

Air Force Staff Sgt. Tanner Volkert

## Community remembers firefighter

JBER Public Affairs staff report

On Dec. 17, base leaders, friends, family members and fellow firefighters celebrated the life of Air Force Staff Sgt. Tanner Volkert, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron, who was found dead near an Anchorage trailhead Dec. 10 after a multi-day search by fellow Airmen and the Anchorage Police Department.

The cause of death is still under investigation by the APD and Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Volkert was last seen Dec. 7 at his home in Anchorage and was reported officially missing Dec. 8 after failing to show up at the fire department for scheduled duty.

After locating Volkert's truck near the Basher Trailhead in East Anchorage Dec. 10, searchers found a body, which was subsequently confirmed to be the missing Airman.

During the memorial ceremony, the base's top firefighter characterized Volkert's spirit and character.

"Tanner was a patriot who wanted nothing more than to serve his country," said JBER Fire Chief David Donan, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron. At the same time, Tanner discovered he had a passion for the fire service. He entered the Middleton Rural Fire District's Explorer program and eventually graduated from Firefighters Recruit Academy – allowing him to become a volunteer firefighter.

Volkert, a native of Nampa, Idaho, graduated from the Department of Defense Fire Training Academy and was assigned to JBER in January, 2010. He deployed in 2012 to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Air Force Col. Brian P. Duffy, JBER and 673d Air Base Wing commander, expressed his sorrow at the loss of Volkert in a statement after the Airman was found.

"On behalf of all the Arctic Warriors, I want to express my deepest condolences for the loss of Staff Sgt. Tanner Volkert," said Air Force Col. Brian P. Duffy, JBER and 673d Air Base Wing commander. "Our thoughts and sympathies are with the Volkert's family, friends and the JBER community during this tragic loss."

## JBER Army, Air Force academies partner up

By Army Master Sgt. Jennifer K. Yancey USARAK Public Affairs

Senior-enlisted leaders from the Army and Air Force's academies at JBER recently formed a partnership, signifying a commitment to developing well-rounded professionals that can successfully operate in any environment.

While it's the goal of noncommissioned officer academies to produce a tactically- and technically-proficient corps, this partnership is different – it reaches across the services.

At the Air Force's Enlisted Professional

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## ★ ARCTIC AIRBORNE DROP AT JBER ★



*they've got the GUTS*

## ★ A TEST OF SPARTAN FORTITUDE ★

## Spartan paratroopers jump in arctic gear

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Epperson 4-25th IBCT Public Affairs

For the first time since returning from Afghanistan last year, U.S. Army Alaska's 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division conducted an arctic airborne operation Dec. 12 from a C-130

aircraft onto JBER's Malemute Drop Zone.

Paratroopers conducted a unique "tail-gate" jump, donning the complete arctic over-white winter uniform with ski equipment and the arctic sustainment packing list as a rehearsal for upcoming airborne operations in northern Alaska next year.

The purpose for conducting arctic airborne training events is to maintain mission readiness for operating in arctic conditions, whether in conflict, humanitarian support or military support to civil authority mission sets.

Army Staff Sgt. Bruce Henderson, an infantry paratrooper assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, said the Soldiers are getting a feel for jumping with the equipment.

"We are testing out jumping with the skis and the capabilities to see if we can start implementing it in our training," Henderson,

a native of Keystone Heights, Fla., said. "The skis would give us a lot more mobility on the battlefield."

Once on the ground, the jumpers derigged their equipment snowshoed and skied to the rally point on the drop zone.

Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Richard Scott said this jump would give his paratroopers a new experience and prepare them future arctic training events.

"We need to have the arctic equipment that includes our skis and poles," Scott said. "We are evaluating and rehearsing how we fight in our skis and how we move in them."

Despite the weather, no one was feeling it, according to Scott.

"This just validates to all of our paratroopers that you can give any challenge or task to a paratrooper and we can come out here and do it and get the job done in these types of conditions," Scott said.



ABOVE: Paratroopers assigned to 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, snowshoe off the drop zone. (U.S. Army photo/John Pennell)

ABOVE LEFT: A paratrooper assigned to the 1-40th Cavalry prepares for his parachute landing fall during an arctic airborne operation in the complete over-white uniform at Malemute Drop Zone, Dec. 12. (U.S. Army photo/John Pennell)

LEFT: A single video frame shows a 1-40th Cavalry paratrooper jumping out of a C-130 Hercules ramp. (U.S. Air Force image/Senior Airman Sarah Trachte) TOP OF PAGE: Army 1st Lt. David Pearson, 1-40th Cavalry, takes a knee as he waits for another paratrooper to secure his equipment after exiting a C-130 Hercules Dec. 12. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Smith)

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### Alaskan NORAD Region tracks Santa

**ANR personnel track Santa Claus as he and his reindeer traverse Alaska airspace, ensuring safe journey**  
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# The Well of Fortitude

Commentary by Army Col. Pete Andrysiak  
2d Engineer Brigade commander

Last month, I had the opportunity to speak to my Soldiers about resilience and the importance of constantly replenishing their personal wells of fortitude. The term was articulated by author and Army psychologist retired Army Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, who described the well as “a private reservoir of inner strength and fortitude.”

When we experience stress by enduring life’s trials, our wells are depleted accordingly. These personal trials can be physical, emotional, spiritual or intellectual. Anybody who draws too deeply from their well will eventually be in serious trouble, because they won’t have the resilience to continue on. When good things happen, when we live healthy lifestyles and when we do things we enjoy, our wells are replenished.

The key to being resilient is consistently

finding sources of replenishment. Every person is different and not everyone’s sources for replenishment are the same, but there are a few that are almost universal.

One that I highly recommend is regular and vigorous physical activity. Exercise strengthens your body and helps you to cope with stress. I’m a firm believer that good physical training in the morning can set the tone for the rest of the day. That is why I expect units under my command to have well-planned and resourced PT every duty day and that every Soldier participates.

If the Trailblazers are pushing hard and experiencing intense, physically-demanding exercise every morning, then I know my Soldiers have a regular source of replenishment and the level of resilience across the ranks will remain high.

For most people, the holidays can also serve as a source of support. Spending time

with family and friends, time off of work and the spirit of the season can do wonders for invigorating the human soul. But the military is a demanding lifestyle and thousands of your fellow service members will be away from their loved ones this holiday season. For them and others, the holidays can be a huge draw on their well.

The personal commitment and concern of a dedicated leader is a huge source for replenishing a service member’s well. Leaders must know how each of their subordinates intends to spend the holidays. Talk to them about their plans, make recommendations and even consider if there is room at your table to invite them for a meal over the holidays.

Leaders who know their troops will be able to identify factors impacting those they are responsible for. Being away from family (especially for the first time), spending the holidays alone, abusing alcohol and other

substances, a broken relationship and financial burdens can all be major draws from a person’s well. Be aware of the trials and stresses in your troops’ lives and find ways to help them identify sources of replenishment.

One of the most powerful sources I have found is spiritual replenishment through service to others. When you do something nice and unexpected for someone else, it becomes a source not only for yourself, but also for the person you’ve served. If you’re feeling like your well is running low, find an opportunity to do something nice for someone else. You may be surprised at how much better you will feel by making a difference in someone else’s life.

My wife, Casey, and I hope you will make the most of this special time of year. Do everything you can to replenish your personal well of fortitude while looking for opportunities to serve others. Happy holidays. Arctic Trailblazers – Put ‘em across!

## Alaska NORAD Region earns ‘mission ready’ rating

By Tech. Sgt. John Gordinier  
ANR Public Affairs

Members of the Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region (ANR) received the highest readiness rating after performing a no-notice alert force evaluation called Amalgam Mute 14-01 here recently.

The inspector general’s team from NORAD’s headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., evaluated all supporting elements of ANR’s mission to maintain and generate alert aircraft to intercept unidentified aircraft.

“The NORAD IG evaluated multiple facets of our mission to include our planning processes at the region level to counter both symmetric and asymmetric threats as well as our command and con-

trol of alert assets,” said Air Force Col. Charles Butler, commander of the 611th Air Operations Center.

Additionally, they evaluated the Alaska Air Defense Sector, which includes the 176th Air Defense Squadron service members who man their stations 24/7 monitoring the skies, Butler said. The IG also performed a fighter alert force evaluation in accordance with standard procedures.

