soldier brigade deployed to Afghanistan in mid-April 2011 for a one-year tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

# Bravery born in fire: 9/11 remembered

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

Speaking just hours after the fateful attack, President George W. Bush, told the nation that "This is a day when all Americans, from every walk of life, unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world."

As the President closed his address to the nation with these words on September 11th 10 years ago this week, hundreds of firefighters, police officers, first responders and citizens, worked feverishly to save those trapped in the rubble of the World Trade Center towers.

As we look back on that darkest of days, now 10 years past, our minds recall the ghastly sights. Through the smoke, flames and rubble, we witnessed the very best of our nation. Heroes, born of fire, emerged that day. Remember the firefighters and police officers who rushed into burning buildings

to save the people trapped inside; the heroic passengers on Flight 93 who fought to retake their plane; the brave service members, civilian and uniformed, battling smoke and flames to rescue those trapped inside the Pentagon.

Sept. 11 was once a day which held no national significance for America. No more. On that morning in 2001, America as we knew it, changed. That day is now etched in our memories forever. It is a day that defined the next great generation of service members. Just as Pearl Harbor and World War II defined a generation destined for greatness, so have the events of 9/11 and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan defined this generation.

More than 5 million Americans have served in uniform over the past decade; the first time since the Revolutionary War our nation has engaged in sustained conflicts fought entirely by volunteers. And, never before has America asked so much of our all-volunteer force.

The 9/11 generation has answered the call, earning its place in history. During the past decade, more than 2 million of our troops have served in the war zones. Hun-

dreds of thousands have deployed multiple times. Our National Guardsmen and reservists, including many hundreds from Alaska, have completed an unprecedented number of deployments.

Today, hundreds of military members from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are serving in distant lands. The paratroopers of the Spartan Brigade will return to the theater for the third time since coming to Alaska in 2005. The 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division from Fort Wainwright is on the front lines for the third time since it stood up in Alaska.

We have deployed thousands of Airmen from units across JBER to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations to support the fight. And, like the brave first-responders who answered the call on 9/11, we have 15 firefighters from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on duty today in Afghanistan and Iraq, selflessly serving to protect others.

But, we know freedom is not free. While we will never be able to repay our debt of gratitude, we must never forget the more than 160 Alaska-based service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our nation in the days since 9/11.

On this tenth anniversary, we pause to remember the nearly 3,000 men, women and children lost in the attacks of Sept. 11, and we honor the more than 6,000 service members who have given their lives defending our freedom in the years since.

Let us pledge to never forget them, or our wounded warriors, who number in the tens of thousands. As we reflect on their service and sacrifice, we are reminded of the great debt of gratitude we owe the families of our heroes.

Facing formidable adversaries, America's Arctic Warriors have proven themselves in battle ... and their families have demonstrated unmatched courage and resiliency on the home front. Their valor, endurance and selfless service underscore the truth in President Thomas Jefferson's prophetic statement: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and their families have served with great honor, "going forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world." You have earned the eternal gratitude of all Americans. I am proud to serve with you in the Great Land.

Arctic tough, mission ready, family strong!



Air Force Staff Sgt. Nicholas Braun, a 673d Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter deployed with the 380th Expeditionary Wing, climbs into a fire truck during operations at a non-disclosed base in Southwest Asia. Thousands of service members from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson have deployed in support of overseas contingency operations since the 9/11 attacks 10 years ago. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol)

## ARCTIC WARRIOR

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# CSAF, former ALCOM commander, recalls 9/11

By Adam J. Hebert  
Air Force Magazine

*Editor's note: This article is reprinted by permission from Air Force Magazine, published by the Air Force Association.*

Alaska Time is four hours behind Eastern Time, so the deadly events of Sept. 11, 2001, began to unfold rapidly around 5 a.m. local time at Elmendorf Air Force Base, headquarters for Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, a self-described "morning person," typically goes for an early morning run. On 9/11 the commander of 11th Air Force and the NORAD region did just that.

Schwartz headed out at about 5 a.m. and ran his normal route, which took him past this headquarters building about 45 minutes later. At that point, he found Air Force Col. Bob Otto, his operations group commander, directing traffic in the parking lot.

"It's before 6 o'clock in the morning," Schwartz noted, so he asked what was going on.

"Haven't you heard?" Otto replied.

"No, I've been out running," Schwartz responded.

Otto told his boss about the developing situation in New York City.

"I'll be right back," Schwartz said.

He ran home, quickly changed into uniform, and was soon back at the office. By this point, al Qaeda terrorists had already seized and crashed each of the four aircraft they commandeered that day.

The attacks had just happened however, and quickly. The full scale of the day's events were not yet known, and Schwartz felt "it was plausible that if something of this nature happened on the East Coast," there could be a similar situation in the West.

A potentially serious problem soon came to light. NORAD's FAA counterparts at the Anchorage air control center passed word Korean Air Flight 85, inbound from Seoul to Anchorage, might have been hijacked.

The Boeing 747's crew had transmitted an "HJK" code, indicating a hijacking. Air traffic controllers asked Flight 85 to "confirm squawk 7500," another hijack code. The Korean crew repeated the squawk: 7500.

"This was serious business," Schwartz said. "We thought we had a problem."

In 2001, Elmendorf was one of the few remaining NORAD alert bases, and a pair of F-15 Eagle fighters were ready to go, armed with both missiles and guns. Two Eagle pilots quickly scrambled and "understood what they were doing, understood that this was a potential hijack," and knew they could be facing a threat similar to what had already been seen on the East Coast.

As a precaution, civil authorities ordered some of the buildings in downtown Anchorage evacuated.

Schwartz informed the F-15 pilots that an order to shoot down the 747 would come from him.

"It was clear, explicitly clear, that there was only one person who could declare that target hostile. In other words, authorize our aircrews to engage the target with lethal force — That was me," the general said.

"I did believe that this was a real possibility and I had begun to try to steel myself on the possibility that I would have to authorize the shootdown of a passenger-carrying aircraft.

"We had trained for Russian bombers,"



**Air Force Maj. Tom O'Berg sprints to an F-15 Eagle standing alert at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Combat Alert Center. Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, under the command of then Air Force Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, scrambled two F-15s in response to Korean Airlines Flight 85 sending a hijack code following the 9/11 attacks. The plane was safely diverted to Whitehorse, Canada. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Scott Wagers)**

Schwartz continued. "That was the NORAD staple."

Intercepting an airplane was "not unusual, and certainly was a well-refined procedure." Intercepting a commercial airliner, however, "that was not normal."

The fighters located Flight 85 and were ordered to trail it from a location where people in the cockpit of the 747 would not see the F-15s.

"I wasn't prepared to make it known to the crew, visually, that he had missile-carrying fighter aircraft on his left and right wing," Schwartz said.

NORAD worked with the civilian air traffic controllers to figure out exactly what was going on. With the air defense fighters in place, officials suggested a way to "see what's happening on this machine," he said.

Through the FAA, Flight 85 was instructed to perform a series of maneuvers, such as left and right turns, to see what sort of response came from the airliner.

The mystery deepened: The aircraft executed its directed maneuvers flawlessly.

As Schwartz recalled, "You have a suspicion (of a hijacking), confirmed by a second indication of a hijack, and yet the crew is responding promptly, precisely, professionally, to ATC instructions."

Still, military officials did not want to take the airplane into Anchorage, its destination, or on to Fairbanks, the other major metropolitan area in Alaska.

"So we decided that we would take the airplane down to the eastern part of the state, a 747-capable airfield," the general said.

Officials checked the weather, which seemed acceptable, then asked Anchorage

ATC to move Flight 85 down toward Yakutat via a route that first took it midway between Anchorage and Fairbanks, well clear of both urban areas.

"We were able to get the (Anchorage) mayor to discontinue the evacuation, based on our assurance that the city was not threatened," he said.

At that point, "I had a young captain in the cab (command and control center) who said, 'Why don't we call the airfield manager at Yakutat?' because sometimes weather reports in Alaska aren't quite accurate," Schwartz explained.

Calling ahead proved to be a wise decision. Conditions were not clear at Yakutat, and the Korean crew would have been forced to arrive, low on fuel, at an unfamiliar, remote airport in bad weather.

"We came to the conclusion that Yakutat wasn't such a good idea," he said. "It became clear at about that same time that this airplane didn't have enough gas to make it back to Anchorage."

KAL Flight 85 needed a new destination, and fast. Officials quickly settled on Whitehorse, in Canada's Yukon Territory, an airport that would receive several other 9/11 divers, including a KAL 747 freighter.

Whitehorse wasn't really large enough for jumbo jets — their wings and engines hung over the gravel and grass on the sides of the runway — but it would have to do.

The next call went to Angus Watt, Schwartz's Canadian counterpart.

"I said 'Angus, I've got an airplane I need to take to Whitehorse,'" Schwartz recalled. "Angus said something along the lines of, 'You are trailing this airplane. It's a potential hijack right? ... And you want to

bring that to Whitehorse?'"

Watt, who later became the Canadian Air Force Chief of Staff, went off-line, checked with his superiors, then returned to say, "Bring them on."

Elmendorf's F-15s trailed Flight 85 into Whitehorse, hooked up with their tanker, and began their return to Alaska. On the ground, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police took over, checked out the crew and the aircraft, and verified that the day's tension had been because of a mistake and not an actual hijacking.

