



Air Force secrets

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Honor Guard salutes service members, A-4

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

July 29, 2011

Keep bears in the woods, put food out of paw's reach

By Luke Waack
JBER Public Affairs

Brown and black bears live on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and improper handling of dog food, barbecue grills and grease traps, birdseed, dumpsters or any food or scent can bring them out of the woods and into the back yard.

JBER residents and facility patrons must use proper trash disposal to prevent unnecessary contact with bears and avoid a fine, according to JBER wildlife and conservation officials.

The bear issue is 95 percent a people problem, according to Jim Wendland, JBER Conservation Law Enforcement.

"Once we take care of the attractants, the bears will move on," Wendland said.

There have been two cases of tickets being issued to JBER residents for negligently feeding wildlife recently, Wendland said.

"Leaving trash in their back yard and putting trash in the recycle bins and leaving the recycle bins out where the bears could easily get to them and get a free meal," Wendland said, "which in a couple instances caused damage to fences inside housing, where the bears broke fences down."

Contact between humans and bears can result in harm to people and or bears, and



A black bear sharpens its claws on tree bark. If a bear is spotted on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, call 552-WILD (9453). (Courtesy photo)

that's what base residents should keep in mind when it comes to cleaning up yards and cars.

"If they don't get a big reward, they

won't come back," Wendland said.

Because bears will enter housing areas searching for food, it's a good idea to check the yard visually, before going

outside, according to Chuck Parsley, JBER wildlife biologist.

"Situational awareness is a resident's biggest ally," Parsley said. "When hiking or fishing, anything that lets them know you're coming – a low grunt or an air horn would be best."

The chance of a bear encounter increases this time of year because of salmon running in the creeks on base, Parsley said.

Six-Mile Creek on base is a popular salmon fishing spot for people and bears, officials said. If anglers go to Six-Mile Creek, they should be aware bears are in the area, take bear spray and make lots of noise.

Fishermen should put any leftover carcasses in dumpsters, not into base creeks or forested areas.

Parsley educates the JBER public on how to be smart when it comes to bears at newcomer briefings and through community outreach, but sometimes the information doesn't sink in.

People usually don't see a bear on base, even though the installation has populated areas next to bear habitat and wildlife corridors, Parsley said, but they are close and can easily get food at family residences who don't keep their yard free of bear attractants.

See Bear rules, Page A-3



501st lands in Big Lake

By Army Staff Sgt.
Matthew E. Winstead
4-25th ABCT Public Affairs

"Go jump in the lake!"

That's just what paratroopers from the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, did July 22 as they leapt from helicopters into Big Lake, near Wasilla.

The unit conducted the mission to improve their overall readiness and ensure its paratroopers can land in a wide variety of conditions.

Water landings are normally considered a hazard and taught to be avoided under normal circum-

See Big Lake, Page A-3

Spc. Paul Tabor and Spc. Sydney Stevens, both 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry Regiment, deflate life preservers after parachute training and a water landing exercise at Big Lake, July 22. Several hundred Soldiers jumped from UH-60 helicopters into Big Lake. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

Team Alaska competes in Air Mobility Command challenge

By Air Force Staff Sgt.
Frances Kriss
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Two Airmen from the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron parachuted from a C-17 Globemaster III, one carrying a Prisoner of War, Missing in Action flag and the other with an American flag.

Riders on horseback held the banners of participating foreign countries and 75-degree, sunny skies shone on Mount Rainier in the distance, Sunday.

This was the scene at the opening ceremony of Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2011 where Team Alaska, led by Air Force Capt. Brian Muto, began its week of competing in air mobility and combat skills.

Team Alaska is made up of approximately 30 Airmen from

several units, including the 773rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 517th Airlift Squadron, 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 517th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 176th AMU and 673d Security Forces Squadron.

"I am thrilled to welcome you all to the Pacific Northwest and to McChord Field," said Col. R. Wyn Elder, 62nd AW commander, at Rodeo's opening ceremony Sunday. "I would like to extend a special welcome to the civic leaders, the rodeo teams themselves and especially to our international mobility partners. We are honored by your presence today at the competition."

Air Mobility Rodeo is a biennial international competition that focuses on mission readiness, featuring airdrops, aerial refueling and other events that showcase the skills of mobility crews from around the world.

"The Lewis-McChord Team,



Team Alaska, led by Air Force Capt. Brian Muto, stands at parade rest prior to the beginning of the Air Mobility Command Rodeo 2011 opening ceremony at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Sunday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Corinna Jones, 302 Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

including hundreds of wranglers, has been working hard for the past several months in preparation to host the largest and safest mobility competition ever," said Elder. "We are dedicated to making the first

ever rodeo on a joint base nothing short of sensational!"

This will be the first time rodeo will be held here since joint basing, but the City of Lakewood has been a part of the competition for the

past several years.

"We recognize that the competition tests the professional skills that you bring in service to your nation every day, and we appreciate all that you do for your service and your country," said Douglas Richardson, mayor of Lakewood. "It's my privilege this morning actually to represent all the people of the South Sound region of Washington, and wish all of you the very best in your competition during Rodeo 2011."

Elder echoed Richardson's message and also wished the competitors good luck.

"We want your experience here to be both memorable and safe, and we want you to be able to focus on the competition at hand," Elder said. "We are excited to open the doors of Joint Base Lewis-McChord to you and I look forward to the best rodeo competition ever."

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For more photos of Alaska wildlife, the Big Lake jump and the Air Mobility Rodeo as well as other stories and video, visit <http://tinyurl.com/3oeg5o3>



Editorial & Opinion

Air Force secrets:

Declassified files reveal decades old mysteries, tell important untold stories in military history

Air Force Declassification Office
Official DoD Blog

Documents pertaining to UFOs, nuclear issues, conflicts, Strategic Air Command, and Combat Search & Rescue are now declassified, along with photos, videos, and other historical artifacts at www.secretsdeclassified.af.mil.

The Air Force Declassification Office is not only responsible for declassifying Air Force information, but actually publishes a list of physical locations where these items can be found. They've also shared a treasure trove of information that is easily accessible by the public.

The Air Force Declassification Office had its roots as the Air Force Declassification Team established in 1989 and initially staffed by Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members assigned to the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force.

Once located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., its primary responsibility was to develop a declassification plan to facilitate the review and release of classified Air Force documents to Congress and the public.

The original team revolutionized declassification decision-making by creating the Air Force's first computer-based declassification guide. The guide enabled trained "declassifiers" to quickly review, coordinate and declassify information in record time.

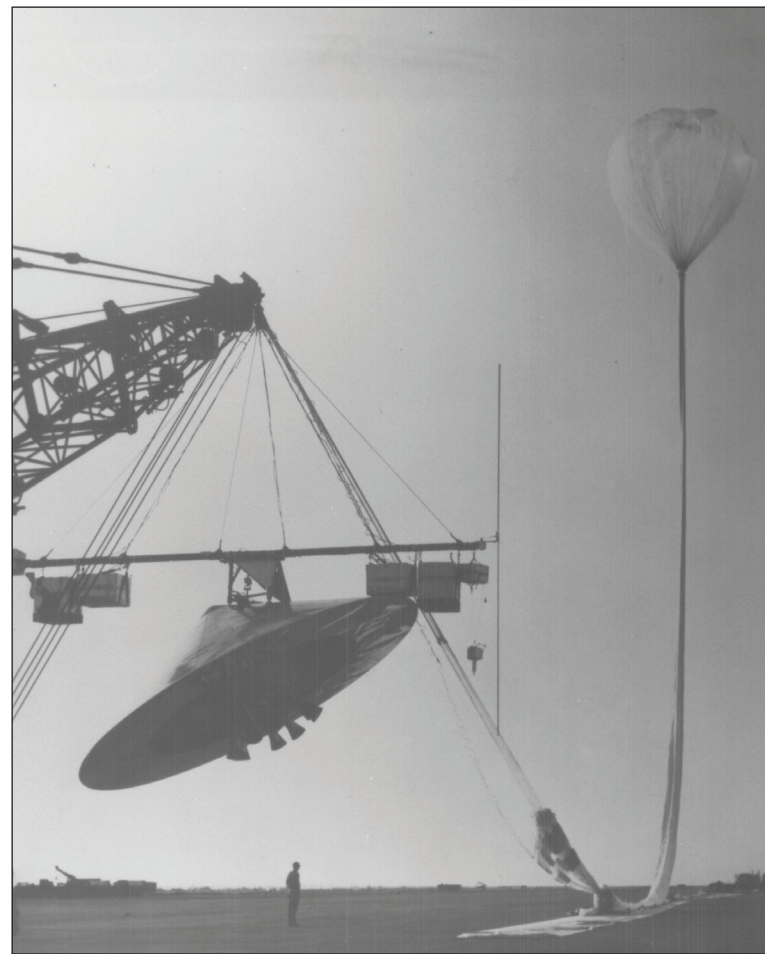
The team first tackled classified documents from the Vietnam era and was known as the South East Asia Declassification Team.

In 1992, came the added challenge of reviewing records of prisoners of war, missing in action, and Japanese and Nazi War Crimes.

Later, the team reviewed documents created during the first Gulf War to substantiate veterans' Gulf War Illnesses claims.

The team screened 2.5 million Air Force records, determining 24,000 could possibly support Gulf War Illness related claims, and declassified more than 13,000 other records. The team went on to review operational records of the first Gulf War.

On April 17, 1995, President Bill Clinton signed Executive



The aeroshell of a NASA Voyager-Mars space probe prior to launch at Walker Air Force Base, N.M., formerly Roswell Army Air Field. (U.S. Air Force photo/released)

Order 12958, prescribing a uniform system for classifying, safeguarding and declassifying national defense information.

The declassification team expanded to include representatives from the Air Force offices of public affairs, history, security police and the Air Force Historical Research Agency.

In October 1995, the first in a series of formal training programs were developed to "Train the Trainers" and in June 1996, AFDO hosted the first joint declassification training which was held at Maxwell with representatives from all branches of the military attending.

On Aug. 9 1996, after reengineering its processes to quickly and efficiently chisel away at mountains of classified documents, the Air Force Declassification Team received Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award, recognizing the team for outstanding customer service, cutting red tape,

empowering employees and getting back to basics.

AFDO has reviewed more than 105 million pages of classified documents stored at the National Archives, Federal Record Centers, Presidential Libraries, and Air Force field units and has been involved in several high level/high visibility research and review projects to include Roswell: Case Closed, TAILWIND, the No Gun Ri Investigation, BRAC, Tanker Controversy, and Air Force FOIA litigation cases.