“This is the first time they have inspected all three areas combined,” Butler added. “Usually they inspect the region, sector and fighter alert forces separately.”

At the end of the biennial

evaluation, ANR and its supporting units earned the rating of “Mission Ready” across the board in all areas, which is the highest rating you can receive.

“It was a huge team effort and everyone performed admirably,” Butler said.

Evaluation participants included: 611th Air Operations Center; Alaskan NORAD Region; 176th Wing including the 176th Air Defense Squadron; 3rd Wing including 3rd Maintenance and Operations Groups; 673rd Air Base Wing Command Post and Security Forces; 477th Fighter Group and the 168th Air Refueling Wing stationed at Eielson Air Force

Base, Alaska.

In the out brief, the IG team said they were very pleased and impressed, Butler said.

“The IG team was particularly impressed with our cross-command coordination and focus on safety in reference to weather and flight conditions,” said Air Force Col. Brian Vaughn the 611th AOC deputy commander.

In the evaluation scenario, an out-of-communication aircraft was flying over the water. Two F-22 Raptors intercepted but maintained their distance and stayed over land versus flying out to the aircraft over water.

“You don’t want to put your assets too far out over the water with high winds and associated sea states,” Vaughn said. “Since it was an evaluation, we mitigated the

risk by keeping the fighters over land thereby lowering the aircrews’ risk. The IG team was pleased that we followed our procedures and measures keeping the aircrew safe while meeting mission objectives.”

Butler praised the contributions of the civilians as well.

“They act as force multipliers by way of experience and continuity that cannot be overstated,” he added. “Their efforts were noted and many of them were recognized as outstanding performers. It was a great way to pay tribute to their capability, skill and commitment.”

“We attained ‘Mission Ready’ results because we have individuals who are dedicated and will not accept mission failure or even average mission execution,” Butler concluded. “I’m very proud of all involved in the evaluation.”



## SEAC presents first armed forces NCO, petty officer book

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Marshall  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The military’s top enlisted service member debuted a new noncommissioned officer and petty officer book here Tuesday in what he called a significant moment for all enlisted leaders.

Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was joined by the chairman, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, as he unveiled “The Noncommissioned Officer and Petty Officer: Backbone of the Armed Forces.”

“Welcome each of you to what is a very, very special moment in our military’s lineage,” Battaglia said. “I’d really like [the book] to serve its intended purpose, and that’s [as] a developmental and educational tool.”

Though the book is focused on the military’s noncommissioned officer and petty officer force, Battaglia said, it carries a larger message.

“I think you’ll see this book

will serve the reader whether they serve in uniform or not,” he said.

It addresses commitment, selflessness, teamwork, trust, courage and loyalty, to mention a few qualities, he noted.

Battaglia lauded the book’s contributors, co-led by Dr. Albert Pierce, professor of ethics and national security at National Defense University, and retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Brownhill, as a “cadre of professionals.”

“Obviously, this couldn’t have been done without the team,” he said. “I just need to tell you how proud I am of each and every one of them.”

The book took shape from a variety of perspectives, the sergeant major said. “Like many military projects, I felt that for this one to be successful, it would require a unique blend of art, and science and even some academia,” said he explained. “I’m not singling out Mr. Curt Brownhill or Dr. Al Pierce, but these two gentlemen were really the catalyst and the glue that propelled it forward while holding it together.”

Battaglia said creating the book was “an effort that was coated with risk, challenge, excitement and opportunity all wrapped in one mission statement.”

“Back in the middle of 2011, I reached out to Curt and Al to ask them if they would co-lead this never-done-before monstrosity of a project for our NCO corps,” he said. “Both of them immediately committed.”

With Pierce having “book-building experience” from his involvement in the development of the “Armed Forces Officer” book, Battaglia said, it was important the books “not mirror one another but mesh.”

Brownhill brought his experiences rising up through the Air Force enlisted ranks, Battaglia said, and from his time serving as the command senior enlisted advisor for U.S. Central Command.

“At times, Chief Brownhill, Dr. Pierce and I drove the team pretty hard,” Battaglia said. “From re-scoping a particular chapter message that was slightly missed to further research over a weekend, to

detailed critiquing of each other’s chapters.”

The NCO and petty officer corps would not have become what it is today without the trust and confidence of commissioned officers, the sergeant major said.

“And that’s what’s inside the covers of this book,” he added.

Dempsey told the Pentagon Auditorium audience that he initially was unsure of what the book would be, but that he knew he didn’t want it to “gather dust on a shelf.”

“But then it occurred to me that, actually, the journey to put the book together might be more important than the book itself,” the chairman said. “It would cause you to take a look at who you are as a group of noncommissioned officers and petty officers.”

“The journey has actually been really important, I think, and we’ll see what the book becomes,” said he continued. “You really don’t know what a book becomes until you put it on the shelf.”

The chairman said he hopes it becomes a source of conversation,

discussion and even passionate arguments about who and what the NCO and petty officer corps is and needs to do for the nation.

Dempsey said the opening chapter of the book started 236 years ago with Gen. George Washington at Valley Forge, when he realized he needed to appeal to the “soul of his army.”

“He did it through the establishment of a noncommissioned officer corps,” he said. “And here we are today, 237 years later, publishing this book, which I hope captures a bit of that historical soul.”

Following the formal presentation of the book, Battaglia, Dempsey and Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry signed the inaugural copy of the book, which will be placed in the Library of Congress.

“This is really a great moment for the noncommissioned officer and petty officer corps,” Dempsey said.

Electronic copies of the book are available through the National Defense University Press at [www.ndu.edu/press/nco.html](http://www.ndu.edu/press/nco.html).

## Courts martial released

On Aug. 21, a summary court-martial convened at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The charge preferred on the senior airman was one specification Article 120b (sexual assault of a child).

The senior airman pled guilty to the charge.

The case was tried before a Summary Court Martial Officer who sentenced the senior airman to confinement for one month, reduction to the grade of airman basic, and forfeiture of \$379 pay for one month.

On Nov. 4, a general court-martial convened at JBBER. A specialist was charged two specifications of Article 120 (one specification of rape, and one specification of aggravated sexual contact), and one specification of Article 107 (false

official statement).

The specialist was found guilty of abusive sexual contact. He was found not guilty of all other charges and specifications.

The case was tried before a military judge alone who sentenced the specialist to reduction to private E-1, forfeiture of \$1,010 pay for 3 months, and confinement for 3 months.

On Nov. 6, a general court-martial convened at JBBER. A specialist was charged with one specification of Article 120 (Rape), and one specification of Article 125 (Sodomy).

The specialist was found not guilty of the charge and its specifications.

The case was tried before a military judge alone.

## Digital receipts benefits, dangers

Better Business Bureau news release

With the probable demise of physical cash in the near future, many retailers are adopting point-of-sale solutions to accommodate the increasing use of debit and credit. However, Better Business Bureau serving Alaska is reminding shoppers to understand the benefits and dangers of mobile payment options.

### The Benefits

Only one card needs to be taken along on shopping sprees; carrying large amounts of cash for purchases is impractical and poses theft risks.

Charges made with debit or credit cards offer built-in protections like zero or limited liability.

Significant amounts of paper are saved with the use of digital receipts.

Small vendors can now accept small non-

cash payments anywhere, without the fees previously associated with this convenience.

### The Dangers

Since payments are typically processed on mobile devices which are not connected to printers, digital receipts are often emailed to customers; but, if email addresses are incorrect or spam filters are overly-aggressive, records of transactions may be lost, making it difficult to return or exchange merchandise.

Once companies have email addresses and other personal information, they may be sold to third parties or used to blast spam.

Always ask how personal information will be used and consider creating a second email address that will only be used for digital receipts. Also, it is always a good idea to make sure that digital receipts have arrived to inboxes before leaving stores; ask for handwritten copies if necessary.

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/  
673d Air Base Wing Commander**  
Col. Brian P. Duffy (USAF)

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/  
673d Air Base Wing Vice Commander**  
Col. William P. Huber (USA)

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/  
673d Air Base Wing Command Chief**  
Chief Master Sgt. Kevin L. Call

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/  
673d Air Base Wing  
Sergeant Major**  
Sgt. Maj. Eugene J. Moses

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**JBBER Public Affairs Director**  
Capt. Angela Webb (USAF)

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Bob Hall

**Public Affairs superintendent**  
Senior Master Sgt. Michael Hammond

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David Bedard - editor  
Chris McCann - community editor  
Staff Sgt. Blake Mize (USAF) - staff writer

# Airman's service highlights joint base partnership

By Air Force Staff Sgt. William Banton  
JBER Public Affairs

For most Air Force Airmen, the opportunities to be recognized by another service branch are few and far between.

