

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON’S SOURCE FOR NEWS

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

February 6, 2015

www.jber.af.mil

Volume 6, No. 5

## ‘I’m going to die’

Guardian Angel recounts battle which earned him Silver Star



Air Force Master Sgt. Roger Sparks poses in an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Sparks was awarded a Silver Star in July for his role in saving Soldiers in a 2010 engagement in Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

(Editor’s note: This is the first of two articles about Air Force Master Sgt. Roger Sparks, a 212th Rescue Squadron pararescueman. The story contains graphic descriptions of the effects of war, which may not be suitable for all readers.)

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson  
JBER Public Affairs

The air erupted with the percussive sound of machine-gun fire. Master Sgt. Roger Sparks jumped out of an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter and began the 40-foot hoist down to the bleeding men clinging to a tree for cover.

It was Nov. 14, 2010 – a particularly intense day during Operation Bulldog Bite, in the Waterpur Valley of Afghanistan. Sparks and others were tasked with providing life-saving support to Soldiers already on the ground, often flying out two or three times per day to evacuate those injured in the fierce fighting.

Sparks wrapped his arms and legs around his partner, Air Force Capt. Koalii “Koa” Bailey, a combat rescue officer also with the 212th, in an attempt to shield him from the firestorm of bullets around them.

“Five seconds into the hoist, I knew we were not going to live through this,” said Sparks, a former Force Reconnaissance Marine and now a pararescueman assigned to the Alaska Air National Guard’s 212th Rescue Squadron.

As soon as his feet hit the ground, they left it again as a rocket-propelled grenade detonated 20 feet away – knocking him down and Bailey on top of him.

“I’ve seen RPGs detonate at three times that distance and kill people with shrapnel,” Sparks said, clearly still shocked by his luck. “For that thing to go off that close and us to still be alive...”

“I thought: we only had seconds to live; what do I do next?” Sparks said. “And it went on like that for two and a half hours.”

Before Bailey and Sparks could untangle themselves, the Pave Hawk opened up, spewing lead into the oncoming insurgents.

“There were .50-caliber casings raining from the sky, hitting me in the face,” Sparks said.

“It was so comforting to know people were dying – people who were trying to kill us.”

Because of the high altitude at which they were operating, the air was thin; to carry the weight of the men, the crew had removed the ballistic flooring from the helicopters.

While they were hovering above the wounded Soldiers and PJs, the aircraft was taking heavy enemy fire. Bullets ripped through the Pave Hawk’s floorboards and shattered the windshield.

The crew kept the hover, though. They knew just as well as the PJs that there were Soldiers dying down there and if they didn’t do anything, those men weren’t going to make it.

“Get out of here!” Bailey radioed the helicopter crew, knowing they couldn’t maintain their hover for long. After verifying Bailey and Sparks were still alive, the helicopter assumed an orbit around the battlefield providing cover fire for those on the ground.

“They held that orbit until they ran out of fuel and ammo and had to leave us,” Sparks said. “They knew they were leaving us to die.”

“God bless you guys ... sorry,” came the garbled goodbye from the pilot as he rolled the helicopter off the side of the mountain to return to the forward operating base to refuel and rearm.

“We were stranded,” Sparks said, but there was no time to reflect on that.

Sparks and his teammate sprinted and crawled their way across a 100-foot gap of honeycombed earth between them and the men they were trying to save.

“I got 10 feet from the guys by the tree and I heard a *fwwwwp!*, saw a red flash and an RPG detonated on a tree that was just a few feet in front of me,” Sparks said. “It was absolutely overwhelming, and I’d been in firefights before.”

They held their position by the ruined tree and found themselves in the middle of crossfire with bullets coming from multiple directions chewing down what little cover they had.

That’s when Bailey called in the air strikes.

“We didn’t believe we were going to live through any of it,” Sparks said. “But in that situation, you call in whatever you have available.”

Apaches came in alternating runs, firing four Hellfire missiles on nearby insurgents in a tag-team of lethal force.

“When the Apaches ran out of ammo, an F-18 came in with a 2,000-pound bomb,” Sparks said.

“Give us your last four, last name and authorize it right now,” sounded the pilot’s voice over the radio.

Bailey gave the authorization, and the pilot dropped the bomb.

It was “danger close” – the situation dictated that the bomb be dropped on an enemy position dangerously close to the friendly forces.

“We had no reason to believe we would live through any of those air strikes, let alone the 2,000-pounder,” Sparks said. But they did, and were rewarded with a brief, but valuable, break from the constant crossfire that surrounded them.

“If you’re wounded, come to me!” the pararescueman shouted over the surrounding chaos.

Men began crawling from all directions, dragging friends – and limbs – alike.

“You don’t want to have to run back and forth to the wounded,” Sparks said. “You need them all in relatively the same place so you can treat them quickly.”

The first Soldier he approached wasn’t wearing his body armor – it had been blown off.

His legs were turned around backward, and he was hyperventilating.

“That’s what people look like when they’re dying. It’s not a beautiful thing,” Sparks said, quietly.

But with injured men all around, there was no time to grieve; he could still help.

One man was lying on his back quietly pleading, “Go help my friends! Help my friends!”

Another lay on his stomach repeating the Lord’s prayer.

Sparks ran over to the man who was on his back pleading for his friends, and heard his words turn to gibberish.

“So I reached down and put my hands underneath him to pick him up,” Sparks said.

But realized the man had been shot before Sparks even arrived and instead of screaming for help himself, used his last breaths to plead on behalf of his fellow Soldiers.

Sparks ran back to a Soldier he had just been talking to, and asked for help moving the body. The man was face-down in the dirt and wasn’t responding.

In a rage, Sparks grabbed him, kneed him in the side, and yelled for him to help.

When the man still didn’t respond, Sparks rolled him over to find he had been killed by debris from an RPG which had struck while Sparks was trying to help the man on his back.

“That’s how surreal it was,” Sparks said. “An RPG hit that close to me and I didn’t even realize it.”

Sparks looked up and saw a man hanging upside down in a tree above him.

“I grabbed him by the arms and pulled him down on top of me so I could treat his wounds,” Sparks said.

The man in the tree was Karl Beilby, a law enforcement professional who was embedded into the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as a civilian contractor.

Karl said he remembers asking Sparks for morphine, and was given a stick to be held in his mouth.

“What’s next, you going to take me out for ice cream?” Beilby asked, amused by receiving a narcotic lollipop, despite the gravity of their situation.

Beilby was the most seriously injured individual to survive the fight.

The helicopters finally returned, having been delayed by fuel complications and the battle damage received earlier.

They loaded the most critically injured first, as many had only hours to live or less without prompt medical attention.

“Then we were left with the dead,” Sparks said quietly.

After the helicopters made the five-minute flight to the FOB, unloaded the injured and came back, they began hoisting the dead onto the aircraft two at a time.

When it was all said and done, there were five PJs (including Sparks), four dead bodies, and an Afghan Army member who was missing his lower leg.

They were all crammed into a space the size of a minivan, Sparks said.

“Not only did these guys die in my arms, but now I’m sitting on their bodies,” Sparks said. “They were all alive when I showed up.”

Back at the FOB, they unloaded the bodies from the aircraft.

Sparks and several others in that engagement were awarded Silver Star medals for valor for saving lives with disregard for their own personal safety that fateful day.

Beilby flew up from California to attend and speak at the ceremony.

During the operation, 11 Americans died and 49 were seriously wounded.

Reflecting on the situation, Sparks said it was important to keep focused during the dangerous chaos.

“You’re going to have self-preserving thoughts, but you can’t let them take over what you’re trying to do,” Sparks explained. “You’re trying to salvage human lives.”

“When you go beyond yourself, that’s when magical things can happen.”

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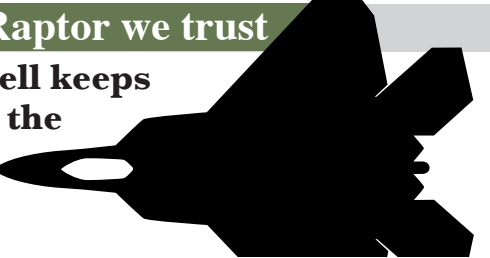
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# Americans of all colors contributed to civil rights movement

Commentary by Air Force 2nd Lt. Loyd Bradley  
673d Comptroller Squadron

Year after year in the month of February, we take the time to acknowledge prominent African-Americans who have made a difference in American history.

