



**Sports**  
**Soccer tourney**  
 F/725th BSB Soldiers  
 take on 673d MDG  
 Airmen in soccer action,  
 Page B-4

**Policy**  
**Don't Ask, Don't Tell**  
 Repeal goes into effect after 18  
 years of DADT, officials talk  
 implementation of new policy,  
 Page A-4



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

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 2, No. 38

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

September 23, 2011

## JBER Airman found dead

JBER Public Affairs news release

A Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Airman was pronounced dead at a friend's house in Anchorage the afternoon of Sept. 15.

Airman First Class Jonathan Villamarin, 21, was a weapons load crew member with the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 3rd Wing. He was from South Plainfield, N.J.

The cause of death has yet to be determined and remains under investigation.

A photo of Villamarin was not available.



Sgt. Rodolfo Rodriguez Jr.

## Stryker NCO killed by IED

USARAK news release

A noncommissioned officer assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright was killed Sept. 14, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, by the blast from a pressure-plate improvised explosive device.

Sgt Rodolfo Rodriguez Jr., 26, from Pharr, Texas, was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright where he served as an infantryman.

Rodriguez joined the Army in March 2006, graduated from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga., and served for three years with the 2nd Battalion, 505th Infantry at Fort Bragg, N. C.

He arrived in Alaska in March 2010. Rodriguez also served two previous combat tours of duty in Iraq - from Nov. 2006 to Oct. 2007 and from Dec. 2008 to Nov. 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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

Link to JBER social media from [www.jber.af.mil](http://www.jber.af.mil)



## RAPTORS RISE

A 3rd Wing F-22 Raptor takes off from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Wednesday, after a four-month stand down. Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz recently approved an implementation plan developed by Air Combat Command officials, which will allow the F-22 to resume flight operations. The commander of Air Combat Command directed a stand-down of the fleet, May 3, as a safety precaution, following 12 separate reported incidents where pilots experienced hypoxia-like symptoms. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding)

## Certified for operations, JBER F-22s return to Alaska skies

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

After a four-month stand down, the Air Force's premier fighter, the F-22 Raptor, returned to the skies Wednesday.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz approved an implementation plan developed by Air Combat Command officials that al-

lowed the F-22 to resume flight operations.

The commander of Air Combat Command directed a stand-down of the fleet, May 3, as a safety precaution, following reported incidents where pilots experienced hypoxia-like symptoms. Officials remain focused on the priorities of aircrew safety and combat readiness.

"In the past four months and actually prior to that, there has been an ongoing

safety investigation that has looked at all of the oxygen related systems on the aircraft," said Air Force Col. Derek France, 3rd Wing Operations Group commander. He went on to say that "while they have yet to pinpoint the exact cause of these incidents, (Air Force officials) got to a point where they felt, based on risk mitigation, training of crews, and

See **Raptors**, Page A-3

## JBER commander addresses Air Force civilian work force shaping at town hall

By Luke Waack  
 JBER Public Affairs

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander hosted a town hall meeting for Air Force civilians Monday, to discuss work force shaping.

Air Force Col. Robert Evans, JBER/673d ABW commander, addressed an audience of hundreds of Air Force civilians at the Elmendorf Theater, to discuss the future of the work force on base.

"As we go into this, our goal is to minimize the impact on our civilian work force and to retain the quality civilian work force that we have today," Evans said. "As we approach this we're going to be completely honest, up front, transparent and fair in all our dealings."

Evans is working with leaders and managers who hope to achieve Air Force mandated 2010 levels of civilian personnel through voluntary separations and retirements.

"Buyouts are going to be offered, encouraging folks to separate voluntarily," said Angie Horn, JBER Civilian Personnel Office chief. "This is to avoid the need for reduction in force measures and potential involuntary separations."

The current hiring freeze and voluntary separation options should prevent or lessen the need for involuntary force reductions.

Horn laid out some of the voluntary options available for civilians in these circumstances.

Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay will be offered to encourage civilians to separate voluntarily, Horn said.

Despite past reductions in force, no em-

See **Work force**, Page A-3

## Call in the cavalry

1-40th cavalymen train in rugged terrain



Spc. Levi Gilbert, A Troop, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, checks on the location of an adjacent unit during a training mission near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Sept 13. For the full story and more photos, see Page A-11. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)

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**Index**

Volcano preparedness.....A-2  
 176th Wing change of command....A-3  
 Briefs and announcements.....A-8  
 Junior ROTC decathlon.....B-1  
 Chaplain's corner.....B-2  
 Community calendar.....B-3  
 Movie times.....B-7

**Advisory**

Studded tires are legal on Alaska roads north of Ninilchik as of last week. Studless snow tires are authorized for use year round, but wear out quickly on dry pavement.



# Be prepared in case of volcano eruption

Public Affairs staff report

The Alaska Volcano Observatory is a valuable resource for volcano information.

Several active volcanoes are relatively close to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

JBER is not close enough to the volcano to be directly impacted by lava or an explosive eruption, but volcanic ash from a potential eruption could seriously impact the JBER community.

A volcano is a mountain that opens downward to a reservoir of molten rock below the surface of the earth. Unlike most mountains, which are pushed up from below, volcanoes are built up by an accumulation of their own eruptive products.

When pressure from gases within the molten rock becomes too great, an eruption occurs. Eruptions can be quiet or explosive. There may be lava flows, flattened landscapes, poisonous gases, and flying rock and ash.

Because of their intense heat, lava flows are great fire hazards. Lava flows destroy everything in their path, but most move slowly enough that people can move out of the way.

Fresh volcanic ash, made of pulverized rock, can be abrasive, acidic, gritty, gassy, and odorous. While not immediately dangerous to most adults, the acidic gas and ash can cause lung damage to small infants, to older adults, and to those suffering from severe respiratory illnesses.

Volcanic ash also can damage machinery, including engines and electrical equipment. Ash accumulations mixed with water become heavy and can collapse roofs. Volcanic ash can affect people hundreds of miles away from the cone of a volcano.

Sideways directed volcanic

explosions, known as "lateral blasts," can shoot large pieces of rock at very high speeds for several miles. These explosions can kill by impact, burial, or heat. They have been known to knock down entire forests.

Volcanic eruptions can be accompanied by other natural hazards, including earthquakes, mud flows and flash floods, rock falls and landslides, acid rain, fire, and (under special conditions) tsunamis.

## Before a Volcanic Eruption

Add a pair of goggles and disposable breathing mask for each member of the family to your disaster supply kit.

Stay away from active volcano sites.

If you live near a known volcano, active or dormant, be ready to act at a moment's notice.

## During a Volcanic Eruption

If a volcano erupts where you live, follow any evacuation order issued by authorities and evacuate immediately from the volcano area.

Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance – infants, elderly people and people with disabilities.

## Protection from falling ash

Volcanic ash consists of tiny jagged pieces of rock and glass. Ash is hard, abrasive, mildly corrosive, conducts electricity when wet, and does not dissolve in water.

Ash is spread over broad areas by wind and can create health hazards.

Falling ash can turn daylight into complete darkness. In extreme cases, accompanied by rain and lightning, the gritty ash can lead to power outages, prevent communications, and disorient people.

Listen to a radio or television



The active lava dome grows in the summit crater of Redoubt Volcano, June 9, 2009. There are dozens of active volcanoes in the Gulf of Alaska, many with the potential to erupt with hazardous ash. (Photo courtesy of Alaska Volcano Observatory)

for the latest emergency information.

If you have a respiratory ailment, avoid contact with any amount of ash.

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

Use goggles and wear eyeglasses instead of contact lenses.

Use a dust mask or hold a damp cloth over your face to help with breathing.

Stay away from areas downwind from the volcano to avoid volcanic ash.

Stay indoors until the ash has settled.

Close doors, windows, and all ventilation in the house (chimney vents, furnaces, air conditioners, fans, and other vents during ash fall.

Have experts clear heavy ash from roofs and rain gutters.

Avoid running car or truck en-

gines. Driving can stir up volcanic ash that can clog engines, damage moving parts, and stall vehicles.

Avoid driving in heavy ash fall unless absolutely required. If you have to drive, keep speed down to 35 mph or slower.

Mount Redoubt is one of the volcanoes close to JBER.