While the origin of the flight's first HJK warning squawk is unknown, the crew may have misinterpreted the later request to confirm the 7500 hijack code as an instruction.

All air traffic in Alaska was grounded for a day-and-a-half or so. This proved to be "very problematic because in Alaska, aviation is really essential," Schwartz said.

People were out in the field, near the end of hunting season, with limited communications and provisions—and they were expecting aircraft to come and pick them up.

At one point before the ground-stop was lifted, NORAD fighters intercepted a light aircraft equipped with pontoons.

"He'd come out of the field. He didn't know," Schwartz recalled. "Got intercepted by an F-15. It kind of made his morning, I'm sure."

The Alaska NORAD Region stepped into 24/7 alert operations, but after the abrupt start to the day, Schwartz made it home for dinner on 9/11.

The commander and his Canadian deputy "went on 12s" for the next several weeks.

"I never again ran in the morning without my cell phone," Schwartz said.

## Events of 9/11 changed military service in Alaska

Commentary by David Bedard  
JBER Public Affairs

Summer 2001. Army service in Alaska was affectionately called the "fishing and hunting club" by veterans who enjoyed the state's unique summer recreational opportunities. The moniker wasn't because we didn't train hard or we weren't ready for combat. It was simply a matter we hadn't deployed large numbers of Soldiers in recent memory.

The sense we were immune to deployments overseas quickly came to a halt the early morning of Sept. 11, 2001. I had reported to Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, Fort Wainwright, at 5:30 a.m., 45 minutes after the World Trade Center's North Tower was hit and nearly a half an hour after the South Tower was also hit by a hijacked plane.

No one was in the foyer where we usually gathered for physical training and I heard a quiet buzz coming from the day room where everyone huddled around an aging Zenith television clad in splintered cabinet wood.

"Did they do this on purpose?" a Soldier asked. Nobody answered. The usually chatty bunch sat in stark silence as sketchy details streamed in.

We switched between the news channels to try and piece information together. Some anchors were still calling it a freak accident while others conceded it was obviously a terrorist attack. We didn't learn until later the Pentagon was also attacked.

We watched until after both

towers collapsed into billowing clouds of pulverized gypsum and concrete.

Our first sergeant, a Gulf War veteran, turned off the television, cleared his throat and looked at us with a distant gaze.

"Well boys get ready, we're going to war," he said without irony. "Let's get to work."

In my eight-year Army career, it was the only time anything ever interrupted PT. We all felt the gravity of the moment. It hung over that room, the post, the entire military with a heaviness most of us hadn't experienced.

The first sergeant was right: most of us would be bound for combat, either in Iraq or Afghanistan. What he didn't anticipate, perhaps, was how profoundly the military would change in Alaska.

We couldn't have possibly known how quickly we would be asked to shed many legacy organizations, tactics and equipment in order to prepare to fully meet the needs of the Global War on Terror.

While Fort Richardson's 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), deployed to Afghanistan in the fall of 2003, the rest of the 172nd Infantry Brigade — stationed at Fort Wainwright — transformed into a Stryker brigade with a massive buildup of infrastructure to support the logistical needs of the heavier unit.

Upon their return, the 1-501st was asked to become the nucleus of a new unit at Fort Richardson, the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. The brigade reflected the Army's



**Paratroopers of 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, prepare to load a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in eastern Afghanistan Oct. 13, 2009. (U.S. Army photo/SpC. Andrya Hill)**

commitment to a modular force, migrating from a division-centric to a brigade-centric structure.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure ushered in further changes for Alaska's military, the largest of which was to combine Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson into Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The BRAC also transformed Eielson Air Force Base's 354th Fighter Wing to an aggressor unit while the installation became host to Red Flag-Alaska.

The 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team deployed late summer 2005 to Mosul, Iraq. Due to sectarian violence in Baghdad, the brigade's year-long tour was extended to 16 months and the unit relocated to the capital city.

During fall 2006, 4-25th ABCT deployed in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad and later

Multi-National Division-Central. The unit was also extended — for a period of 90 days.

Upon their return, 172nd SBCT was redesignated as 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The brigade deployed again to Iraq in fall 2008 and is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

In February 2009, 4-25th ABCT deployed to Afghanistan along the Pakistan border.

Two brigades with a modular battalion structure — JBER's 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and Fort Wainwright's 16th Combat Aviation Brigade — have both deployed numerous companies and battalions to Iraq and Afghanistan.

With the advent of the Air Expeditionary Force, the Air Force in Alaska deploys Airmen to bolster the ranks of air expeditionary wings established to support areas of operation. JBER and Eielson

Airmen continue to deploy to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations in support of overseas contingency operations.

Fifth-generation F-22 Raptor air dominance fighters have replaced legacy F-15 Eagles as the fighters of choice for 3rd Wing's "Top Cover" mission in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Troops of Alaska's Reserve and National Guard units have also deployed in great numbers, both individually and as organizations.

The Coast Guard in Alaska, realigned under the Department of Homeland Security, has no doubt seen significant changes as they work to secure the state's coast lines from domestic and terrorist threats.

At the beginning of the decade, Alaska troops who had been skipped over during operations in Kuwait, Somalia and Bosnia, didn't see any reversals in the status quo on the horizon.

The horrific events of 9/11 changed that and Alaska-based troops have always been equal to the call with numerous unit citations to show for it. Alaska installations and tenant organizations have rapidly changed from a Cold War legacy to a contingency operations footing.

Seeing the shocking news reels of the falling towers and a burning Pentagon 10 years ago, Alaska troops knew they were ready to fight and to win. What they didn't know was how remarkably the military in Alaska would adapt to a fighting force bearing resemblance to its 1990s counterpart.

# Panetta visits 9/11 Memorial at ground zero

By Karen Parrish  
American Forces Press Service

NEW YORK – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta toured the National September 11 Memorial and Museum site here Tuesday.

“This Sunday, the nation marks the tenth anniversary of 9/11, the worst terrorist attack in the history of the United States,” the secretary told reporters. “We will honor those who died at the Pentagon, 184 of them, but I thought it was also appropriate to come here and honor those, nearly 3,000, who died here in New York City.”

Panetta is the first cabinet officer to visit the site. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg welcomed the secretary to the site and accompanied him during his visit.

Lower Manhattan’s ground zero is still a construction zone, with hard-hatted workers, cranes and heavy equipment all busy on new buildings near the former site of the two towers.

The area where the towers stood, however, will open as part of the memorial to the public this Sept. 11, – the 10th anniversary of the attacks that killed 2,996 people after terrorist hijackers crashed four passenger jets: one into each of the towers, one into the Pentagon, and one into a field near Shanksville, Pa., short of its likely Washington, D.C., target.

The 8-acre memorial centers on the sites of the former towers, now transformed to square, granite reflecting pools, each about an acre in size. Each pool is fed by four 30-foot waterfalls that descend from ground level, and the pools drain into what memorial staff members describe as a “center void” at the bottom of each.

The theme the pools represent is “reflecting absence,” according to memorial officials.

The waterfalls are edged with bronze ledges about waist-high, inscribed with the names of all the victims who died in the 2001 attacks, as well as the six people killed during the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

The terrorist attacks of a decade ago brought the nation together in a commitment that such horror “will never happen again,” Panetta said.

“As tragic as 9/11 was, we have drawn tremendous inspiration (from it),” he said, adding those who attacked the United States in an attempt to weaken the country actually made it stronger.

The day of the attacks, Panetta said, he was on Capitol Hill briefing members of Congress on ocean issues.

After remaining in Washington for a few days, he rented a car and drove across the country to his home in California.



Defense Secretary Leon Panetta visits the 9-11 Memorial site located at Ground Zero with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and representatives from all military services, Tuesday. (DoD photo/Tech. Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey)

“It ... was an interesting drive,” Panetta said. “It gave me a chance to see how the rest of the country came together after 9/11.”

Driving through the Midwest, he saw “God bless America” signs.

“It just told you a lot about what this country’s made of,” he said.

Contrasting ground zero today with the devastation he viewed shortly after the attacks, Panetta said, shows the resilience of the country and the city.

“I think this is going to be a special place,” he said of New York City’s 9/11 memorial and museum, “for people to ... come to and remind themselves not only of the sacrifice that was made, but also the great strength the American people have in coming back.”

During his visit to ground zero, Panetta also toured the Memorial Museum, which is scheduled to open next year on Sept. 11. Seven of the museum’s 10 stories are underground, and part of the above-ground structure will display structural components recovered after the towers fell.

Sarah Lippman, a member of the memorial staff, told reporters the site will also feature 400 swamp white oak trees, more than 200 of which already are in place. The leaves of swamp white oaks typically start

changing color around the time of the anniversary, she said, and the trees are expected to grow from their current height of about 25 feet to an eventual 60 feet.

Also on the site is the “survivor tree,” a pear tree found alive at the site after the attacks and nursed back to health at a nearby nursery, Lippman said.

Five service members who enlisted since 9/11 accompanied Panetta on today’s visit. They are:

- Army Staff Sgt. Ryan M. Celko, who enlisted in the Army in 2004 and deployed twice with the 10th Mountain Division’s 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion out of Fort Polk, La. He is from Middlesex, N.J.