On Nov. 24, Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd Da Giau, an aircraft support supervisor with the 732d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, received this honor in the form of a coining ceremony by Army Col. Matthew McFarlane, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division commander.

Da Giau played a critical role in the preparation of loading a backup C-17 Globemaster III when a primary aircraft developed a fuel cell problem an hour prior to its scheduled departure.

This past July, 400 paratroopers from the 4-25th IBCT crossed the ocean as part of the biennial joint Australia-United States military exercise, Talisman Saber, and then launched themselves into the Australia Outback. It was a capability, which would have been severely delayed if it were not for the quick coordination of Da Giau.

"Jumping the airborne task force into Australia at the planned time on target was critical to the entire exercise of more than 30,000 Australian, U.S. and other participating allied service members," McFarlane said.

The purpose of the exercise is to practice with regional partners and demonstrate the reach and combat capabilities of joint military cooperation, in order to improve combat readiness and interoperability.

This required a huge commitment of resources from the Air Force, McFarlane said. The exercise required five C-17s and



Army Col. Matthew McFarlane, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division commander, presents a brigade coin to Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd Da Giau during a Nov. 24 ceremony. (Courtesy photo)

five aerial refueling aircraft to transport the Soldiers. The Air Force planning team incorporated an additional C-17 and refueling aircraft in case there were maintenance problems.

"While we had a spare C-17, we did not think it would be able to take off on time due to the time requirements to move nearly 100 personnel, equipment, parachutes and reestablishing inflight communication from one aircraft to another," McFarlane said.

Da Giau reacted immediately and led a team that got the job done, which ensured the entire formation was able to take off on time for a 15-hour flight to Australia,

McFarlane said.

Da Giau said experience led him to determine that the problems with the aircraft were not an easy fix, allowing him to prepare for a cross loading prior to the final decision being made.

"I've been in this job for almost 10 years now," Da Giau said. "After seeing so many, you kind of get to know which [maintenance issue] is going to be a hard break or which they are going to be able to fix in an hour and we are going to be good to go."

"An aircraft swap requires some coordination," Da Giau said. "First I had to talk with Air Terminal Operations Center

to gather information on aircraft availability, timelines, direction from Tanker Airlift Control Center and the estimated time of completion for the current aircraft."

During that time, Da Giau ran checklists while waiting for the Tanker Airlift Control Center to make the call to tail swap.

"I was able to have the aircraft prepared and uploaded with the cargo while the air crew transferred their gear," Da Giau said. "They were able to just stow their gear and start engines. This reduced the time by about 30 minutes."

The entire JBER team worked tirelessly to help plan and out-load for Talisman Saber, McFarlane said.

"This is the fastest reload for an airborne mission that I have witnessed in more than 16 years of airborne service," McFarlane said. "Aside from senior leadership, the rest of the task force, loaded into the other four aircraft, was unaware of any issues. That's a credit to the quick thinking and leadership of the men on the flight line, and their leader: Staff Sgt. Todd Da Giau."

Da Giau's enthusiasm to support the joint team is a perfect example of the great partnership the Army has with their brothers and sisters in blue on this joint base and is what makes JBER such a great place for paratroopers to be stationed, McFarlane said.

Da Giau spoke with pride when asked about being recognized for his hard work by the commander.

"It was awe-inspiring to hear the impact it had on the mission," Da Giau said. "Most Airmen in this career field are humble about what we do and consider everything we do part of the job. It is not often that we get to know the impact we have on a mission or get a thank you."

## Thousands of Army officers to face boards for early separation

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Nearly 19,000 active-duty captains and majors in the Army Competitive Category will go before either an Officer Separation Board or Enhanced Selective Early Retirement Board early next year.

The OSB and eSERB will evaluate the eligible captain and major populations by year group, and will select from as little as 5 percent to as much as 18 percent of specific considered year groups originally over-assessed to support a much larger force.

The Army will select the minimum number for separation that will allow it to meet congressionally mandated end strength, officials said, with this year's board directing separation for up to 2,000 officers.

Dave Martino, director, Officer Personnel Management Directorate at Human Resources Command, said the Army's drawdown plan is a "balanced approach that maintains readiness, while trying to minimize turbulence to the officer corps."

The reductions in the officer force are meant to coincide with the reduction in Army force structure, he said.

"As the structure reduces in size, the Army officer corps will make a requisite reduction relative to that structure," Martino said.

He also said the OSB and eSERB will separate "fully qualified and officers who have rendered



Courtesy photo

quality service to the nation. Therefore we will execute the OSB and eSERB with precision, care and compassion."

Beginning in March 2014, about 9,735 captains will go before an OSB. About 699 captains will face an eSERB. Captains going before these boards come from year groups 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Beginning in April, the future of about 6,943 majors will be decided by an OSB, and 1,504 by an eSERB. Majors going before these boards come from year groups 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Officers have already been notified of their eligibility for either an OSB or eSERB. It will be late winter or early spring 2015 before officers will begin separating or retiring from the Army as a result of decisions of the boards,

officials said.

Among officers selected by an OSB for separation, those with less than 15 years will receive separation pay. Those with more than 15 years but less than 18 years may receive separation pay, but may opt to also apply for Temporary Early Retirement Authority.

Officers eligible to go before an eSERB must have 18 or more years of service. If those officers are selected by the board, they are entitled to serve until their 20th year and retire then, or they may choose to apply for TERA so they can retire earlier.

"If an officer is selected by the eSERB board, they will be able to serve until their twentieth year," said Hillary Baxter, division chief, Leader Development Division. "Then they will have a mandatory

retirement date at that point. They still are safe to get a 20-year retirement if they so choose."

Before going before either an OSB or eSERB, officers should have their records up-to-date and accurate, said Army Col. Stephen Sears, deputy director, OPMD. That is something their commanders can help with.

In addition to emails that have been sent to affected officers, emails have also been sent to commanders in the field at the colonel level, so those commanders can help counsel officers in the zone of consideration.

"That is an important piece — for these commanders to sit down with officers and look them in the eye and help them prepare their records, from that position of experience, and to give them an

assessment of where they think they stand in terms of their peers," Sears said.

Sears said officers need to make sure their records accurately reflect their performance, are complete, and have an up-to-date photo. For online guidance on how best to accomplish this, Sears said officers may view the CAC-required website at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/officer> and then select "How to prepare for an OSB, SERB, eSERB."

Sears also said assignment officers at Army Human Resources Command are ready to help officers who call in needing help to repair records and update their file.

### Getting ready to leave

Officers who leave the active force before they expected don't necessarily need to take off the uniform forever. The reserve component is ready to take on some of the best officers to put them into either the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard.

Army Col. Charles Slaney, with Army Human Resources Command, said reserve-component career counselors stand ready to help Army officers prepare to move into one of the reserve components following their active-duty career.

He said the Army has put significant investment into developing officers, and that one role of RCCCs is to retain that valuable human capital investment.

"We want to preserve that by putting them into the reserve components," he said.

### ▼ From ACADEMIES, A-1

Military Education Center and the Army's Sgt. 1st Class Christopher R. Brevard Noncommissioned Officer Academy, young leaders will soon learn the tools of understanding joint capabilities and culture.

During a visit to Alaska earlier this year, Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior-enlisted advisor to the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, initiated an ongoing discussion on pinpointing when junior leaders should receive enhanced joint education. Senior leadership throughout the Army, including the CJCS, the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, as well as U.S. Army Alaska and U.S. Army Pacific senior leaders, support the joint familiarization initiative.