The active volcano sits on the western side of Cook Inlet, roughly 106 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is one of several active cones within ash-fall distance of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

When Redoubt erupted in 1989-90, the volcano produced ash plumes which affected international air traffic and dusted Anchorage and other communities.

## What to do if an ash cloud is approaching

Close doors and windows.

Place damp towels at door

thresholds and other draft sources. Tape drafty windows.

Protect sensitive electronics and do not uncover until the environment is totally ash-free.

If you have chronic bronchitis, emphysema or asthma, stay inside and avoid unnecessary exposure to the ash.

If you have children, know your school's emergency plan and have indoor games and activities ready.

## What to do if volcanic ash is falling

Don't panic – stay calm. Stay indoors. If outside, seek shelter (e.g. car or building). Use a mask, handkerchief or cloth over your nose and mouth. If warning is given before ashfall starts, go home as directed.

## Stay informed

Pay attention to news reports from local radio and television stations to keep up with changing conditions at the volcano.

For JBER specific updates, visit [www.facebook.com/JBERAK](http://www.facebook.com/JBERAK).

Road and reporting information will also be available by calling 552-INFO (4636). This recorded message will be updated as frequently as necessary in the event of an emergency.

Links for more information about volcanoes and volcanic ash safety are available on the Alaska Volcano Observatory website at [www.avo.alaska.edu](http://www.avo.alaska.edu).

Additional preparedness information is available at <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/ash>.

Potential protective measures may include some to all of the following depending on severity of the ash fallout.

Minimize exposure to airborne ash by using dust or filter masks (or a wet cloth, for example a handkerchief) and minimizing travel.

## Par excellence

JBER logistics units earn 'outstanding' rating



Air Force Staff Sgt. Cody Phillips, right, Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Cochran, middle – both of 773d Logistics Readiness Squadron – work with Senior Airman Jeff Purvis, 517th Airlift Squadron, to chain down vehicles inside a C-17 Globemaster III during a training session, June 23. During an Air Combat Command Logistics Compliance Assessment Program inspection last week – which scrutinized the logistics functions of both 3rd Wing and 673d Air Base Wing – the inspection team issued an overall rating of "outstanding" and identified several Airmen as outstanding performers. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christopher Gross)

# USB rules of the road

## Most USB devices not authorized for use on the Air Force network

Public Affairs staff report

Network technical order 2008-320-001B prohibits use of flash media on Air Force networks. Flash media includes "thumb drives," cameras, secure digital flash cards, compact flash cards, smart phones and any storage device which does not use spinning media as in hard drives.

External hard drives are authorized on the Air Force network if the following conditions are met:

- The device is not flash media. Ensure hard drive enclosures have revolutions

**Authorized if approved by IAO and properly labelled and controlled**

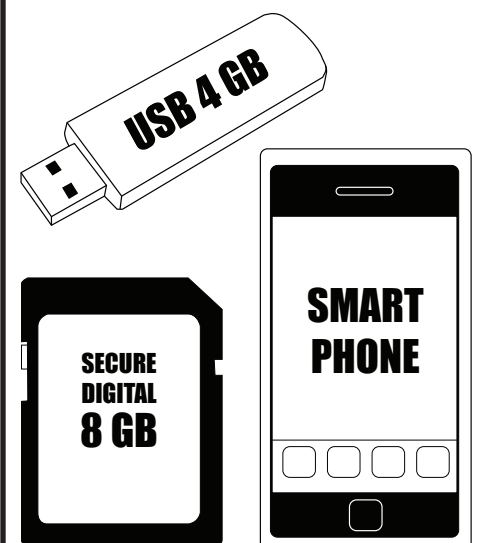


per minute ratings which identify them as traditional hard drives. External enclosed flash drives are coming to market and are not authorized.

- The device is purchased with government funds.
- The device is registered with the unit information assurance officer.
- The device is properly labeled and controlled by the IAO.

External storage devices are not authorized on Army networks unless authorized by U.S. Army Pacific through 59th Signal Battalion.

**Not authorized**



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11th Air Force  
Commanding General  
Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins (USAF)

U.S. Army Alaska  
Commanding General  
Maj. Gen. Raymond P. Palumbo (USA)

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/  
673d Air Base Wing Commander  
Col. Robert D. Evans (USAF)

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/  
673d Air Base Wing Vice Commander  
Col. Timothy R. Prior (USA)

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**Air Force Col. Donald Wenke, the new commander of the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, speaks to service members during the wing's change of command ceremony, Sunday. Wenke assumed command of the wing from Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles Foster, who has served as the wing commander since 2008. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Shannon Oleson)**

## Wenke assumes command of 176th Wing

By Staff Sgt. N. Alicia Goldberger  
176th Wing

Air Force Col. Donald Wenke received the 176th Wing's command flag from Alaska's Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Katkus, at a change-of-command ceremony here, Sunday.

More than 500 guardsmen and community leaders attended the event that publicly demonstrated the change in leadership of one of the country's largest and busiest Air Guard wings.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles Foster, the relinquishing leader, expressed appreciation toward the assembled Guardsmen after serving more than three years as their wing commander.

"I want to thank you for being the kind of Airmen who make it worth it to get up early on a drill weekend, make it worth it to leave my family and deploy with you," Foster said in anticipation of the ceremony.

Katkus expressed confidence in the

wing's future.

"The 176th is going to continue to do great things" under Wenke's leadership, he said.

The wing commander accepted his position with humility.

"It's an honor to be selected," Wenke said.

Wenke accepted the responsibility after serving 24 years in the Air National Guard. He began serving as vice wing commander in April, and before that, he commanded the Air Guard's Eielson-based 168th Air Refueling Wing.

In his speech, Wenke said his top priorities for the wing were its people, mission, resources and community. He also talked about what would be asked of wing members.

"As the commander, I will ask each of you to take calculated risks," Wenke said. "Remaining in your comfort zone does nothing to secure our future. For me, the road less traveled has held great rewards."

## Work force

From Page A-1

employee has been involuntarily separated since the mid-1990s, according to Dave Owens, American Federal Government Employees union, Local 1101 president.

Civilian employees were encouraged to consider their circumstances, and evaluate if VERA or VSIP programs would be beneficial to them.

"VSIP payment is up to \$25,000," Horn said. "It can be less than \$25,000 for a few people, especially those with fewer years of service. The amount is connected to a severance pay calculation."

An initial VERA/VSIP interest survey call went out Aug. 29 with a suspense to return by Sept. 30, according to Horn.

The Air Force has established a specific separation date of Dec. 31.

If civilians receive a VSIP offer, the payment can be distributed three ways, Horn said. Lump sum, bi-weekly equal payments over a 26-week period or two equal amounts in six month increments.

Evans and his staff will help civilians in any way they can, the commander said.

"As we go through this process over the next couple of months, I want to be

completely up front with you and I will be," Evans said. "I'll be completely honest and transparent with you. I'll make myself and my staff available to you - we're going to work through this together."

Evans promised more town hall meetings as changes come for the JBER civilian work force.

"I had this meeting today as the first of what will be a series of meetings over the next couple of months as we work through these changes."

After announcements from Evans, Owens and Horn, audience members had the opportunity to ask questions about the force shaping.