Today, the team is involved in digitizing the Air Force Historical Research Agency's collection of periodic histories and is exploring the use of fuzzy logic to expedite declassification reviews and meet the President's mandate for transparency and openness in government.

The team has also launched a new website www.SECRETSDECLASSIFIED.com to further meet the President's mandate.

Dempsey: Joint force must be versatile, capable, affordable

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Work ahead for the U.S. military includes completing current conflicts and preparing for an uncertain future, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee today.

Dempsey, Army chief of staff, answered questions during a confirmation hearing as President Barack Obama's choice to serve as chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff when Navy Adm. Mike Mullen retires at the end of September.

"If confirmed, I will work with the Joint Chiefs to ensure that this nation has the military it needs," Dempsey said. "Our work must result in a joint force that is responsive, decisive, versatile, interdependent and affordable, and we must keep faith with (service members), their families and our veterans."

The senators sought Dempsey's views on a range of issues, including U.S. military relations with Pakistan, cybersecurity, acquisition reform, and especially defense budget cuts and how they will affect the nation's military strength.

Reflecting on his service as acting commander of U.S. Central Command after Army Gen. David H. Petraeus was tapped to command NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Dempsey characterized the "intellectual disagreement" between the U.S. and Pakistani militaries.

"It's always been a matter of discussion between us and our Pakistan counterparts about what threats are most serious to them and to us," he said. "The

Pakistanis persist in the idea that India poses an existential threat to their existence, while the terrorists that operate with some impunity in the Northwest Frontier province and in the (federally administered tribal areas) are less of a threat."

The United States has been working to convince Pakistani military leaders that the extremist threat to their west is probably greater than any threat India might pose, the general said.

"It's just one of those things we have to continue to work through," he added.

If deteriorating U.S.-Pakistani relations prompt the Pakistanis to cut off supply routes across their country to troops in Afghanistan, Dempsey said, "we would have to rely more on what we describe as the northern supply route, ... and that would be more expensive."

In response to a question about news reports of massive spending losses since 1996 on cancelled Army programs, Dempsey said it would be impossible to justify the current process, "given that it has not delivered the capabilities we've required within the resources available to do so."

The Defense Department is at a point, he added, "where we absolutely have to seek acquisition reform."

Dempsey noted that Ashton B. Carter, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, is undertaking such efforts, and the 2009 Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act is improving acquisition processes.

"There's probably a reason to consider a different role for the service chiefs in acquisition," the general said. "Right now, it's kind

of bifurcated: service chiefs do requirements, (and) acquisition does the materiel solution. That hasn't worked, and I think it has to be revisited.

"Nevertheless," he added, "we need capabilities."

Dempsey said his role as chairman, if confirmed, "will be to argue for that fifth-generation (jet) fighter, but a fifth-generation fighter that the nation can afford. And ... the way to that is through acquisition reform."

Acknowledging the many and growing threats to cybersecurity for the nation and its allies, the general said he is educating himself about the Pentagon's first unified strategy, launched July 14.

Asked about how the United States should respond to a major cyber attack, Dempsey said the determination that an attack is an act of war is a political decision.

"It's the role of the department and, if confirmed, with my advice as chairman, on how to respond to it," he told the Senate panel. "At this point, my greater interest is in determining what capabilities we must provide the nation to be prepared to respond should we be attacked and should the determination be made that it was a hostile act or an act of war."

Dempsey added that he is studying the question and has a series of meetings scheduled, if confirmed as chairman, "with those who are delivering that capability today, to better understand it."

In response to many questions about the ongoing reduction in defense spending, Dempsey said the Defense Department is responding to a proposed reduction of \$400 billion over 12 years.



Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry, recent Medal of Honor recipient, speaks, July 19, at a press conference held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Petry received the medal for his courageous actions in Afghanistan, May 26, 2008.

Medal of Honor recipient committed to helping 'brotherhood' of Soldiers

By Army Staff Sgt.
Antwaun Parrish
5th MPAD

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Being one of two living Medal of Honor recipients, Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry has been headlining the media since being awarded the nation's highest military honor by President Obama at the White House on July 12.

Petry spoke during a press conference held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord July 19.

"I want to use this honor to make a positive impact," Petry said.

Petry earned the MOH for his actions in Afghanistan with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

On May 26, 2008, Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters.

When asked if he feels like a hero he unhesitatingly responded, "I don't think anyone sees themselves as a hero -- it's others looking at them. I have my heroes so that makes them super-heroes."

During his recovery Petry met other servicemembers who sustained injuries in combat. He described their bond as the (Soldier brotherhood).

"We would challenge each other during therapy to push harder," Petry exclaimed.

Petry took a moment to explain his prosthetic arm which also displays the names of fallen Soldiers.

"When I lost my hand I

thought that I would be given a hook," Petry said with a smirk. But the arm comes with different attachments, I also have cutlery knives so I can prepare dinner for my family."

After his recovery he deployed to visit Soldiers in Afghanistan.

While there Petry provided encouragement and motivation to Soldiers, he also held the American flag during several re-enlistment ceremonies.

His wife, Ashley, couldn't understand why he would go back after what already happened.

But he explained to her that he is risking just as much as any other Soldier who is deployed.

Within the past week Petry and his family have been traveling and telling his story all across the U.S. The highlight for him was visiting the White House and meeting President Obama.

Petry's family has been by his side through his recovery and continues to support him every day.

"It's been an emotional week for my family, but this experience has inspired my son to attend West Point Academy," said Petry, a Santa Fe, New Mexico, native. "To see him talk about that without any influence from me makes me happy."

Although Petry has received the highest military honor, he remains humbled.

"The Medal of Honor won't change me and won't interfere with me helping Soldiers," Petry declared.

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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When to stop, when to salute the bugle call

Story by David Bedard
JBER Public Affairs

Customs and courtesies during the daily sounding of "Reveille" and "Retreat" differ slightly between the Air Force and Army on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The songs, played through the installation's mass notification system, signify the raising and lowering of the national colors.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Kuehnl, 673d Air Base Wing command chief, and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Kimball, 673d ABW command sergeant major, the differences pertain mainly to rendering honors, when driving a vehicle and in the numerous bugle calls encountered on the former Army garrison.

"On Air Force installations, the normal protocol is, if you are outside, in uniform, you should face the flag or the direction of the music if the flag is not visible, and render the proper honors: stand at attention and salute," Kuehnl said. "If you are not in uniform, you would stand at attention, face the flag or the music, and you can use what is called the 'civilian salute,' place your hand over your heart, or you can just stand at attention. Civilians would basically be the same as a military member not

in uniform."

Kuehnl said honors are simple enough when driving a vehicle on the former Air Force base side.

"If you are in a vehicle, then you stop the vehicle, normally pulling off the road completely and sit quietly in the vehicle," she explained.

Kuehnl said she turns off her radio in respect of the music honoring the colors, and she opens her window so she can best hear the honors.

All too often, she said, motorists will ignore the signal to honor our nation's flag.

"You'll see two or three cars stopped, and the occupants are doing the right thing," Kuehnl said. "And everyone else is just passing them."

Kimball said vehicle procedures on the former Army post differ in accordance with Army Regulation 600-25, "Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy."

He said, during "Reveille" and "Retreat," moving vehicles will stop. Military passengers and drivers will dismount and render the proper courtesies. When in buses and trucks, only the senior occupant will dismount and render courtesies.

"It's important to understand there is a difference," Kuehnl said of the two sides of JBER. "You need to do what your

organization requires.

"Is it wrong for an Air Force person, who may be on the Richardson side of the installation who sees everyone jumping out of their cars, to do the same?" she asked, before answering the question. "Absolutely not. I would think that I need to show that commonality. We wear the uniform, we're serving the same country, and neither is right or wrong. It's simply the culture of that organization."

Another major difference both non-commissioned officers cited is what happens with the flags on either side of the installation.

Kuehnl said, because all of the Air Force flags including those at the 3rd Wing headquarters, the POW/MIA monument, and the Yukla 27 memorial are lit 24/7, they are never lowered except in cases of severe weather.

Kimball said, on the former Army post, the garrison flag at Pershing Field is unlit and is raised and lowered by military police daily. He also said the responsibility for raising and lowering the garrison flag will soon shift from garrison MPs to U.S. Army Alaska to perpetuate Army customs at JBER.

"Reveille" and "Retreat" are accompanied by a cannon salute fired from a World War II-era 75-millimeter pack howitzer

using 10-gauge shotgun shells to simulate the signature boom of the artillery piece.

The Army senior NCO said although both installations play "Reveille" at the beginning of the day, the former Army post plays "Retreat" and "To the Colors" at the end of the day, while the former Air Force base plays "Retreat" and the "Star Spangled Banner."

Yet another difference, which may catch Air Force personnel off guard when visiting the former Army post, is the litany of bugle calls spread throughout the day.

According to Patrick Tipton, 673d ABW Plans and Programs, the former garrison uses the mass notification system to play scheduled music which includes everything from "Reveille" in the morning to "Tattoo" and "Taps" at the end of the day.

A pet peeve of both NCOs is people who make a mad dash for a building or a vehicle to avoid rendering honors at the proper times.

"Five o'clock is when 'Retreat' is sounded," Kuehnl said. "It doesn't matter what side of the installation you are on, or if you are halfway in between, we know at five o'clock, the flag's coming down, whether it's actually coming down on the Richardson side or symbolically on the Elmendorf side demonstrate the respect the colors deserve."

Air Force studies oxygen systems

By Air Force Maj. Chad Steffey
Secretary of the Air Force PA

The Air Force continues a review of all of the service's aircraft equipped with oxygen generation systems, according to Air Force officials.

Following the fleet-wide stand-down of the F-22 Raptor directed by Air Combat Command leadership in May, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley directed the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board to conduct a quick-look study, gather and evaluate information, and recommend any needed corrective actions on aircraft using on-board oxygen generation systems. In addition to the F-22, this includes the A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-15E Strike Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, B-1 Lancer, B-2 Spirit, CV-22 Osprey, T-6 Texan II, and other aircraft as appropriate.

Retired Air Force Gen. Gregory Martin, former commander of both Air Force Materiel Command and U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and a command pilot with more than 4,600 flight hours, is leading a senior team of scientific and technical experts in the study. The team will expand on previous

safety and accident investigations and may include other agencies or industry partners.