- Navy Lt. Adam C. Jones enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy in 2002 and earned his commission in 2006. His was the first class to enroll after 9/11. He is from Annapolis, Md.

- Marine Corps Sgt. Carlos A. Tovar enlisted in March 2008. Originally from Caracas, Venezuela, he became a U.S. citizen while serving in the Marine Corps. He is from Orlando, Fla.

- Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Gutierrez Jr. enlisted in 2002 following graduation from Southwestern Community College. He was wounded by enemy fire on his second deployment. He is from Chula Vista, Calif.

- Coast Guard Lt. Nikea L. Natteal graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2006 as part of the first class to enroll following 9/11. She is from Yuma, Ariz.

Gutierrez told reporters the visit to ground zero “reminded me why I enlisted.”

Gutierrez said he tried to enlist the day after the attacks, but the recruiting stations were closed. When they reopened, a waiting list quickly formed because of the rush of people wanting to sign up for the military, he said, and his own enlistment was final about six months after the attacks.

America’s greatest strength is highlighted by its service members, Panetta said. And the young people in uniform traveling with him today, he added, represent the service they and their fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have given to the nation.

“Since 9/11, we have achieved significant success going after al-Qaida and ... (its) leadership,” Panetta said, adding, nevertheless, it’s critical to maintain pressure on the terrorist organization.

The secretary was scheduled to travel from New York to Shanksville, Pa., and the Flight 93 Memorial there, also set to open Sunday. That segment of his travel was cancelled due to weather.







# Briefs and Announcements

## **JBER civilian call**

All appropriated fund civilian employees and their supervisors are invited to attend the 673d Air Base Wing Commander's civilian call meeting, Sept. 19, at 1:30 p.m. in the Elmendorf Theater.

The commander, civilian personnel office and the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1101 president will speak about the current and possible Air Force civilian workforce reductions and their impacts.

Other information will cover the Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay updates and the administrative personnel processes and procedures related to manpower reductions. Following the briefings is a question and answer period.

Attendance is considered duty time but must be coordinated with a supervisor.

Please contact Dianne Harrison, 552-5583, for questions or additional information.

## **Disposition of effects**

Army Capt. Don Smith, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Spc. Douglas J. Green, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Smith at 361-2211.

## **Dining facility closure**

The Iditarod Dining Facility is scheduled to close Sept. 22 and remain closed until Dec. 15 for renovations. Food service operations will shift to Kenai Dining Hall for three months and shuttles will be available for transportation from the dorms.

The flight line food service provisions on demand facility, Building 16710, is scheduled to open Sept. 19 and will provide meals for Airmen working on the flight line.

## **Munitions stockpile inventory**

The 3rd Munitions Squadron will be carrying out a semi-annual inventory Sept. 20 to 23.

All munitions users must be aware of inventory dates and schedule requests for munitions issues and turn-ins around the inventory.

During inventories, only emergency requests will be processed after being submitted in writing and approved by the group commander.

For more information, call the Munitions Operations Section at 552-8666.

## **POW/MIA ceremony**

Representatives from all branches of the military will honor prisoners of war and service members missing in action at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's POW/MIA ceremony, Sept. 23, 3 p.m., at the 3rd Wing headquarters.

For more information, call 552-5693.

## **Air Force Ball**

The Egan Center will host the Air Force Ball, Sept. 17, from 6 to 10 p.m. for all Air Force personnel.

Meal choices are chicken or halibut. Contact your unit representative for tickets. For information call 580-6603.

## **Become a JAG lawyer**

The Army Judge Advocate General Corps is now accepting applications for the Funded Legal Education Program which

sends active-duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense while remaining in an active-duty status.

The Army projects selecting 25 officers to attend law school beginning fall 2012.

The FLEP selection board will meet the second week of December and will consider officers second lieutenant through captain.

Applicants must have two but not more than six years of total active federal service at the time training begins.

Interested officers should refer to Army Regulation 27-1, "Judge Advocate Legal Services," Chapter 14 for additional eligibility requirements.

Applicants must submit their application through their chain of command to their basic branch at Army Human Resources Command.

Interested officers should review the AHRC website for branch specific contact information.

Applicants must also submit their application to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Yvonne Caron - 10th Floor), 1777 North Kent St., Rosslyn, Va. 22209-2194.

The suspense to AHRC and OTJAG is Nov. 1.

Interested officers should immediately register for the Law School Admission Test. The board will not consider applications without LSAT scores.

Interested officers should immediately contact the U.S. Army Alaska Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 384-0420 for further information and to schedule an interview.

## **Check your university**

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

The policy affects all academic institutions operating on and off military installations delivering courses through various modalities to include but not limited to classroom instruction, distance education and correspondence courses.

Students are advised to contact their academic institution to check if their school either has an established MOU or is in the process of having one signed prior to the deadline.

Approved MOUs will be posted at [www.dodmou.com](http://www.dodmou.com).

Please contact the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Education Center at [edoffice@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:edoffice@elmendorf.af.mil).

## **Military publications available**

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

City of Anchorage maps are also available.

Call 552-8918 for information.

The information provided in the Installation Guide is also available online at [www.jber.af.mil/library/newcomers/index.asp](http://www.jber.af.mil/library/newcomers/index.asp).

## **U-Fix-It Store reopened**

The U-Fix-it Store, previously known as the Self Help Store on JBER-Richardson, re-

opened 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.

The U-Fix-It Store also provides equipment checkout items, such as carpet cleaners, wheel barrows, yard sale signs, and more.

There are also American flag kits, and fire extinguishers available.

U-Fix-It work includes all home maintenance activities.

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

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

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

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

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

There will also be window blind cleaner installed at the JBER-Richardson within one or two months. A "reservation required to use" policy is in place with the priority going to military members PCSing. For more information, call 552-4439.

## **New service hours**

The Army Military Personnel Section has new customer service hours, 1 to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

By exception, ID card appointments are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and Friday, closed Thursdays.

The Reassignments Section will only be open to unit S-1s, 1 to 5 p.m.

Soldiers must see their battalion or brigade S-1 and have authorization prior to being seen at the Army MPS.

Passports are processed on JBER-Elmendorf every Friday at 10 a.m. in the People Center, Room 118, and on JBER-Richardson every fourth Tuesday of the month 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., location to be determined.

## **Employee assistance**

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

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

For the employee and all other eligible clients, the EAP provides confidential problem identification and assessment services. For cases where referrals are required, case monitoring and follow-up is provided.

The EAP also conducts training for civilian employees on topics such as drug-free workplace, workplace violence, customer relations and other tailored training that

contributes to the overall welfare of the civilian workforce.

For more information contact George Mongar at 384-0863 or in person at Building 658, 1st floor..

## **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 some basic 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.

## **Trespass notice**

Trespassing on JBER-Elmendorf's two Combat Arms firing ranges for any reason is both illegal and dangerous. Firing on each range is based on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson requirements and can occur at any time.

The outdoor range is located one mile north of Sixmile Lake and the indoor range is located in Building 4309 Kenny Ave. For more information concerning this notice, call Combat Arms at 552-1846.

## **Sled hill off limits**

Air Force Col. Robert D. Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander, pursuant to his authority under 18 United States Code 1382 and Department of Defense Instruction 5200.8, "Security of DoD Installations and Resources," has designated the parcel southwest of the corner of Wilkins Avenue and Provider Drive to be off limits to all personnel not specifically authorized to enter.

Violations of this order may be prosecuted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or 18 USC 1382 as appropriate.



# Retired general recalls Pentagon attack response

By G. W. Pomeroy  
Air Force News Service

Scores of people were injured and trapped. Before he made his way to the triage area where medics from all services would gather to treat and send off victims in ambulances, the senior Air Force medic waded through fire, smoke and chest-high debris looking for victims inside the Pentagon.

“The clock was ticking,” retired Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Paul K. Carlton Jr. later told *People Magazine*. “I thought, ‘If we wait for normal rescuers, we won’t have anyone alive.’”

It was Sept. 11, 2001.

At first he thought it had been a terrorist bomb, “but then I saw the landing gear,” Carlton said. “It was on the ground in the alley between the B and C rings. When I saw it there, not only did I realize an airplane had struck the Pentagon, but it was clear that the plane had come through the E, D and C rings to get there.”

The terrorist attack on the Pentagon 10 years ago shook the nation; however, the aftermath could have been much worse if not for Carlton’s efforts months earlier.

One of several Airmen awarded the Airman’s Medal for lifesaving contributions on Sept. 11, 2001, Carlton was the Air Force surgeon general when American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon.

He wasn’t thinking about it at the time, but the tragedy was replete with ironies. First of all, Carlton’s office wasn’t in the Pentagon; it was across town at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. The fact he was there when the plane hit was a coincidence.

But the biggest irony – if not saving grace – was that he had approved what were apparently the first-ever mass-casualty exercises at the U.S. military headquarters earlier in the year.

The origin of the May 2001 exercise was a stairwell conversation in February 2001 between Carlton and now-retired Col. John Baxter, who was the Air Force’s Flight Medicine Clinic commander in the Pentagon at the time.

Baxter suggested a mass casualty exercise. Intrigued, Carlton and Baxter tried to come up with a scenario until their conversation was interrupted by a jet taking off from nearby Reagan National Airport.