More often than not, we tend to focus on the Civil Rights movement and the individuals who played prevailing roles in ensuring equal rights for African-Americans and the like.

We are not often reminded of people such as Stokely Carmichael, the leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or Solomon Seay, Jr., who was one of three African-American attorneys in Montgomery, Alabama during the Selma marches.

The average grade school education tends to miss and neglect many great details of African Americans during the Civil Rights movement – but there is another group which has enjoyed the same unfortunate treatment in the history books.

We fail to recognize the movement was not just the lonely work of the African-American community, but the all-around effort of the American people.

During the Civil Rights movement, having white Americans in powerful positions supporting the cause was invaluable.

Walter Reuther, the former president and leader of the United Automobile Workers union, was instrumental in helping ensure African-Americans were heard.

Respected as one of the most powerful people in Detroit at the time, he took full advantage of his position and spoke in support of African-American causes and equality.

Reuther made routine speeches, and even addressed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Most notable was Reuther’s



**While Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is specifically honored during Black History Month, many other contributors to the Civil Rights movement – like Stokely Carmichael, Walter Reuther and Barbara Henry – often go unnoticed. Without their contributions, however, civil rights for all Americans would have taken far longer to achieve. (Courtesy photo)**

speech at the 1963 March on Washington, D.C. – the same march we remember for Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech – in which he challenged Congress to enact civil rights legislation immediately.

A famous painting, titled “The Problem We All Must Live With,” hangs in the White House and highlights the story of Ruby Bridges.

Bridges was the first African-American to attend an all-white school in the South.

We are missing one of the best parts of the Ruby Bridges story if we forget to include the story of another woman: Barbara Henry.

Henry was a white woman from Boston who agreed to teach Bridges after she was ostracized by the school and local community.

The community was in an uproar, and many parents threatened

not to allow their child to attend William Frantz Elementary School now that, incredibly, an African-American would be learning in the same building.

In order to minimize the effect on the entire school, Henry taught Bridges one-on-one for an entire school year, despite facing heavy criticism, hatred and even death threats.

Kind and daring gestures such as those displayed by Henry continued to give the people – of all colors – hope in the struggle for human rights, justice, and equality.

Immediately following the Civil Rights movement and the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., there was still a tremendous amount of work that needed to be done for the people.

Morris Dees recognized this

and co-founded the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Despite understanding the repercussions he would face defending the rights of the African-American community, he pressed forward.

The lawsuits he originally filed were lawsuits to open public employment, integrate the Alabama state trooper force, and dismantle hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

Because of his efforts and the efforts of people like him, remarkable strides were made in the movement towards equality, for all of us.

Again, having powerful people support the dream Doctor King spoke of made it more likely for it to become a reality.

President John F. Kennedy’s involvement in the Civil Rights is

not always highlighted; however, he too played a vital role in making the dream come true.

After being elected President, Kennedy was very hesitant to speak out about the Civil Rights movement in fear of losing the support of the South.

Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not pass before his murder, the stance Kennedy took on civil rights before his death put the plan in motion.

Kennedy had placed African-Americans in key positions in his administration; his strategic move was a bold statement and allowed changes to be made at the highest level with hopes of driving others to follow.

Thanks to his courageous actions, blacks were able to gain the rights and liberties owed to them as Americans.

It is clear our traditional canon of civil rights leaders, even in the strictly African-American category, fails to acknowledge many important contributors.

We are remiss to go another year without giving a full picture to the history of the civil rights movement and giving faces to the many white stories that marched alongside black leaders and played pivotal roles in the cause.

It is time we break away from our comfort zone, and acknowledge people such as Huey P. Newton, the co-founder of the Black Panther Party, and A. Phillip Rudolph, a labor leader and social activist.

The standard classroom’s history textbook does a subpar job highlighting these events.

It falls to us to understand that one group without the other would have yielded little progress, if any at all – and that progress of the one without the other is meaningless.

It is time we acknowledge all parties involved and to educate our youth, ourselves, and those around us this Black History Month.

## Dailey shares ideas about leadership, fitness, women in combat arms

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — “You’ve always been just a Soldier. And you need to say that,” said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, relaying the advice given to him by retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Robert. Hall.

Dailey, who most recently served as the command sergeant major at U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, was sworn in as the 15th sergeant major of the Army during a ceremony at the Pentagon, Jan. 30. Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno administered the oath to the new senior enlisted advisor.

The role of the sergeant major of the Army is primarily to advise the chief of staff of the Army on issues related to the enlisted force, and to pursue objectives laid out by the chief of staff of the Army.

During an interview before having been sworn into office, Dailey said Odierno had already discussed objectives with him, and that after he settles into his new job, he is expected to start off by visiting with Soldiers around the Army.

“The chief wants me to get out and see the force,” Dailey said. “It’s critical I hear their voice, and carry that back to the chief and the secretary of the Army.”

Dailey also has his own ideas he brings with him to the job – ideas about Soldier development, physical fitness, and women in combat, for instance – topics he became familiar with while serving as the senior enlisted advisor at TRADOC.

### Women in combat arms

Most recently, the Army announced female Soldiers will be allowed, for the first time, to attend Ranger school on a trial basis. This April, 60 slots will be made available to female Soldiers during a Ranger course assessment at Fort Benning, Georgia. The change is something Dailey said he welcomes.

“Is the Army ready for women in combat arms? I think we are past due,” Dailey said. “I think we should give every Soldier, regardless of gender, the opportunity to serve in any military occupational specialty. What I am excited about is that we are using a standards-based approach, just like we should for everything we do in the Army. Regardless of gender, those Soldiers who are physically capable and want to compete and try out for these schools and military occupational specialties will be eligible to

do so. I think it will make our Army better.”

### Development of NCO Corps

A key area of focus for TRADOC, and now the newest sergeant major of the Army, is continued maintenance and development of the non-commissioned officer corps.

“I am carrying on some of the initiatives that we started when I was the TRADOC sergeant major,” Dailey said. “I truly believe that we have a lot of work we have already done, and there also is a lot that still needs to be accomplished, to further professionalize our professional military education system for our NCOs and Soldiers.”

One area of development, Dailey said, is placed on the shoulders of Soldiers themselves: structured self-development and civilian education.

“Our non-commissioned officers and Soldiers need to understand that a critical part of the development phase for a Soldier is the development they do on their own – utilization of the structured self-development platforms that we initiated and utilization of tuition assistance for them to take college credit and certifications,” Dailey said.

Equally important, he said, is maintenance of the operational skills Soldiers have learned from 12 years of combat. Soldiers who have participated in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan will eventually leave the Army, and their experience will leave with them – unless they pass it on to the Soldiers that follow in their footsteps. The Army wants them to pass that information on, Dailey said.

He also said that with combat operations having been drawn down, there will be more time for Soldiers to develop those professional skills, and to also transfer what they have learned from 12 years of conflict to the new Soldiers arriving in the force.

“We have to make sure our NCOs are using those skills they learned over the 12 years of war, and translating those skills to our young Soldiers, and ensuring they are maximizing the time,” Dailey said. He said there’s more time for NCOs to spend with younger Soldiers on critical unit-level training.

Dailey said the Army is becoming an “Army of preparation,” and must be ready for whatever the nation asks it to do, and that means continued training.

“I’ve always said the harder you train in garrison, the easier your combat experience should be,” Dailey said. “It’s critically important for our NCOs, and our leaders

and officers that have served overseas for the last 12 years, to maintain those skills. And they also have to educate and train the future Soldiers.”

The world is still dangerous, Dailey said. There is a significant amount of uncertainty that the Army, and Soldiers, must be prepared to face.

“It is a critical time in our Army now. We live in a world of uncertainty. We have to maintain readiness. Our ultimate goal is to not fight,” Dailey said. “Our adversaries need to see we are an Army of preparation, and that we are trained and ready to fight in response to our nation’s call. That call can happen anywhere, for any type of operation – whether it’s another war, or a contingency operation in one of our partnering nations to help them. This time is just as critical as the last 12 years of war.”

### Physical Fitness

One aspect of war readiness, Dailey said, is Soldier physical fitness. Dailey said the Army is looking at possible new standards for physical fitness.

“There is a very extensive, on-going initiative, to take an extremely comprehensive look at Army physical fitness,” Dailey said. “TRADOC has been doing a lot of research, really from the last two years, and in connection with the Soldier 2020 effort. I think there will be a change to the Army physical fitness test. But the Army physical fitness test is just an indicator of a level of fitness. I would also encourage Soldiers to do things that make you physically fit. Regardless of what the Army physical fitness test becomes, if you maintain a level of physical fitness, you will do well.”