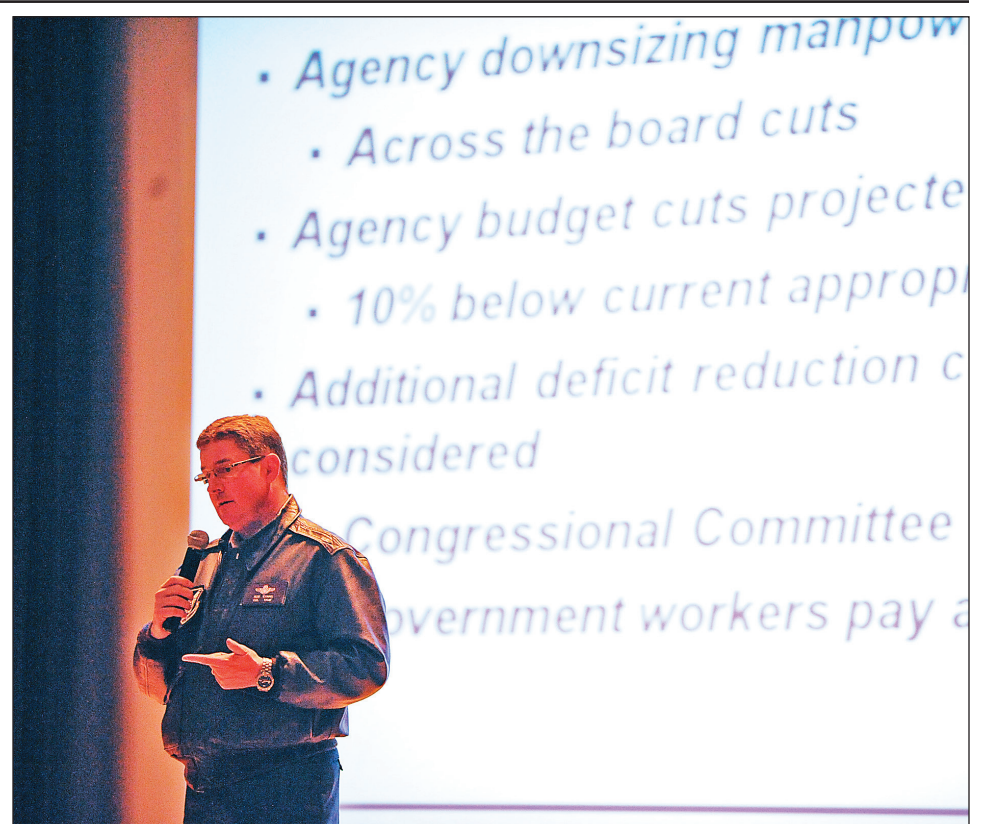
Horn encouraged workers to update their records and contact her office with personnel questions and issues.

The Air Force implemented hiring controls three months ago to control civilian end strength, but the desired goal was not achieved.

On Aug. 11, a 90-day hiring freeze was put in place for all permanent, temporary and term job vacancies.

To view the slides presented and questions at the civilian call, visit [www.jber.af.mil](http://www.jber.af.mil) and click on Hot Topics.

The CPO is open, 7:30 a.m. To 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be reached at 552-3572.



**Col. Robert Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson commander, speaks to JBER civilians during a civilian commander's call, Monday. Civilians were provided the opportunity to address questions about civilian work force downsizing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding)**



**Crew chiefs with the 525th Fighter Squadron prepare an F-22 Raptor for take off from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Wednesday, after a four month stand-down. The F-22 Raptor is the Air Force's most advanced fighter and the world's only operational fifth-generation fighter designed as an air-dominance aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding)**

## Raptors

From Page A-1

inspection of the aircraft itself, that we could safely fly again."

The return-to-fly plan implements several risk mitigation actions, to include rigorous inspections, training on life-support systems and continued data collection. The aircraft has also received some minor modifications to ensure the safety of the pilots.

Pilots will use additional protective equipment and undergo baseline physiological tests. The return-to-fly process will begin with instructor pilots and flight leads regaining their necessary proficiency, then follow with other F-22 wingmen.

"What you saw was the initial cadre of instructors...do some of the basic maneuvers to get back on the road to operational capability. Then they will train the others as we go down the same syllabus," France said. "It will kind of be a back to basics syllabus for these

guys, but we will eventually get back to the steady state that we were."

In June 2011, the Secretary of the Air Force directed the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board to continue the oxygen generation study concurrent with the ongoing SIB. A releasable report will be made available later this year.

As America's primary air superiority weapon system, the F-22 has flown more than 300 missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle and deployed on a rotational basis to the Pacific region and Southwest Asia.

F-22 overseas deployments support the Department of State's Theater Security Program, formal arrangements with foreign partners to establish defense cooperation, promote regional stability, and deter potential aggression.

"Our pilots and our maintainers are fired up to be flying again and to be getting back to full operational capability," France said. "I think America counts on establishing air superiority and the Raptors here at JBER are key to doing that."

## DoD designates Minot Air Force Base as non-concurrent travel location

Air Force News Service release

Minot Air Force Base, N.D., is now a non-concurrent travel location because of a continuing off-base housing shortage, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

Minot is still under the stop movement order established when heavy flooding occurred in June.

The order does not impact technical training graduates and new accessions who do not have dependent family members, but all others must get authorization to proceed.

Airmen's options depend on how long their families' travel will be delayed and on whether they are moving from a stateside or overseas location.

For members moving from a stateside location, if family travel is delayed for less than 20 weeks, family members are expected to stay at the current location until their travel is approved.

Members whose families are delayed for more than 20 weeks have a couple of options, though. They may either stay at their current location or relocate to a designated location at government expense.

Overseas returnees who are approved for non-concurrent travel have two options regardless of the length of their travel delay. Families can stay at the overseas location or they can move to a designated location at government expense.

Whatever their situation, family travel information will be spelled out, so Airmen must check their travel orders to ensure their situation is clearly identified and matches Minot's designation.

Airmen who do not follow these procedures may lose government travel entitlements.

Airmen who were authorized before Sept. 12 to move with their families may still proceed to Minot. All others must follow the new travel restrictions.

## Provisions on Demand

Grab and go eatery caters to the needs of flight line Airmen



**Technical Sgt. Christopher Thomas, 3rd Maintenance Squadron, buys a meal at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Provisions on Demand Facility, Tuesday. The POD is a grab and go eatery, which is designed to cater to Airmen who work one the flight line and don't have much time for a meal. The POD grand opening is Friday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ty-Rico Lea)**

# Officials expect smooth 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal

## DADT policy fully repealed after 18 years

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The law is passed, the studies completed, the findings certified and the service member training accomplished. Today, after years of debate and months of preparation, the Defense Department starts on a new footing with the repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that since 1993 has banned gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

"Statements about sexual orientation will no longer be a bar to enlisting in the military or a cause for dismissal," said Army Maj. Gen. Gary S. Patton, chief of staff for the Pentagon's repeal implementation team.

In addition, former service members separated from the military under Don't Ask, Don't Tell based solely on their sexual orientation will be eligible to reapply to return to military service. Patton said their applications will be evaluated using the same standards as all other candidates, and decisions will be based on needs of the service.

As these long-anticipated changes take place, Patton said he expects the repeal implementation to stay on track because of the pre-repeal training across the force. In addition, many other existing policies considered "sexual-orientation neutral" remain in place.

Duty assignments won't be affected, and living and working conditions won't change, Patton said. Service members won't be separated or segregated based on sexual orientation, and will continue to share billeting and berthing as in the past.

With repeal, benefits will remain as they are. Service members will be able to designate whomever they want to receive member-designated benefits such as Serviceman's Group Life Insurance, he said. Other benefits, such as basic allowance for housing, are limited by law and statute to cover only opposite-sex spouses and can't be extended to same-sex partners, Patton said.

However, the Defense Department is studying the possible extension of other benefits where eligibility is not specifically defined by law, such as use of military



President Barack Obama signs the certification stating that the statutory requirements for repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell have been met, in the Oval Office, July 22. Pictured, from left, are: Brian Bond, Deputy Director of Public Liaison; Kathleen Hartnett, Associate Counsel to the President; Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta; Kathryn Ruemmler, Counsel to the President; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen; and Vice President Joe Biden. The statutory requirements included mandatory training for all service members and paved the way for repeal Tuesday. (Official White House Photo/Pete Souza)

morale, welfare and recreation facilities to same-sex partners. "We have not arrived at a decision on that," Patton said. "The department continues to explore that possibility, post-repeal."

Although the vast majority of military members and their families surveyed before the repeal indicated they had no issues with the repeal, Patton said he recognizes some may. To those, he has a message: "We are not trying to change your beliefs. You have your freedom to exercise your beliefs and your freedom of speech."

But with that, he said, "you have to maintain your dignity and respect for others."

No new policy will allow anyone who disagrees with the repeal to break their contractual obligations. Anyone who has

complaints or issues associated with the repeal should take them to a commander or inspector general, Patton said. Sexual orientation issues will not be addressed by equal opportunity channels in the way gender, race and religion issues are.

With the repeal in effect, Patton said he expects military members will honor it. "The repeal is a law," he said. "The military follows the law and we are executing this as part of our mission."

A key in carrying out the mission, he said, is a principle emphasized during mandatory pre-repeal training throughout the force that the military has embraced throughout its history.

"The training focused on the changes in policy, that sexual orientation is not a reason

for a person to be denied enlistment in the service or separated from the service. And that we continue to treat all service members with dignity and respect," Patton said.