“We had to stop talking because the jet noise was so high,” Carlton said. “Then we resumed our conversation.”

Baxter suggested the idea of an aircraft hitting the Pentagon. He did not suggest wild-eyed terrorists bent on murder. In fact, Baxter’s idea was mundane compared to the reality of what was to come.

“Why don’t we have an airplane hit a bunch of birds, lose an engine, do a VMC



**Military members render honors, Sept. 12, 2001, as fire and rescue workers unfurl a huge American flag over the side of the Pentagon during rescue and recovery work following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. Though the attack was devastating, the Pentagon’s previous exercises helped to ensure casualties were treated and evacuated in a timely manner. (U.S. Navy photo/Michael W. Pendergrass)**

rollover (which means one engine is out and the flying speed is not enough to prevent the airplane from rolling over on its back) and hit the Pentagon?” Carlton said, repeating Baxter’s suggestion.

“I thought it was a great idea,” Carlton said.

The tabletop exercise, developed by Baxter and approved by Carlton, included the Army’s DiLorenzo Tricare Health Clinic and the Air Force Flight Medicine Clinic, both housed within the Pentagon. Representatives from Arlington County Emergency Medical Services and various agencies also participated.

Carlton said they “did not do very well on the exercise” and set a “get-well” date for

Sept 1, 2001. Even so, Air Force Col. James Geiling, then-commander of the DTHC, later said this exercise prepared them well to respond to the Pentagon attack on 9/11. For example, the Air Force Flight Medicine Clinic retooled its trauma packs and staffers from both clinics were issued special blue vests labeled “physician,” “nurse,” or “EMT,” to allow for easy identification.

The “get-well” exercise in early August was a mass casualty exercise that involved a practice evacuation and treatment of wounded. Retired Gen. Lance Lord, then-assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force, was a participant.

He later told Air Force Space Command News Service: “(It was) purely a coinci-

dence; the scenario for that exercise included a plane hitting the building.” Lord also said that on 9/11, “our assembly points were fresh in our minds” thanks to this practice.

The irony didn’t stop there for Carlton. When he became Air Force surgeon general in October 1999, Carlton chose two cities to work on for mass casualty management: Washington D.C. and New York City. Prior to 9/11 he had lectured on the topic to the New York City Council of Hospitals and the Washington Hospital District.

Carlton said like many folks directly involved that day, it was difficult for him to talk about for quite a while. His Airman’s Medal citation, which focuses on the very beginning of his Sept. 11 experience, offers insight as to why.

“General Carlton entered a room filled with chest high debris,” according to his Airman’s Medal citation. “Although half the room was engulfed in flames and smoke-filled, General Carlton and several other rescuers located a trapped victim who was stuck under some fallen debris. The men could see the trapped victim, but could not quite reach the man. One of the rescuers cleared the debris while General Carlton tried to pull the victim free.

“He then placed a water-soaked t-shirt on the victim’s face to aid his breathing. The victim was roused, and realizing the imminent danger they were all facing, rolled to his left far enough for General Carlton to grab him. They were then able to move the victim to safety. All the while, the room continued to rain fire and debris on General Carlton and the others.

“As the fire intensified and moved closer in the room, General Carlton continued to sweep the room for other victims. There was a loud noise, the flaming ceiling began to fall and one of the rescuers shouted for all to leave the area. As the metal caging in the ceiling gave way, General Carlton helped the others to escape the burning room.”

Today, Carlton is the director of innovation and preparedness for the Health Science Center at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He has consulted on homeland security and disaster response for many organizations – most recently the destroyed medical center in Joplin, Mo.

Ten years after the Pentagon attack, Carlton is optimistic but cautious.

“We have faced a determined foe who has shown us repeatedly that life has no meaning, and used a weapon we did not expect him to use,” he said. “Our enemy out-thought us. We can never let that happen again.”

He also kept the blue vest.

“It’s a reminder that we live day-to-day,” he said.





# Memorial ceremonies, activities set for Sunday, Page B-3

# Army car races to honor 9/11 fallen, Page B-4

www.jber.af.mil/news

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

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COMMUNITY

September 9, 2011

## JBER community members recall Sept. 11, 2001



From the JBER Facebook page

We asked to hear about your memories of Sept. 11, 2001, through the Facebook page. Here are some recollections – of times, places, and people.

**Heather Frost Fredenburg** My husband and I were stationed at Fort Richardson, I was working for Era Aviation – I was 6 months pregnant and was the first person on call. I got the FAA warning to stop all flights.

**Melinda Fulmer Sloan** I was at home in Alabama. My husband's cousin worked at the Pentagon but thank God she wasn't there that day!

**Summer Hershberg** I was living in California, just woke up turned the TV on and at first thought it was a movie ...but I realized it wasn't and I sat in front of my TV and cried all day.

**Lesley Southern** In N.Y. watching it live on Good Morning America. I drove by the site a couple of days later – and it was awful.

**Joey Santiago** I was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., prepping for an operational readiness inspection when I heard what was happening over the radio. Minutes later, I caught CNN in our break room to get the full story, and that's when the towers fell.

**Angel Michelle Dimick** We were at Fort Drum, N.Y., and I was at home. I got a frantic call from my mother-in-law and turned on my TV just in time to see the second plane hit.

**Syrena McGowen Rheault** I Happened to wake up early that morning for some reason and while

I was getting ready for work my husband yelled for me to come see this. I called my mom who was in California to turn the TV on. Then I headed out the door to my office. I worked for the 3rd Wing/11th Air Force protocol office at the time. I was the first person to work since I happened to be up way early. It was a scary day. I told my husband to stay home with the kids – I did not want them to go to school.

**Michelle Saldivar Pecina** Hinesville, Ga., in my principal's office having a parent/teacher conference with one of my student's parents. Glad I wasn't in my classroom when I heard the news.

**Daniel Woody** Just returned from my first deployment. I was headed to Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., to get a uniform for my wedding.

**A m b e r Goodin** Sitting in my 8th grade math class, when another teacher was running down the hall screaming that we were being attacked and to turn on the news.

**Shawna Marie 'Pike' Wahlstrom** Ceramics class in high-school ... My teacher thought pottery was more important and didn't let us watch the TV or listen to the radio.

**April Stumpff** Still asleep at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., when my husband called to tell me to turn on the news and that a plane had hit the twin towers. I was expecting to see a little Cessna... not a commuter flight. Then the second plane hit and the towers fell. And then I had to turn off the TV for a while – I just couldn't watch anymore.

**Shawn Borisow** Fort Leonard

Wood, Mo. I cannot tell you what I ate that day, nor when I went to bed but I remember watching the news in a mood of horrified anger for a large portion of the day.

**Melissa Pete Barber** I was at work at Subway on Royal Air Force Lakenheath. The shopette manager came running over telling us what happened. About 15 minutes later we were told to leave everything as it was and go home. I lived on Feltwell, and they were only letting residents on the base. My husband had to sleep at the kennels (he was a dog handler.)

**Charity Winn** Was living in Las Cruces, N.M. working when my boss came in and told me to turn on the news. It was a terrifying when the second plane hit the tower and then they collapsed. I will forever have the images of the people covered in ash with such confused looks on their faces. I know I will never forget.

**Carol Anne Bott Sluser** I was taking live calls for the first time at Citibank. A lady called and as we were discussing her account, she screamed and told me a plane crashed. Suddenly the lines went dead as people were glued to their TVs. Citi had three investment offices in the twin towers and we lost nine employees that day. We were located in Jacksonville, Fla., at the time and they locked us down until late that evening. The images on the news of people jumping to their deaths, the towers coming down, the Pentagon – it is all burned into my memory. I was 6 months pregnant with our daughter and I cried for days. I cried for my country, for the victims and because we were bringing a life into this insane world. I will never forget and every year I cry as though

time at Citibank. A lady called and as we were discussing her account, she screamed and told me a plane crashed. Suddenly the lines went dead as people were glued to their TVs. Citi had three investment offices in the twin towers and we lost nine employees that day. We were located in Jacksonville, Fla., at the time and they locked us down until late that evening. The images on the news of people jumping to their deaths, the towers coming down, the Pentagon – it is all burned into my memory. I was 6 months pregnant with our daughter and I cried for days. I cried for my country, for the victims and because we were bringing a life into this insane world. I will never forget and every year I cry as though

it just happened.

**Andrew Worrick** It was my first full day of tech school at Shepard Air Force Base, Texas, after opting out of explosive ordnance disposal school.

**Jessie Thompson** I was on a fire drill with my students when I got the news. My husband, who worked at the Pentagon, was on a three-week training session for his new job. My brother-in-law hit the snooze button for the first time, made his lunch and took a later train into work. He worked in Tower 2. You never know how inconveniences may save your life.

**Frances Baney** I was in the Air Force at the time and I had just gotten to work when the first tower got hit and once the second one hit, it was nothing but running around posting what warning we were in. I'll never forget that day.

**Tracey Gray** I was getting ready to take cupcakes to my son's preschool for his birthday. He was born Sept. 11 three years before.