In a series of carefully controlled in-flight tests, the team will examine the sub-systems identified in reported incidents. These include the pressurization system, mask and cockpit oxygen levels.

"The safety of our aircrews is paramount," said Maj. Gen. Gregory Feest, Air Force Chief of Safety. "This review is a prudent step to ensure that all potential technical, causal, and contributory factors have been fully considered and that all appropriate steps are being taken to enhance flight safety."

With the exception of standing down F-22 flight operations, Air Force units will continue normal operations during the SAB quick-look study. At this time there is no intention to direct a stand-down of any other aircraft in the inventory.

Additionally, officials emphasize that other fighter aircraft have been made available to meet immediate combatant commander requirements, such as Air Sovereignty Alert for homeland defense and theater security commitments. If required, the F-22 can and will be put into service to meet essential National Security missions.

DoD prepares for DADT repeal

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Based on recommendations from military leaders, President Barack Obama has certified to Congress that the U.S. armed forces are prepared for repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

There is a 60-day waiting period before the repeal goes into effect, so the law will officially come off the books Sept. 20. After that date, gay service members can be open about their sexual orientation.

The president signed the certification and delivered it to Congress today.

Congress passed the repeal law in December. The legislation gave the military time to prepare the force and said repeal would happen only after the president, the defense secretary and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certified the force as ready for repeal.

The Defense Department chartered a repeal implementation team to coordinate the necessary changes to policy and regulations, and to provide education and training to service members. The team worked to ensure the smoothest possible transition for the U.S. military to accommodate and implement this important and necessary change, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said.

"Today, as a result of strong

leadership and proactive education throughout the force, we can take the next step in this process," the secretary said. "The president, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and I have certified that the implementation of repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell is consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion and recruiting and retention of the armed forces."

Panetta said he believes the repeal is essential to the effectiveness of our all-volunteer force. "All men and women who serve this nation in uniform — no matter their race, color, creed, religion or sexual orientation — do so with great dignity, bravery, and dedication," he said in a written statement on certification.

Panetta pledged to support a military free from personal, social or institutional barriers that prevent service members from rising to the highest level of responsibility that their talents and capabilities warrant.

"They put their lives on the line for America, and that's what really matters," he said. "Thanks to the professionalism and leadership of the U.S. military, we are closer to achieving the goal that is at the foundation of America — equality and dignity for all."

The services put together

training courses for the force and more than 1.9 million service members have now received that training. DOD and service officials also looked at regulatory and legal changes that repeal entailed.

"I am comfortable that we have used the findings of the Comprehensive Review Working Group to mitigate areas of concern, and that we have developed the policy and regulations necessary for implementation — consistent with standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion and recruiting and retention," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a written statement.

Certification is not the end of the road. The department, the services and the combatant commands must work "to train the remainder of the joint force, to monitor our performance as we do so, and to adjust policy where and when needed," Mullen said.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law went into effect in 1993. It allowed gay and lesbian personnel to serve in the military as long as they were not open about their sexual orientation.

On Feb. 2, 2010, Mullen testified to that Senate Armed Services Committee that he believed it was time to repeal the law.



Big Lake

From Page A-1

stances. However, a water landing does have practical uses and is a valid method of insertion for military units.

It is used more often by the Navy, Marines, and special forces units.

With the training and experience of conducting a safe water landing, any significant body of water that's deep enough can become a suitable drop zone.

"This was really fun, I definitely enjoyed doing it," said Spc. Jeff Zoller, team leader and assistant gunner with A Co., 1-501st. "I'm just glad the water was warmer than we expected it to be. You know, (it) being Alaska and all."

The paratroopers of the unit weren't the only ones making the

most of the event.

The A Company, 1-501st, Family Readiness Group provided a cookout for the troops as they returned to dry land.

"This is sort of a new FRG tradition, I think I kind of started it," Connie Baxter, A Co. FRG leader said. "Whenever the guys come back from the field I imagine that the idea of a home cooked meal would seem pretty good to them. So I always try to do that for them."

The paratroopers loaded up onto UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and flew less than a mile away to jump into the lake with a standard T-10 Delta parachute and reserve.

The only additions for the water landing were two Co2 powered inflatable "floaties" under each arm. Zodiac boats manned by Army personnel quickly retrieved the bobbing paratroopers and got them to shore.

A 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry Regiment paratrooper waits for pickup during a water landing exercise at Big Lake, July 22. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Conner)

Bear rules

From Page A-1

"Bears are easily attracted to what people dismiss as a small amount of food, because they have great sniffers," Parsley said. "They can sniff things at long distances away, better than a dog."

Parsley reminds people to pick up some not-so-obvious bear attractants; lunches in the car, spoiled bananas in the backseat, barbecue grills, bird seed, open garage doors, fish waste, food stuffs in the cooler.

Don't put out bird seed, except in winter, Parsley said. Put trash out on the day of pick-up, not the night before.

By keeping all potential attractants locked in the garage residents can keep the yard bear-free.

"If we can keep the area clear of attractants, they will not become habituated or food-conditioned potentially, then they'll stay wild and leery of people," Parsley said.

If people don't pick up after themselves and a bear can't give up looking for food in housing

areas, conservation agents sometimes have to kill the animal, Wendland said.

"We don't want to see the bears get put down," Wendland said.

Along with policing up the yard, residents can properly close dumpsters, keeping bears out of them, Wendland said.

People must close all lids and use locking devices where available, Wendland said.

The most recent bear-proof dumpsters are already in place at some locations, including the Fam Camp. These dumpsters require two hands to open, which significantly decreases the chance of bear entry, if people properly close the lid.

Wendland and Parsley are working to get as many new bear proof dumpsters on base as they can, but it takes time.

Older dumpsters with sliding side doors are being fitted with locking pins, because bears have learned how to slide them open, Wendland said.

It's a good idea to not have young children take trash out to the dumpster, because a bear might be inside if it wasn't properly



In this 2008 file photo, a bear eats trash left in a back yard. (Courtesy photo)

secured, Wendland said.

"We throw a rock at a dumpster before approaching, to see if a bear's head pops up," Wendland said.

But regardless of how many bear proof

dumpsters the base has installed, residents and patrons must always clean up bear attractants and make them impossible for a bear to reach, Wendland said, keeping people safe and bears wild.

Special duty: Airmen honor countrymen



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jiney Parton, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Honor Guard, adjusts a flag prior to the change of command ceremony for the 673d Medical Group, July 8. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee
JBER Public Affairs

Excellence is a trait that doesn't come cheap or easily.

For the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Honor Guard, the quest for perfection involves a lot of sweat and hard work.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jorge Nunez, non-commissioned-officer-in-charge of the JBER Honor Guard, said the key to his group's success is a heavy regimen of practice.

"It is very important that we train over and over again," he said. "We want to practice to the point that it becomes muscle memory. Once everybody has it down, we strive for perfection by making every step look crisp and sharp."

The honor guard is a color guard and performs many other functions during ceremonies, but the group's primary mission is to render honors in funerals for military members. Nunez, a Danbury, Conn., native said, his group takes its role seriously during funerals.

"We represent not only our base, but the

Air Force and the military, to our local community," he said. "We stress to our members it is crucial that they stay professional at all times during a detail."

The honor guard's hard work has been noticed by the local community.

David McNeil, a funeral director for the Anchorage Funeral Home, has seen the honor guard at work multiple times and he said he is always impressed.

When McNeil learned the honor guard needed a casket to practice for funeral details, he got together with his peers from other funeral homes to figure out a way to help the military unit out.

The original request was for a damaged casket, but none could be found. The funeral directors decided to buy a new one and even decorated it for the honor guard.

"It is a very basic casket, but plenty durable for them to practice with," McNeil said. "It makes me feel good to help a team of this caliber out like this. It is a privilege as a funeral home to offer such a thing."

Senior Airman Timothy Parker, a ceremonial guardsman for the honor guard,

said he was drawn to join the honor guard because he was impressed by the group's discipline and camaraderie during events he had seen on base.

Parker said, it has been an extremely rewarding experience for the five months he has been part of the team.

"The honor guard is awesome," said Parker, a Louisville, Ky., native. "I wanted to be a part of such a disciplined group and I really wanted to pay respects to our fallen during funerals. This allows me to serve the community and other members of the military and their families."

Parker said, he has also benefitted personally from his service.

"I have been able to develop myself as a leader and got a chance to meet new people."

During his most memorable honor guard duty assignment to date, Parker traveled to Kodiak where he assisted the Coast Guard during their 70th anniversary celebration.

Even though he was the lowest ranking military member in his group, the Airman was in charge of training the detail.

Parker said his NCOIC has stressed the

important of practice.

"The training is very important and if you go a long time without it you can get rusty even if you had it mastered before," Parker said. "If you are at a ceremony and you get nervous and forget something, your muscle memory will bail you out."

Nunez said, a lot of work goes into performing at details but he said it is all worth it.

"It is such a good feeling to have people come up to you after the event and tell you what a good job you did," Nunez said. "It definitely emotionally touches you – deeply. The people sacrificed so much and it makes me feel good to know that we sent them off with the respect and professionalism that they deserved."

Nunez encourages Airmen interested in joining the honor guard to attend one of their Monday training sessions.

"It is a great opportunity to meet new people outside your career field," he said. "Being able to network a bit is very helpful in broadening your career."

For more information about the honor guard call 552-2252.

Motorcycle riders train for safety

673d ABW Safety Office

According to the Air Force Safety Center, the Air Force has lost 176 Airmen to motorcycle mishaps in the last ten years.

Of those 176, 140 (80 percent) were sport bike riders. Also, of the 176 fatalities, 128 (73 percent) were attributed to reckless behavior by the operator. Although less than eight percent of Airmen are motorcycle riders, they accounted for 27 percent of the total fatalities during the last 10 years.

This year, the Army has experienced a 50 percent increase with 33 deaths compared to 22 from one year ago. Most were contributed to excessive speed, inexperience, and over confidence.

Don't become a statistic. Lack of training, riding beyond skill levels and excessive speed all contributed to the injuries and

deaths we all work so hard to prevent.

How can you be part of the solution?

If you're considering purchasing or riding a motorcycle, there are available seats for the Basic Riders Course at no cost to you. The bike and required Personal Protective Equipment are provided to you for this two-day training session. You can also sign up for a Basic Riders Course Two or Military Sport Bike Rider Course. Both are offered on JBER at no cost.