Part of that respect, he said, is to allow all service members to live honest lives. "During Don't Ask, Don't Tell, gay and lesbian service members were required by law to withhold their sexual orientation, and in some cases, they potentially violated their own personal integrity," Patton said. "Upon repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, they won't be placed in that predicament."

As a result, the repeal "will strengthen the military," he said. "It will continue to allow us to keep gay and lesbian service members in the military, and we will be a better military for it."







# Briefs and Announcements

## Disposition of effects

Air Force 2nd Lt. Jeremy Geidel, 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Airman 1st Class Jonathan Villamarin, 3rd AMXS, as stated in Air Force Instruction 34-244.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Geidel at 552-1776.

## Disposition of effects

Army 1st Lt. Brady McManus, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Sgt. Rodolfo Rodriguez Jr., 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact McManus at 353-7717.

## Disposition of effects

Army 1st Lt. Brady McManus, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Spc. Christophe J. Marquis, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for

or against the estate of the deceased should contact McManus at 353-7717.

## Disposition of effects

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

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

## Dining facility closure

The Iditarod Dining Facility is scheduled to close Oct. 8 and remain closed until Dec. 15 for renovations. Food service operations will shift to Kenai Dining Hall for three months and shuttles will be available for transportation from the dorms.

The flight line food service Provisions on Demand facility, Building 16710, is open and provides meals for Airmen working on the flight line.

## Air Force ID card changes

Due to long wait times for walk-in customers, effective Oct. 3, all military members or Department of Defense civilians will be required to schedule an appointment via the Military Personnel Section

Customer Service Appointment website at <https://673fssmpscustomerseer.clickbook.net>.

The MPS will only see military members on a walk-in basis if their card is lost, needs to be unlocked, certificates need updating, or it ceases to function.

It is also highly encouraged appointments be made for civilian, dependent, Reserve and retiree ID cards.

## Travel charge card changes

Effective immediately, personal use of the controlled spend account government travel charge card is not authorized. The CSA card may only be used for expenses related to official government travel.

Payments in excess of overall expenditures placed on the CSA card, after completion of official travel (credit or residual balance), can be obtained by the traveler through electronic transfer to a personal account through Citi's on-line access system or by phone, request check by Citi, a check automatically mailed to cardholder after 60 days of activity, or ATM withdrawal (two percent fee).

## Home schooling

Interior Distance Education of Alaska provides home schooling parents with educational tools, high-quality materials, work-

shops, advice and guidance. The Regional Parent Advisory Committee provides an avenue of communication between parents and the district.

Students must have physically resided in the state and be between the ages of 5 and 19 as of Sept. 1, to enroll.

At least 50 percent of the coursework the student takes must be in the core subject areas of English, math, social studies, science, technology or world languages.

For more information about IDEA, contact support staff at the Anchorage office at 562-4332 or visit [www.ideafamilies.org](http://www.ideafamilies.org).

## Quartermaster Laundry

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

## Shred for free

The Better Business Bureau of Alaska is offering free bulk shredding services to Alaska residents, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wells Fargo, 16600 Centerfield Drive, Eagle River.

Drive up and drop off up to three bags of unwanted documents per person. No cardboard or three-ring binders will be accepted. Items will be shredded immediately by Shred Alaska.

# TRICARE beneficiaries save on prescription delivery, vaccines

By Terri Moon Cronk  
American Forces Press Service

Beneficiaries of the TRICARE military health plan can obtain 90 days of home-delivered medication with no copayment and can get free vaccinations at participating pharmacies without seeing a doctor.

These measures can make life a bit simpler for beneficiaries of the military health plan, Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Christine Hunter, TRICARE Management Activity's deputy director, said in an Aug. 26 interview.

"We're trying to encourage people to use TRICARE's home delivery for a 90-day supply of generic medication, because by Oct. 1, there will be no copay," she said.

Many people get their prescriptions filled at military treatment facilities, which remains "our preferred place for people to go," Hunter said. No changes exist in the cost of prescriptions from military hospital pharmacies, she said. Some 70 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries obtain generic medi-

cations, and those kinds of medications will be home-delivered in a 90-day supply at no copayment, Hunter said.

For beneficiaries who use TRICARE pharmacies, however, the retail cost of generic medications will increase from \$3 to \$5 for a 30-day supply, Hunter said, and brand-name medications will increase from \$9 to \$12 for a 30-day supply.

According to TRICARE's website, DOD established a uniform list of covered brand-name and generic drugs, as well as a third tier of drugs designated as "non-formulary." Prescriptions for non-formulary medications can be dispensed, but at higher cost to beneficiaries, unless the provider can establish medical necessity.

Hunter said a one-month supply of a non-formulary medication will cost \$25 at a TRICARE pharmacy. "So, it's always better to use TRICARE home delivery for any chronic medications," she said.

Hunter suggested that people use home delivery "when they know they can tolerate a new medication, know they're going to be on it awhile, or it's something they've been taking."

The home delivery plan saves time and money for beneficiaries, and the government also benefits from the savings, Hunter noted.

"When you get your medications through TRICARE home delivery, the government gets a volume discount," she explained. "And it's cheaper for our beneficiaries, because they get a 90-day supply for zero copay."

TRICARE's mail orders for prescriptions grew by about 10 percent in 2010, the admiral said. At the same time, she added, retail growth decreased about 3.9 percent, producing a medication savings of \$30 million, and people received their medications more conveniently at home.

In addition to prescription home-delivery savings, Hunter

said, TRICARE offers beneficiaries seasonal flu shots, school vaccinations and other immunizations.

Beneficiaries can get most of their vaccinations from participating TRICARE pharmacies, eliminating the need to schedule clinic appointments, Hunter said.

"It's also a great time to update your family [vaccine] checklist so you keep everyone healthy," Hunter said.

Many schools require an update on vaccines and immunizations before children return to school, she noted. Parents typically look at a tetanus booster and other immunizations for their children, she said, and the meningococcal vaccine for children going off to college. People who plan to travel might consider a hepatitis vaccine, she added.

"Flu shots are recommended for just about everybody these days, and are available at our TRICARE pharmacies," Hunter said. "But what people might not know is the pertussis [whooping cough] vaccine is recommended for more and more adults, especially for

those with small children."

In the past year or so, Hunter and her staff began to make a limited number of vaccines available at TRICARE pharmacies for flu shots, the influenza A [subtype H1N1] virus, and the pneumonia vaccine. TRICARE provided 300,000 vaccines that first year, she said, and the program has expanded to all immunizations normally covered under the TRICARE preventive medicine benefit with no copayment.

Some limitations exist, Hunter noted. Pharmacy participation varies, some facilities stock only certain vaccines, and some don't immunize children. Others provide vaccinations only on certain days and times, she explained.

"Call ahead to make sure they have the vaccine, and if someone's there to give it," Hunter said. "There is no copay. It is part of TRICARE's preventive care, and we want people to be able to get it conveniently and easily."

The admiral also suggested going to TRICARE's website to find participating pharmacies by area.



**T R I C A R E**® government gets a volume discount," she





# Training location helps unit prepare for Afghanistan

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson  
JBER Public Affairs

Soldiers from A Troop, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, skirted through the mountains looking for enemy activity.

Their mission was to infiltrate and then conduct a dismounted movement through the hills for approximately 5,200 meters to establish a series of observation posts. From there, they observed the areas of interest and the known enemy's routes.

This realistic training was just one of many training scenarios this unit has completed in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

"Today is almost like a capstone exercise to put together everything we have learned in the last 18-months," said Army 1st Lt. Alex Oliver, 1st platoon leader for A/1-40th. "We also just returned from a very successful training at Joint Readiness Training Center, (Fort Polk, La.)"

The unit also completed a platoon certification where they were certified as mission capable.

The 1-40th is part of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"We are conducting this air assault mission to establish a screen line in Snow Hawk Valley," Oliver said. "Reconnaissance is one of the squadron's main tasks, and we expect to do a lot of it during our upcoming deployment."

The Soldiers moved through the mountains like a well-oiled machine. The cold, rain and wind seemed to have no effect.

They set up an observation post near the top of a mountain overlooking the valley floor. The Soldiers took turns providing security. There was enough time before the extraction for lunch and a quick sock change.

Spc. Brian Livingston of A Troop said he knows how important this training is. With one 12-month Afghanistan deployment under his belt, he can relate his training to his deployed experiences.