This evolving partnership at JBER was nearly a year in the making.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cornelius A. Mack, NCO Academy commandant, arrived at the NCO Academy in February. As the new commandant, he and Air Force Chief Master Sgt. J.J. Little, PME Center commandant, quickly got to work on bringing it to fruition. Mack and Little discussed how to develop strategic thinkers, young leaders with expertise in all levels of warfare, be it tactical, operational, or strategic. They looked at JBER's diversity, as well as its cultural differences between the services, concluding that as war fighters, there are things they both



Command Sgt. Maj. Cornelius Mack, commandant of the U.S. Army Alaska Noncommissioned Officer Academy on JBER, left, a native of Sumter, S.C., and Chief Master Sgt. JJ Little, a native of Oklahoma City, commandant of the Professional Military Education Center on JBER, take a seat at the Joint Military Complex at JBER, Alaska, Dec. 16, 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo by Justin Connaheer)

can improve upon.

This agreement symbolizes how each service component — at every level of warfare — contributes to a "rich heritage and unique capabilities" that NCOs will use in future complex and challenging environments, Little said. "We don't fight by ourselves. You're not going to find a conflict where any service is fighting alone ... We want to develop that relationship much earlier in their careers."

Little had the opportunity to attend both the Army's Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (now Advanced Leader Course) and the Marine Corps' Advanced Course, training that focuses on war fighting and leadership skills necessary for gunnery sergeants to perform in various combat and non-combat roles.

"It really opened my eyes as to how the Marine Corps does things," Little said.

He added that this is exactly the type of training both schools want to provide their troops.

"We want to take the pinnacle of the Air Force and provide them the opportunity to experience a sister-service academy," he said.

Class integration is expected to begin January 2014. The rotational cycle at the Airman Leadership School is six weeks, four weeks for the Warrior Leader Course. ALS reserved three slots for their

Army counterparts: recent WLC graduates who placed on the Commandant's List, recommended by the NCO Academy. Three Airmen were also identified to attend WLC.

While three is the quota for now, Mack said, "we're looking to increase numbers over time."

The two service academies do share some similarities. There is no field training exercise in ALS, just like WLC, but there is a lot of classroom instruction — an academic environment with much emphasis on leadership, management and communication.

Another shared aim amongst the joint community is realizing the strategic vision of the CJCS, "which drives joint-ness deeper, sooner in capability development, operational planning and leader development," Little said.

Mack said the goal is to develop cultural awareness in troops early in their careers, "so by the time they become senior leaders," he said, "they've already adapted to a joint culture. (the) differences in regulations, procedures and policy."

Both institutional competencies also hope to see an increase in merging operations in a joint environment.

"As time progresses, we hope to make both services better because we understand each other a lot better," Mack said. "There are things the Air Force may do that we can add to our arsenal, and vice-versa. Things we can do to make our Soldiers and Airmen more adaptive in a joint community."

## Disposition of effects

Air Force Capt. Jedediah Purcell, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Air Force Staff Sgt. Tanner Volkens, 673d CES, as stated in Air Force Instruction 34-511.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should call Purcell at 552-9708.

## JFAP delegates needed

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson community members can help improve their quality of life by submitting issues or becoming a delegate for the fiscal year 2014 Joint Family Action Plan Working Group.

The Family Action Plan is a forum for all service members, retirees, survivors and Department of Defense civilians to voice concerns and make suggestions for change. The working group will be hosted Jan. 9 and 10 at the JBER-Richardson Education Center, Building 7.

The group meets at 9:30 a.m. Thursday; the final meeting will be Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. JBER leadership as well as community members are highly encouraged to attend.

Training will be provided the first morning. Lunch will be provided, and child care is available.

To register for child care, call Central Registration at 384-7483 and mention the JFAP.

Submit issues by Dec. 27 by dropping an issue in one of the many boxes at key JBER locations, or visit [www.elmendorf-richardson.com/ACS/index.php?id=90](http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com/ACS/index.php?id=90)

To become a JFAP delegate, call 552-4943 or 384-1517 before Dec. 20. Delegates are needed from a cross section of our JBER community – active duty, Reserve and Guard service members, as well as family members, retirees, survivors and DoD civilians.

## Veterinary hours change

The Veterinary Treatment Facility is operating on winter hours. Though the VTF primarily works on military working dogs, the facility also provides services for active duty Soldiers, retirees, National

Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers on active orders (greater than 30 days), and their dependents.

The VTF is capable of providing care for most routine services, including vaccination and sick call.

The VTF is open Monday to Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information and to make an appointment, call 384-2865.

## Commissary hours

The Commissary is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

The commissary will be closed Christmas and New Years.

## Scholarship opportunity

The Air Force Aid Society will be accepting applications for the Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant for the academic year 2014 to 2015 until March 7.

Eligible spouses and family members will have an opportunity to receive up to \$2,000 to fund their college education. To apply, please visit [www.afas.org/education-grants](http://www.afas.org/education-grants).

## JAG law school programs

The Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps is accepting applications for the Funded Legal Education Program and Excess Leave Program from Jan. 1 to March 1, 2014.

The FLEP is a paid legal studies program for active duty Air Force commissioned officers and is an assignment action with participants receiving full pay, allowances and tuition.

FLEP applicants must have between two and six active duty service (enlisted or commissioned).

The ELP is an unpaid legal studies program for Air Force officers, and participants do not receive pay and allowances, but remain on active duty for retirement eligibility and benefits purposes.

ELP applicants must have between two and ten years active duty service.

For more information, email Air Force Capt. Megan Mallone at

[megan.mallone@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:megan.mallone@pentagon.af.mil).

## Furnishing Management

The Furnishings Management Office offers 90-day loaner furniture. Appliances may be issued for the duration of the service member's tour.

FMO typically delivers items as far as Peters Creek or Rabbit Creek. Service members must make special arrangements beyond these areas.

When requesting furniture, service members must provide a copy of their reporting orders.

For JBER-Elmendorf, visit the Capital Asset Management Office at Building 6436, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or call 552-2740.

For JBER-Richardson, visit the Housing Management Office at Building 600, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or call 384-2576.

## Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program at JBER is available to all eligible active-duty members and consists of two options.

The first option, RPP Plus, includes utilities and sometimes cable costs providing an easier budget with a set rental payment year round.

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

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

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

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

JBER-Elmendorf can see RPP officials at the Capital Asset Management Office, Building 6346, Arctic Warrior Drive, or call at 552-4328 or 552-4374 for further information and assistance regard-

ing this program.

At JBER-Richardson, visit the Housing Management Office, Building 600, Richardson Drive, or call at 384-3088 or 384-7632.

## MiCare registration

MiCare, the online personal health record and secure messaging application, has been available to patients and medical group staff at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson since 2011.

Patients can take advantage of the ability to communicate with their primary care clinicians online.

Registered patients also have access to electronic records, allowing them to view and maintain their health records.

Once registered, patients have the ability to participate in the study by completing a short series of surveys during the course of the next year.

This provides an opportunity for all active-duty, retired and dependent patients to have an impact on shaping the future of Air Force health services.

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

All beneficiaries who are enrolled in the family health, pediatrics, flight medicine and internal medicine clinics are eligible to participate.

Patients need to show a military identification card and provide information, including name, social security number, birthday and email address.

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

## Priority placement

The Priority Placement Program and Executive Order 13473 provide non-competitive appointment for spouses of active duty service members, including full-time National Guard and Reservists, who are relocating to accompany their service member during a permanent change of station.

The program allows spouses to

register for Department of Defense positions and to be considered for jobs offered internally. Spouses are matched against potential positions, which meet their qualifications and preferences.

Job placement will vary with each individual. The spouse remains eligible for a maximum of two years from the date of the PCS orders and are in the program for one year.

Military spouses who have never filled a federal position can now register for PPP. This program had previously been limited to spouses on a current federal appointment or had a former federal position in the past.

Military spouses can register at the Civilian Personnel Office at JBER-Elmendorf or the personnel office at JBER-Richardson. The JBER point of contact is Brenda Yaw at 552-9203.

## Find housing

Visit the Automated Housing Referral Network at [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com), or [www.ahrn.org/mobile](http://www.ahrn.org/mobile) if using a mobile device, to find housing before packing up.

Sponsored by the Department of Defense, the website listings include available community rentals, military housing, shared rentals, temporary lodging and military for sale by owner listings.

Listings include property descriptions, pictures, maps, links to local schools, and contact information.

Service members who would like to rent their homes, sell their homes, or are looking for another service member as a roommate in their current homes, may post an ad free of charge on the site.

For more information, call the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron Capital Asset Management Office at either 552-4439 for JBER-Elmendorf or 384-3088 for JBER-Richardson.