The one-day BRC-2 course helps riders hone and fine-tune the physical and mental skills needed for survival in traffic. Riders will need to provide the bike and PPE for this class. This class qualifies graduates for insurance premium discounts with some insurers, but most importantly, it may save a life.

MSRC is the next-level training course for military riders who have completed the

MSF Basic Rider Course. Riders provide the bike and PPE. This one-day class consists of three hours of classroom interactive lessons and four hours of on-cycle range time focusing on the speed and cornering characteristics of sports bikes.

The registration process is simple. Inform your unit motorcycle monitors or leadership of your training request. Logon to www.militarysafepmv.com and select Elmendorf Richardson. Then click on the course and date you prefer and register for the course you want. If you have questions concerning the course or class schedule, you can send an email to milsafeinfo@ctc.com.

The motorcycle season is in full swing and funding for this year's opportunity will soon end. Be prepared for possible regulation changes next fiscal year and schedule yourself for free training this year.

JBER offers many housing resources

JBER Housing Offices

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Housing Welcome centers are reminding service members there is an internet-based housing referral system. It's the Automated Housing Referral Network. AHRN.com is a nationwide, joint service, DoD-sponsored website that offers information on available housing to incoming military and their families. The service directly connects service members with local property managers via the Internet often facilitating a door-to-door move that saves time, and expenses.

"This housing referral network is a quantum leap forward from the process we use in our office and the word-of-mouth referral method," said Richard Watson, JBER Housing Management Support chief. With the Internet, incoming military and families are able to reach out from anywhere and get an updated list of available housing, from a much larger pool of diverse properties, that will be available upon their arrival.

The idea behind AHRN.com is simple: local property managers and homeowners register their available properties on the site free of charge, often several months before the property will be available.

These properties are then easily visible to incoming personnel when they search the site for available housing. JBER Housing Welcome Centers are looking forward to expanding the program by encouraging local property managers to register in the system.

To make registering properties a worry-free proposition, there are several layers of privacy protection. In return for registering their properties, AHRN.com provides property owners with a consistent resource of quality tenants. "It's a win-win for everyone who uses the site," Watson said.

In addition to AHRN.com, JBER Housing Centers provide programs to assist service members in acquiring a place to live once they PCS to their installations.

One such program is the JBER-Elmendorf Rental Partnership Program which is available to all eligible active duty members. The benefits of this program are discounts and no deposits or fees with the exception of pet deposits. JBER-Richardson Housing offers the Preferred Tenant Program which provides active-duty military personnel, both enlisted and officers, accompanied and unaccompanied, with affordable off-base housing.

In addition to corporate apartment complexes, the Preferred Tenant Program offers single family homes, townhomes and condos of private owners. Private owners need only contact the JBER-Richardson Housing Office to request acceptance in the program.

Rental payments for all programs are made directly to the landlord through allotments set up by both housing offices resulting in more trouble free transactions.

For more information call 552-4328/4374 or 384-3088/7632.

Briefs and Announcements

New service hours

The Army Military Personnel Section has new customer service hours, 1 p.m. 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.

Road closures

Fairchild Avenue will be closed to traffic for road repaving from north of the 381st Intelligence Squadron to Green Lake, until Aug. 22.

All traffic will have to use the alternate road with the exception of personnel belonging the 381st IS, Hillberg lodge, the horse stables and the Air Support Operations Center.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Air Force Staff Sgt. Joby Mathews at 552-2374 or Air Force Staff Sgt. Martin Young at 552-2373.

Dining facility closure

The Gold Rush Inn, Building 655, will close from Monday until Aug. 31 for renovations.

The Wilderness Inn, Building 647, between C and 2nd streets is the recommended alternative to the Gold Rush Inn.

Home buyer seminar

The 673d Civil Engineer Squadron Capital Asset Management Office offers a first-time home buyer seminar two times each month through the Volunteer Realtor Program.

The seminar covers home loan pre-qualification, negotiations, offer acceptance,

inspection, title search, available types of loans, and the closure process as well as many other aspects of interest to a prospective homeowner.

If interested in becoming a homeowner, please call 552-4439 to be included on the sign-up sheet.

Sled hill off limits

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.

Sports physicals

A mass-physical day is planned for Saturday. Appointments are from 8-9:45 a.m. and can be booked by calling 580-2778.

Walk-in appointments will be available the same day at the Pediatric Clinic from 9:30-11:45 a.m.

All TRICARE Prime Department of Defense dependents ages 5 to 17 are eligible (ages 4 starting kindergarten or 18 in high school are also eligible).

Children must have their military ID card, immunizations record and any specific required paperwork needed for the physical.

Thrift shops

The Thrift Shop, 724 Quartermaster Road, Door 8, phone number 384-7000, is open Tuesday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Thrift Shop is also open the first and third Saturday of each month, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Bargain Shop, 8515 Saville Ave., phone number 753-6134, is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Airman's Attic, phone number 552-

5878, is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Volunteers needed

The 2011 Hispanic Heritage Month Committee is seeking volunteers. This year's theme: "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories, One American Spirit." Open to all active duty service members, Reserve, Guardsmen, civilians and dependents.

To volunteer email JBER.NOC@elmendorf.af.mil.

FTAC NCOIC needed

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Force Support Squadron First Term Airmen Center is seeking a highly motivated staff sergeant or technical sergeant to fill the FTAC NCOIC position.

The First Term Airmen Center is an Air Force level program mandatory for all first duty station Airmen.

First Term Airmen Center NCOICs will be assigned for two years with a reporting identifier of 9F000.

The application deadline is Aug. 31.

Per AFI36-2624, candidates must be a volunteer and have commander's recommendation; must be at least a staff sergeant with 12 months time in grade with a minimum of five years time in service or a technical sergeant and be a graduate of Airman Leadership School.

Candidates must also be outstanding in appearance, military bearing and conduct both on and off duty; meet Air Force fitness standards having a passing score of 75 or higher; have a rating of no less than 5 on the last three EPRs; have the ability to speak distinctly and communicate well with others and meet all Air Force standards and other quality factors.

Master sergeant selects will not be considered for FTAC duties. The Report No Later Than Date is Jan. 3, 2012.

For a full application with requirements and job description email brent.johnson1@elmendorf.af.mil or kisha.richardson@elmendorf.af.mil.

Former Eielson medic is Outstanding Airman of the Year

Staff report
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE — Air Force officials named a former Eielson Airman one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2011.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Raven Taylor, a medical technician assigned to the 374th Medical Operations Squadron, Yokota Airbase, Japan, was recognized for her superior leadership, job performance, community involvement, and personal achievements.

“The Outstanding Airmen of the Year program seeks to recognize the best of the best and Airman Taylor is exactly that,” said Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, 11th Air Force commander. “Her dedication to the Air Force and our mission is unparalleled and I hope her example will continue to inspire her fellow Airmen at Yokota as it has at Eielson and within 11th Air Force.”

Taylor said, she had great leaders at Eielson.

“I can tell other Airman that it is possible, if you work hard and stay at it, anything that you want,” she said. “I had awesome mentors back at Eielson to keep me in the right direction, not just to say ‘you have got to go out for this award’ but to say ‘hey stay in school, volunteer’ get active get involved and stay active.”



Air Force Staff Sgt. Raven Taylor (left) and Senior Airman Taylor Kanka, 374th Medical Operations Squadron medical technicians, race to an ambulance during training for a 911 call at Yokota Air Base, Japan, July 8. Taylor was named one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2011 for her work at Eielson Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

Taylor was stationed at Eielson for three years and permanently changed duty stations a few months ago.

“It was an absolute privilege and joy to have her as part of our medical team,” said Air Force Col. Scott Sprenger, 354th Medical Group commander. “It was wonderful to

witness an Airman who exemplified the Air Force core values so completely. Her boundless energy and infectious positive attitude were highlighted non-stop throughout her time as an Ice medic at Eielson.”

“She has a can-do, will-do, approach to challenges and goals which is evidenced by

her long list of accomplishments, yet she has the admirable characteristic of humility that perfectly augments her determination. She consistently raises the bar of excellence which is something all Airmen benefit from,” he added.

Taylor recognized those who encouraged her stay focused on her goals.

“I have so many people to thank because I didn’t make it this far alone,” said Taylor. “So to everyone at Eielson, thank you! I thank you for your support, your guidance, mentorship, and making my first assignment my best assignment. To my peers, always strive for excellence you never know where your path will take you.”

Taylor also thanked her husband and family for their continued support throughout her career. Her advice to Airmen starting their careers - stay motivated.

“You have a lot of negative people out there, and I have met some of these people, but you don’t let them affect you,” she said. “This may not be the best assignment for you, but you make it what it is. Yes you may be far away from home but you can still find a positive person that you can tag behind and will help push you in the right direction.”

The 12 Outstanding Airmen are awarded the Outstanding Airman ribbon with the bronze service star device and wear the Outstanding Airman badge for one year.

Arctic Sappers rally with Australians in Talisman Sabre 2011

By Army Capt. James Kwoun
6th Engineer Battalion

More than 80 paratroopers from the 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) recently returned from Northeast Australia after participating in a forced-entry training exercise with elements of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

The forced entry training was part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011, a biennial training exercise involving both U.S. and Australian forces.

“Our airborne engineers were part of a larger force that was task organized for forced entry operations into a non-permissive environment through airborne assault,” said Army Capt. Patrick Billmann, commander of the 23rd Engineer Company (Sapper) (Airborne) and overall commander of the airborne engineer task force.

The task force was augmented with jumpmasters from the Australian army, giving the paratroopers the added perk of earning their Australian jump wings.

“Being part of a combined task force with the Australians was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget,” said Army 2nd Lt. Justin Smith, a Platoon Leader in the 23rd Engineer Company (Sapper) (Airborne). “It was exciting to be able to work with the infantry and our Australian counterparts in a realistic training event.”

The training was merely a small part of a larger exercise that ultimately involved all branches of the U.S. military, civilians from various U.S. agencies, and the Australian Defense Forces.

For the Arctic Sappers, the exercise was a valuable opportunity to train on unique engineer capabilities essential to any real-world forced entry operation.

The airborne infantry-engineer task force’s mission in Australia was to seize and clear an airfield to enable the air landing of additional forces for follow-on operations.

The first requirement immediately fol-

lowing an airborne assault is to defeat local threats and establish security.

While security was primarily the job of the 1-501st in this mission, a large portion of the airborne task force consisted of combat engineers who can fight as infantry until local security is established.