"The reason why this training is good for us is because we do this kind of thing daily to weekly in Afghanistan: air assaulting into a location, setting up observation posts and denying anti-coalition forces the ability to spread their message," he explained. "Keeping them where we want them, not where they can do harm to civilians or us."

Livingston also noted the mountainous terrain in an Alaskan summer is very similar to the terrain in Afghanistan.

"We try to get to this training area at least once a month to at least road march or run," Oliver said. "There is nothing like getting up



**ABOVE:** Army Staff Sgt. Brian Knowles, left, and Spc. Brian Livingston discuss the direction of travel after being dropped off by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a training mission near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Sept. 13. The mission consisted of an air assault, security operations and setting up observation posts. The 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment are training in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan later this year. **RIGHT:** UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters fly over after dropping off Soldiers from 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment during a training mission near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Sept. 13. The UH-60s were piloted by Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Wainwright. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)

in the mountains here in Alaska. It is a great venue for training."

For those in the unit who haven't deployed, the training shed light on what is expected in Afghanistan.

"I expect there will be a lot of mountains. From what the guys who have already deployed have told me, this is a good area to train because of the high mountains and altitude," said Pfc. Andrew Buczkowski. "I expect to do a lot of walking."



Buczkowski said he is obviously nervous about the deployment because there are so many things that could happen, but is excited about doing his duty for his country and he knows this training will help him come back alive.

Oliver echoed Buczkowski's sentiment's concerning the unit's readiness for combat.

"This platoon is stronger than it has ever been and I have the utmost confidence that they are prepared for this deployment,"

he said.

The Soldiers were out for more than six hours in the cold and rain, each person carried more than 50-pounds on his back. They boarded a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and returned to base.

"I enjoy doing this. My feet hurt but at the end of the day there is a satisfaction that comes from doing this," Livingston said. "I really have no complaints, no gripes, but for my feet."



**Treating an outbreak**

Exercise provides flu shots and training for epidemics, Page B-6



**Soccer showdown**

725th BSB posts 6-1 win over 673d MDG, Page B-4



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**ARCTIC WARRIOR**

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Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

September 23, 2011

**Raider Decathlon**



**TOP:** Andre Wilson, a junior at East High School, puts on a burst of speed to get up the 14-foot ramp of an inflatable obstacle course at Otter Lake during the Raider Decathlon Friday. More than 150 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets converged at the lake for an overnight outing of campfires and competitions designed to foster friendships among cadets.  
**CUTOUT:** Brenda Echak, a senior at Robert Service High School, rappells down from a portable climbing wall at Otter Lake Friday evening after making it to the top and pressing a buzzer. Junior ROTC cadets competed until late evening, then enjoyed a cookout sponsored by the Alaska National Guard, s'mores, and time to relax and talk around campfires.



**150 youth challenge selves, each other in fierce annual competition**

By Chris McCann  
JBER Public Affairs

High-school students from around the Anchorage area gathered Friday and Saturday for the annual Raider Decathlon at Otter Lake on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

More than 150 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from seven schools battled it out as teams, trying to post high scores on a rock-climbing wall, an inflatable obstacle course, a pedal-boat journey out into Otter Lake around a shrimp buoy, and other physical fitness events designed to push them to the limits and inspire teamwork.

Soldiers from the National Guard and the 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade were on hand to help JROTC leadership guide students through events.

"This is the only event on our calendar that's not a drill meet," said Dimond High School senior Army instructor Thomas Shelley. "We're having campfires, s'mores, a cookout – this is

competitive, too, but it's less stressful, and with a healthy dose of friendship."

Anders Ogawa, a junior at Dimond High, serves as the cadet battalion commander for his school.

"This builds teamwork – we're basically family," he said. "We push each other. If one person does good, you want to be good like them."

Ogawa wants to join the Marine Corps or Army, he said, but still has time to think about it before graduation.

"I advise people to join up and do (JROTC)," he said. "It's a great way to get into shape and have fun."

Senior Jennifer Howe liked the inflatable obstacle course best, she said.

"That was the best part," she said. "I'm good at it – I've done it before."

The program is a positive in her life, she said.

"I love all the stuff we do – this, or drill team, when we march – it's fun hanging out with other students."

"And the s'mores," she added.

**CENTER:** Danashia Porcher, a freshman at Dimond High School, makes her way through the Run, Dodge and Jump event, an old Army Physical Fitness Test event which requires the runner to weave between wooden dividers and leap over a wide "ditch," marked with tape, at top speed.

**LEFT:** Vanessa Dixon, a sophomore at East High School, makes her way through the beginning of the inflatable obstacle course at the Raider Decathlon Friday. The obstacle course required cadets to jump through openings, make their way around obstacles, and climb a 14-foot ramp before sliding down to the bottom and getting entirely off the course in the shortest time possible. (U.S. Air Force photos/Johnathon Green)

# Chaplain's Corner: The 'Peter Principle' does work

Commentary by  
Army Chaplain (Capt.) Pat Devine  
425th BSTB

In 1969, Dr. L.J. Peter in his book titled "The Peter Principle," wrote, "In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence."

Many of us have worked under supervisors at some time in our lives who demonstrated this phenomenon all too well.

Organizational leaders see employees performing well and to reward that performance, do what seems appropriate – promote them.

In our culture, it's almost inconceivable to let a successful performer stay at the level where they are achieving success – they must move up.

Too often, however, when they reach into their kit bag for the "tools" to perform, whether its technical skills or leadership skills, the bag is empty and Dr. Peter's observation wins the day.

I propose an alternative that I call the "Original Peter Principle." The real work

begins at your level of incompetence. The apostle Peter is one of the most colorful people in the scriptures.

I had a pastor who used to say that Peter was busy hopping around the Bible on one foot, because the other one was in his mouth.

We must confess there is something endearing about those people in our lives who speak their minds without pretense.

Despite his brazenness, his rashness, his "look before you leap" personality, the Bible captures an amazingly intimate account involving Peter at his lowest and saddest moment.

Prior to Jesus' crucifixion, but after Peter's bold proclamation of loyalty, Jesus declared Peter would deny him three times that very night, before the rooster crowed.

After Christ's arrest, when Peter was publicly identified as a follower, the prediction of denial came painfully true.

Soon realizing what he had done and remembering the words Jesus had spoken to him, he was overcome by grief (Luke 22:62). This, however, was not the end.

After that first Easter Sunday, Jesus "re-

instated" Peter and commanded him to "feed my sheep," thereby making him a leader of the Christian church and the rock upon which Christ would build his Church.

This passage is one of the most beautiful and tender moments in the Gospels: Peter, after denying the Lord three times, is powerfully embraced and commissioned three times by Christ.

This comes so shortly after what was undoubtedly one of the lowest moments in Peter's life.

That's when Peter's real work began. The book of Acts captures a totally different Peter – proclaiming the Gospel, confronting contemporary leaders and performing miracles by the Holy Spirit.

It was at Peter's lowest moment in life when Christ captured his heart and empowered him for the ministry of the Gospel following the resurrection.

It was at the moment of complete brokenness that Peter was in a place to be fully used by God.

Peter lived out exactly what Christ declared to Paul: "My grace is sufficient

for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Our qualifications for Christian service are a complete inversion of the human view – it's not our accomplishments that merit promotion.

It's our brokenness before God and neediness for daily gospel grace.

Military service is hard. Being married to a service member is hard.

Being a son or daughter with parents in the military is hard.

Yet over and over again God promises that we are where we are for a reason, and where our strength runs out, his strength comes in abundance.

It's that strength – His strength – that will cause gifts and abilities to flourish and enable us not only to survive, but to thrive.

Our community, our nation and our world need people who are ready to be used by God and totally leaning on His grace minute by minute.

We need the Original Peter Principle at work.

# Hispanic Heritage month recalls contributions to culture

Commentary by Rex Jones  
Air Force News Service

Some of us may know the history of Hispanic Heritage Month and how it came about, however, in case you can't remember, here is a refresher.

On Sept. 17, 1968, Public Law 90-498 authorized the president to annually establish a week in September that includes the 15th and the 16th as National Hispanic Heritage Week.

The resolution called upon the people of the United States, especially the educational community, to observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Twenty years later on Aug. 17, 1988, Public Law 100-402 amended Public Law 90-498 and lengthened National Hispanic Heritage Week to National Hispanic Heritage Month.