**Lisa Johansen** We were stationed at Groton, Conn., and my husband was at the base hospital checking out, while I was in our housing packing for our upcoming move to Washington. He came in and told me to turn on the TV and we turned it on to see the second plane hit. The base went to immediate lockdown and schools began to close/release kids. I was a firefighter/EMT for a local department and we were all put on standby. Drove through New York City two weeks later and I'll never forget that empty skyline, smoke still wafting through the air from the fires still burning under the rubble. I've never looked at blue skies in September the same since that day.

**Dee Postula** I was getting dressed to go swear in at MEPS into the Navy. Everyone called and told me not to do it except my par-

ents. They told me to go ahead if I still felt it was the right thing to do. I proudly swore in and continued the military tradition of my family for over 200 years.

**Heather Paxson** I was in Virginia on leave and stopped at Hardee's to have breakfast with my mother-in-law before we moved on to a different part of Virginia. It was horrifying. I was recalled off of my leave because I worked in medical readiness and had to get back because we were deploying members from our medical unit. It still gives me goose bumps. It was a day I will remember forever.

**Judy Richardson** It was at the very end of my high school math class, we were getting ready to change classes; When I got to my English class, I called my recruiter (Army National Guard at the time).

**Mistina Davis** I was in Manassas, Va., feeding my 12-day-old baby boy. My father-in-law was supposed to be in the Pentagon that day, but he had a doctor's appointment that morning.

**Bill Jones** I was in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, participating in Operation Cooperative Key. Very interesting, having Bulgarian military confining you into a hotel far away from home, not able to call home or get word back to the states to let your family know that you're ok.

**Bernard McDonald** Ironically enough, I was in basic training in Fort Sill, Okla. We were conducting our field exercise when our drill sergeant walked up to us and gave us the bad news. I remember it like it was yesterday. When we got the news a lot of us cried and a lot of us just got (ticked) off. Those last couple of days in the field made us train harder so we could get the chance to go to Iraq and raise hell. Four deployments later, I don't regret a single one of them.

**“I've never looked at blue skies in September the same since.”**

## Anchorage survivor supports families in wake of 9/11

By Elaine Sanchez  
American Forces Press Service

It's been a decade since American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, but Bonnie Carroll vividly recalls the aftermath.

As a family-support volunteer, she spent hours “listening and sharing” with families who were waiting to be notified about a missing loved one.

Carroll, president of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, was among a team of volunteers who responded in the wake of the devastating terrorist attack that took 184 lives at the Pentagon.

That day “changed everything about the

world in which we live,” she said. “It gave every American an appreciation of those on the front line protecting freedom – a renewed sense of appreciation.”

Carroll was at home in Anchorage, Alaska, when the news broke about the terrorist attacks here and in New York, and she immediately felt compelled to help – both as an Air Force reservist and as the president of TAPS. She had founded this organization to offer support to survivors of fallen military loved ones after her husband, Army Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll, died in an Army C-12 plane crash in 1992.

In her reserve capacity, she was assigned to the Pentagon's office of national security and emergency preparedness and had just wrapped up reserve duty there and returned home. But when she heard the news, she put on her uniform and was on the first plane out of Alaska.

Carroll put a call out to her TAPS peer mentors to come to Washington at their own expense to help. More than 200 responded in a “tremendous response,” she said.

She arranged to have them serve six to 10 at a time in weeklong shifts offering 24/7 support to family members in the Pentagon Family Assistance Center at Crystal City's Sheraton Hotel in Virginia.

The center opened the morning of Sept. 12 and remained open around the clock until Oct. 12, helping both Defense Department victims' families and families of the passengers aboard Flight 77. Along with TAPS volunteers, the center was staffed by military community and family policy specialists, plus thousands of volunteers.

“We had folks who were surviving family members there to just be a comfort, to sit and hold hands,” Carroll said. “We had really, really tremendous people who stepped forward.

“It was just beautiful,” she added. “So much healing took place in that little closed environment. So much love and care and support, and the bonds that were formed exist to this day.”

To avoid burnout, Carroll scheduled the volunteers in one-week blocks so the peer mentors and survivor support team were “alert, fresh and ready,” she said.

“A big part of the effort ... was providing tremendous care to those 500 families at center, but also care to our team members who also were survivors,” she noted.

The organization also brought in grief and trauma experts from around the nation. “We were focused on getting the best, most appropriate support in place that would complement the support provided by the DOD,” she said.

In time and as reports rolled in, Carroll said, the atmosphere of hope shifted into a time of solace and support.

Twice a day, she recalled, now-retired Army Gen. John A. Van Alstyne, then deputy assistant secretary of defense for military personnel policy, briefed the families and take their questions.

The general offered families a fact-based, sometimes graphic briefing, and on some days, asked everyone to stand up and sing “God Bless America,” Carroll said. And then “he would remind everyone to breathe. People didn't realize they were holding their breath.”

Carroll said the general often remarked, “Regardless of their job – whether a contractor, DOD civilian or military member – the day of their death, they were on duty for America.”

Carroll vividly recalls the family members she met and their reactions in the aftermath of the attack on the Pentagon.

She remembers standing in the hall with Pat Hogan, an Air Force doctor who lost her Army major husband in the Pentagon. They were talking, when then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Erik K. Shinseki and his wife, Patricia, walked up.

Carroll said Hogan looked Shinseki in the eye – just days after her husband had been killed – and said, “I have no children; I have no husband. Nothing is holding me back. I want to transfer to the Army and I want to go to the front lines.”

“I would have thought he would have patted her on the head and told her to take time to grieve,” Carroll said, choking up. “But he said, ‘You got it.’”

However, the Air Force chief of staff at the time, now-retired Gen. John P. Jumper, got wind of the conversation and asked her to stay in the Air Force.

He said he'd send her with pararescue personnel to Afghanistan so she could serve as their doctor.

“She left soon after,” Carroll said. “She's amazing.”

Carroll also recalls the Hemingway family from Kansas, who lost their son, a father of two.

“They hung in there all day every day for six weeks,” she said, “and then they were the last family to be told that nothing of their son could be identified. There was nothing found.”

After six weeks, the support center closed down, Carroll said, but TAPS volunteers continued to support the families of the fallen – the same mission that continues today.

The organization's support includes peer-based emotional support, a 24/7 help line, support groups, seminars and one-on-one counseling.

In turn, many of the 9/11 surviving family members became staunch supporters of TAPS, she said. Lisa Dolan, whose Navy husband died in the Pentagon, started a therapy dog program for TAPS' Good Grief Camp, which offers support to children of fallen service members.

Another survivor, Joyce Johnson, who lost her husband, works for TAPS as part of the adult survivor support team, which reaches out to those with newly lost loved ones.

Their contributions speak to their resilience, she said, as well as the resilience of the nation.

This year marks a decade since the tragedy occurred, but Carroll said Americans are reminded of the attacks every day.

“Every time we go through airport security or see a flag-draped coffin on the front page of the paper, every time we hear about security concerns,” she said, “we're reminded of where this journey began and the precious nature of our freedom and the fragile world in which we live.”



Bonnie Carroll, president of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, assisted family members of the fallen in the wake of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. TAPS provides resources and support to family members with a fallen military loved one. (Courtesy photo)

# The question when we are in pain is not 'why,' it's 'who'

By Army Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Todd  
3rd MEB

Ten years ago our nation was attacked in what has become a turning point in American history. In the span of 78 minutes, 2,977 of our nation's citizens died.

Our world was forever changed in what President Bush later called "The Pearl Harbor of the 21st Century" (The Washington Post, Jan. 27, 2002).

We the People of the United States of America were shaken to our core as our nation fell prey to the reckless hate of evil men.

The suffering of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, their families and our nation still remains to this day.

That morning, I, like many of us, found myself moving slowly through an increasing state of shock.

At first the news of an airplane crash in New York City seemed a terrible tragedy ... and then it was followed by another.

Soon afterward news spread of the strike into the Pentagon, the fall of the towers and yet another airplane crash in Pennsylvania.

The truth of the reality, that our country had been attacked, seemed simply unbelievable.

Very quickly the lives of our military became a frenzy of activity as the terrible truth became clear.

The peacetime life our nation enjoyed had been shattered.

Many of us prayed that day and in the days to follow, and some of us asked of God, "Why?"

Why had such a disaster taken place? Why had evil men been permitted to lead attacks on the innocent? Why did this disaster happen?

In the days following the attack, the war that began that cool morning found our nation's warriors battling on distant shores, answering the call to take the fight to our enemies and protect our homeland.

On March 15th, 2009, during my deployment to Afghanistan, the cost of the war became very personal to me as I suffered my first battlefield loss as a chaplain.

Sgt. Christopher Abeyta, Army Staff Sgt. Timothy Bowles, Spc. Norman Cain and Spc. Robert Weinger were killed by an improvised explosive device strike upon their vehicle while serving in a

joint assignment to the Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Their mission was to provide humanitarian aid and assist in the development of a nearby village.

Their loss as they sought to help the Afghan people brought tremendous pain to our entire unit.

As I gathered together that evening with those who mourned our fallen comrades the question "Why" was asked again.

The question "Why?" has been asked and answered before, but while the answer may be easy for some to comprehend in their minds, it can be hard for many to hold onto in our hearts, especially in the midst of our suffering.

The answer to "Why" is not found among the circumstances of our pain, rather it is found in the "Who" God is.

On the battlefield, warriors cannot afford the luxury of second-guessing their orders.