During the training exercise, 2nd Platoon, 84th Engineer Support Company (Airborne) engaged and defeated an attack by an enemy squad, role-played by Australian soldiers.

“Our engineers cannot conduct their mission without security,” Billmann said. “Depending on the nature of the threat, our engineers must be prepared to assist the infantry in securing the airfield and the surrounding areas.”

Engineers play a key role in forced-entry operations, according to Army Lt. Col. Marc Hoffmeister, 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) commander.

“Immediately upon securing an airfield, Sappers clear it of obstacles, such as mines, debris, or destroyed vehicles then conduct an assessment to ensure it is capable of landing fixed-wing aircraft,” Hoffmeister said. “We airdrop key pieces of engineer equipment and conduct rapid repair of any damage to the runway in order to start air landing follow-on forces.”

While the infantry established security on the notional flight landing strip in northeast Australia, Sappers from the 23rd Engineer Company (Combat)(Airborne) cleared both manmade and natural obstacles which could interfere with aircraft landings.

Engineers from the 84th ESC then conducted an airfield assessment and officially certified it capable of receiving aircraft.

Engineer support to forced entry operations are not limited to merely marking and clearing obstacles and assessing airfields. The 84th ESC can also conduct rapid runway repairs.

“Rapid runway repairs involve bringing the flight landing strip up to acceptable standards by filling craters, spalling (water



Army Staff Sgt. Bryan Comstock, 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), takes accountability of paratroopers in the assembly area during an airborne assault into the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Australia. U.S. Army Alaska Sappers took part in forced-entry training exercise with elements of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division in Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011, biennial training involving U.S. and Australian forces. (Courtesy photo)

damage to concrete, brick or similar surfaces), or other surface issues as quickly as possible in order to land aircraft,” said Army Capt Bradley Pietzyk, commander of the 84th ESC.

After the runway is repaired, the 56th Engineer Company (Vertical) can land Soldiers and equipment and provide various vertical construction capabilities needed to sustain, house, or protect the increasing flow of additional forces. Although Talisman Sabre did not exercise the full capabilities of the 6th Engineers, the training was a milestone in testing the unit’s forced entry capabilities, according to Hoffmeister.

“I am extremely proud of the leaders and Soldiers who were able to execute a mission of this scale,” he said. “These Warriors took off from the United States, parachuted in to another continent on an opposed drop zone, defeated an enemy threat, executed their assigned missions then safely redeployed home. The performance of Task Force Geronimo gives me great confidence in U.S. Army Alaska’s ability to rapidly deploy as part of a combined airborne task force to support forced entry operations in any part of the world.”

(Editor’s note: Capt. Patrick Billmann contributed to this article.)

www.jber.af.mil/news

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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JBER spouse takes Air Force honors for selfless service and leadership

By Air Force 1st Lt. Matthew Chism
JBER Public Affairs

Sarah Greenlee has been named the winner of the 2011 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award.

The Joan Orr Spouse of the Year Award honors significant contributions made by spouses of a military member to the United States Air Force.

After competing against other spouses from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Pacific Command, and the Air Force, Sarah Greenlee was chosen as the best in the Air Force for her dedication to service at JBER and the surrounding community.

Her citation for the award noted, through volunteer work, counseling, teaching and leadership, Mrs. Greenlee has supported people from the Army, Navy, Air Force, the local schools' Parent Teacher Association, church and the local community.

"The movers were at our house here on base. I looked out the window and they were just loading up the last couple boxes. I looked out the window and I thought, 'Hmmm, that's kind of strange, two cars pulled up and it's the wing commander, the vice wing commander, the ops group commander and (Lt. Col. James Suhr, 3rd Operations Support Squadron Commander),' she said.

"I just thought, 'Well they see the moving trucks and they just came to tell Paul goodbye, hey thanks it's been good knowing you'... then Lt. Col. Suhr said 'Hey, we just all wanted to come and congratulate you, all of us together and let you know that you were selected as the Air Force winner of the Joan Orr award.' I was just so shocked, and honored and humbled," she said.

Greenlee, a woman driven by faith, acknowledged volunteering is sometimes a tough commitment with her family of five.

"Everything that we seek to do, we seek to do it as much as possible as a family," she said.

That same commitment to

family is the advice she gives to other spouses who want to get involved.

"First of all, support their service member," Mrs. Greenlee said. "After that, support your unit at the company or squadron level," she continued. "I would encourage them to be involved in their unit and to be supportive. To realize that each of us has something important to give, and to have a willingness in our heart to give it."

Living her words, Mrs. Greenlee worked extensively between the 3rd OSS and the 517th Airlift Squadron, where her husband, Lt. Col. Paul Greenlee, former 3rd OSS Director of Operations, worked.

"She sees a need and her instinct is to go help; it's just part of her nature," Lt. Col. Greenlee said. The Greenlee family is currently transitioning to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where Lt. Col. Greenlee will work with the 15th Wing Inspector General.

"With the C-17 incident for instance, I had to go to work because of my position. ...I come home at 2:00 in the morning and there were extra children in my house," he said.

Mrs. Greenlee had taken in the children of the commanders for the night to relieve the burden on them, so that the commanders and their spouses could focus on being there for the families involved in the incident.

"They needed to go and reach out to the families and be with them until they came to some closure. She didn't think twice about it," Lt. Col. Greenlee said.

That internal passion is second nature for Mrs. Greenlee.



"It's been easy to care, it's who I am," she said.

Mrs. Greenlee, who calls San Antonio home, moved extensively in the U.S. and Europe with her family throughout her father's career.

She followed in Senior Master Sgt. Charles Jamison's footsteps and served for four years in the Air Force as a social worker at Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas and Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

"I think (service has) always been a part of me," Sarah Greenlee said. "You know, as long I can look back on my life I have always had within me a very caring, compassionate, merciful nature."

"I feel very honored, I feel very privileged, to have worked with such outstanding people every day, side by side," Greenlee said.

"What I see happening here at JBER is tremendous unity," Sarah she said. "People coming together with common focus, with a common mission and it's very inspirational. It has just been a joy for me to be a part of that."

The Joan Orr Award, which is sponsored by the Air Force Association, is scheduled to be presented to Mrs. Greenlee by the Secretary of the Air Force, Michael B. Donley, in Washington, D.C. at the AFA Conference.



ABOVE: Sarah Greenlee (left) and Mimi Elmore (right) perform an audit of the Mount Spurr Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association's finances and budget.

RIGHT: Sarah Greenlee with other volunteers and patrons at the 4th of July weekend Anchorage Faith and Family Church Coffee Ministry. They provided free coffee to people traveling the Kenai Peninsula along Seward Highway. (Photos courtesy of Sarah Greenlee)



Cutting corners with fishing regs doesn't equal savings

By Airman 1st Class Jack Sanders
JBER Public Affairs

The temperature is on the rise, the land of the midnight sun is sticking to its' name, and all across the state anglers are rushing to the water to participate in one of Alaska's biggest benefits; the summer salmon harvest.

Service members and their families can enjoy fishing almost as easily as Alaska residents, but there are a few important rules to keep in mind.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking the law, said James Wendland, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Conservation Law Enforcement.

The regulation states, "Anglers sport fishing for king salmon, except stocked king salmon in landlocked lakes, must purchase a current year's king salmon stamp."

The difference in price for a king stamp will only cost non-resident military license holders \$10 more than resident license holders, but the fine for an improperly-purchased license can be more than \$300.

Active-duty service members and their families, who do not qualify as residents and who are permanently stationed in Alaska, may obtain a special military fishing license at the resident rate.

This special resident rate only applies to permanently stationed military with permanent change of station papers showing effective date of transfer.

Active-duty nonresident military person-

nel and their families that receive this non-resident military license are still required to purchase king stamps to fish for king salmon.

People should check the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website frequently for rule updates.

Emergency Orders are the method the state uses to open and close fisheries, change fish limits and tackle restrictions.

In many cases, EOs are required because there are either more or fewer fish than expected, and there is a biological conservation concern, the ADF&G website says.

EOs are announced in newspapers, by radio, recorded ADF&G hotlines, on the ADF&G website, and at kiosks and ADF&G offices.

The safe bet, when it comes to EOs, is to check the ADF&G website for new changes before leaving on a fishing venture.

The regulation for residency is probably one of the more commonly misunderstood policies, Wendland said.

"It's easy to get mixed up and purchase a license with the incorrect information on it and the next thing you know, you're getting fined for something you thought you were



File photo

doing right," he said.

"It's highly recommended for anyone who desires to do any hunting or fishing while in Alaska to ask for assistance and read the regulation," Wendland said.

An 'Alaskan resident' as pertaining to military members, is a service member who has been stationed in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license. It also can be a dependent of a resident member of the military service who has lived in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license.

In other words, Wendland said, once you

apply for a residency license, a year after that application is processed you will gain resident status.

The first task is determining which license you need to purchase. Resident, non-resident, or non-resident-military, as defined by the 2011-2012 Alaska Hunting Regulations.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website, an Alaska sport fishing license is required for all non-residents 16 and older, and most residents from 16 to 59, to fish in all Alaska fresh and salt waters.

Anyone under the age of 16 is not required to have a sport fishing license.

While sport fishing, personal use fishing, or clam digging patrons must have their fishing license must be in their possession.

A sport fishing license is valid for a calendar year.

Those with a non-resident military license cannot participate in personal use fishing, commonly referred to as dip netting.

For information about fishing or hunting on base, call 552-2282 or 552-8609.

To check the regulations, visit the Department of Fish and Game website at www.adfg.alaska.gov or call 267-2257.

If service members have any questions they can always contact the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation at 267-2257, or the Alaska State Troopers.

More phone numbers are located on page four of the 2011-2012 Alaska Hunting Regulations.

Commentary: Fitting the 'stereotype' of an Airman

Commentary by Air Force Lt. Col. Chris Callaghan
71st Operations Support Squadron

VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — When we hear the word stereotype, we tend to attach negative connotations to it. After a conversation I had a few months ago, that word changed for me.

In late March, my wife, Kelly, and I attended a course at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as part of our preparation for squadron command.

The course was a week long, and on the last day, we attended a Basic Military Training graduation at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Following the graduation, we had lunch with trainees who were just one week from graduation themselves.

We ate with a female trainee from southern California. She didn't have her assignment yet, but wanted to be in either air traffic

control or acquisitions.