## Arctic Watch

The JBER Antiterrorism Office encourages all personnel to be vigilant against threats and report suspicious activities to iWatchArmy at 384-0824 or Eagle Eyes at 552-2256.



## TRACKING SANTA

By Tech. Sgt. John Gordinier  
ANR Public Affairs

**N**ORAD conducts a special mission on Dec. 24 – tracking Santa across the globe to ensure Santa experiences safe travels during his yuletide journey and Alaskan NORAD Region plays a vital part in that mission.

U.S. and Canadian servicemembers of the ANR, utilize 15 radar stations to monitor Santa as he traverses the airspace around the northern latitudes of North America. It's a mission ANR has successfully accomplished for 50 years.

"We ensure Santa's flight is successful and safe within the 1.3 million square miles of Alaska airspace he will be traveling," said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Cordiner, 176th Air Defense Squadron air surveillance technician, Alaska Air National Guard.

"This is a very important mission and making sure all goes safely as planned is imperative," Cordiner said. "We only get a few distinguished VIPs of this caliber every year. The bottom line is making sure his flight goes as planned delivering toys to all the good children."

Like other regions within NORAD, aircraft are on stand-by at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to intercept and fly alongside Santa also known as "Big Red One" and his reindeer to assist in any way.

The tradition of NORAD tracking Santa, or NTS, dates back to Christmas Eve of 1955.



According to the *noradsanta.org* website, the program began December 24, 1955, when an incorrect phone number encouraging children to call Santa on Christmas was printed in a local Sears Roebuck and Co. newspaper advertisement.

Instead of Santa, the number actually dialed the Air Operations Center at Continental Air Defense Command, NORAD's predecessor organization, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The phone that rang that night was the top-secret crisis phone – and a call on that line meant serious trouble.

Air Force Col. Harry Shoup, the commander on duty that night, was not amused, he said in a 2005 interview.

He answered with a crisp "Yes, sir?" expecting to hear Air Force

Gen. Earle Partridge, the NORAD commander, giving an order.

Instead, a little boy told him what he wanted for Christmas.

Shoup was suddenly even less amused, and started looking around the AOC for whichever Airman was on the phone and trying to stifle a grin.

"I thought, 'Someone's playing a joke, and I don't stand for that,'" Shoup said in the interview. "If I see who's laughing out there, I'm going to nail him good."

But no one was laughing. The little boy on the other end of the line sensed something was amiss.

"You're not Santa," Shoup recalled him saying.

"Oh-ho-ho, yes I am," Shoup responded.

Soon, the phone was ringing constantly – and Shoup pulled some Airmen aside and told them

**ABOVE:** Royal Canadian Air Force Capt. Dave Gosselin, 176th Air Defense Squadron senior director, tracks aircraft in Alaska air space ensuring air sovereignty in the Alaskan NORAD Region Regional Air Operations Center. U.S. and Canadian servicemembers utilize 15 radar stations to monitor Santa as he traverses the airspace around the northern latitudes of North America, a mission ANR has successfully accomplished for 50 years. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Gordinier) **LEFT:** Air Force Col. Harry Shoup, the operations officer at NORAD on Dec. 24, 1955, answered a wrong-number call and began the tradition of NORAD tracking Santa. (Photo courtesy of NORAD)

to answer the calls and "just pretend you're Santa."

Instead of having Sears pull the ad, Shoup offered the kids something else – Airmen would check the radar for Santa's official location as he made his journey across the globe.

Each year since, NORAD has dutifully reported Santa's location on Dec. 24

to millions of children and families across the globe who inquire as to his whereabouts.

Shoup passed away in 2009 at the age of 92, but his spur-of-the-moment decision to be Santa lives on.

Any who play a part in that mission are honored.

"This is my third time to participate in NTS and I am deeply honored to be a part of it," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Cirena Pritchett, 176th ADS identification technician.

"Santa is a great man who brings happiness to all the little boys and girls of the world and I will ensure he has no interruptions while making his deliveries here in the great state of Alaska."

"This is my first Christmas

with the unit and my first time being able to support Santa in such a direct role and ensuring his mission success," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Watkins, 176th ADS tracking technician, Alaska Air National Guard. "I am happy to be a part of this very important mission and I wish Santa a safe flight and God speed."

When not tracking Santa, the ANR mission is to continuously provide warning of an aerospace attack within the region.

ANR maintains aerospace control, peacetime air sovereignty and appropriate aerospace defense measures in response to hostile actions.

The Regional Air Operations Center component of ANR is composed of all Active Guard members, Canadian Armed Forces service members, and active-duty augmentees.

It's gone more high-tech than phones these days. Children of all ages interested in tracking Santa can do so at [www.noradsanta.org/](http://www.noradsanta.org/). There is also the NORAD Tracks Santa Facebook page at [facebook.com/noradsanta](https://www.facebook.com/noradsanta), or follow Santa's progress on Twitter @NoradSanta.

## MARINES, AIRMEN DELIVER TOYS FOR TOTS

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

Marines and Airmen moved snowmachines and sleds through the winter darkness, across the flight line, and onto a C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Dec. 13.

The aircraft were bound for a hub of remote villages north of the Arctic Circle.

There, the Marines would travel village to village delivering toys to children as part of the Toys for Tots program.

Toys for Tots is a civilian program executed by the Marine Corps Reserves to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

The program's presence in Alaska began 19 years ago, and the Air Force has provided the airlift support to get the Marines around the state since.

"We're taking some Marines and snow machines to drop off toys for children," said Senior Airman Alan Cordell, 144th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, and a native of Wasilla. "It's awesome to help out Marines; I've never done it before. We're serving the community and giving back; it feels good."



Working with the Air Force is a great partnership, said Marine Maj. Lee Johnson, inspector/instructor, Alaska Marines.

"It couldn't be done without the Air Force airlift capability," said Johnson, senior active-duty Marine in the state, and native of Clintonville, Wis. "They've been able

to fly us into these remote sites throughout Alaska."

"We have the equipment to load their gear up," said Airman 1st Class Joseph Saulys, 732nd Aircraft Services and native of Prairie Du Sac, Wis. "It feels really good to help Toys for Tots, like I'm accomplishing

something. When things like this come up, being able to help someone, help the kids, helping anyone in general, it makes me feel like I actually joined for a good reason."

The Marines snowmachined through a hub that includes three main villages; they have to travel approximately 400 miles to Kotzebue, about 300 miles to Galena and roughly 200 miles to McGrath.

Kotzebue has a population of more than 3,300. Galena has more than 400. McGrath, more than 300.

"We deliver toys to the villages up in the Arctic Circle, to kids that don't ever get the opportunity to get toys," said Marine Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rigney, Toys For Tots coordinator for the state of Alaska, and inspector/instructor for D Company, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion. His hometown is Hazard, Ky. "We go to them, drop off the toys, and give them a good Christmas. We do that for the kids here in Anchorage, too."

Organizers purchased the toys with donations collected through various fund-raising drives; some have goals to raise as much as \$30,000. The Marines delivered more than 1,700 toys to children statewide.

"It's great, that's one of the best things in the world," Rigney said. "When you've got your own kids, and you give your kids a good Christmas, it's one thing. When you actually get to help kids who don't get a Christmas, it's even better."

The villages don't normally get this opportunity, and treat the Marines as honored guests, Johnson said.

"The folks in the villages take care of us," he said. "You just can't describe it unless you're on one of these trips. It's pretty awesome. If you don't get up there to see this stuff, you may not understand what it's really like. They are very good communities; it's a program we want to continue to build if we can."



**TOP:** A little girl receives a gift from a Marine Reservist. (U.S. Marine Corps photo/Staff Sgt. Fayloga)

**LEFT:** Alaska Marines prepare to load snowmachines onto an Air Force C-130 Hercules at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Dec. 13. The Air Force will take the Marines, snowmachines and sleds to visit remote villages and give away more than 1,700 toys. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)

## Building your own spiritual warrior code

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Lynn, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment

# 武士道

The term "bushido" or "way of the warrior" in Japanese kanji. Developing a "warrior code" can give you something to lean on when times get tough. (Graphic by Chris McCann)

Recently, I sat down with a young Soldier who lost a best friend, a civilian, to suicide.

They had just finished making plans to see each other over the holidays in the Lower 48.

As I was preparing myself to provide him grief counseling, I expected him to be devastated.