Another key component to physical fitness, Dailey said, involves NCOs and commanders leading from the front.

“I remind leaders all the time that if you are not going to your place of duty every morning at 6 a.m. for physical training, and saluting the flag with your Soldiers, well then they are probably not doing it either,” he said. “And the way you get them to do it is you lead from the front.”

### Keeping the best Soldiers

Today, the Army is in the middle of a drawdown in troops levels. While many Soldiers will leave the Army voluntarily, at some point the Army might be forced to ask some to leave.

“My advice is to make sure you are doing your best, that you are representing

Army values, and that you are truly an Army professional,” he said. “Stewardship of the profession is critical. As we draw down, it has been made clear that we will use a standards-based approach to make sure we keep the best Soldiers. We owe that to our Soldiers. We owe that to our leaders. We owe that to the gracious taxpayers of America.

“Continue to do your best, work hard, and when you get those opportunities to excel, you need to do that. Study hard when you go to the various levels of NCO education, work hard at physical fitness training. There is plenty of room in the Army, for the future, for those Soldiers who want to stay.”

For those who do leave, Dailey said preparation for civilian life is along the same lines as what Soldiers ought to be doing anyway.

“Take advantage of the education and self-development opportunities that currently exist,” he said. “Every Soldier is entitled to tuition assistance, so utilize that. That’s a gift from the American taxpayer, to give Soldiers the edge they need when they get out of the service.”

### Social media initiative

One unique endeavor the new sergeant major of the Army plans to undertake is to officially engage Soldiers on social media. He said he plans to kick off an advisory group to make that happen.

“I’m not the expert on social media,” he said. “I come from a generation where I didn’t live my entire life with access to computers. That came on very late in life. I do take pride in the fact I am smart enough to consult the individuals that do have the knowledge, skills and attributes associated with the task.”

Dailey said the group will consist of Soldiers who will advise him on how Soldiers want to be communicated with.

“The audience is our Soldiers and the American people,” he said. “So who better to ask how they want to be contacted? When Soldiers give you advice, you’ve got to take it.”

Dailey joined the Army in 1989; his first assignment was with 3rd Infantry Division at Schweinfurt, Germany. He was promoted to command sergeant major in 2004. He has done five combat deployments to Iraq. Dailey’s awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Valor, three Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, seven Army Commendation Medals, and 10 Army Achievement Medals.

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Editorial office and mailing address: JBER Public Affairs, 10480 Sijan Ave., Suite 123, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506; telephone (907) 552-8918.

Send emails about news stories and story submissions to [david.bedard.1@us.af.mil](mailto:david.bedard.1@us.af.mil).

Deadline for article and photos is 4:30 p.m., Monday, for the week of publication. Articles and photos will be published on a space-available basis and are subject to editing by the *Arctic Warrior* staff. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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# Retired brigadier general nears second retirement after 46 years

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

In 1969, Richard Nixon became president of the United States. Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the moon.

And the U.S. continued a draft lottery during the Vietnam War when men of draft age had to register with the Selective Service System in case they were needed.

David Glines, today a retired Army National Guard brigadier general about to retire from another civilian career, chose to follow in his father’s military footsteps and enlisted in the Army.

It was a slightly different path than his father, Air Force Col. Carroll Glines, had taken who had recently retired as Alaskan Command’s Chief of Public Affairs.

“At the time, and after attending two years of college, I was not enrolled in (school) and I just decided to enlist rather than get drafted,” said David Glines, today an administrative analyst for the 673d Comptroller Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. “I wanted to see where it would take me.”

He chose a career as a helicopter mechanic and graduated from Army Initial Entry Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

After completing the enlisted schools, another opportunity arose for him.

“At the time, they needed infantry officers, so I applied and went there,” he said.

In February of 1970, David graduated from Infantry Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

“I’d gotten myself engaged to be married,” he said. “I just looked at life and it was an opportunity. They were in need of platoon leaders for Vietnam. I wanted to do something more than I was doing at the time.”

After commissioning and graduating from the Basic Airborne Course, Glines was able to choose his first assignment. He chose to return to Alaska.

“They were just things I felt I wanted to do,” he said. “They were conscious decisions. I loved Alaska and wanted to stay in Alaska. It just made sense. I came back here with the intent to get out eventually.”

Glines spent the next few years his assignments were as a cavalry platoon leader and assistant personnel officer at Fort Richardson, and as a custodian of non-appropriated funds.

He also was stationed at Camp Casey, Korea, as an armor platoon leader for the 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

“I was very young in my career then,” he said. “It was a good learning process and an



**ABOVE: David Glines, an administrative analyst for the 673d Comptroller Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, is a retired Army National Guard brigadier general. (Courtesy photo)**  
**ABOVE RIGHT: David Glines sits with a collection of books written by his father, retired Air Force Col. Carroll Glines, including “The Doolittle Raid,” a book on the Chief of Staff of the Air Force’s reading list for 2014. Glines is a retired Army National Guard brigadier general with more than 30 years of service. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett)**

excellent foundation to build any career path. Leading, being responsible and accountable are life-long lessons.

“Much of what I’ve learned today started in those four-plus years of active duty. In a lot of ways, I wish I could relive it – but life goes on.”

After returning home to Alaska in 1973, he separated from active duty.

“I was able to get a career with the General Electric Company,” he said. “And I also joined the Army National Guard as well.

“The National Guard is a diverse organization with a state, as well as a federal mission. It’s a complex service, funded through different sources with a variety of missions.

“It was professional but a little more laid-back,” he said. “The Vietnam War was winding down and many former active duty Soldiers joined the Guard. I met a wide variety of people.”

Over the next 25 years, Glines continued to conduct both careers.

From 1974 to 1984, he served in various officer positions before taking command of the 5th Battalion, 297th Infantry.

His next command position came in 1993 with the 2nd Battalion (Scout), 297th

Infantry, that included serving in Bethel, Alaska and later as the commander of the 207th Infantry Group (Scout).

“There were a lot of hard days, but no bad days,” he said. “I enjoyed working with the troops. I had positions of leadership I hope benefited them as it did me.

“It was a great assignment with great people. I enjoyed being out there with them. It was an outstanding assignment and experience teaching the Soldiers, and in turn they taught me their lifestyle and the local culture. They even made me an honorary Eskimo scout.”

In 2001, Glines retired from the military as an ARNG brigadier general.

In 2002, he took a job with Federal Express in Anchorage, where he would work in customer service and hazardous goods management for the next five years.

Finally, in 2007, the retired general started working for the Department of the Army again – in resource management at Fort Richardson.

Several years ago, he attended a U.S. Army Alaska ceremony when he ran into an old friend – Marc Coulombe, today his civilian supervisor, who had once served

under Glines in the ARNG.

Coulombe offered Glines the resource management position, he said

“He’s been a tremendous asset, as you can imagine,” said Coulombe, 673d CPTS support agreement manager.

In 2010, under the Joint Basing Initiative, Glines made the move to the Department of the Air Force.

“I came here because the opportunity happened to present itself,” he said. “It was an opportunity to serve again. I love being around Soldiers and Airmen. It’s an opportunity to work directly with and serve the command again.”

Glines said there are some advantages to not holding a leadership position.

“In fact, it’s quite a liberating experience. I don’t have to carry a Blackberry; I’m not on a tether in that regard.”

Now he has his eye on another retirement.

“I’m happy; there comes a point in time when it’s time to go,” he said. “I just need to go off and do what retirees should be doing.

“My wife of 45 years and I want to do a little more traveling; I’m just about ready. We’ll see.”

# In Raptor we trust – all others we intercept

By Air Force 2nd Lt. Michael Trent Harrington  
JBER Public Affairs

The phrase “Top Cover for America” was born of black-and-white newsreel footage of leather-jacketed men clambering into fighter jets to stop the Soviet menace. That vision, of pilots in goggles and ear muffs, sprinting across runways and up ladders, is dated.

What the modern imagination should conjure up is an image of two men in rubber suits sitting in a stuffy old hangar at midnight, sipping stale coffee and staring at the falling snow as “House Hunters” reruns flicker in the background.

Yet as Tech. Sgt. Alan King, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the support section of the combat alert cell, would note, the few dozen Airmen in the alert footprint are probably the reason half of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson exists.