I, of course, encouraged her to become an air traffic controller and join us here at Vance Air Force Base.

We talked about why she joined the Air Force. She didn't run through a variety of great reasons many of us have for joining: service, patriotism, opportunities, education or experience.

Instead, she told us she joined the Air Force because she wanted to be "stereotyped as an Airman."

She explained in her hometown of Compton, Calif., there are stereotypes and expectations that seem to go along with whether you are male or female, your national origin, and what part of town you are from.

As she learned about the Air Force, it became apparent to her that, as an Airman, none of that "stuff" mattered.

What does matter is our mission, our commitment, our professionalism, the core

values by which we live, and the freedoms and ideals we defend.

This explanation by an 18-year-old Airman about to join our ranks absolutely floored my wife and me, and has had us talking about it ever since.

There is a lot we can take away from what this Airman said.

First, it reinforces that our reputation as the world's most dominant and most respected air, space and cyberspace force reaches far and wide.

Second, it tells us our reputation is based on our people who serve something greater than themselves.

Third, it should convey to all of us the impression we make on others translates into a calling for many to serve our country.

Her words reflect the trust and confidence the American people have in us, and how important that trust is in defining us as Airmen and defining what we stand for.

By joining the Air Force, that young

woman from southern California earned the label of "Airman" in the hopes of being stereotyped with us, her fellow Airmen, for the integrity, service and excellence for which we are known.

When she goes home to Compton, wearing her uniform, she will return mostly as the girl they all knew, but she will also be the Airman she has become.

She won't fit the stereotype someone else had for her; she will have changed in their eyes.

By deciding to serve and put on the uniform of her country, that Airman has become something far greater than the superficial expectation someone used to have for her.

When I think of the American dream, I think of Airmen like her who are living it. To me, being considered by others as a stereotypical Airman is a tremendous honor. That's a label we should strive to attain every day.

Six tips to keep your child safe

By Shari Lopatin
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Three children die every day from drowning.

It's the leading cause of death from an injury for children between 1 and 4 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mid-summer is prime time for water fun, but it can also be deadly, if parents aren't careful.

The Red Cross Summer Water Safety Guide states more than 90 percent of families with young children will spend time in the water this summer.

And almost half of them plan to swim in places with no lifeguard.

What does this mean?

You need to take responsibility for your children's safety around water.

Here are six tips from the Red Cross and the CDC to keep your children safe:

1. Learn CPR. Seconds count if your child falls into the water. You could be the life-saving support until paramedics arrive. Contact your local Red Cross chapter or your local fire department to learn when CPR classes are available.
2. Supervise your children constantly around water. Never leave the supervision to an older child, and avoid distractions yourself when watching your kids. This includes around bathtubs, swimming pools and natural bodies of water — such as the ocean or a lake.
3. Secure pools with proper barriers. Install a four-sided fence around your pool. It should have self-closing AND self-latching gates.
4. Always wear life jackets. Even if your kids know how to swim, they should always wear life jackets around natural bodies of water, such as oceans, lakes,

- and rivers. For younger or inexperienced swimmers, they should wear life jackets around all water, even pools.
 5. Make sure everyone in your home knows how to swim. Do you have young kids? Enroll them in age-appropriate swim courses. And if you still need to learn yourself, sign up for classes immediately.
 6. Have lifesaving equipment available nearby. This includes reaching or throwing equipment (such as a lifesaver and rope), a cell phone, lifejackets and a first aid kit.
- For more important summertime water safety tips from TriWest Healthcare Alliance, visit www.triwest.com/watersafety.



Personal touch helps TRICARE beneficiary fight cancer

By Mike Walbert
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

The diagnosis sent Jerry and Kim Browning reeling: cancer.

It was 2009 and it had been a while since Jerry Browning, a retired service member, went to the doctor.

When he did, his doctor ran several tests on him, including a biopsy.

"And the biopsy came back cancer," he said.

Shortly after Jerry's diagnosis, the Brownings were contacted by Carol Ann Goodenough, a TriWest Healthcare Alliance case manager who would help them through the physically and mentally challenging months of battle against the disease.

TriWest manages the TRICARE health program for the 21-state



West Region.

It started with some phone calls. Carol Ann checked in on how Jerry was doing and to see if there was anything she could do to help the Brownings.

The relationship gradually developed into one of trust and communication, with Carol Ann guiding the Brownings on how to make informed decisions about Jerry's cancer treatments.

"She has really, really helped us," Kim said.

With assistance from Carol Ann, Jerry Browning underwent surgery earlier this year to remove the cancer.

Without Carol Ann's help, the Brownings said, there is no telling how things would have turned out.

"I would only have probably a year or so left," Jerry Browning said recently. "But now, I've got a future."

Watch video of Jerry and Kim Browning's story, and learn more about TriWest's "Mission to Serve" at www.triwest.com/missiontoserve.

673d Force Support Squadron Richardson Events

Get a piece of the EDGE!

August classes

are over the next wave...

Look for new classes every month like...

Hula, Ballet, Archery, Golf, Art on the Lake, Leadership Development, Hip Hop &...

Got an idea? Got a talent? Let us know!

We always have opportunities for volunteers. HOMESCHOOLERS WELCOME.

Call Susan DeDionisio at 384 - 7482 or 227 - 5052
FSS Partnership Specialist/EDGE! Program Manager

Experience • Develop • Grow • Excel

the edge

JBER - Richardson
Outdoor Recreation Fishing Specials!

Fish On!

Make sure to get your fishing done before the season is gone.

Silver Salmon Guided Fishing Trips

on the Little Susitna River
August 12 & 13, 19 & 20
\$125 per person, per day. 4:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Call 384-1475/1476 for reservations

All customers need to sign up a minimum of 7 days prior to trip.
Fee includes guided trip, transportation, fishing pole and waders. Bring extra tackle, rain gear, camera, and lunch.
Meet at JBER-Richardson ODR, Building 794 to pick up equipment.
An Alaska fishing license is required for all participants.
Min sign up 6, max 12.

The JBER Consolidated Library invites you to a Renaissance Festival!

August 6 • 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Renaissance dress encouraged.

BLDG. 7
384-1640

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Two Rivers Youth Center

Building 297 • 384 - 1508

Join the fun at Two Rivers!

Knitting Circle & Sports Club - August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Cooking Club - August 9, Game Makers - August 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 & 12,
Math Mazes - August 22 & 29, LEGO's™ - August 2, 4, 9, 11, 23 & 30
Arts & Crafts Collages - August 2, Keystone/Torch Clubs - August 5, 12, 19 & 26
Power Hour - Starts August 16, Word Search - August 16, 23 & 30
Board Games - August 18 & 25, Work Force - August 10 & 24, Bump - August 10
Sudoku & Beading - August 17, 24 & 31
Straddle Ball - August 17 & 31, Kick Ball - August 24
Healthy Life Styles & Newspaper Club - August 23
Textiles Quilt Square - August 30

Eklutna Camping Trip August 1 - 5. Sewing Camp Creating a Hand Bag August 2 - 5.
End of the Summer Art Project week of August 8.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH AUGUST 12!
Teen back to school shopping trip August 11.

Community happenings

SATURDAY
Arctic Warrior Half-Marathon and 5K race
 The Arctic Warrior Half-Marathon and 5K races kick off at 9 a.m. at the Talkeetna Theater on Fighter Drive. Participants must check in Friday between 5 and 7 p.m. at the parking lot of Lowe's on Muldoon to collect bibs and base access passes.
 Race day check-in is between 8 and 8:40 a.m. for the half-marathon and from 8:45 until 9:15 a.m. for the 5K.
 For information, email arctic-warriorhalfmarathon2011@gmail.com or call 552-3649.

THURSDAY
Eagle River Camera Club
 The Eagle River Camera Club will discuss abstract photos, composition and shooting techniques at 7 p.m. at the Alaska Fine Arts Academy at 12340 Old Glenn Highway in Eagle River. The monthly shooting assignment is water.
 A more detailed announcement is available at www.meetup.com.

AUG. 11
Annual MOC golf tourney
 The 381st Intelligence Squadron and Alaska Mission Operations Center will host the Top III 4th Annual Golf Tournament at Eagleleglen Golf Course. Space is limited to 36 four-person teams. All military and civilians are welcome; prizes will be awarded. Start time is 7 a.m. Ticket price includes greens fees, cart and a door-prize ticket.
 For information or to reserve a spot, call 552-4590 or email skye.whipkey@elmendorf.af.mil.

AUG. 13 AND 14
Alyeska Resort Blueberry Mountain Arts and Music
 A celebration of the lush blueberry season, this outdoors event features more than two dozen arts and crafts booths in the Hotel Alyeska Pond Courtyard, as well as live music and blueberry concoctions.
 For more information call 754-1111 or visit www.alyeskaresort.com.

AUG. 13
Operation Arctic Warrior
 Children and families are invited to a special mock-deployment experience at the Joint Mobility

Complex from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be static displays, I.D. tags for the kids, and much more.
 For more information call 384-7687.

AUG. 14
Air Force concert
 The Air Force Band of the Pacific's Greatlanders Jazz Band performs a free public concert in Town Square Park, next to the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, from 2 p.m. until 4. No tickets are necessary.

AUG. 20
Downtown Anchorage Hawaiian Festival
 From 1 until 5 p.m., wear your Hawaiian shirt and lei and sit in the summer sun downtown while enjoying dancers, music and food from the 50th state.
 For more information, visit www.anchoragedowntown.org or call 279-5650.

AUG. 19-21
Greek Festival
 Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church hosts their 17th annual Greek Festival from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 19 and 20 and from noon until 8 p.m., Sunday. Parking and admission are free, with traditional Greek food and folk dancing on the menu. For information call 344-0190 or visit www.transfiguration.ak.goarch.org.

AUG. 25 - SEPT. 5
Alaska State Fair
 Each fall, the fair provides a setting for Alaska's last blast of summer. Flowers, record-setting giant vegetables and almost endless food and entertainment draw people to the Palmer Fairgrounds daily during the event. Livestock and craft shows figure prominently, as do carnival rides and other events.
 For more information visit www.alaskastatefair.org.

AUG. 26
Women's Equality Day observance on JBER
 The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Education Center will host "The Quest For Equality" in honor of Women's Equality Day in the lecture hall from 10 a.m. until 11:30.
 For information, call 384-0336 or email william.boberg@us.army.mil.