I had heard this wasn't his first rodeo with regard to suicide; he had gone through the experience before.

However, I was completely taken aback by his resiliency – his spiritual resiliency.

Pfc. Joshua Toungate's story unfolded as he shared how he lost several close friends.

He also shared what kept him motivated, what made him tick, and how he stayed positive even though he just absorbed another traumatic loss in his life.

In the course of our conversation, he shared that he recently sent an essay of some of his personal reflections, or what I'd call a "Spiritual Warrior Code," to his mom in Texas. This young private first class was impressive.

Having listened to scores of Soldiers get caught in the grip of grief, I was amazed at this young man's graceful resiliency.

I asked him for a copy of that essay, and requested permission to use it as a way of joint authoring this article. He gave me some editorial liberty.

There's an old saying, "Let's

quit talking about going to the moon. Let's just go there." So here's Toungate's spiritual warrior code.

"In the minds of many people, a hero is someone who goes out of their way to help, or save a fellow citizen in dire need. Typically, people think of police officers or firemen as heroes.

It's commonly understood that we who serve in the military are heroes, for the sacrifices that we make to keep this nation and our way of life safe. We mostly think of heroes being men, but not all are.

So what is a hero?

Being a hero isn't just about being brave, and sacrificing, and making hard decisions.

Heroes are not always the most physically fit or incredibly smart. But heroes have moral and spiritual values that guide their lives; they have honesty, respect, loyalty and integrity.

These are essential, but sometimes they can be very rare. My faith in the lord Jesus Christ helps me to stay on course with these values.

Here are two Bible verses that have greatly helped me, giving me strength in my times of need:

1) Matthew 19:26 says "Jesus looked at them intently and said, 'Humanly speaking, it is impossible, but with God everything is possible.'"

2) Philippians 4:13 says "For I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

I live by these verses each day. But how can you measure strength?

Well, to answer that, you need to know what strength is.

Here's my definition: strength is letting the storm in you power your faith.

This storm does not excuse your faith; it empowers your faith.

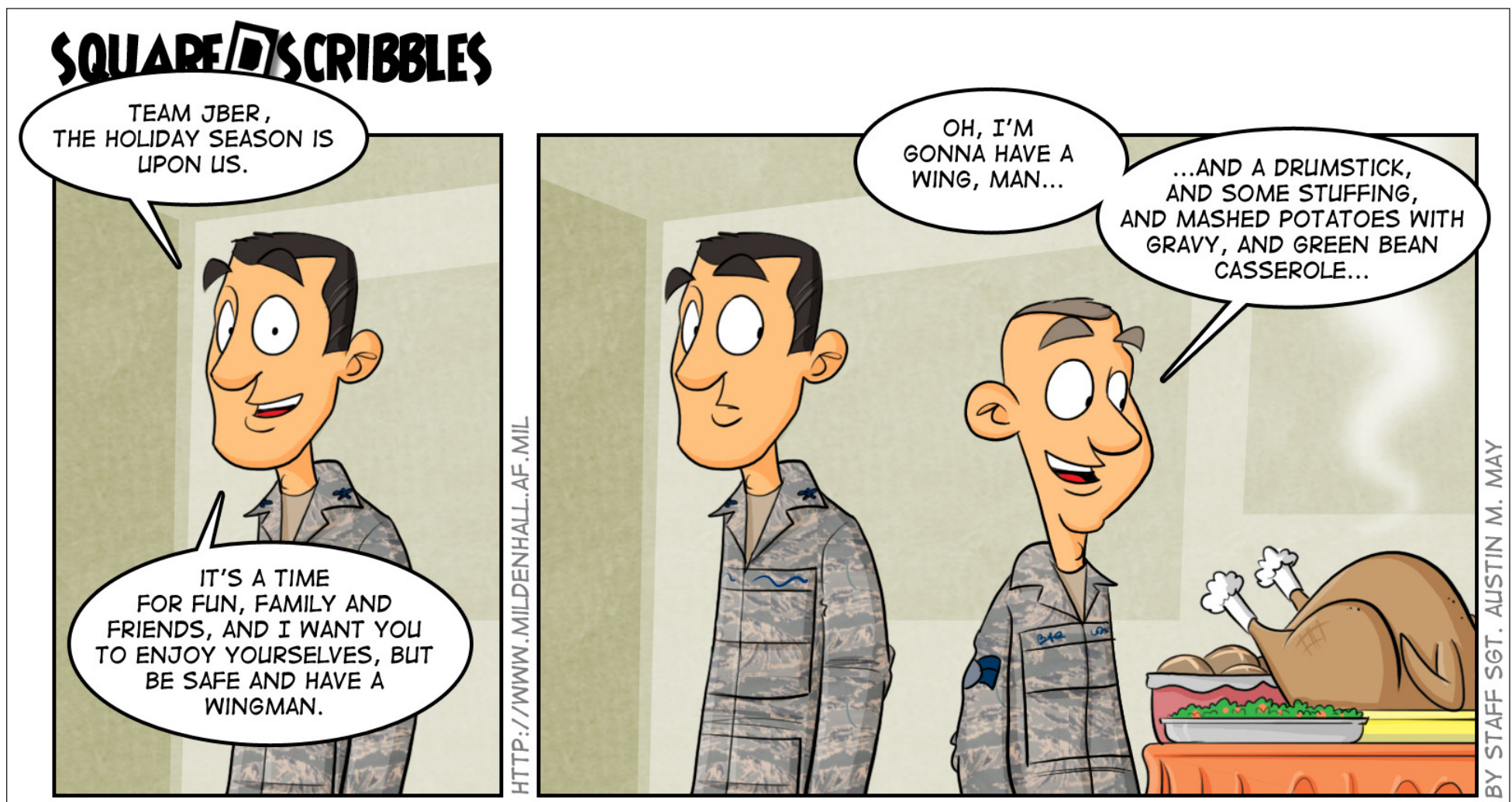
Everybody gets angry, sad or depressed. But if you can find a way to channel your emotions into your faith, and work through your feelings, then you can find a way to overcome any situation.

Strength is the ability to overcome hardship in life."

Let's not just talk about spiritual resiliency. Let's do spiritual resiliency.

Toungate's example is a model to follow. Write your own spiritual warrior code from your faith background. Where do you start?

Make a commitment. In times of crisis, you will have a deep well from which to dip, gaining spiritual strength for the battle.



## FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

<http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com>



Did you know....

You can view the JBER673FSS facebook page even if you don't have a facebook account? Stop by and see us! [www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS](http://www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS)

### Bowling With Santa

December 21 - 10 a.m. - Noon

\$24.99 per child if booked by December 16. The full payment is due at the time of reservation, fully refundable if canceled by December 16. Cost of \$29.99 per child if reservations made after December 16 and is non-refundable.

- 2 Hours Unlimited Bowling
- Shoe Rental
- Christmas Gift Bag from Santa
- Picture with Santa
- Lunch (hot dog, chips & drink) Drinks come in special Christmas Cup
- Chance to win mystery gift from Santa if you bring in a holiday decorated theme bowling pin. (Bowling pin given at time of reservation.)
- Bowling Center closed to open bowling

Call 753-PINS for further information or come by to make reservations!



### New Year's Eve Bash



December 31 • 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

\$124.99 per lane (5 max per lane) if reserved between December 1 & December 28. Full payment is due at the time reservation is made for lane(s). All payments are 100% refundable if cancelled by 5 p.m. on December 28. Lanes Reserved after December 28 will be \$139.99 & non-refundable. You will chose the lane, type of pizza, & soda when you make your reservations. All reservations must be made in person at the Polar Bowl. For questions call 753-PINS or visit the Polar Bowl.

Don't wait to make your Reservation!

- 1 lane for a maximum of 5 bowlers
- unlimited games
- shoe rental
- Snacks on every lane
- 2 Large Pizzas (pepperoni or cheese)
- One 2 Liter Bottle of Soda
- Party Favors
- Champagne or Sparkling Cider
- Door Prizes
- Lucky Train Running all night for additional prizes
- Drink Specials (alcoholic & non-alcoholic) in the Igloo Lounge all night!

### 2013 Joint Family Action Plan (JFAP) Working Group

JFAP is a grassroots process that allows you to give feedback to commanders and raise issues important to you about military and family life. It is a decision making tool for Army & Air Force leaders at all levels (local installations, major army commands and Headquarters, Department of the Army). A DA Circular, updated annually, lists issues and what's been done, or is being done to resolve them.