You may ask yourself, why Sept. 16?

This date is significant because on Sept. 16, 1810, Mexico's War of Independence began, and after a long and costly war, Mexico finally won their independence from Spain in 1821.

The Hispanic culture has been making history in America for years.

If you think about it you could probably name quite a few famous Hispanic Americans, including actor Antonio Banderas, singer and actress Jennifer Lopez, singer Mark Anthony, baseball star Sammy Sosa, actress Jessica Alba, comedian George Lopez, singer Jerry Garcia, singer Shakira, actresses Penelope Cruz and Selma Hayek – just to name a few.

However, we really should go back to the 1900s to talk about famous Hispanic Americans.

Have you ever heard of Joseph Marion Hernandez, Luis Walter Alvarez, Roberto C. Goizueta, Roberto Clemente or Ellen Ochoa?

They paved the way for many of us and here are some of their accomplishments.

Joseph Marion Hernandez was a politician, plantation owner and a soldier. He was born Aug. 4, 1793, and was the first Hispanic to have served in the U.S. Congress and as a delegate from the Spanish territory of Florida.

Hernandez served in Congress just over five months, from September 1822 to March 1823, as a member of the Whig Party.

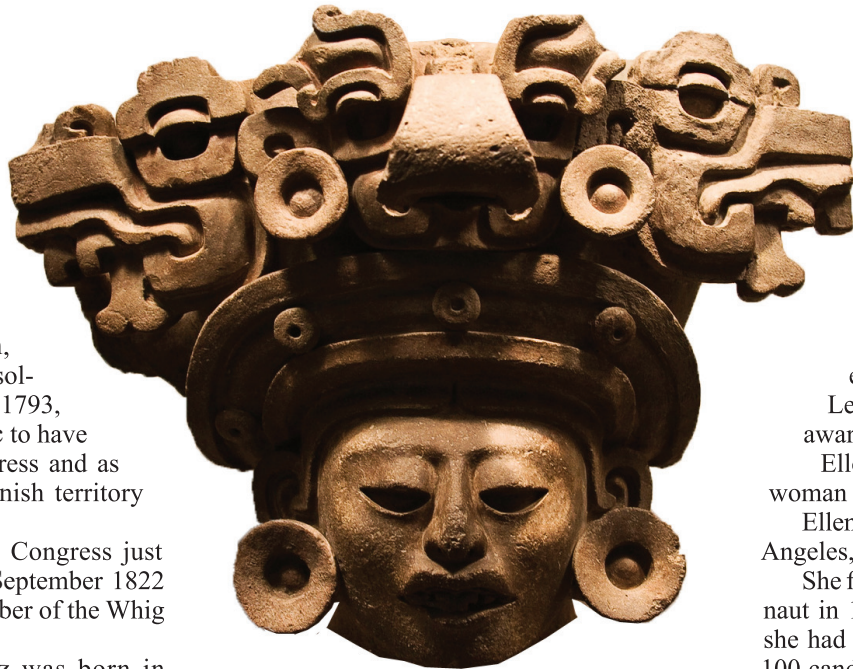
Luis Walter Alvarez was born in 1911. In 1968, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of a large number of residence states (subatomic particles that have very short lifetimes and that occur only in high-energy nuclear collisions), which was made possible through his development of the liquid-hydrogen bubble chamber.

He also held the patents for more than 30 inventions.

Now, he was a "Science Guy!"

Speaking of science, one of the best kept secrets in the world is the Coca-Cola formula.

"Coke Is It!" Do you know who the mastermind was behind the slogan? Does the name Roberto Goizueta sound familiar? Goizueta was the chairman of Coca-Cola for



His batting average was more than .300 13 times with Pittsburgh, he led the National League in batting four times, was World Series MVP in 1971, a regular season MVP in 1966, and had 3,000 career hits!

Clemente was killed in a plane crash on Dec. 31, 1972; he was accompanying a relief flight to deliver aid to earthquake victims. The Major League Baseball Man of the Year award is named for him.

Ellen Ochoa was the first Hispanic woman to become an astronaut.

Ellen was born May 10, 1958, in Los Angeles, Calif.

She first applied to become an astronaut in 1985, and in 1987 she learned she had been chosen as one of the top 100 candidates under consideration for the training program.

In January of 1990, it was announced that she and 22 other candidates had made the final cut (out of a group that originally numbered about 2,000), and Ellen became the first Hispanic woman ever accepted into the elite astronaut corps.

Ellen officially became an astronaut in July 1991.

Now that is something to be talked about for years to come.

In closing, I challenge you to seek out more information about your heritage and learn about the people that have possibly paved the way for you.

You never know what you will find, and you may even be surprised. Join us in celebrating our Hispanic Heritage Month.

16 years. It was his decision to change the slogan to "Coke Is It!"

He was born Nov. 18, 1931, in Havana, Cuba. He got his start at Coca-Cola by answering an anonymous advertisement in a newspaper for a chemist position and he moved up the ranks.

He was still chairman and president of The Coca-Cola Company when he died in 1997. That is what I would call following your dream and passion!

Americans have a passion for sports, and one of the favorites is baseball.

Roberto Clemente was born on Aug. 18, 1934, and was the first Hispanic baseball player to be voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.



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**2011 Schedule**  
**JOIN US!** **FOOTBALL FRENZY**

**WEEK 3**  
**Sunday, September 25**

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

**TEXAS HOLD'EM**  
at the Chill  
Thursday Nights  
• 6 p.m.  
Weekly Prize Pool  
Top 8 Qualify for Final!  
Sign up 5 p.m.

**BEAR PONG**  
Saturdays  
8 p.m.  
Sign up 7 p.m.  
Prizes Awarded  
at the Chill  
For more information  
384-7619

**WEEK 4**

Sunday, October 2	9 a.m.
Carolina at Chicago,	9 a.m.
Buffalo at Cincinnati,	9 a.m.
Tennessee at Cleveland,	9 a.m.
Detroit at Dallas,	9 a.m.
Washington at St. Louis,	9 a.m.
San Francisco at Philadelphia,	9 a.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City,	9 a.m.
New Orleans at Jacksonville,	9 a.m.
Pittsburgh at Houston,	9 a.m.
NY Giants at Arizona,	12:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Seattle,	12:05 p.m.
Miami at San Diego,	12:15 p.m.
Denver at Green Bay,	12:15 p.m.
New England at Oakland,	12:15 p.m.
NY Jets at Baltimore,	4:20 p.m.

**BINGO AT THE KASHIM**  
Wednesdays  
5 p.m. • 8 Page Packet • \$25  
Prizes each week:  
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Monday, October 3  
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**POD MARKET**  
**P.O.D. Grand Opening**  
Friday, September 23, 10 a.m.  
Join us at Hanger 16-710  
P.O.D. (Provisions on Demand) Market offers a retail store experience that comes "fully loaded" with great food and convenience offerings for every taste.  
Some of those menu items include: delicious and freshly prepared sandwiches, healthy entrée style salads, fresh and seasonal produce, hot food options, gourmet coffee, and so much more!  
P.O.D. Market will surely satisfy your need to refresh and re-fuel!  
Call Sgt Willis 552-8122 for more information.

# Community happenings

**SATURDAY**

**Anchorage symphony**  
The Anchorage Symphony Orchestra kicks off their season at 8 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. The concert features pianist Hoachen Zang.  
For information, visit [www.anchoragesymphony.org](http://www.anchoragesymphony.org) or call 263-ARTS.

**THROUGH SUNDAY**  
**Alaska Women's Show**

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

**THURSDAY**  
**Night at the Fights**

Seven matches of boxing at the Egan Center begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.  
For information call 263-2800.

**Oct. 1**  
**Rage City Rollergirls**

Anchorage's own roller derby group battles it out at the Dena'ina Center. The competition lasts from 7 until 10 p.m.  
For information, call 272-4801 or visit [www.ragecityrollergirls.org](http://www.ragecityrollergirls.org).

**JBER Arctic Bazaar**

This craft extravaganza in Hangar 5 is open to the public and features pottery, woodwork, art, food, holiday items and gift ideas, children's activities and more.  
For information, email [arcticbazaar@elmendorfsof.com](mailto:arcticbazaar@elmendorfsof.com).