ONGOING
CYSA Flag Football
 Chugiak Youth Sports Association is currently taking registrations for flag football.
 The season starts the first week of August and runs through mid-September.
 It is open to all boys and girls ages 7 to 14. There are no weekend practices or games. To register, visit www.cysa-ak.org or call the office at 694-6559 to register by phone.
 CYSA also needs volunteer coaches - no experience necessary. Alches receive a discount on their child's registration. For more information, call 694-6559 or 223-16340 or email admin@cysa-ak.org.

Anchorage baseball
 Through Wednesday, the Mulcahy Stadium hosts the Anchorage Bucs and the Anchorage Glacier Pilots baseball. Outstanding collegiate players from around the world join forces to create the Alaska Baseball League and many future major-league players have competed with the teams. Schedules are available on the website.
 For information, visit www.anchoragebucs.com or www.glacierpilots.com or call 561-BUCS.

Aurora: The Great Northern Lights show
 There isn't much darkness in Alaska this time of year, but it's still possible to see the Northern Lights set to beautiful music.
 The 40-minute program runs every day and begins every hour at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.
 Visitors should enter on the 6th Avenue side. Discounts are available.
 For information, visit www.alaskapac.centertix.net or call 263-2993.

Spenard Farmers' Market
 Alaska-grown, -caught, -baked and -made items are available under the windmill in Spenard.
 Everything from fresh oysters, organic bread, garden starts, kettle corn and reindeer sausage is available, including live music, every Saturday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.
 For information, call 563-6273 or email spenardfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

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.
 Market days run through Sept. 11 - Saturdays and Sundays 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.

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/msmrr or email bjorgan@alaska.net.

Farmers' market
 A non-profit, farmer-directed market at 15th and Cordova, offering fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, plants and animal products.
 Offerings and vendors vary seasonally; open Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. through Oct. 15.
 For information, e-mail info@anchoragefarmersmarket.org.

Family Advocacy support programs available
 The New Parent Support 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, as well as other programs for service and family members. "Dads 101" and "Home Improvement" are also featured.
 For more information, call Family Advocacy at 580-5858.

Museum unravels the 'History of Basketry'
 The Anchorage Museum presents "Unraveling the History of Basketry" through the end of the year exhibiting baskets from Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian, and Yup'ik baskets. The influence of non-native culture is addressed.
 For more information, call 929-9200, or visit www.anchoragemuseum.org.

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

Planetarium shows
 Through 3-D graphics, surround sound and a dome screen, the Anchorage Museum's planetarium offers a fascinating way to learn about astronomy, the solar system and more.
 For more information call 929-9200 or visit www.anchoragemuseum.org.

'All That Glitters: Images from Alaska's Gold Rush'
 This new exhibit uses historical photos to tell the stories of optimistic prospectors and fortune hunters who came to Alaska.
 For more information, call 929-9200 or visit www.anchoragemuseum.org.




ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Free Snow Cones!

Come cool off at the Arctic Oasis Community Center!
 August 3 & 10 from noon - 2 p.m. and get a free snow cone. While you are there enter to win a \$30 gift certificate to Baskin-Robbins. One name will be drawn at the end of the month for a certificate for a birthday cake from Baskin-Robbins.
Arctic Oasis Community Center
 552-8529

Experience 673FSS Elmendorf-Richardson





POLAR BOWL ANNUAL CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

August 3 FREE Bowling 5 - 9 p.m.
 Stop by and bowl on us! (2 game limit per person, per night, shoes included)
National Bowling Week • July 30 - August 6
 Come bowl with us on August 6 and help beat last year's record for the most games bowled in a single day. August 7, 2010 - 923,948 games were played across 1,252 centers within a 24-hour period.
Polar Bowl 753-PINS(7467)



Outdoor Adventure Program

White Water Rafting
 In Eagle River Wednesdays, Thursday and Saturdays in August. Only \$45.

ATV Trips to Eklutna
Sunday, August 21 & 28
9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Cost \$100
 Experience the remote areas of Alaska that can only be seen on an ATV! We'll travel to Hatcher Pass for a full day riding and exploring. Pack a lunch and bring plenty of water. Space is limited so sign up early!

FSS ELMENDORF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
 For Reservations call 552-4599
Reservations must be made in advance.



\$100

Get out and enjoy summertime in Alaska!

Going the distance

JBER runners to compete in Air Force Marathon

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

Sometimes, big decisions in life are just made on a whim.

Such was the case for Air Force Staff Sgt. Marian McLaughlin, who was recently chosen to be one of two representatives from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson at the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

"After my second son was born, I started running a little bit," said McLaughlin, a pharmacy technician with the 673d Medical Support Squadron. "I did a 5K fun run, and thought 'that wasn't so bad.' Then a friend talked me into doing a marathon about two years ago ... I was hooked."

Recently, she completed the Mayor's Marathon in Anchorage and improved by 40 minutes over her last marathon. She hopes to continue the improvement at the Air Force Marathon Sept. 17.

Tech. Sgt. Jose Garza, a low-observable technician with the 477th Fighter Group, was a racewalker as a teenager. He started running in the military, and in 1998 ran his first marathon. Now he does about three a year, he said. Last year he participated in the Air Force Marathon and took 10th place overall — and he wants to be in the top five this time.

"Last year I had fallen off a mountain bike, so I was a couple of months behind in training. I want to knock down my time from last year."

Garza said he and McLaughlin have a bit of an advantage, living in Alaska.

"We have advantages, as far as terrain," he said. "I love mountain running. I go up Arctic Valley and run, and go hiking. Mountains help a lot too."

Both Airmen run outside summer and winter.



“A friend talked me into doing a marathon about two years ago...I was hooked.”

— Air Force Staff Sgt. Marian McLaughlin

"I have about a four-mile limit inside," said McLaughlin. "I hate it... I'd rather just put on (snow cleats) and layer up and go." A native of Madison, Wis., she said she's used to cold weather.

Being selected as one of four representatives of Pacific Air Forces was a surprise, McLaughlin said. She

submitted paperwork, but hadn't received a response. After the Mayor's Marathon, she decided to just take it easy and not train too hard — and then was notified.

"I'm really excited," she said. "There are only four people from PACAF, so it's huge, and really exciting."

The Air Force Marathon

- The first official marathon was held on September 20, 1997, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Air Force.
- It is held the third Saturday in September each year.
- This year's marathon marks 64th anniversary to the day of the Air Force.
- The course is a 26.2-mile run at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- All levels of runners participate from around the world in the marathon, wheelchair, half marathon, 10K, and 5K races.
- The race has grown over the years to more than 12,000 participants in 2010.
- The Air Force Marathon course is certified by the USA Track and Field Association and is a Boston Qualifier.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Marian McLaughlin, a pharmacy technician with 673d Medical Support Squadron, originally from Madison, Wis., left, and Tech. Sgt. Jose Garza, a low-observable technician with the 477th Fighter Group, from Anchorage, pose for a photograph Tuesday, in Hangar 5, the former aircraft hangar-turned-fitness center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. McLaughlin and Garza were recently chosen to be the representatives from JBER at the 15th annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 17. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

Life jackets really do save lives - but only work when you wear them

Commentary by Air Force Lt. Col. Nate Allerheiligen
Air Command and Staff College

Back in November 2008, I was enjoying an unseasonably warm day at Heber Springs Reservoir, Ark., with my family and some friends.

We started the day on the pontoon boat, with our friends riding on their jet skis.

After awhile, they invited me to take one for a spin.

Not having a lot of experience on small powered watercraft, I took it easy at first. I was keeping my distance from other boats and remaining vigilant of those around me.

Later, I took my younger son on my lap for a spin while my older son, who was 11 at the time, was riding the other jet ski.

He had ridden several times before and was conscientious and careful in how he rode.

We were having a nice time and enjoying the day.

At one point, I came up behind my son and was getting too close to him, so I headed off in a wide sweeping left turn to get some distance from him while he headed off to the right.

My young son was "helping" me steer and run the throttle. As I looked over my shoulder for the other rider, I couldn't see him, so I thought we were safe to keep turning.

Spray got in my eyes for a moment as we rolled out of the turn, and then I saw him.

Directly ahead of me in my path was my son on a collision course. We were maybe 50 yards apart and each doing 20 knots or more toward each other.

I barely had time to react, so I did my best to steer away without capsizing, or stopping directly in his path.

Unfortunately, he kept turning slightly left into my path and we collided.

My boat went up and

over the left front of his, flew two or three feet above the water and stopped about 50 to 60 yards away. I immediately turned around and thought for a moment that he was OK.

He was sitting erect on his craft with his hands by his side. Then it happened.

He turned to the right, almost as if on purpose, and fell into the water face first.

That image will haunt me forever.

At that moment, instinct kicked in, and I instantly jumped into the water and began a lifesaver crawl to him.

It seemed to take forever to reach him, and the whole time his face was in the water. I instantly noticed the blood in the water as I turned him over.

Praise God, he began to breathe and did the "funky chicken" — a series of spasms common when a person who has blacked out comes back to consciousness.

He had a huge wound

above his left ear that was bleeding profusely. I didn't have time, or opportunity to do any more triage, so I headed back to the boat.

No one else was in sight, and we were in the middle of the lake with more than a half-mile swim in any direction to reach the shore.

Fortunately, he was wearing a vest-style life preserver and was floating without effort.

I grabbed the back of his vest and began pulling him back to my craft where my other son was patiently and quietly waiting. My injured son was responsive to my voice and could move his arms — he even tried to help swim.

With his help, I was able to get him back onto my craft, get the motor started, and the three of us raced back to shore.

When we reached the shore, I helped him into a prone position on the concrete, secured his head and neck while applying di-

rect pressure onto his head wound with my shirt.

By then, our friends had called for an ambulance, which arrived quickly and took him to the local hospital less than 10 minutes away.

The doctors at the local hospital evaluated him and found no significant head, neck or back injuries.

The cut on his scalp was more than doctors wanted to handle there, and he had lost a lot of blood, so he was medically evacuated to Arkansas Children's Hospital via helicopter.

By the time we drove the 75 minutes to the hospital, he was lucid, responsive and doing well.

He received 11 staples to close the head wound and was released that night.

There are several lessons to be learned by this life-changing experience, but the paramount discovery is that life preservers save lives!

Without the jacket, he may have very well sunk beyond my reach before I

could get to him.

There is no way that I could have pulled my son, who was 5'7" and 160 pounds at the time, 75 yards through the water and onto that jet ski had he not been wearing a jacket.