“In the end, really,” King said, jutting his thumb toward the alert hangar and the sprawling airfield beyond, “it all comes down to these few guys.”

“These guys” are a skeleton crew of 3rd Wing men and women who support the Alaskan NORAD Region combat alert mission.

They’re two pilots and 20 or so maintainers, mostly, but also every 24/7 weather, intelligence, airfield operations and snow-clearing unit on base.

The mission is two-fold. Scrambling fighter jets is usually a response to ANR duties, said Air Force Maj. Peter “Toxic” Tymitz, 3rd Operations Squadron distributed mission operations flight commander..

The other alert duty is Operation Noble Eagle – the Department of Defense-wide enterprise behind the Air Force’s homeland security role, according to the Air Force Historical Studies Office.

Noble Eagle is the least-known but longest-surviving triplet of the post-9/11 mission world; its sisters were Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The alert cell’s motto reads “In Raptor we trust – all others we intercept,” a reference to the



Senior Airman Stephen Teamer, assigned to the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, rushes to an aircraft hangar as Air Force 1st Lt. Daniel Harp, an F-22 Raptor pilot assigned to the 525th Fighter Squadron, suits up at the Combat Alert Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 23. Within minutes of an alert, Airmen in the CAC spring into action and launch F-22 Raptors to intercept aircraft entering U.S. airspace or potential airborne threats. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connahey)

base’s famous F-22 stealth fighter residents, though many of the complex’s windows and doors still hail the now-faraway glory of the wing’s former F-15 Eagles.

Heritage Park, near the JBER-Elmendorf flight line, is a monument to the litany of other birds to bear the Alaskan NORAD mission through the years: P-80 Shooting Stars, F-89 Scorpions, F-102 Delta Daggers, F-4 Phantom IIs and the F-15s. The 3rd Wing has been in the alert business since it started.

Even the alert cell hangar is a particularly long and blue part of the Air Force line.

“The building was built in 1954,” King said. “If it’s torn down, it’s a historical site – I doubt they could ever build something else.”

The stress and expense of the alert cell, and the reasons for bearing them both, are best understood walking through the combat alert hangars.

Plaques listing planes intercepted by JBER’s fighter and E-3 Sentry aircraft are layered head-to-toe along the buildings’ hallways. Most expressive of all, though, is a map: a wall-sized map of North America is covered with hundreds

of multi-colored star stickers.

“The real reason we’re still here,” Tymitz said, “is to react very quickly and respond to the threat of the unknown.” Each star represents an unknown aircraft intercepted and identified.

Most are encounters with Soviet or Russian planes. More than a few are meetings with wayward Cessnas and passenger airliners with communications issues. The Federal Aviation Administration actually publishes helpful diagrams on how to respond to a fighter intercept, so that, for the most part, there are few surprises. That’s the idea.

“We’re not launching to shoot at something,” Tymitz said. “When they send us out, we’re the human eyes to say exactly what is out here.”

“Here” usually means somewhere within the North American Air Defense Identification Zone, a vast swath of airspace jointly administered by U.S. and Canadian civil and military authorities.

The boundary line is almost entirely over water, so a big worry is whether to freeze to death over water or over land, said Air Force Capt. Wyatt “Smax” Cheek, 525th

Fighter Squadron B Flight commander.

“Sometimes it looks like the Michelin man stepping out to the jet,” Tymitz added.

The subconscious awareness of all the time-draining things standing between a pilot jetting to meet whatever’s out there – the seconds spent becoming the Michelin Airman, putting on additional layers, waterproof gear and G-suits – is part of the reason few fliers sleep well at the alert cell, Tymitz said.

The novelty of even unscheduled alert scrambles wears off, the maintenance crews and pilots admitted, but not the edge.

“Every time you come out here and read your intel report for the day – it’s a part of something bigger than your standard training,” Tymitz said.

“For the first few minutes, you’re the national response.”

“When it’s a real world mission,” King added, “and you don’t know what’s going to happen when the plane leaves – your heart races.”

It’s a sense of pride knowing that he and his team are, at the end of it, about as close to all of the of “tip of the spear” cheerleading talk

as anyone can get, King said.

They have to be ready to answer the call no matter the time or the conditions. Those are bold words in Alaska.

“The snow [removal] guys were out here during a snow storm Christmas morning,” Cheek recalled.

“They were out front of the alert hangars plowing runways for three hours straight,” he added, in case the call came in to go, and go now.

In Anchorage’s fickle climate, it’s not uncommon for 3rd Wing jets to take off on an alert mission and know they’ll have to come back somewhere else for bad weather.

Refueling tanker aircraft from hundreds of miles away at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska and E-3s from a few hundred yards away are crucial parts of the alert puzzle, too.

Both join the F-22s soon after they launch for training runs, practice alerts and real-world calls with sirens blaring.

They’re used to seeing each another in the cold, friendly skies of the Arctic Circle.

All others they intercept.

**Elmendorf pool closure**

The swimming pool at the Elmendorf Fitness Center will be closed during February for maintenance.

**JAG law school programs**

The Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps is accepting applications for the Funded Legal Education Program and Excess Leave Program until March 1.

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 years of 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 and application materials, visit [www.airforce.com/jag](http://www.airforce.com/jag), contact Capt. David Schiavone at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson 673d ABW Legal Office at 552-3048, or contact Capt. Megan Mallone at (800) JAG-USAF.

**Exchange rewards grades**

Students in first through 12th grades can bring report cards to the Exchange to receive a coupon booklet of free offers and discounts. Students can also enter the You Made the Grade sweepstakes to win \$500 to \$2000 gift cards.

For information, call 552-4222.

**JBER tax centers open**

Active duty members, reservists, retirees, and their family members can receive free tax return assistance and preparation at JBER's tax centers.

Volunteers are trained to prepare 1040 EZ and 1040 tax returns, and can provide advice on military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of the Earned Income Credit. Volunteers are also trained on how

to deal with the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend.

All tax returns done through the tax centers are forwarded electronically to the IRS, and by selecting direct deposit, taxpayers can receive their refunds in as little as one week.

The JBER-Richardson Tax Center is located on the third floor of Building 600 and will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday from 1 to 8 p.m.

The JBER-Elmendorf Tax Center is located on the first floor of the People Center, Building 8517 and will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday 8 a.m. to noon. Walk-in service is available but customers having an appointment take precedence.

Taxpayers will need proof of identity (military ID); social security cards and birth dates for all dependents; last year's federal income tax return; wage and earning statements from W-2s, W-2Gs, and 1099-Rs; interest and dividend statements; bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit; amounts paid to day care providers; and day care providers' tax identification numbers.

Appointments can be made by calling the JBER-R tax center at 384-1040 or JBER-E tax center at 552-5839.

Customers can also make an appointment with a unit tax advisor, who may be able to complete tax returns at the workplace and forward it to the tax center.

**Immunization clinic move**

The JBER hospital's Allergy and Immunization Clinic has moved to a new location.

The clinic is now next to the emergency room on the Moose side of the hospital.

The clinic will be open Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 until 4:15 p.m.

For more information, call the clinic at 580-2001 or 580-2002.

**Provider Drive closure**

Civil Engineers are repaving

Provider Drive between the Exchange and JBER Hospital through Aug. 15. Local housing will have one-lane access to Wilkins Ave.

The detour uses Westover Avenue/Grady Highway/Zeamer Avenue.

**Utilities upgrades**

As part of Doyon Utilities' continuing effort to improve the utility infrastructure, the organization is engaged in a multi-year project to upgrade the JBER-Richardson electrical system to improve efficiency, reduce interruptions, and improve personnel safety.

Doyon Utilities regrets any inconvenience outages may cause, and is working to avoid unnecessary service interruptions. Work is expected to continue through 2016.

To minimize impacts, Doyon is working with installation officials to schedule work that could potentially result in an outage for completion during off-peak periods. If another outage does occur, utilities electrical crews will act quickly to restore service.

When work is completed, the installation will see an improvement in overall system reliability.

**Rental Partnership Program**

The Rental Partnership Program provides active-duty military personnel with affordable off-base housing.

The Rental Partnership Program 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 Below Market, saves the member four to five percent off the rental fee that other tenants pay however utilities are paid for by the tenant. Both options are available with no deposits or fees with the exclusion of pet fees as it may apply.

An allotment must be executed through a Housing Management Office under either option of the RPP for the rental payments.