**Oct. 7 AND 8**  
**Rocktoberfest**

The closing weekend of Alyeska festivals features Nervis Rex's ska rhythms with rock 'n' roll. Anchorage's own Council of Smokers and Drinkers' rock, roots and country style wraps up the summer.  
For information, call 754-2111.

**Oct. 8**  
**Alaska Navy Ball**

Military members and the public are invited to the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel from 6 p.m. to midnight to celebrate the Navy's birthday. Service dress or formal attire.  
For information call 552-7788.

**Scandinavian Bazaar**

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

**Oct. 11**  
**Winter Biking 101**

Get ready to ride all winter with this presentation at REI. Bike types, tire choices, accessories and more will be discussed from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Pre-registration required.  
For information, call 272-4565.

**JBER ham radio club**

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

**Oct. 12**  
**Alaska Fighting Championship**

The AFC has a full schedule in Anchorage and Wasilla all the way through May. Get your local mixed-martial arts fix at the Sullivan Arena at 7:30 p.m.  
For information, call 351-8184 or visit [www.alaskafighting.com](http://www.alaskafighting.com).

**Oct. 15**  
**Best of Broadway**

The Anchorage Symphony Orchestra presents Tony-award winning soprano Debbie Gravitte and other Tony nominees performing hits from award-winning musicals like "Wicked," "Guys and Dolls," "West Side Story," "Cabaret" and "Les Misérables" at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

**Oct. 19**  
**Free Latin dance lessons**

The Arctic Chill hosts free dance lessons followed by dancing and Latin music in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month from 7 to 9 p.m.  
For information, email [JBER.NOC@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:JBER.NOC@elmendorf.af.mil).

**Oct. 20**  
**Kaha:wí Dance Theatre**

The Alaska Junior theatre presents this Iroquois creation story with music, storytelling, traditional native and contemporary dance at

the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Performance begins at 7:30 p.m.

For information, visit [www.akjt.org](http://www.akjt.org).

**Oct. 21**  
**Mad Museum**

A party inspired by the hit show "Mad Men." If you missed the 60s the first time around, this is your chance.

Nibble on classic party appetizers and check out the Imaginarium Discovery Center tailored for adults, at the Anchorage Museum from 7 to 11 p.m.

For information, call 929-9226 or visit [www.anchoragemuseum.org](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org).

**Book Giveaway**

The Mission Support Group hosts a book giveaway for military and their family members at the Airman's Attic parking lot, 8515 Saville Ave., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a donation or come pick out free books.

For information, call 552-3004.

**Oct. 24**  
**Children's piñata party**

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with arts and crafts, snacks, piñata hitting by age group, and a children's Zumba lesson at the Arctic Oasis from 1 to 5 p.m.

All children from 1 to 17 years old are invited.

For information email [JBER.NOC@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:JBER.NOC@elmendorf.af.mil).

**Oct. 29**  
**Rage City Rollergirls**

Anchorage's own community roller derby group battles it out again at the Dena'ina Center. Wheels hit the rink at 7 p.m. and the competition goes until 10 p.m.

For more information, call 272-4801 or visit [www.ragecityrollergirls.org](http://www.ragecityrollergirls.org).

**Nov. 5**  
**Vendors needed for fair**

The Country Fair will be hosted Nov. 5 at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Organizers are looking for local vendors selling handcrafted items.

Family readiness groups can earn money for their group. Sell items at a food booth or set-up or clean-up.

For more information, contact [FRSCcountryfair@yahoo.com](mailto:FRSCcountryfair@yahoo.com).

**Anchorage Opera 50th**

The 50th anniversary of Anchorage's opera opens the season at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. with "The Grapes of Wrath."

An opening-night party starts afterward at 10 p.m. with performances, food, drinks, dancing and more to celebrate the anniversary.

For information, call 263-ARTS.

**Nov. 19 AND 20**  
**James McMurtry concert**

This solo country acoustic concert features Texas singer-songwriter James McMurtry, son of novelist Larry McMurtry.

Catch him at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. on the 19th or at Vagabond Blues in Palmer on Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.

For information call 263-ARTS or visit [www.whistlingsswan.net](http://www.whistlingsswan.net).

**ONGOING**  
**Thursday Nights at the Fights at Egan Center**

Seven boxing matches at the Egan Center begin at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday. Tickets are available at the door or in advance through Ticketmaster.

For information call 263-2800.

**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](http://www.trainweb.org/msmrr) or email [bjorgan@alaska.net](mailto:bjorgan@alaska.net).

**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. "Dads 101" and "Home Improvement" are also featured.

For more information on these or other classes, call Family Advocacy at 580-5858.

**Planetarium shows**

Through 3-D graphics, surround sound and a dome screen,

## 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 though Friday**  
Before/after 11:40 Mass – Soldiers' Chapel

**Protestant Sunday Services**

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

the Anchorage Museum's planetarium offers a fascinating way to learn about astronomy, the solar system and more. The museum is now on winter hours.

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

**Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition**

From Oct. 7 through Nov. 27, the Anchorage Museum hosts the Alaska Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition with a variety of styles and subjects. Many watercolor paintings from Alaska artists will be on display.

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



## Experience JBER Elmendorf-Richardson

### TEXAS HOLD'EM FUN RUN TODAY!

Join us at the JBER Fitness Center, sign up at 11 a.m. and race begins at noon. Best hand wins! Pick up your cards along the run. Easy 5K event with prizes awarded. T-Shirts for the first 40 participants. For more information call 552-5353.

### Come to Kids Day!

Saturday, September 24 at Cottonwood Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**FREE!**

Call Susan DeDionisio at 384-7482 or 227-5052 for more information.

## Movie Night!

September 30 at 6 p.m.

Movie: **Tangled**  
**Free Popcorn**

Join us at Arctic Oasis Community Center for an evening of a free movie and popcorn. View the movie on our large blowup screen television. Have the kids bring pillows and blankets and enjoy the family time.



While you are at the Oasis make sure to put your name in for our monthly drawing for a free birthday cake giveaway from Baskin-Robbins. One name drawn every month.

Arctic Oasis Community Center • Building 9497 • 552-8529

## Sunday & Monday Night Football at the Igloo

(Located in the Polar Bowl)

**Win Alaska Airlines Miles**

- October 31 - 25,000 miles drawing
- December 26 - 25,000 miles drawing
- January 1 - Super Fan wins 50,000 miles

\*Enter each week, must be present to win. Log in the most hours watching Sunday and Monday Night Football at the Igloo.

**Planning a squadron or unit function?**  
The bowling center is available for your Hail & Farewells, promotion parties and just a plain ol' office lunch party. Call **552-4108** for more information.

## The Alaska Zoo This Month Only!

\$5 Alaska Zoo Tickets.



Get yours while supplies last! Visit us today. Call 573-2378 Located in the Arctic Oasis Community Center

# Army, Air Force teams duke it out on the fields at the

# IBER SOCCER TOURNAMENT



TOP: Justin Goodwin of the 673d Medical Group (green shirts) guards a 725th Brigade Support Battalion Soldier Saturday at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center soccer field. The 725th trounced the Airmen with a final score of 6-1.  
CENTER LEFT: Marc Thompson of the 673d Medical Group ducks as Sean Brown of Co. F, 725th BSB, heads the ball.  
ABOVE: Marc Thompson of the 673d Medical Group takes the ball from a 725th BSB Soldier.  
LEFT: Justin Goodwin and Nicholas Gowdie try to intercept a 725th BSB Soldier's play. The Soldiers won the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson soccer tournament overall, taking top honors for the year's soccer season. (U.S. Air Force photos/Steven White)





## IV fluids, stat!

Senior Airman Julie Ragan, 673d Medical Support Squadron mental health technician, simulates fainting during an exercise at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Fitness Center Sept. 15. The exercise tested the readiness of JBER medical professionals in case of a massive outbreak of disease. It was also used to provide flu shots to personnel. "This is the first exercise of this scale that we've done in two years," said Senior Master Sgt. Monica Pemberton, pharmacy flight superintendent for the MDSS. "Having a full-scale exercise annually is the key to success. Everyone knows their functions and roles, and everyone can immediately execute." (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

## Births

### SEPT. 4

A son, Matthew Braxton Raan, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces, at 1:15 p.m. to Faith Nicholle Raan and Tech. Sgt. Bryce Jordan Raan of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

### SEPT. 6

A daughter, Riley Grace Fletcher, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces at 8:11 p.m. to Elizabeth Gail Fletcher and Air Force Staff Sgt. Allen Robert Fletcher of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

A daughter, Raelyn Lee Goodman, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces, at 1:30 p.m. to Victoria Hope Goodman and Pfc. Kyle Dale Goodman of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

### SEPT. 7

A son, Samuel William Tinker, was born 20.75 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces at 4:28 a.m., to Shonda S. Tinker and Army Staff Sgt. Samuel D. Tinker of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

### SEPT. 8

A son, Lucas Michael Weckesser, was born at 2:37 a.m. to Jessica Michelle Weckesser and Pfc. Michael Robert Weckesser of the 205th Military Intelligence Battalion, based at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

### SEPT. 9

A daughter, Olivia Rosalie Crowley, was born 20.75 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 6:46 p.m., to Serena Meryl Crowley and Airman 1st Class John Clark Crowley of the 673d Communications Squadron.