Even when we do not understand why we are given the orders we receive, we still follow them in discipline and in confidence that our higher headquarters understands the big picture.

We have an assurance that each mission we receive comes from a purpose and is part of a larger plan.

When we are not aware of the larger plan we still trust they see and know much more than our individual missions require of us and that they are guiding us with a specific intent.

We can have confidence in their guidance even when we do not understand all the reasons because we do understand they know more about the big picture than we do.

We are assured by scripture multiple times that this side of eternity we are simply incapable of understanding God's big picture.

We do not have the capability to understand the complete plan of almighty God.

The good news, however, is unlike our earthly confidence in our fellow man we can have a perfect faith in God that He fully knows His plan and is aware of all things.

We can have a justified faith that He is in perfect control, especially when we don't understand, and even in the midst of terrible tragedy and intense pain.

John F. Walvoord of the Dallas Theological Seminary once wrote, "Though doubts and confusion reign when sin runs rampant, an encounter with God can turn those



An Airman cradles the U.S. flag at the start of the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony held Sept. 11, 2010, at the newly re-dedicated Alaska Fallen Firefighter Memorial at Fire Station No. 1 in downtown Anchorage. Hundreds turned out to pay their respects to the 343 firefighters who perished in the 9/11 attacks nine years before. A similar ceremony will be held Sunday. (U.S. Army photo by Percy Jones)

doubts into devotion and all confusion into confidence."

This September, as we remem-

ber those lost and the costs of protecting our country from those who desire to harm us again, let us also

reaffirm our faith and confidence in who God is. Let us choose to trust in Him. Let us stand in faith.



## Experience JBER Elmendorf-Richardson

**We keep Families connected.**

Eagle ACS is here to service you & your Family members through classes, briefs and visiting with you on a one on one basis. Connect with us through the web, phone or on foot.

**WILLOW MILITARY & FAMILY READINESS CENTER**  
BUILDING 8535 • 552-4943

Visit us on the web: <http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com/mfrc/>

**KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE HEALTHY!**

**COME TO OUR MARRIAGE "TUNE UP" CLASS ON SEPTEMBER 17 AT 9 A.M.**

**Heart Link: New Spouse Orientation**  
Sept. 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**WILLOW MILITARY & FAMILY READINESS CENTER**  
BUILDING 8535 • 552-4943

**ATV Safety Training:**  
**September 13, 20 & 27**

1 - 5 p.m., Cost \$50  
Meet at ODR Building 794

**Outdoor Recreation Richardson**  
**384-1475/1476**

**Bring your A-Game: Wii Fest\***

Today September 9  
Starting at 6:30 p.m.  
**FREE**

\* All games selected by staff, NO personal games permitted. Old school games available.

Open 7 days a week  
Monday - Friday • 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Federal Holidays

**Community Library**  
**JBER Richardson**  
**384-1475/1476**

**Outdoor Fun in Alaska**

**Eklutna ATV Trip**  
September 18  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Cost \$100

Open to all ages 8 & up. Must have ATV Safety Certification. Bring extra clothes for the ride back and a small cooler for snacks and water. Helmets provided.

For more information contact  
**JBER Outdoor Adventure Program**  
**552-4599**

**The Alaska Zoo - This Month Only!**

**\$5 Alaska Zoo Tickets.**

**USAF SERVICES Information Tickets & Travel**

Get yours while supplies last!  
Visit us today. Call 573-2378

Located in the Arctic Oasis Community Center

# Community happenings

**FRIDAY**  
**Taste of Mardi Gras**  
 This street party recreates Bourbon Street, featuring authentic Cajun cuisine from local celebrity chefs, live music, and street performers from 5 until 10 p.m. on 4th Avenue between G and H streets. Enjoy the last days of summer in New Orleans style, with proceeds benefiting the Red Cross. For more information, email [tasteofmardigras@gmail.com](mailto:tasteofmardigras@gmail.com).

**JBER 9/11 memorial**  
 The Fort Richardson National Cemetery hosts a memorial service for the fallen from 4 until 5 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  
**Vertical Challenge Climb-a-thon at Alyeska**  
 The 4th annual climb-a-thon is an endurance event in which contestants walk, hike and run up the steep North Face Trail of Mount Alyeska and ride the tram down as many times as possible from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The top competitors have climbed more than 20,000 vertical feet – the equivalent of climbing Mount McKinley, only with 10 hours to do it. For information visit [www.alyseskaresort.com](http://www.alyseskaresort.com) or call 754-2111.

**SUNDAY**  
**Freedom Flag Run**  
 Commemorate Sept. 11, 2001, with this drive from Palmer to Wasilla, beginning at the Carr's parking lot in Palmer. There will be a car show and barbecue after the drive and a time to reflect. Attendees are encouraged to bring side dishes; hot dogs and hamburgers are provided. For more information call 745-2652 or 982-5072.

**Patriot Run 5K**  
 This 9/11 memorial run begins on the bike path across from Buckner Physical Fitness Center at 10 a.m. For information call 384-0272.

**Firefighter memorial**  
 The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association invites the public to a remembrance ceremony at 12:45 p.m. with a procession on 5th Avenue from Fairbanks Street to A Street and the Fallen Firefighter Memorial. A ceremony and reception will follow.

For information call 317-5833.  
**Eagle River 9/11 memorial**  
 The Eagle River Elks Lodge will host a short public memorial service at 17111 North Eagle River Loop Road from 1:30 until 2:10 p.m. For information, call 364-3557.

**Trick or Treat in the heat**  
 An early Halloween before it gets cold to raise funds for Hospice of Anchorage, Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the Ronald McDonald house. Events will be held in Muirwood Park and Goldenview in Anchorage and Eaglewood in Eagle River. For information, email [info@totith.org](mailto:info@totith.org).

**TUESDAY**  
**JBER ham radio club**  
 The Elmendorf Amateur Radio Society meets at 5 p.m. at the Civil Air Patrol building off Dena'ina Road behind the flight line. For information, call 360-4169 or email [club@kl7air.us](mailto:club@kl7air.us).

**Job fair at Egan Center**  
 Get your resume out and discover job opportunities in Anchorage and Alaska at the job fair from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information call 263-2800.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Fighting championship at Sullivan Arena**  
 The Alaska Fighting Championship kicks off its new season at Sullivan Arena, part of a full schedule that includes nine dates in Anchorage. For more information, visit [www.alakafighting.com](http://www.alakafighting.com) or call 351-8184.

**THURSDAY**  
**Richardson Spouses Club**  
 The Richardson Spouses Club hosts its Super Sign-Up from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Building 56 on Fourth Street. The club is open to all military, spouses and Department of Defense civilians. There will be door prizes and food. For information about the club, visit [frsc.shutterfly.com](http://frsc.shutterfly.com).

**SEPT. 17**  
**Air Force Ball**  
 The Egan Center will host the Air Force Ball from 6 to 10 p.m.

for all Air Force personnel. Meal choices are chicken or halibut. Contact your unit representative for tickets. For information call 580-6603.

**SEPT. 19**  
**673d commander's call**  
 All appropriated-fund civilian employees and their supervisors are invited to the 673d Air Base Wing Commander's Civilian Call at the Elmendorf theater at 1:30 p.m. Civilian workforce reductions, voluntary separation and retirement options, and other updates will be addressed. For information call 552-5583.

**SEPT. 20**  
**Larry the Cable Guy**  
 Git 'er done! The Blue-Collar Comedy icon performs at Sullivan Arena at 7:30 p.m. For information call 279-0618.

**SEPT. 23 - 24**  
**Oktoberfest at Alyeska**  
 A traditional weekend of favorite German fare – spaetzle and schnitzel, sauerkraut, pickled eggs, and more, along with old-fashioned German music from the Alaska Polka Chips and Blaskapelle. Doors open at 6 p.m. both days. For information call 754-2111 or visit [www.alyseskaresort.com](http://www.alyseskaresort.com).

**SEPT. 23 - 25**  
**Alaska Women's Show**  
 Vendors celebrate everything that makes Alaska women unique. The show features financial seminars, fashion, jewelry, health care information and more at Sullivan Arena daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information call 562-9911.

**OCT. 1**  
**Rage City Roller girls**  
 Anchorage's own roller derby group battles it out at the Dena'ina Center. Wheels hit the rink at 7 p.m. and the competition goes until 10. For information, call 272-4801 or visit [www.ragecityrollergirls.org](http://www.ragecityrollergirls.org).

**JBER Arctic Bazaar**  
 This craft extravaganza in Hangar 5 is open to the public and features pottery, woodwork, art, food, children's activities and more. For information, email [arcticbazaar@elmendorfoso.com](mailto:arcticbazaar@elmendorfoso.com).

**OCT. 8**  
**Scandinavian Bazaar**  
 The Sons of Norway present a Scandinavian cultural experience with traditional foods like krumkake, lefse, and waffles, with a lunch of open-faced sandwiches and traditional soups at the Viking Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information visit [www.sofnalaska.com](http://www.sofnalaska.com) or call 349-1613.

**Nov. 5**  
**Vendors needed for fair**  
 The Country Fair will be hosted Nov. 5 at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Organizers are looking for local vendors selling handcrafted items. Family readiness groups can earn money for their group. Sell items at a food booth or set-up or clean-up. For more information, contact [FRSCcountryfair@yahoo.com](mailto:FRSCcountryfair@yahoo.com).