Visit the JBER-Elmendorf HMO, Bldg. 6346, or call 552-4328.

Or, visit the JBER-Richardson HMO in Bldg. 600, Room 104 or call 384-3088.

**DLA Document Services**

Defense Logistics Agency Document Services duplicates and prints documents.

Document Services documents including black and white, color, large format, photographic prints, engineering drawings, sensitive materials, technical manuals and training materials.

The shop is able to handle the design, printing and distribution of business cards, letterhead, invitations and programs.

Document Services' Equipment Management Solutions Program provides networked multi-functional devices that print, scan, copy and fax. Production facilities offer scanning and conversion services for all types of documents.

Document Services also offers Document Automation and Content Services, a service for building digital libraries of content with online access.

Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information visit [www.documentservices.dla.mil](http://www.documentservices.dla.mil), visit the office at 984 Warehouse Street, or call 384-2901.

**U-Fix-It Store**

The JBER U-Fix-it Stores are open to all Aurora Military Housing tenants.

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

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

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

Its purpose is to allow the occupant to make minor improvements and repairs to their home and cut down on the number of service orders. There are two stores on base.

The JBER-Elmendorf location is 6350 Arctic Warrior Drive and is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, closed from 1 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch noon to 1 p.m.).

The JBER-Richardson location is at 338 Hoonah Ave., open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed from 1 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch.

A window blind cleaning ma-

chine is currently located at the JBER-Elmendorf location.

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

**JBER Bargain Shop**

The JBER-Elmendorf Bargain Shop, located in building 8515 Saville off of 20th Street, is open Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments are accepted Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For information, call 753-6134.

**Richardson Thrift Shop**

The JBER-Richardson Thrift Shop, located in building 724, Quartermaster Drive, is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and first and third Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Consignments are accepted Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call the Thrift Shop at 384-7000.

**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 be considered for jobs offered internally.

Spouses are matched with positions based on qualifications and preferences.

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 was previously limited to spouses on a current federal appointment or those who formerly had a federal position.

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.





## HAVING A BLAST

Retired Army Col. Bill Kakel takes aim with his Model 21 over-and-under shotgun Jan. 30 at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Skeet and Trap Range. It was the first time the Vietnam War veteran had taken the rare shotgun to the range. "I like shotguns," Kakel said. "Over the years I have accumulated so many of them. I really enjoy shooting side-by-side shotguns, which are really hunting guns more so than target guns." The range is located off Richardson Drive at building 45-100 and is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Shotguns are available for rent at the facility. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tammie Ramsouer)



ABOVE: An expended 12-gauge shell lies in the snow at the JBER Skeet and Trap Range, Jan. 30. Kakel, reloads all of his ammunition by hand. "I can generally load twelve boxes an hour," he said. "I may only save about 25 cents to 50 cents a shell, but I like to shoot from 16-gauge all the way down to .410, so I save anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a box." (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)

LEFT: Kakel shoots a round of skeet Jan. 30 at the JBER Skeet and Trap Range. The retired Army officer said though pump, semi-automatic and side-by-side shotguns are also popular, over-and-under shotguns are the best choice for competitive target shooting. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tammie Ramsouer)

RIGHT: Kakel waits to shoot his Model 21 shotgun at the JBER Skeet and Trap Range, Jan. 30. "This range was built by volunteers in 1968," Kakel said. "Vern Roth, whom we memorialize with our annual armed forces shoot and one of the volunteers who built the range, was an Air Force lieutenant colonel and president of the Elmendorf Rod and Gun club." (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tammie Ramsouer)

BELOW LEFT: Kakel is a volunteer and skeet shooter at the JBER Skeet and Trap Range. Kakel has been involved with the range for more than 25 years. "I have never had a young Airman or Soldier out here that didn't have a good time," Kakel said. "I think everyone gets a kick out of shooting shotguns." The difference between skeet and trap shooting is skeet involves shooting at a short distance where the targets can go from left or right. In trap shooting, the targets are going away from the shooter. (Air Force photo/David Bedard)

BELOW RIGHT: Qualification badges and insignia line an equipment bag owned by retired Army Col. Bill Kakel, at the JBER Skeet and Trap Range, Jan. 30. Kakel served a tour of duty in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969 where he commanded B Company, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. He was a combat engineer responsible for limiting enemy mobility while ensuring friendly protection. "We operated initially up in I Corps in the military high zone, but then they moved us to III Corps to screen the Cambodian border north and west of Saigon," Kakel said. "Mainly, our job was to do mine sweeps, demolition work, and build fire-support bases where we would put artillery in." (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)



## Powerlifting through faith, strength



Air Force Staff Sgt. Ashley Bryant recently broke the national record for bench press while on leave in Illinois. Since joining the military she has competed in eight competitions and received first place in all of them. Bryant is a 31st Fighter Wing Command Post emergency action controller at Aviano Air Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Matthew Lotz)

By Senior Airman Matthew Lotz  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — As Air Force Staff Sgt. Ashley Bryant approaches the bench she takes a moment to whisper to herself.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” she said. “I’m nothing without you, but I’m everything with you.”

She takes two deep breaths, lies on the bench, clings her chalked hands to the bar carrying six steel plates and waits for the judge’s instructions.

“Lift!” he yells. Bryant, a Tulsa, Oklahoma-native, broke the women’s national bench press record with a 231.1 pound lift during a weight-lifting competition in Illinois while home on leave.

She returned here to break her own record at the Dragon Fitness Center by lifting a total of 235 pounds, hours before leaving for deployment. “Breaking records isn’t necessarily a goal for me,” Bryant said after having her picture taken for the gymnasium’s “Wall of Fame”—a board that recognizes the most pounds lifted by an individual. “I always go into these competitions, asking ‘how can I beat my personal record?’”

The 29-year old emergency actions controller from the 31st Fighter Wing command post started competing in 2004. Her first competition was completed only three months prior to leaving for Air Force basic military training.

“Although I was stationed in Japan after all my training and there weren’t many competitions overseas, I continued to train because I still loved powerlifting,” she said. “I would look online for meets in the states, take leave, and use my money to fly back to compete. “I remembered how I felt during my first competition after winning, that’s when I decided to give this passion my all,” she added.

Since joining the military, Bryant has competed in seven additional competitions and has placed first in all of them, to include ‘Best Lifter Award.’ The award calculates her total weight of 165 to the final amount of pounds she lifted during all three events: bench press, deadlift and squat — 826.1.

Bryant says that the dedication and time she puts into power lifting is the same effort she gives the Air Force, hoping she can continue pursuing both for a long time. “Everything I do in life, I give credit to God,” Bryant said. “For me, being spiritually fit is just as important as being mentally and physically fit.”

Bryant says although some competitive lifters use elaborate equipment and coaching to help them succeed, she prides herself on being able to use only her faith and inner strength. “For me it’s just my body, the bar and some chalk,” she said smiling.

The norm for this sport is for lifters to be part of a team, but for Bryant, she’s the coach and the athlete on a one-woman team. With her success over the years, she will continue the sport because of the way it makes her feel after working hard in the gym. “It puts me in a great mood and allows me to smile a little more during work,” she said.

Leaving with a good mood and attitude for her deployment, Bryant defeated her old record to become the first female to join the 600-pound club at Aviano Air Base. “I’m going to keep pushing myself,” she said. “And when I come back to Aviano, I’m going to reach my goal of joining the 1,000 pound club.”



**FRIDAY**  
**Intramural Volleyball**  
An organizational meeting will take place at 1 p.m. in the Buckner fitness center. Season runs from Monday through May 1.  
For information call 384-1312 or email [katherine.hunt@us.af.mil](mailto:katherine.hunt@us.af.mil).

**Sew-So-Sew**  
Create your own plush valentine. Join us from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Two Rivers Youth Center and sew a pillow in the shape of a heart.  
For information, call 384-1508.

**Snow Shoe Scavenger Hunt**  
Hunt for clues and treasure while wearing snow shoes from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Kennecott Youth Center.  
For information, call 552-2266.

**Give Parents A Break**  
Newly arrived or have a deployed spouse and need child care for a few hours? The Katmai Child Development Center and Ketchikan School Age Program host this program from 7 to 11 p.m.  
For information, call 552-5113.

**SATURDAY**  
**Snow machine tour**  
Head to Willow on a guided snow machine tour from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This trip is being offered at a special discounted rate as part of the RECON program which offers discounts on certain outdoor adventure program events to active duty service members and/or dependents.