Likewise, had I not had my jacket on, I likely would have drown from exhaustion trying to bring him back to safety.

I also learned the importance to carefully and conservatively follow all the safety precautions in the owner's manual of the watercraft.

As vigilant as I was, the added distraction of having my younger son in my lap made the maneuvers we were doing dangerous and tragic.

Finally, water rescue, first aid and CPR courses are a must!

Knowing how to properly save and treat a loved one, or even a stranger, is a critical skill that everyone should learn.

Territorial Cavalry



LEFT: Dave Proehl of the Alaska Territorial Cavalry (Motorized) checks a map before a 12 vehicle club convoy over 29 miles on the back roads of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Based in Eagle River, the club restores World War II vehicles to their original state. Three vehicles, including a 1941 M-2 half-track, are club-owned and restored. Many of the approximately 200 members own and operate their own restored military vehicles. They take part in many local events including 4th of July parades and were part of the JBER Military Appreciation Car Show on post this year. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steven White)



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. Movies are subject to change without notice. Admission: Adults \$4, children \$2. Information provided courtesy of AAFES.

Now playing



GREEN LANTERN

Rated: PG-13

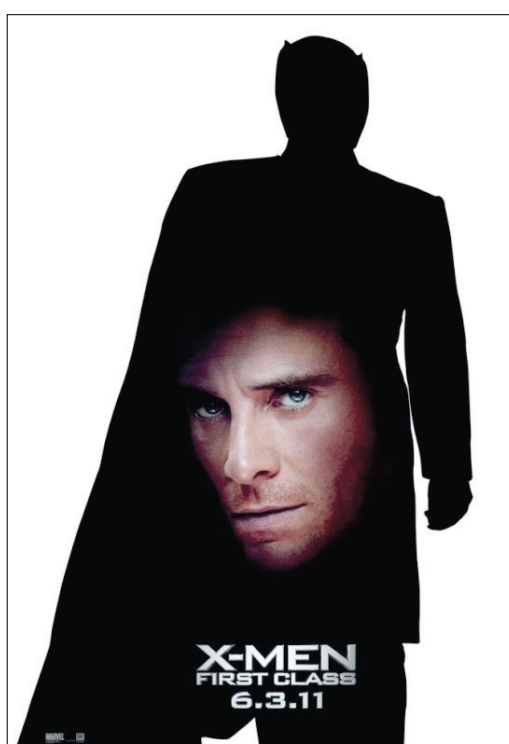
Playing: Friday at 7 p.m.

Run time: 114 minutes

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Melanie Hebert, Peter Sarsgaard, Mark Strong, Tim Robbins

A test pilot is granted a mystical green ring that gives him otherworldly powers, as well as membership into an intergalactic squadron tasked with keeping peace within the universe.

Now playing



X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

Rated: PG-13

Playing: Saturday at 7 p.m.

Run time: 132 minutes

Starring: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Kevin Bacon, Jennifer Lawrence

Before Charles Xavier and Erik Lensherr took the names Professor X and Magneto, they were young men discovering their powers for the first time. Before they were arch-enemies, they were the closest of friends, working together to stop the greatest threat the world has ever known.

Two Alaska families recognized by uniformed services

WASHINGTON — The National Military Family Association announced winners of its 2011 Families of the Year award.

Senator Lisa Murkowski honored two Alaskan families chosen by their uniformed service as “2011 Family of the Year.”

In a July 21 ceremony in Washington, D.C., the two families were among only seven nationwide to be named outstanding: the Henley fam-

ily of Sitka, and Thompson family of Eagle River.

“It’s statistically amazing that two of the seven Families of the Year were from Alaska, but not surprising when you consider the close bonds our Alaskan communities share with the Uniformed Services,” Murkowski said.

“These awards exemplify the fact that while the service member wears the uniform, it is the entire family

who serves.”

The Henley family from Sitka is the United States Coast Guard Family of the Year.

Petty Officer First Class Javon Henley and his wife Keysha are leaders and role models in their community, contributing to civic organizations, tutoring, and participating on the board of the Coast Guard Spouses Association.

Children Jaelah and Keyshawn

are active in sports and scouting, and recently organized a fundraiser to aid those affected by the tsunami in Japan.

The Thompson family from Eagle River is the United States Public Health Service Family of the Year.

Commander Susan Thompson and her husband Lt. Cmdr. Jasen Thompson speak and volunteer at the local school’s health and

science fair.

They also encourage young students to take an active role in their own health.

Children Abigale, Samuel, and Joshua are active in scouting and Little League Baseball.

As a family, the Thompsons devote time to collect and distribute food to local charities and participate in improvement projects in their community.

Soldier beats Cerro Aconcagua in tribute to wounded warriors

Commentary by
Army Staff Sgt. Trevor Jones
59th Signal Battalion

As long as I can remember, I have wanted to climb mountains. Growing up reading books about Sir Edmund Hillary and Dick Bass I decided I too wanted to climb the Seven Summits – the tallest mountain on each continent.

Fast forward 20-odd years and here I am, a Soldier in the Army, and I am making that dream a reality.

During my time in the Army I have deployed to Iraq twice and Afghanistan once, and although I was fortunate enough to never be injured, I have had many friends who have suffered horrible injuries, and I would like to help them.

I have teamed up with the Wounded Warrior Project in order to help those and all of the other Soldiers who have been injured in combat.

In June of 2009 I climbed Mount McKinley, which peaks at 20,320 feet.

To me, the next logical step was to climb Cerro Aconcagua.

Aconcagua, at 22,841 feet, is the tallest mountain in South America and the tallest mountain in the world, outside of the Himalayas.

Immediately following my return from Mount McKinley, I began working on plans to climb Aconcagua in January of 2010.

But then I discovered that my ankle was broken and required surgery, so I had to push those plans back a year, and ultimately to February of 2011.

During my planning, I had decided that I did not want to go with a commercial guide and instead I arranged everything myself.

I had a couple of buddies who were going to go with me, but for various reasons, they backed out and I was faced with two options – to push back my climb again, or climb one of the world's tallest mountains solo.

I chose the latter, knowing that it would be very difficult, but having confidence in my abilities I knew I could do it.

Planning was a great challenge, as I had to coordinate a muleteer to take a mule to base camp with some of my gear, get transportation in and around Argentina, arrange for food, and all the other little aspects of the trip.

Going solo meant that I would have to do everything myself.

Climb ev'ry Mountain



A view from the top of Cerro Aconcagua in Argentina. Army Staff Sgt. Trevor Jones plans to scale the tallest mountains on each continent, known as the Seven Summits, to support the Wounded Warrior Project. (Photo courtesy of Army Staff Sgt. Trevor Jones)

I cooked all of my own meals, from food that I carried up the mountain.

If I was having a bad day, and was feeling weak, I had no one to rely on to help me out.

I had to collect water from streams and purify it; higher up the mountain, I melted snow for water.

A few times I had problems with my stove, and I had to disassemble it and fix it myself, as there was no backup – and no stove would have caused me to have to abandon my climb.

I had to make camp myself, which meant I had to select a spot that would be sheltered from wind, flatten it out if required, pitch my tent and build up a rock wall to keep the wind off my tent as much as possible.

Climbing, however, was pretty straightforward. The first three days I covered 26 miles and gained about 5,000 feet.

This consisted of walking through a high desert, crossing a few freezing streams, and a little bit of scrambling along cliffs.

Once I arrived at base camp, I had decided to take a rest day before continuing on to Camp 1.

The climb up to Camp 1 went very well; I covered more than 3,000 vertical feet in just over three hours, hauling quite a bit of weight.

The terrain varied between crossing a moraine-covered glacier to climbing a very steep scree hill.

I cached some gear and climbed back down to base camp.

That evening I started to exhibit the signs of both dysentery and bronchitis.

When I woke up the following day, I had decided that I was in no shape to climb, so I took another rest day.

The next day I felt okay, so I packed up and headed up, not feeling 100-percent well, but feeling okay. I climbed that same 3,000 feet in six hours!

The weather at all of the higher camps got worse and worse.

The winds consistently blew at more than 80 miles an hour, and the temperatures frequently dropped below zero.

It snowed every day – some days as much as two feet.

I took advantage of small breaks in the weather to carry my cache up to Camp 2, and to move to there.

Camp 2 was located at about 18,000 feet.

After sitting out a number of days, the weather broke, so I had decided to just single move all of my gear up to High Camp, which is at 20,000 feet above sea level.

Normally I would have done this move twice, or just left some gear at camp.

I had decided to traverse the mountain so I did not have the option of leaving gear behind as I was going down a different way.

The weather was forcing my hand, and this weather window was going to be my only opportunity to summit, so I had to go.

The climb up to High Camp was grueling; I was taking literally one step every three seconds, carrying everything I had brought with me, all the trash, even waste.

My pack weighed in somewhere around the 100-pound mark, and that, combined with the 50 percent oxygen available at 20,000 feet was taking a toll.

Upon arriving at High Camp, I set up my tent, boiled some water, ate some packaged noodles, and went to bed.

A mere nine hours after arriving in camp, I was up again, boiling water, and I stepped off for the summit several hours before sunrise. The climb was bitterly cold, and slow.

The higher I got, the better the view I had across the Andes, and I could see the bad weather moving in.

At 21,000 feet, there is a hut that acts as an emergency shelter, and I decided to stop there.

When I entered, I had the unfortunate experience of discovering a climber that had recently died.

After a moment, I continued up the mountain, topping a ridge known as Windy Ridge, then across a long traverse before going up the final scree slope to the summit.

I arrived on the summit, waited until someone else showed up to take my picture, and then wasted no time getting down.

The way down was a mixture of snow and white-out conditions, so it took longer to get back to my tent than it did to actually get to the top.

That night was a mix of emotions – joy that I had made it, and that tomorrow I would be safe in the other base camp.

There was sadness for the climber whose body I found, and for all of the other climbers who have died on this rock – there have been more than a hundred.

Finally, I felt anger at the commercialization of this mountain; it is touted as a “walk up” that anyone can do.

That reputation is belied by the 20-percent summit rate, and a very high death rate.

Two days later I was enjoying steak and wine in Mendoza, Argentina, and all of my suffering while on the mountain was fading, becoming just memories.

My wounds were healing, and I was already planning my next climb. This summer I hope to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa and then try for the speed record up Mount Elbrus in Russia – leaving just three of the seven unclimbed.

(Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Jones chronicles his expeditions at www.armymountaineering.org.)