WHO: Open to Everybody  
 WHEN: 9 - 10 January 2014  
 WHERE: JBER-Richardson Education Center  
 TIME: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Speak Up - We're Listening!

For additional information on JFAP or to become a volunteer, please contact the JFAP office at (907) 552-4943

### WINTER RECREATION CAMPS

2-day skill building camps for ages 9-17  
 Camps are FREE and open to YC members and non-members

DATES  
 December 21 & 22, 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Register by December 13

January 11 & 12, 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Register by January 3

January 18 & 19, 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Register by January 10

Space is limited, sign up soon!  
 All equipment is provided



Call Danae Anderson at Kennecott YC, 552-2266 for more details



**THROUGH JAN. 12**  
**Wonderland of Toys**  
 The museum's atrium becomes a dazzling tableau of toys, dating back to the 1800s.  
 From carousel horses to tin soldiers, the history of toys is on display at the Anchorage Museum.  
 For more information, visit [anchagemuseum.org](http://anchagemuseum.org) or call 929-9200.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
**Alaska Aces Hockey**  
 Hometown Aces take on the Utah Grizzlies in hockey action at the Sullivan Arena at 7:15 p.m. all three nights. Information, Tickets and Travel offers discount tickets; call 753-2378.  
 For information, visit [alaskaaces.com](http://alaskaaces.com).

**FRIDAY**  
**JBER Holiday Party**  
 Celebrate with JBER at the annual holiday party at Hillberg Ski Area from noon until 4 p.m.  
 Festivities include activities for children, dog sled rides, cardboard sled races, skiing and snowboarding, and much more.  
 For information, call 552-1277.

**SUNDAY**  
**Family Holiday Pops**  
 This great holiday concert features all your favorites, and some you may never have heard. The Anchorage Concert Chorus and the Holiday Pops Orchestra take over the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts starting at 4 p.m.  
 Information, Tickets and Travel offers discount tickets; call 753-2378.  
 For information, visit [anchorageconcerts.org](http://anchorageconcerts.org).

**DEC. 28 THROUGH JAN. 3**  
**Hands-on Winter Break**  
 Are the new toys driving you crazy with the kids home from school? The Anchorage Museum hosts indoor winter activities – the science of snow, building indoor snow forts with cardboard blocks, and storytelling, party crafts and more.  
 Events run from 2 to 4 p.m. each day. For information, visit [anchagemuseum.com](http://anchagemuseum.com).

**DEC. 31**  
**Torchlight and fireworks**  
 Alyeska Resort hosts this annual end-of-the-year epic

sight with skiers and snowboarders traversing the slopes of Mount Alyeska with torches – lighting up the mountain with a red glow.  
 The event culminates with one of the biggest fireworks displays in Alaska. Events start at 8 p.m.  
 For information, visit [alyseskaresort.com](http://alyseskaresort.com).

**Masquerade Ball**  
 Ring in the new year at the Dena'ina Center with Alaska's "largest and classiest" New Year's Eve party.  
 DJs spin top-40 hits and door prizes are just one of the draws.  
 For information, visit [fivestarataska.com](http://fivestarataska.com).

**JAN. 3 AND 4**  
**Alaska Aces Hockey**  
 Hometown Aces take on the Idaho Steelheads in hockey action at the Sullivan Arena at 7:15 p.m. both nights. Information, Tickets and Travel offers discount tickets; call 753-2378.  
 For information, visit [alaskaaces.com](http://alaskaaces.com).

**JAN. 11**  
**Snowshoe Walkabout**  
 The Alaska Botanical Garden hosts this snowshoe tour led by personnel from the Division of Forestry and the ABG. Learn winter tree identification and much more. Snowshoes are available to use, or bring your own for this tour from noon to 2 p.m.  
 For information, visit [alaskabg.org](http://alaskabg.org).

**Chaplin Silent Film fest**  
 Join the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Charlie Chaplin's debut performance as the Little Tramp.  
 This double-feature of silent films is accompanied by the symphony at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts beginning at 8 p.m.  
 For information call 263-2787 or visit [anchoragesymphony.org](http://anchoragesymphony.org).

**JAN. 14 THROUGH 24**  
**West Side Story**  
 50 years ago, one musical changed the theater world forever. Now the classic is back with a revival that brings the greatest love story of all time to life.

Recommended for ages 13 and up, performances take place at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Information, Tickets and Travel offers discount tickets; call 753-2378.  
 Showtimes vary; for information visit [anchorageconcerts.org](http://anchorageconcerts.org).

**JAN. 15, 17 AND 18**  
**Alaska Aces Hockey**  
 The Aces take on the Las Vegas Wranglers at Sullivan Arena at 7:15 all three nights.  
 Information, Tickets and Travel offers discount tickets; call 753-2378.  
 For information, visit [alaskaaces.com](http://alaskaaces.com).

**JAN. 19**  
**Wedding fair**  
 Planning nuptials for yourself or a friend? Professionals are on hand from noon to 5 p.m. at the Dena'ina Center – sample cakes, check out floral arrangements, peruse the music and experience the gowns.  
 For information, visit [alaskabride.com](http://alaskabride.com).

**ONGOING**  
**Wildlife Wednesdays**  
 The Alaska Zoo Gateway Lecture Hall hosts lectures beginning at 7 p.m. each Wednesday, focusing on a different wildlife research topic.  
 These lectures are aimed toward an older audience, such as university students or adults with an interest in science. Partners include fish and game authorities.  
 Lectures are free through April 9, and coffee and tea are always available.  
 For information, call 341-6463 or email [shartman@alaskazoo.org](mailto:shartman@alaskazoo.org).

**AER scholarships**  
 Army Emergency Relief is taking applications for scholarships.  
 Scholarships are available for children, spouses and other dependents of active duty, retired and deceased Soldiers.  
 Applications and instructions are available at [aerhq.org](http://aerhq.org).  
 For information, call 384-7478.

**Hap Arnold Grants**  
 The Gen. Hap Arnold Education Grant Program is taking applications through March 7.  
 These \$2,000 grants are given

to dependents of Air Force members; for more eligibility information, or to fill out an application, visit [www.afas.org/education-grants](http://www.afas.org/education-grants).

**Protestant Women of the Chapel meetings**  
 Women are invited to meet with Protestant Women of the Chapel. Bible study happens Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Soldiers' Chapel on JBER-Richardson.  
 For more information, email [jber.ak.pwoc@gmail.com](mailto:jber.ak.pwoc@gmail.com) or call 384-1461.

**Night at the Fights**  
 Boxing matches happen every Thursday night at the William A. Egan Civic Center.  
 Get your boxing fix; doors open at 6:30 p.m. and fights start at 7:30.  
 For information, visit [thursday-nightfights.com](http://thursday-nightfights.com).  
 If being ringside isn't enough, email [jimpatton@gsi.net](mailto:jimpatton@gsi.net) to fight in a "grudge match."

**Early Insanity Workout**  
 These early morning workout sessions begin at 6:00 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday and are focused on the 'Insanity' workout program.  
 For more information, call 351-3060.

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

**Borealis Toastmasters**  
 Conquer your fear of public speaking with Toastmasters.  
 This safe, friendly club helps build confidence through speeches, presentations, feedback and listening in a supportive environment.  
 The club meets every Thursday in Room 146 of the BP building from 7 to 8 p.m.  
 For information, call 575-7470.

**Wired Cafe for Airmen**  
 The Wired Cafe at 7076 Fighter

## Chapel services

**Catholic Mass**

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

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

**Confession**  
 30 minutes before Mass at the chapel in which Mass is being celebrated, or anytime by appointment. Call 552-4422 or 384-5907

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**Protestant Sunday Services**

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

Drive, between Polaris and Yukla dormitories, has wireless Internet and programs throughout the week for single Airmen living in the dorms.  
 There are also free homestyle meals Fridays at 6 p.m.  
 For information, call 552-4422.

**Storytime for Toddlers**  
 Pre-school-aged children can join zoo staff for stories about an animal species, followed by meeting animals, at 10:30 a.m. Mondays at the coffee shop greenhouse. There are always new stories.  
 For information, email [camp@alaskazoo.org](mailto:camp@alaskazoo.org).