Sign up at JBER-E Outdoor Recreation Center. Trips must meet minimum sign-up requirements and are subject to change due to weather conditions.

To sign up or for more information, call 552-2023 or 552-3812.

**THROUGH FEB 28**  
**Elmendorf Pool Closure**  
The Elmendorf fitness center pool is closed for maintenance throughout the month and will re-open Mar. 1. During this period, the Buckner fitness center pool will remain open.  
For information, call 384-1302.

**FEB. 9 THROUGH 13**  
**TAP Seminar**  
The Transition Assistance Program Goals, Plans and Success seminar takes place Mon. through Fri. from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Air Force Transition Center.  
Call 552-6619 to register.

**Buckner Indoor Triathlon**  
Come cheer your friends on. Triathlon events – bike, swim and run, will occur in 15-minute heats from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
For information, call 384-1308.

**FEB. 10**  
**Give Parents A Break**  
Parents, need a date night? Let the professional staff at the Juneau Child Development Center care for your children from 1 to 5 p.m.  
For more information, call Central registration at 384-7483.

**FEB. 11**  
**Wildlife Wednesday**  
Stay warm and scientifically enriched this winter on the second Wednesday of each month at the Alaska Zoo Gateway Lecture Hall. Each lecture begins at 7 p.m. and covers a different topic focused on wildlife research in Alaska.  
For information, visit [alaska-zoo.org/wildlife-wednesdays](http://alaska-zoo.org/wildlife-wednesdays)

**FEB. 13**  
**Cards for Troops**  
The Child Development Centers would like to show support for deployed and overseas troops by sending them cards made by children. See staff members at your child's CDC for further information.

**Papier-Mâché Hearts**  
Make your own valentine hearts out of papier mâché during a fine arts and crafts session at the the Two Rivers Youth Center from 4 to 6 p.m.  
For information, call 384-1508.

**Valentine's Dance**  
Bring your Valentine and friends and get your groove on at the Kennecott Youth Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
For information, call 552-2266.

**FEB. 14**  
**Ski Lesson/Tubing Special**  
Head to Hillberg Ski Area for two-for-one Valentine's Day private "couples" beginner ski lessons or two-hour (adults only) snow tubing sessions.  
For information, call 552-4838.

**Snow machine tour**  
Head to Willow on a guided snow machine tour from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
This trip is being offered at a special discounted rate as part of the RECON program which offers discounts on certain outdoor ad-

venture program events to active duty service members and/or dependents. Sign up at JBER-E Outdoor Recreation Center.

Trips must meet minimum sign-up requirements and are subject to change due to weather conditions.

To sign-up or for more information, call 552-2023 or 552-3812.

**Valentine's Date Night**  
Make your Valentine's Day special. Head to the Polar Bowl between 6 p.m. and 1 a.m. for two hours of neon bowling, shoe rental, a balloon bouquet, and sparkling cider for one low price.  
For information, call 753-7467.

**Scotch Doubles Tourney**  
Join us at the Polar Bowl for a Valentine's Day Scotch Doubles Tournament beginning at 6:30 p.m. This cash only tourney is a system of doubles play where two bowlers on each team play alternative shots throughout the game.  
For information, call 753-7467.

**FEB. 21**  
**Iron Dog race start**  
The world's longest snowmachine race starts for the first time in Anchorage and runs through Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Festivities kick off at 9:30 a.m. on Fourth Ave. with a parade, kids' events and much more.  
For information, visit [iron-dograce.org](http://iron-dograce.org).

**FEB. 27 THROUGH MARCH 8**  
**Fur Rendezvous**  
Anchorage's largest winter festival is back for its 80th year with all the zany events and activities. Run with the reindeer, race outhouses, shop for furs or watch the sled dog teams race downtown – or bundle up for carnival rides.  
Events, dates and times vary; visit [furrondy.net](http://furrondy.net) for information.

**ONGOING**  
**Scholarship Opportunity**  
Applications are being accepted for the Richardson Spouses' Club 2014-2015 Scholarship.  
Applicants must be military dependents, either graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled college students pursuing full time undergraduate studies.  
Visit [richardsonspousesclub.com/scholarship](http://richardsonspousesclub.com/scholarship) to download full eligibility requirements along with the application.  
Applications must be post-marked by February 28.

**Eat and Play Weekdays**  
What goes great with lunch? A free game of bowling. Present your receipt at the front counter totaling more than \$5 from Ten Pins or Topios (located inside the Polar Bowl) between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Mon., Thurs., or Fri. and receive one free game. (Free game will be honored in the same week meal was purchased, one receipt/free game per day, does not include shoe rental.)  
For information, call 753-7467.

**Alaska Zoo Lights**  
Thursdays through Sundays until Mar. 8, Zoo Lights occurs every night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Check out zoo residents under a canopy of lovely lights.  
For information, visit [alaska-zoo.org](http://alaska-zoo.org).

**AER scholarships**  
Army Emergency Relief is taking applications for scholarships. Scholarships are available for children, spouses and other dependents of active, retired and deceased Soldiers. Applications and instructions are available at [aerhq.org](http://aerhq.org). Submission deadline is May 1.  
For information, call 384-7478.

**Conservator's Corner**  
Go behind the scenes at the Anchorage Museum and see conservators in action. Ask questions while they repair objects at a mobile conservation station, and learn how they maintain displays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
For information, call 929-9200.

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

**Model railroading**  
The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers meets at 7 p.m. Tues. and 1 p.m. Sat. in the basement of Matanuska Hall, Room 35. Anyone interested in model railroading is invited.  
For information, call 552-4353, visit [trainweb.org/msmrre](http://trainweb.org/msmrre) or email [bjorgan@alaska.net](mailto:bjorgan@alaska.net).

**Wired Cafe for Airmen**  
The Wired Cafe at has wireless internet access and programs for

## Chapel services

**Catholic Mass**

**Sunday**  
**8:30 a.m.** – Arctic Warrior Chapel  
**11:30 a.m.** – Midnight Sun Chapel  
**Monday and Wednesday**  
**11:40 a.m.** – Arctic Warrior Chapel  
**Tuesday and Friday**  
**11:30 a.m.** – Midnight Sun Chapel  
**Thursday**  
**12:00 p.m.** – Hospital Chapel

**Confession**  
Confessions are available anytime by appointment. Call 552-5762.

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**Protestant Sunday Services**

**Liturgical Service**  
**9 a.m.** – Heritage Chapel  
**Gospel Service**  
**9:30 a.m.** – Midnight Sun Chapel  
**Community Service**  
**10:30 a.m.** – Heritage Chapel  
**Collective Service**  
**11 a.m.** – Arctic Warrior Chapel  
**Contemporary Service**  
**5 p.m.** – Midnight Sun Chapel

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**Jewish Services**

**Erev Shabbat Service (First Friday of each month)**  
**5 p.m.** – Heritage Chapel  
Call 384-0456 or 552-5762

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**Religious Education**  
For religious education schedules, please call the Religious Operations Center at 552-5762 or 384-1461.

Airmen in the dorms. There are free 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, followed by meeting animals featured in the story, starting at 10:30 a.m. Mondays at the coffee shop.  
For information, email [camp@alaskazoo.org](mailto:camp@alaskazoo.org).



# 673d FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

## MWR events & activities

MARKETING TIDBITS

### 673 FSS WINS PACAF Lamay Award

In December 2014, Lt Col Chris Busque, 673d Force Support Squadron Commander, was informed that his squadron was chosen as the Curtis E. Lemay winners for PACAF. This prestigious award was named in honor of General Curtis E. LeMay, who had a life-long interest in support and quality of life programs provided to Air Force members and their families around the globe. In 1928, he became a flying cadet in the armed forces eventually achieving the position of Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force until retirement in 1965. This award recognizes the best large installation level FSS.

Now the 673 Force Support Squadron has its sights set on the next target, the Air Force LeMay Trophy.

The LeMay competition is held annually to determine the best Force Support Squadron in the Air Force. This year, the 673d Force Support Squadron has been chosen as one of only two bases to be evaluated in diverse areas such as leadership, customer service, quality of life programs, management, personnel and facilities.

### LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL and SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

REGISTER AT KENNECOTT or TWO RIVERS YC OR CALL 552.2266/384.1508  
Now - April 10 | Ages 5 - 15  
**Registration Fee:**  
T-Ball: \$70  
Coach-Pitch: \$75  
Minors, Majors & Juniors: \$80  
**Season runs:**  
April 20 - June 30  
All participants must be registered with Youth Programs and have a current sports physical.