**ONGOING**  
**Motorcycle safety courses**  
 The JBER safety office continues to offer motorcycle safety courses through Monday. Basic rider course, basic rider course II, and sport bike safety classes are available. For more information contact Jeff Gross at 384-2382 or email [jeffrey.gross.ctr@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:jeffrey.gross.ctr@elmendorf.af.mil).

**Market and festival**  
 Local farmers and artisans sell their goods Saturdays and Sundays in a festival atmosphere. Enjoy free lively entertainment and food while browsing booths. The market runs through Sunday, weekends from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Third Avenue and E Street parking lot. For information, call 272-5634 or visit [www.anchoragemarkets.com](http://www.anchoragemarkets.com).

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

**Family Advocacy support programs available**  
 The New Parent Support

## Chapel services

**Catholic Mass**

**Sunday**  
 9 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel  
 10:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1  
 5 p.m. – Soldiers' Chapel

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

**Confession**

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

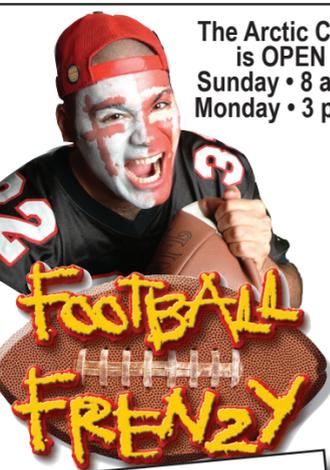
**Protestant Sunday Services**

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

Program hosts several activities for families with young children up to age 3. Family Advocacy also offers anger management classes, classes for new fathers and nursing mothers. "Dads 101" and "Home Improvement" are also featured. For more information, call Family Advocacy at 580-5858.

**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.anchagemuseum.org](http://www.anchagemuseum.org).

## Experience JBER Elmendorf-Richardson



**The Arctic Chill is OPEN**  
 Sunday • 8 a.m.  
 Monday • 3 p.m.

2011 Schedule September

**WEEK 1**

Sunday, September 11	9 a.m.
Atlanta at Chicago,	9 a.m.
Cincinnati at Cleveland,	9 a.m.
Buffalo at Kansas City,	9 a.m.
Philadelphia at St. Louis,	9 a.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville,	9 a.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore,	9 a.m.
Indianapolis at Houston,	9 a.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay,	9 a.m.
NY Giants at Washington,	12:15 p.m.
Carolina at Arizona,	12:15 p.m.
Minnesota at San Diego,	12:15 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco,	12:15 p.m.
Dallas at NY Jets,	4:20 p.m.

**Monday, September 12**

New England at Miami,	3 p.m.
Oakland at Denver,	6:15 p.m.

**WEEK 2**

**Sunday, September 18**

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

CHILL

384-7619

# HOW GRIZZLY IS YOUR GAME?



# Bear Pong

Every Saturday in October

JBER Tournament September 2011

Tournament begins 8 p.m.  
 Sign-up 7 p.m., FREE

The Arctic Chill 384-7619

## Right Arm Night

September 9  
 Win a Company Party!

Bring your right arm to the Arctic Chill, Warrior Zone or BOSS and win points.

The Chill  
 Bldg. 655 - 384-7619

## TEXAS HOLD'EM

Thursday nights at 6 p.m. Sign-up starts at 5 p.m. Weekly prize pool. Top eight qualify for final.

The Chill  
 Bldg. 655  
 384-7619

## BINGO!

Wednesdays 5 p.m. • eight-page packet \$25  
 Prizes each week: \$25 - \$100 per game  
 More than \$1,000 won every week.  
 Bingo will be on hold until further notice following the grand prize drawing.

Kashim Club  
 Bldg. 7135  
 552-2393

Enjoy summer in Alaska while there's still time!

# 10 years later, echoes of Sept. 11, 2011 still reverberate

By Elaine Sanchez  
American Forces Press Service

Nine-year-old Zachary Laychak walked into his house after school one day to a house full of family and friends.

A fire had broken out at the Pentagon, they told him calmly, and they were waiting to hear from his father, who worked there as a civilian budget analyst for the Army. He felt a twinge of concern, but quickly dismissed the thought that something bad had happened.

"He'll be fine," Laychak thought. "He always is."

Two days later, two men came to deliver the devastating news: 40-year-old David Laychak was one of the 184 people who had died Sept. 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. It was nearly a decade ago, he said, but the moment remains vivid.

His mother sat him and his 7-year-old sister down and told them their father had been killed. They screamed and sobbed as the news sunk in.

"I remember my mom saying it was the hardest thing she'd ever had to tell," said Laychak, now a 19-year-old college student. "For me, at least initially, I felt disbelief. I couldn't understand how it could happen."

As Laychak struggled to come to terms with his loss, Americans struggled to comprehend the extent of damage to the nation. Terrorists had taken nearly 3,000 innocent lives here and in New York and Pennsylvania. They destroyed and damaged buildings and shook the nation's sense of security to its core.

But to a 9-year-old who had just lost his dad, the attacks weren't a national incident; they were a personal affront.

"I couldn't understand what would make someone want to do this to my dad," Laychak said. "I was just angry, so mad." The attacks, he added, changed the course

of his life forever.

He lost, not only his father, he said, but also his best friend. Bonded by a love of sports, his father, a former college football player, would rush home each day so they could toss a football out in the front yard. His dad coached every sport he played, he added, whether it was basketball, baseball or lacrosse.

Laychak could hardly believe his strong, capable father was gone, he said. He recalled leaving his house that afternoon and heading over to a friend's house across the street for a sleepover. He woke up at around 6 a.m. and peeked out the window at his house. Relief washed over him when he saw his dad's car parked in the driveway. He later found out his aunt had driven his dad's car home.

In the wake of his dad's death, Laychak tucked his feelings aside to focus on his family. He assumed the "man of the house" role to take care of his mother and sister, he said.

"It definitely made me mature a lot quicker," he said. "I figured things out on my own and tried to just be there for my mom and sister."

But along with this maturity came a growing sense of isolation. He felt like an oddity at school and was flooded with questions upon his return. Close friends shielded him, he said, in a surprising show of maturity for a group of 4th graders he had met less than a year earlier.

As time passed, his initial anger evolved into a deep sense of patriotism -- born of resentment against those who dared to attack his nation and his family.

"I became a fan of us fighting these battles overseas," Laychak said. "It made me proud that America didn't just let the attacks happen [without responding]."

He also focused on keeping his father's memory alive. He bought a silver bracelet engraved with his father's name, which he rarely takes off. And whatever sport he plays, he wears the No. 4 in honor of his father, who wore that number when he played football at Brown University.

His house is strewn with pictures of his dad in his college uniform, along with a framed No. 4 jersey given to him from his dad's alma mater.

Laychak now is establishing college memories of his own. He's studying communications at the University of Arizona and plans to pursue a job with a sports organization. He even chose the college in memory of his father, he said, who took him

to sports events when they lived in the area.

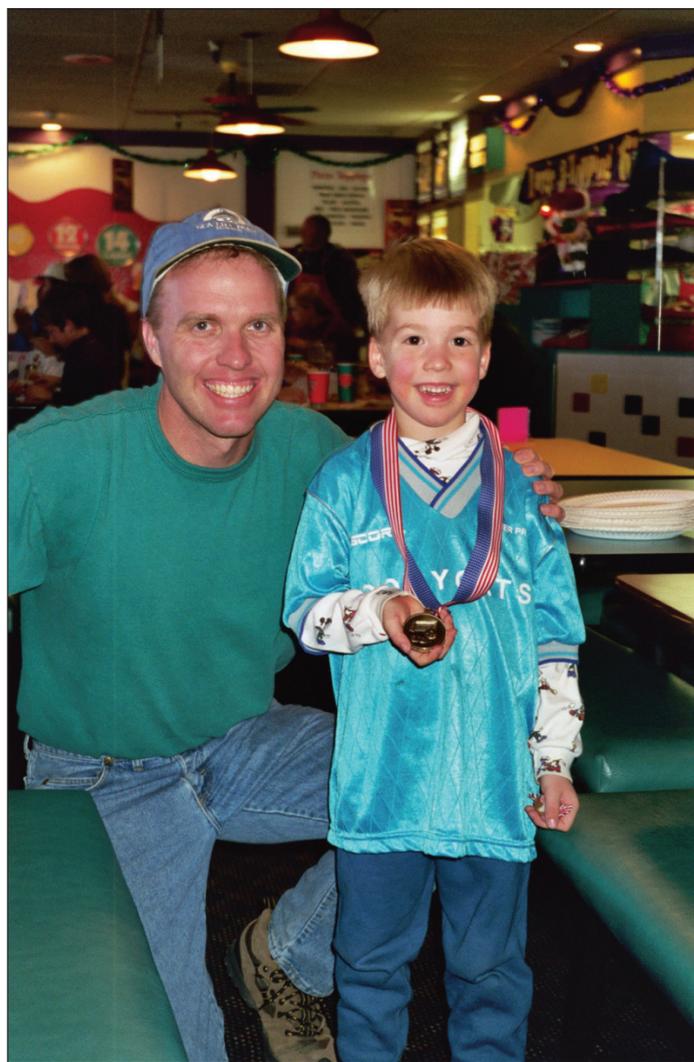
He's also heavily involved with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, an organization for military families of the fallen, as well as Tuesday's Children, an organization that

provides support for children of 9/11 and others impacted by global terrorism.