A daughter, Dakota Skye Gaines, was born 21.75 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces at 12:02 a.m. to Sgt. Margaret Lea Gaines of the Army Medical Activity – Troop Health Clinic, and Sgt. Philip Michael Gaines of the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

A son, Mikael Kahdon Alixander Maples, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at 2:49 a.m. to Tonya Marie Maples and Spc. Tyler James Maples of the Warrior Transition Battalion.

### SEPT. 10

A son, Kevion Demetric Fedd Jr., was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 4:34 p.m., to Kari Suzanne Fedd and Pfc. Kevion Demetric Fedd of Company A, 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

A daughter, Francesca Jolie Floyd-Laverde, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 4:51 a.m. to Claudia J. Floyd and Spc. Thomas J. Floyd of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

A daughter, Zoey Victoria Landon, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 7:13 a.m. to Kayla Marie Landon and Spc. Blair Charles Landon of the 84th Engineer Battalion.

A son, Rylan Michael McManill, was born 20.75 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces at 2:14 a.m. to Staci Elizabeth McManill and Airman 1st Class Christopher Dennis McManill of the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

### SEPT. 12

A son, Jackson David Augsburg, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7

pounds, 9 ounces at 10:47 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Jessica Elizabeth Augsburg of the 673d Security Forces Squadron and Air Force Staff Sgt. Kyle Robert Augsburg of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron.

A daughter, Hayden Marie Castor, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 1:48 a.m., to Savannah Lynne Castor and Pfc. Garrett Lynn Castor of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

### SEPT. 13

A son, Cameron Scott Flynn, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces to Michelle Renea Flynn and Pvt. Brandon Scott Flynn of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

A son, Eric Andrew Winfield, was born 22.25 inches long and weighing 10 pounds, 9 ounces at 1:47 a.m. to Angela Marie Winfield and Air Force Staff Sgt. James Wardell Winfield III of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.

### SEPT. 14

A son, Lucas J. Brockett, was born 23 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 13 ounces at 9:18 p.m. to Amber Leigh Brockett and Spc. Lucas J. Brockett of 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

A daughter, Audrey Margaret Floyd, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 5:42 a.m. to Rebecca Renken Floyd and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Gregory Floyd of the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

A daughter, Emmalin Ayva Shearer, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces at 11:05 a.m. to Lauren Nicole Shearer and Spc. Jacob Michael Shearer of Company E, 725th Brigade

Support Battalion.

### SEPT. 16

A son, Julian James Guillory, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 12:48 p.m., to Judy A. Guillory and Spc. Peter James Guillory of the 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

A daughter, Deborah Sue Phallan, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 4:23 p.m., to Air Force Staff Sgt. Mikel Renee Phallan of the 381st Intelligence Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Michael Phallan of the 3rd Maintenance Group.

### SEPT. 17

A daughter, Alexis Darlene Brewer, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces, at 1:39 a.m., to Natalie Rose-Glenn Brewer and Army Staff Sgt. Patrick James Brewer of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, U.S. Army Alaska.

A son, Alonzo Landen Johnson, was born 21.25 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 7:22 a.m. to Rainey D. Johnson and Tech. Sgt. Robert A. Johnson III of the 611th Air Communications Squadron.

A daughter, Ellivia Grace Laxamana, was born 19.75 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces at 4 p.m., to Desirae Irene Laxamana and Spc. Brandon Dean Laxamana of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

### SEPT. 18

A daughter, Natalie Allyanna Kowalski, was born 17.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 1:33 p.m., to Air Force Staff Sgt. Gena D. Kowalski of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron and Jared J. Kowalski.

## At the movies

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

### Now playing



#### COWBOYS AND ALIENS

**Rated:** PG-13  
**Playing:** Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.  
**Run time:** 118 minutes  
**Starring:** Harrison Ford, Daniel Craig, Olivia Wilde, Buck Taylor

It's Arizona, in 1873, and a stranger shows up in town with a mysterious shackle on his wrist – and no memory of his past. The desolate city is attacked by marauders from the sky, and the stranger is the hopeless town's only hope for salvation.

## Flying high



ABOVE: Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol Cadets and Girl Scouts from the Anchorage community gather around a table of aircrew flight equipment during the 477th Fighter Group's Boy Scout Aviation Day Saturday on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The event was designed to get youth involved with service organizations and learn about the aviation industry and military applications. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding)

## Illa School Age Program building opens for JBER youth

By Curt Biberdorf  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs

Fresh out of class, dozens of children eager to start their after-school care at JBER-Richardson's Illa School Age Program waited outside a few extra minutes Sept 12.

They stood with staff and guests under cloudy skies to watch a grand opening ceremony to celebrate a shining new \$15.1 million building as the program moved from its location at a former middle school on Fifth Avenue to the corner of Grady Highway and Arctic Valley Road.

It fulfilled a dream born nearly 10 years ago to provide a better place for child care, said Col. Robert Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673th Air Base Wing commander.

Military construction projects fall under the Army Family Covenant, which is a commitment to Soldiers and their families to provide a quality of life commensurate with their service, said Annette Bell, JBER outreach program manager. Bell was involved with the project from the beginning while she was employed with Child Youth and School Services at the former Fort Richardson.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District managed the project, and Bristol Design Build Services L.L.C. of Anchorage built it using a military construction trans-

formation standard design. With only minor variations, new child care facilities will look and feel the same at any Army duty station.

When Army families move to a new installation, both the children and parents will find some comfort in the familiarity of the facility, which reduces the stress on everyone, said Lori Jarvis, Illa School Age Program director.

The school age program's purpose is to support the readiness and well-being of military families by reducing conflict between mission requirements and parental responsibilities. Currently enrolled with 103 children, the new building increases the program's capacity from 144 to a range of 195-225 children ages 5-12 for before and after-school care as well as full-day care during school breaks and summer camps.



The former school age program building was at the end of its life and is scheduled to be demolished, said Terry Stone, project manager.

Built in late 1940s, the installation worked on multiple projects to prolong the structure's usefulness and habitability. Logistics were a challenge, traffic flow of the children inside was poor, floor plan layout prevented easy oversight, and it reached a point where "we couldn't put up with all the demands on it," said Bell.

By comparison, she said the new facility falls into the "opposite end of the spectrum. The flow of traffic is so much better. Everything here is uniform. It fits together."

Walk past the registration desk and the facility opens up with tall ceilings and long stretches of unencumbered space.

To the left is an area with tables for eating, a full-service kitchen and serving line.

To the right is a "multifunctional gathering area" furnished with sofas, tables, chairs, books and board games. At the far end are more lockers, all painted blue, with solid surface tops that complement those installed along the walls, and enough of them for every child.

Rooms around the perimeter are a computer lab, homework center, arts and sciences room, dance studio and four multipurpose activity rooms all with windows for easy monitoring. Chair backs with a heart-shaped dip keep backpacks from sliding off when its straps are slung onto it. In the wing leading to the gymnasium are air hockey, mini billiards and foosball table games.

"We try to provide something for every interest," said Jarvis.

The gym is equipped for basketball, volleyball and a video-based dance game. At the back of the gym is the outdoor exit to a colorful play structure mounted on top of a foam-like cushioned surface, a covered picnic table area, and a smooth grass field the size of a regulation soccer field for multiple outdoor activities.

The project accommodates the childcare providers. Near the main entrance is the director's office, staff training room and staff lounge. Security cameras monitor the facility inside and outside, and rooms are designated for storage and laundry.