### YOUTH SPORTS



**BATTING CAGE**  
1/2 hr: \$10 | 1 hr: \$15  
Call 552.2266 to reserve.

### VOLUNTEER

Interested in becoming a volunteer coach for Youth JBER/AMC Little League Softball or Baseball?  
**Registration:** Now - April 10  
**Season runs:** April 20 - June 30  
Coaches NYSCA Certification Training Courses TBD. Please call Kennecott Youth Center for more information.

### Feb. After School Ski/Snowboard Programs: "Learn to Shred"

February 14  
3 Lessons - Thurs. or Fri.  
5 - 6:30 p.m.  
Age Groups: 6 - 9 yrs. & 10 - 13 yrs.  
Cost: \$120 for three 90 min. lessons, rental equipment & lift tickets for the day. Space is limited. Small groups, fun instructors & games to develop strong skills. Call to register.

### "Epic Snow Camp"

3 Days: Feb. 14 - 16 | 12 - 5 p.m.  
Age Groups: 6 - 9 yrs. & 10 - 13 yrs.  
Cost: \$225 includes tickets & equipment. Space is limited. 3 days of fun! Ski/Snowboard Lessons, Intro to Racing, Intro to Terrain Park & Tubing.  
Call to Register.



### HILLBERG SKI AREA

LITTLE HILL...BIG FUN!

### Valentine's Day Lesson Special

February 14  
Two for one beginner "Couple" private lesson.  
\$60 + \$10 rental fee for 1 hour.

### Valentine's Day Tubing Special

February 14  
Two for one "Couple" tubing (adults only)  
\$10 for 2 hour session for two.

### Dog Sledding

February 21 - 22  
Noon - 5 p.m.

Don't Wait in line at Alyeska, save money by renting your skis & snowboards from Hillberg for Military Mondays and weekend rentals for Alyeska! Call for more information & reservations.

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Bldg. 7301, 552.2023/3812

### SNOWMACHINE GUIDED TOURS

**WILLOW: February 7 & 14, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$50**  
(These two trips are RECON specific trips and are only open to active duty service member and/or family members. These trips are being offered at a special discounted rate as part of the RECON on program.)

**PETERSVILLE: February 21, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$185**





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



Stop by and see us!  
[www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS](http://www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS)



Bldg. 9497 - 552-8529



### NEW! Ketsugen Karate!

Ketsugen is a well balanced martial art that incorporates the hard and soft forms of karate. Students of all ages learn to gain more body and mind control while having fun. We encourage parents to participate in building their child's confidence and self-esteem!

**\$50 per month**  
**Pick any 2 days!**  
**Mon | Wed | Fri | Sat**

**DEC. 27**

A son, Maxime Francis Heil, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 1:43 p.m. to Grace Alexander Heil and Sgt. Brett Patrick Heil of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

**JAN. 3**

A daughter, Jenise Alexandra Ann Goodrow, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 2:13 p.m. to Senior Airman Camilla Joyce Goodrow of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron and Senior Airman Paul Thomas Goodrow of the 477th Maintenance Squadron.

**JAN. 5**

A son, Brayden Benson York, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 9:04 a.m. to Spc. Heather Marie York of the 59th Signal Battalion and Spc. Beau Jason York of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne.)

**JAN. 6**

A daughter, Willow Ann Bizjak, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces at 8:36 a.m. to Amy Elizabeth Bizjak and Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Ronald Bizjak of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage.

**JAN. 7**

A son, Jaxon Lee Hackett, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 2:01 a.m. to Jacquelyn Rose Hackett and Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Wade Hackett of the 532nd Engineer Battalion.

A daughter, Ansley Elizabeth Wyatt, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces at 4:08 a.m. to Laney Christine Wyatt and Senior Airman Austin Christopher Wyatt of the 517th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

**JAN. 9**

A son, Emmitt Shaquille Williams, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 3 ounces at 9:16 a.m. to Ashlee Ann Williams and Pfc. Emmitt Shaquille Williams of the 98th

Support Maintenance Company.

**JAN. 12**

A daughter, MeLody Jenevia Marie Johnson, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces at 12:32 p.m. to Jane Henry-Johnson and Army Staff Sgt. Clinton Joseph Johnson.

**JAN. 13**

A daughter, Josie Lynn-Marie Purinton, was born weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces at 5:31 a.m. to Danielle Nicholas Allen and Spc. Joshua Scott Purinton of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

A daughter, Paloma Sofia Hilden-Hisijos, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 7:48 a.m. to Lucia Lopez-Hisijos and Army Second Lt. David Hilden of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne.)

**JAN. 15**

A daughter, Dallas Ariana Brown, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces at 2:49 a.m. to Spc. Icerska Keyah Brown of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and Sgt. Keith Ardell Brown of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne.)

A daughter, Magnolia Ren Bowers, was born 18 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 11:12 p.m. to Caitlin Jessica Bowers and Spc. Christopher Harold Bowers of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

**JAN. 17**

A daughter, Olivia Rose Hibbert, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 10 pounds, 8 ounces at 9:54 a.m. to Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Rae Hibbert of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and Army Staff Sgt. Robert Scott Hibbert of the 109th Transportation Company.

A daughter, Winter Lillian Withers, was born 21 inches

long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 3:50 p.m. to Sgt. Alena Nicole Withers of Headquarters, and Headquarters Detachment, U.S. Army Alaska and Charles Stafford Withers.

**JAN. 18**

A daughter, Kara Lucille Briones, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces at 8:19 p.m. to Clarissa Lureene Santiago and Army Staff Sgt. Wilfredo Young Briones of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

**JAN. 20**

A daughter, Lacey Pearl Moxon, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces at 3:27 a.m. to Amelia Raylene Zimmerman and Tanner Robert Moxon.

A son, Davin Scott Parkhurst, was born 22 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces at 3:27 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Brandi Nicole Parkhurst of the 381st Intelligence Squadron and Air Force Staff Sgt. Darrin Scott Parkhurst, II of the 732nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**JAN. 21**

A son, Jesse Asudi Vladimir George, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at 8:10 a.m. to Donna Maria George and Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth Wayne George Sr.

A daughter, Aurora Lynn Wilkinson, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 10:12 a.m. to Elizabeth Jean Wilkinson and Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Kelly Wilkinson of the 3rd Munitions Squadron.

A daughter, Evelyn ChristinMarie Mousseau, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 5:56 p.m. to Nicole Christine Mousseau and Sgt. Ryan E.A. Mousseau of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

**JAN. 22**

A daughter, Zainab Zariah Mata, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces

at 1:03 a.m. to Ruby Melodie Mata and Sgt. Federico Mata-Gutierrez of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

A daughter, Malaya Denise Maria Kajiwarra, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 4:06 a.m. to Spc. Meosha Danielle Fomby-Kajiwarra and Sgt. Kanc Jared Jiro Kajiwarra, both of U.S. Army Medical and Dental Activity, Alaska.

A daughter, Ivianna Larae Pernell, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 8:16 a.m. to Merissa Ann Pernell and Sgt. Ivan Anthony Pernell of the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

**JAN. 23**

A daughter, Evelyn Claire Tanton, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 11:59 p.m. to Amanda Sarah Tanton and Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Lee Tanton of the 732nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**JAN. 24**

A daughter, Amelia Rose Estrada, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at 7:58 a.m. to Melissa Loreen Estrada-Cruz and Airman 1st Class Christopher Javier Estrada-Cruz of the 301st Intelligence Squadron.

A daughter, Madison Nicole Amey, was born 21 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces at 9:27 a.m. to Ashley Elizabeth Amey and Senior Airman Micah Patrick Joseph Amey of the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

**JAN. 25**

A daughter, Leyla Elise Valentine, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 9:47 p.m. to Senior Airman Jailene Valentine and Technical Sergeant Jason Michael Valentine both of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.

**JAN. 26**

A daughter, Natalia Lucia Duque, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds at 2:03 p.m. to Mara Lusa Duque and Tech. Sgt. Jesus Duque of the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

## New Parent Support Program can help

By Chris McCann  
JBER Public Affairs

There’s no test required, no certification necessary, to have a child. Children don’t come with owner’s manuals either.