Laychak's uncle, Jim Laychak, also is intent on keeping alive the memory of his brother, as well as all victims of the Pentagon attack. He spearheaded the fundraising and creation of the Pentagon Memorial, a serene spot next to the Pentagon that features an engraved bench for each of the 184 people killed there.

**"I know he was a very patriotic person and that he died serving his country."**

**- Zachary Laychak**



Zachary Laychak is pictured here with his father, David Laychak, who died in the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Laychak is now a 19-year-old college student. (Courtesy photo)

The years have soothed much of his anger related to that day, Zach Laychak said. Still, he rejoices in each victory in the war on terrorism.

One of the happiest moments he's had since his father's death, he said, was when Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, was killed in May.

"I felt pure joy and happiness," he said. "I had friends from high

school calling me. Even they knew it was something important to me."

As the 10th anniversary of 9/11 draws near, Laychak said he'll remember his father with love and pride.

"As terrible as this whole situation was, I know he was a very patriotic person and that he died serving his country," he said.

"That's a way he would have been proud to go."

## Proudly carrying the names of the fallen

### Army NASCAR car races to honor Pentagon casualties of Sept. 11, 2001

By David M. Ferroni  
Army News Service

FORT KNOX, Ky. — As the nation observes the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the U.S. Army announced that both its NHRA and NASCAR teams will honor the Army victims of the Pentagon attack with special paint schemes at upcoming races.

On Saturday, Stewart-Haas Racing driver Ryan Newman also will carry the names of the 75 U.S. Army Pentagon victims on his No. 39 U.S. Army Chevrolet in the Wonderful Pistachios 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Richmond (Va.) International Raceway.

Overall there were 125 victims in the Pentagon who were killed in the Sept. 11 attack. However, the Army racing team will be focusing on the Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians who lost their lives that day.

In addition to the listing of the names, both race cars will carry an inscription "We Will Never Forget" and sport a specially-designed logo featuring the World Trade Center twin towers, Pentagon and the American Flag.

"It will be a moving experience when we unveil the race car in Indy," said Schumacher, a seven-time world champion. "Many years later, all of us still remember that horrible day which affected so many innocent people, including those at the Pentagon. Our hearts and prayers clearly remain with the families of the victims. We will never, ever forget that terrible tragedy."

Unless thus far this season, Schumacher would love to be able to dedicate a victory and trophy to the victims' families on Labor Day.



Ryan Newman drives the No. 39 U.S. Army Chevrolet back onto pit road after pitting during the first Gatorade Duel 150-mile qualifying race for the 2011 Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway. On Saturday, he will carry the names of the 75 U.S. Army Pentagon victims on his car in the Wonderful Pistachios 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Richmond (Va.) International Raceway. (Photo/Tim Hipps)

"I couldn't think of a better time to get our first win of the year," said the Chicago-area resident. "As always, we will definitely be Army Strong on race day and give it our usual 150 percent effort."

Like Schumacher, Newman is expecting to be deeply moved by the first appearance of his Richmond race car.

"There's no question it will be an emotional time for not only my team, but the entire NASCAR family," said Newman, a 15-time Sprint Cup winner. "We all remember where

we were and what we were doing when the news surfaced about the attacks. I know it will be etched in my memory forever. And, it should be that way for everyone.

"We want to win every race for the Army, but you can imagine how much more we'll want to win the Richmond event."

"It would be a very special, touching moment if we could drive into victory lane carrying the names of those great Americans."

## Births

### Aug. 27

A son, Jax Alexander Conway, was born 20.75 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces, at 10:12 a.m. to Jennifer Lynn Conway and Army Staff Sgt. Elisha Shane Conway of the 84th Engineer Support Company.

A daughter, Alivia Grace Young, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 8:52 a.m. to Kaitlyn Marie Young and Spc. Matthew Wayne Young of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

### Aug. 28

A daughter, Chloe Catherine O'Laughlin, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 10:54 p.m. to Mary Catherine O'Laughlin and Tech. Sgt. Frank Edward O'Laughlin of the 673d Medi-

cal Support Squadron.

### Aug. 29

A daughter, Ashlyn Kay Michaud, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 10:20 p.m. to Jamie Rae Michaud and Tech. Sgt. Dan Michaud of the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

### Aug. 30

A son, Landon Bay Clark-Bennett, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces at 3:43 a.m. to Angela Marie Clark-Bennett and Spc. Matthew David Clark-Bennett of the 56th Engineer Company (Vertical), 6th Engineer Battalion.

A son, Colin Parker Flanagan, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds,



1 ounce at 9:56 p.m. to Blair Ore Flanagan and Sgt. Brian Edward Flanagan of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

A son, Liam Michael Wisniewski, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces at 3:28 p.m. to Debbie Ann Wisniewski and Spc. Eric Michael Wisniewski of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

### SEP. 1

A son, Julian Jaxon Changasie, was born 20.8 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 6:14 p.m. to Amanda Lillian Changasie and Spc. Wilfred Changasie Jr. of A Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

A son, Ryan Michael Kuntz, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces at 7:58 a.m. to Jennifer Marie Kuntz and Spc. Matthew Nichols Kuntz of E Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

### SEP. 2

A daughter, Amiyah Nicole McCullough, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 8:53 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer McCullough of the 673d Medical Operation Squadron and Rodney McCullough.

### SEP. 3

A daughter, Kensinton Elizabeth Poole, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces at 5:33 a.m. to Julia Katherine Poole and Senior Airman Robert Paul Poole of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.

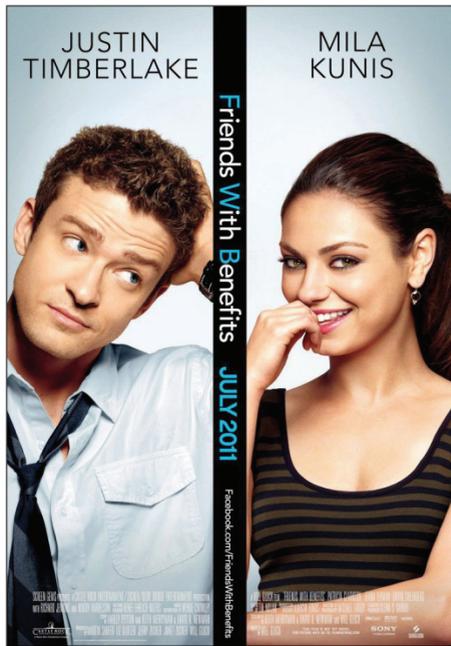




# At the movies

For recorded show and movie times, call 428-1200 or visit the Army and Air Force Exchange Services website at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com). Movies are subject to change without notice. Admission: Adults \$4, children \$2. Information provided courtesy of AAFES.

## Now playing

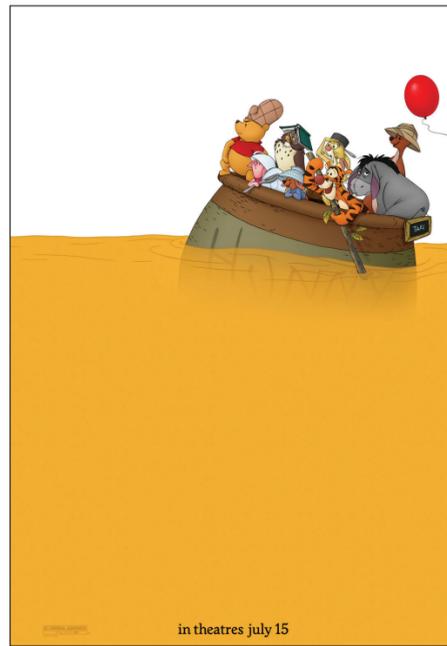


### FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

**Rated:** R  
**Playing:** Friday at 7 p.m.  
**Run time:** 109 minutes  
**Starring:** Justin Timberlake, Mila Kunis, Patricia Clarkson

While trying to avoid the clichés of Hollywood romantic comedies, Dylan and Jamie soon discover however that adding the act of sex to their friendship does lead to complications.

## Now playing



### WINNIE THE POOH

**Rated:** G  
**Playing:** Saturday at 7 p.m.  
**Run time:** 63 minutes  
**Starring:** John Cleese, Jim Cummings, Kristen Anderson-Lopez

During an ordinary day in Hundred Acre Wood, Winnie the Pooh sets out to find some honey. Misinterpreting a note from Christopher Robin, Pooh convinces Tigger, Rabbit, Piglet, Owl, Kanga, Roo, and Eeyore that their young friend has been captured by a creature named "Backson" and they set out to save him.



## Remembering the fallen

Two ladder trucks of the Anchorage Fire Department hoist the U.S. flag at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony Sept. 11, 2010 at Fire Station 1 in downtown Anchorage. The Alaska Fallen Firefighter Memorial was moved to 4th Avenue and was rededicated at the ceremony as part of a greater remembrance of the firefighters and others lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The fire station will also host the 2011 Sept. 11 memorial, with a march leading to the event. (U.S. Army photo/Percy Jones)