# events & activities



Check out the December Alaskan Adventurer

## Hillberg Is Open!

**Weather & Snow Dependent**  
 \*Opening delayed due to lack of snow.  
 Follow us on Facebook for the latest on Opening Day  
[www.facebook.com/hillbergskiarea](http://www.facebook.com/hillbergskiarea)

**Ski Hotline**  
 552-4276

HILLBERG SKI AREA  
 LITTLE HILL...BIG FUN!

## OPENINGS

### Kodiak Part Day Preschool AVAILABLE

**Monday - Friday**  
 1 - 4 p.m.  
 4yrs old by Sept. 1, 2013

**Tuesday & Thursday**  
 1 - 4 p.m.  
 3 yrs old by Sept. 1, 2013

**Call 384-1510**  
 for registration information  
 between 9 a.m. & 3 p.m.

**CDC**  
 Child Development Center

**DOG SLED RIDES**      **SNOW MACHINE RIDES**      **DOOR PRIZES & MUCH MORE!**      **FREE** OPEN TO ALL MILITARY ID CARD HOLDERS & THEIR FAMILIES

**DEC. 20 HILLBERG**      **NOON - 4 P.M.**

**JBER INSTALLATION HOLIDAY PARTY**

- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- PICTURES WITH SANTA
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- CARDBOARD SLED RACES HOSTED BY CGOC. CALL 552-1277 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RACE.
- SKIING / SNOWBOARDING LIFT TICKETS\*
- BOOT / BOARD & SKI RENTAL YOU'RE WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN.
- 4 TUBING SESSIONS\* (LIMIT 50 TICKETS ISSUED PER SESSION. FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED)
- CHAIR LIFT AND TUBING HILL CLOSES 3:50 P.M. NORMAL HILLBERG OPERATION BEGINS AT 4 P.M.

SHUTTLE BUS TO HILLBERG, FROM TALKEETNA THEATER JBER-ELM, BEGINS AT NOON LIMITED PARKING AT HILLBERG

**ASYMCA**

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM ARAMARK CONCESSIONS

# Birth Announcements

December 20, 2013

ARCTIC WARRIOR

B-4

## DEC. 8

A son, Isaac William Whaley, was born 21 inches long and weighing 10 pounds, 15 ounces at 7:43 a.m. to Tammy Lynn Whaley and Army Maj. William David Whaley of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

## DEC. 9

A son, Joseph Cristiano Calderon, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 9 pounds at 7:52 a.m. to Aprille Quidilig Calderon and Spc. Joseph Joey Calderon of the

1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

## DEC. 10

A daughter, Eliza Jane Becker, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 9 ounces at 5:32 p.m. to Allyson Lyndsey Becker and Sgt. Donald Carl Becker Jr. of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

A son, Campbell Walker Nolan, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces at 12:44 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Kari Dawn Nolan of the 673d

Medical Operations Squadron and Ryan A. Nolan.

A son, Markus Anthony Salinero, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 7:56 a.m. to Karla Lin Salinero and Army Capt. Tony Daniel Salinero of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

## DEC. 11

A son, Krystian Radford Powell, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 2:49 a.m. to Crystal Marie Powell and Air Force Staff Sgt. Steven

Radford Powell of the 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

A son, Devante Mark Royal, was born weighing 2 pounds at 3:03 p.m. to Natalie Renee Royal and Spc. Jermaine Mark Royal of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A daughter, Saura Alina Seibel, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 12:06 p.m. to Toni Marie Ragonese-Seibel and Spc. Justin Alexander Seibel of the 673d Support Maintenance Com

## DEC. 12

A son, A.J. Jamal Johnson, was born weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces to Nia Brienne Johnson and Pfc. Arsenio Jamal Johnson of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

A daughter, Charlotte Michelle Sanders, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces at 12:41 p.m. to Allie Elizabeth Sanders and Spc. Jonathon Colten Sanders of the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (Airborne).

## Visit friends, not the hospital, this holiday season

By Senior Airman Brandi Luffman and Airman 1st Class Miranda Bickerstaff 673d Aerospace Medical Squadron

Did you know there are more than 250 different types of foodborne illnesses?

As the holiday season approaches quickly, the experts at the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety say "People get sloppy."

With the rushing around for the holiday season, there is an increase of FBIs substantially. Each year, the Centers for Disease Control estimates 48 million people get sick from FBIs.

It is your job to ensure this number does

not increase.

The first step of preventing illness caused by food handling is simple: hand washing.

How often do we forget or don't take the time to wash our hands properly?

You would be surprised. Hand washing between tasks is one of the easiest ways to minimize bacterial contamination and keep you and your food safe.

Anyone handling food should wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds after using the restroom, handling raw foods, if sick or simply as often as necessary.

Using hand sanitizer does not eliminate as many bacteria as hand washing – nor-

virus, in the news recently due to outbreaks on cruise ships, isn't fazed by hand sanitizer.

Good old-fashioned soap and water get rid of it, though.

If you absolutely want to use sanitizer, it is best to do so after washing your hands.

Holiday food is often prepared ahead of time and transported to a different location to enjoy.

Meat and poultry products are especially important to take care of; they must be cooked to appropriate temperatures to kill illness-causing organisms.

Pork should be cooked to an internal temperature of 155 F, chicken 165 F, and beef 145 F.

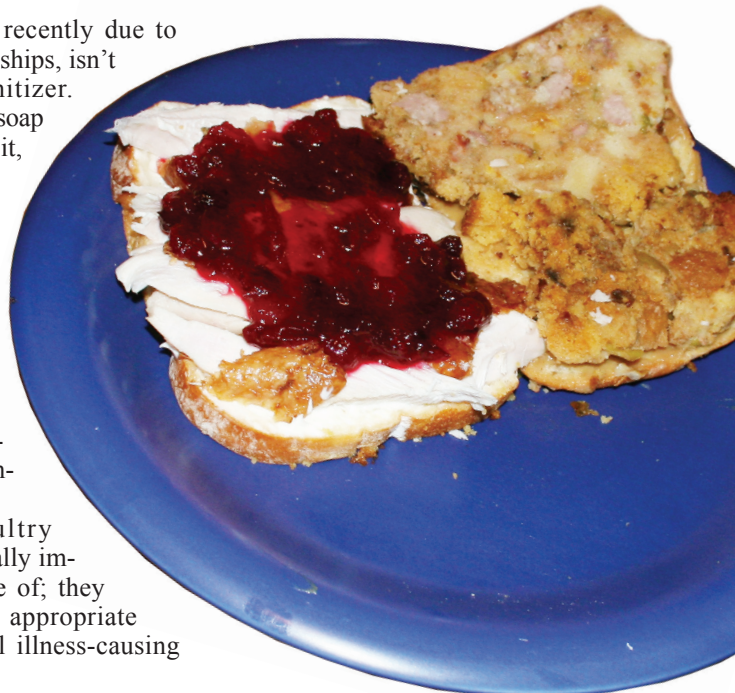
One of the most challenging requirements is being able to keep the internal holding temperatures at 135 F or higher, so make sure to check often.

Retail stores carry a number of products like slow-cookers with clamp-on lids designed for transporting your holiday party specialty in safety.

Cold foods such as dairy products should be kept at 41 F or below.

Most of us love leftovers. Keep them safe for everyone by refrigerating them within two hours of preparation.

When foods are ready to be reheated, temperatures should reach 165 F for at least 15 seconds. Ensure all leftover foods are used or discarded within seven days.



**Everyone likes leftovers like turkey sandwiches – but follow the 2-2-4 rule. Pack leftovers with two inches of space left in the container. Refrigerate them within two hours of serving, and after four days, their best days are behind them. (Courtesy photo)**

In essence, food safety is about proper planning and preparation. Hand washing, food handling, and proper holding temperatures are just a few simple ways to decrease the risk of illnesses.

There are many ways foodborne illnesses can be spread, so be sure to take extra precaution this holiday season.

If you happen to be the observer or helper this year, feel free to remind the cook of proper food handling and appropriate food temperatures.



**Washing your hands regularly – and especially after handling raw meat, poultry, fish or other food items – keeps bacteria from being spread. Thoroughly washing hands, utensils, cutting boards and everything else can help keep you, and your family and friends, around the tree and out of the bathroom. (Courtesy photo)**