Raising children can be stressful and confusing, and when a new parent doesn’t have family support, it can make it even harder. Children can be neglected or even abused when a parent doesn’t know where to turn.

The New Parent Support Program on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson tries to remedy this problem by assisting those new to the process, from pre-natal care through the third year of a child’s life.

The nature of the military means that people – both service members and their families – are often separated from their natural support systems.

When you’ve just changed duty stations, it takes time to make new friends, and parents and siblings usually aren’t nearby to help with babysitting or advice.

The JBER Family Advocacy program provides child abuse prevention training to all service members, and focuses on it strongly during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Perhaps more importantly, they provide outreach to all military families to help parents learn what’s normal and how to focus on spending time with their children and enjoying it.

The NPSP provides plenty of assistance, with events for parents and children to spend time together. They also provide home visits from nurses and social workers – all voluntary – to help new parents with pregnancy, post-partum care, and support and respite care.

For further information about JBER Family Advocacy programs and assistance, call 580-5858.

# Spreading the word about dental hygiene

By Airman 1st Class  
Tammie Ramsouer  
JBER Public Affairs

February is National Children’s Dental Health month, and the 673d Dental Squadron will visit Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s elementary schools and child development centers to educate children in dental hygiene throughout this observance.

Tech. Sgt. Catherine Ramiso, 673d Dental Squadron registered dental hygienist, said the month-long observance is sponsored by the American Dental Association and is designed to stress the importance and awareness of oral health to children throughout the U.S.

This year the dental squadron will expand the observance’s audience beyond JBER schools.

“One thing we have not done in the past is provide the same information to homeschooled children and any children who may not know we do this every year,” Ramiso said. “This year, we will be hosting the event for those children at the library on Feb. 19.”

The dental hygienists will also be at the Base Exchange Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The visits are designed to make oral health as interesting as possible, she said. Dental hygienists will dress up as a tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, teeth and the tooth fairy during the visits.

They will bring hands-on learning aids to help children learn how to properly brush their teeth and understand the effects of food on oral hygiene.

“We dress up as an attention grabber, as we will be seeing ages from infants up to sixth graders,” Ramiso said.

The hygienists show children that going to the dentist is not a form of punishment, she said.

“If they know their teeth are important, children are more conscious about taking care of them,” Ramiso said.

“We try to get children to understand that if they do not take care of their mouth, certain bacteria and diseases could cause problems



**Starting proper dental care at a young age can lead to a healthier lifestyle. February is Children’s Dental Health month, which stresses the importance and awareness of oral health to children. Scheduling appointments to see a dentist annually, even though there may not be a dental problem will help children become familiar with dental hygiene at a young age. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Airman 1st Class Tammie Ramsouer)**

for them, such as cavities.”

Cavities, or tooth decay are caused by the breakdown of tooth enamel. This breakdown is the result of bacteria on teeth that break down foods and produce acid, which destroys tooth enamel and results in tooth decay.

“When a child does come into a dental office with a cavity, the dentist will treat it just like any other cavity,” she said. “When we are children, our adult teeth are already forming – if not already formed – underneath the baby teeth.

Some cavities can become infections that affect their adult teeth, which can lead to problems later on in life.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control website, although

cavities are preventable, they remain the most common chronic disease found in children and adolescents.

Tooth decay is four times more common than asthma among adolescents. Cavities also affect adults, with nine out of 10 older than 20 affected.

“When bacteria in saliva comes in contact with sugar, it turns into acids that eats away the hardest part of the tooth – the enamel – and causes a cavity,” Ramiso said.

Air Force Capt. Courtney Burrill, 673d Dental Squadron general dentist, said children should drink lots of water and avoid eating too many sugary, starchy snacks.

She also recommends children brush their teeth within 20 minutes

after eating anything sugary to prevent cavities.

“We want children to start as soon as possible to value their teeth and have the mentality to keep taking care of them throughout their life,” Ramiso said. “For children, teeth are important for them to chew their food, smile and of course communicate clearly.”

Studies have shown water fluoridation can reduce tooth decay in children by 18 to 40 percent.

“The fluoride level in the water on base is optimal and does not require any supplementation,” Ramiso said. “But for those who drink bottled water and well water, there are fluoride rinses and toothpastes they can use.

There is already adequate fluo-

ride in the foods and drinks that we intake on a daily basis as well.”

Burrill said dental care is much more than addressing problems as they arise. Scheduling annual appointments for checkups and cleanings — even though there may not be a dental problem — will help children become familiar with the dentist at a young age, she said.

Although the 673d DS is hosting this event throughout the month of February, they do not provide dental services for children, other dependents or retirees in their dental clinic. The dental team does however; provide oral help in emergency situations.

To schedule an annual dental checkup, contact your TRICARE Dental Program enrolled dentist.

# Camaraderie, faith and football

By Air Force Staff Sgt.  
William Banton  
JBER Public Affairs

Twenty seconds...

Twenty seconds of exhilaration. There is a clear shift in atmosphere around the Airmen and Soldiers. Twenty seconds of anticipation.

A chaplain in the group leans forward, anticipating the hike of the football. With twenty seconds left on the clock, the New England Patriots hold a 28-24 lead over the Seattle Seahawks and the Seahawks have the ball.

The conclusion of Super Bowl XLIX was at hand. The ball was on the one-yard-line and Seattle’s star running back, Marshawn Lynch, was in the game.

A group of service members and chaplains were listening to sports announcers come to the logical conclusion, after a year of watching these teams play – Lynch will run it in.

Based on the passion on the faces of the Soldiers and Airmen watching the game at the Wired Café on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, they definitely knew it. And then, for Seahawks fans at least, all hell broke loose.

In a matter of seconds, a run became a pass, a pass became an interception, the Wired Café filled with groans from Seahawk fans and cheers from Patriot fans and all hope of the Seahawks winning the Super Bowl went up in smoke.

However, for the people in the

room, could the experience have meant more than just watching the game?

The event held at the Wired Café, located near the Air Force dorms, was sponsored by the JBER chapel and provided a safe, alcohol-free alternative, and encouraged young Airmen to get out of their dorm rooms, said Spc. Francisco Arias III, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division intelligence analyst.

“I think the biggest thing is that it lets them know we are here,” said Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) James Hendrick, a JBER chaplain. “It lets them know that the chapel staff is here.

“Our primary intent is to build relational trust with them so if they have issues in their life and they want to talk about if they can be like ‘I know that dude’.”

“It’s a more relaxed environment, so it’s not as much pressure for someone who may be interested in going to church or going into the chapel,” said Airman 1st Class Ashley Sass, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron airborne surveillance technician.

“You get a chance to talk to the people who go, and see if you’re interested.”

Airman 1st Class Ryan Harper, 673rd Communication Squadron cyber system operations specialist, said the spiritual context of the event was a draw for him.

“My spiritual health is much



**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson chaplains hosted a Super Bowl Sunday party with a large variety of food and drinks at the Wired Cafe on JBER, Feb. 1. The gathering has been taking place for more than four years to bring people together, play games and get Airmen out of the dorms. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman Christopher R. Morales)**

better after attending events like this and I also just like to be around like-minded people,” Harper said. “These events give us a chance to get out of the dorms, to actually do something with people.”

Across the installation, the 907 Sports Bar & Grill held an alternative for service members looking for choices to celebrating the game.

“I knew the Super Bowl was on and I knew I was on duty, so I

thought I would take a little break and come over and watch a little bit of the game,” said Army Capt. Jason Underwood, a support transportation officer with the 532nd Engineer Battalion (Provisional), 2nd Engineer Brigade.

“I think it is great for the Soldiers to have a place to get away on post so they don’t have to risk getting a DUI or anything like that.”

Underwood said he sees these

events as good opportunities for generations to bond and come together over common experiences, like football.

“The biggest reason to have a place like this on base is the camaraderie,” said Dan Gallagher, interim club manager.

“We do have the Better Opportunities for Single Service Members program so there is always a safe ride home [with Joint Base Against Drunk Driving].”



**ABOVE: JBER Airmen participate in a board game during a Super Bowl Sunday party hosted by the chapel at the Wired Cafe, Feb. 1. LEFT: Attendees of the chapel-sponsored Super Bowl show mixed emotions to the end of the game at the Wired Cafe. The annual gathering has been taking place for more than four years to bring people together, play games and get Airmen out of the dorms. The Wired Cafe is a great place for dorm residents to connect to the internet, interact with fellow service members and enjoy free meals on Friday evenings.**