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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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477th FG welcomes new commander

By Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso
477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

Col. David Piffariero became the 477th Fighter Group commander during a change of command ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson March 20. Piffariero accepted the reins of leadership from Col. Tyler Otten, who will move on to be the mobilization assistant to the 11th Air Force commander.

Under Otten's command, the group's Airmen weathered financial challenges including the government shutdown, while accomplishing the mission of training citizen Airmen to execute the F-22 Raptor mission with their active-duty partners in the 3rd Wing.

The unit was one of nine Air Force Reserve units to earn the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 2014.

"It has been an honor to serve the men and women of the 477th Fighter Group as their commander for the last two and a half years. I have been repeatedly amazed at their capabilities and commitment to the mission," said Otten. "I am looking forward to watching them continue to do great things under Colonel Piffariero's leadership."

Piffariero came to the 477th Fighter Group in August 2007 from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada where he served as an F-22 operational test pilot. While in the 477th FG, Piffariero served as flight commander, weapons officer, assistant director of operations, and commander of the 302nd Fighter Squadron. Most recently, he served as the 477th's deputy commander.

"The 477th FG has a tremendous heritage and history of incredible Airmen," Piffariero said. "I look forward to leading this organization to great heights and working with the men and women of the 477th Fighter Group and our partners in the 3rd Wing."

Piffariero, a native of Colorado, has logged more than 1,000 hours in the F-22 Raptor.



Airman 1st Class Nicholas Hendrickson, left, a native of Las Vegas, Nev., and Staff Sgt. Alyse M. Denittis, a native of Charleston, S.C., assigned to the 517th Airlift Squadron, guide a Tunner 60K aircraft cargo loader while conducting Rapid Raptor training on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, March 26. The training exercised capabilities to quickly deploy a package of combat-ready F-22 Raptors and C-17 Globemaster IIIs loaded with supporting personnel and equipment anywhere in the world. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Pena)



ABOVE LEFT: An Airman assigned to the 673rd Logistics Readiness Squadron secures palletized cargo while conducting Rapid Raptor training at the Joint Mobility Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

ABOVE: Air Force Master Sgt. Matt DePue, a native of Wasilla assigned to the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, inspects a C-17 Globemaster III while conducting Rapid Raptor training on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson March 26.

LEFT: Airmen assigned to the 517th Airlift Squadron and the 773rd Logistics Readiness Squadron load cargo on a C-17 Globemaster III.

USARAK brings assets to rescue coordination center, troopers

By Staff Sgt. Sean Callahan
USARAK Public Affairs

FORT WAINWRIGHT, Alaska — Alaska consists of 663,300 square miles, with the interior being the largest region, home to the highest peak in North America and largely made up of uninhabited wilderness.

The hunting, fishing and training in this area are among the best in the world, and access to these remote locales can be extremely treacherous and sometimes life-threatening. If you were to get lost or injured in some of these parts, help could be hours if not days away.

That is, it was — until the U.S. Army Alaska Aviation Task Force's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, added to the capabilities of the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center's search-and-rescue responsibilities by having rescue assets on alert, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Collier, U.S. Army Alaska's aviation safety officer.

"Civil agencies must first de-



U.S. Army Alaska Aviation Task Force, in conjunction with the Alaska State Troopers and Wilderness Search and Rescue, conduct a training medical evacuation March 25. The event tested the agencies' cooperation and reaction time in case of an emergency situation within the interior of Alaska. USARAK activated a medevac alert team Monday. (U.S. Army photo/USARAK Public Affairs)

termine what assets they have available prior to calling the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center located at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson," Collier said. "We have rotary-wing assets here on Fort Wainwright that can be re-

quested by the RCC to be activated for search and rescue."

Collier added high-altitude and mountainous-terrain rescues can be handled by the U.S. Army due to the troops' unique capabilities and training.

The aviation assets assigned to Fort Wainwright have always been available to support RCC requests, but the stand up of the medevac mission to cover training lands will allow for quicker response to both military and civilian emergencies.

On March 25, C Company 1/52, along with Alaska State Troopers, Wilderness Search and Rescue and Alaska's village public safety officers conducted a simulated emergency situation to test the communications and inter-agency search and rescue as well as medevac procedures.

"The State Troopers in Alaska have a statutory responsibility for all search and rescue that's land based," said Trooper Thomas Mealy. "Part of that mission involves working with other entities, such as wilderness search-and-rescue and the military."

USARAK routinely trains with local agencies to help foster strong bonds and interagency cooperation.

"We wanted to set up a training exercise where we test all of our communications and our ability to work together as different entities in conducting search and rescue and medevac," Mealy said. "[That way] when we have real-world issues, we have all practiced together and know what to expect from one another."

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A safe place to land

Army pathfinders continue long tradition of ensuring airborne troops' safety
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Swinging for the fences

By Airman Christopher R. Morales
JBER Public Affairs

“I was most scared walking up to the cage. I didn’t know how the fight went until I saw the video. I was controlled by instinct and muscle memory alone.”

Senior Airman Zack Throckmorton, an F-22 Raptor weapon systems loader with the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, went into his first cage fight in Richmond, Virginia in March of 2002 unprepared but willing nevertheless.

“I went in there with no training and didn’t even make the weight for the 155-pound division,” Throckmorton said. “That was not the place to be at my age and point of experience. My opponent, Zack Carter, was 23, and I was 18 and dumb.”

After seeing Throckmorton lose his first fight, Coach Danny Ramirez took the novice under his wing at the River City Hapkido Gym in Richmond and put him through, in Throckmorton’s words, the most intense training he has ever endured.

In a matter of two weeks, Throckmorton organized a rematch with his rival and won just a minute and 27 seconds into the second round with a successful guillotine choke.

With proper training and a determination to win, Throckmorton was able to redeem himself.

He continued to train and won his second official fight three weeks before going to basic military training.

Throckmorton was raised in Virginia with his mother and little brother. When he was six, his mother put him in a taekwondo class to learn self-defense, he said.

He received his black belt at age 12, stopped at age 16 and then picked up Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu from a friend.

“Martial arts is my only constant in life; people come and go but there are always gyms,” Throckmorton said. “Bad break-up? Go to the gym, get twisted like a pretzel and you just forget about it.”



Senior Airman Zack Throckmorton, an F-22 Raptor weapons systems loader with the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, takes a stance at Martial Arts Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska on April 1. Throckmorton has been training to fight since age six. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman Christopher R. Morales)

Going to the gym and offering rides to friends also reduce his chances of getting into bad situations, Throckmorton said. He also serves as a bay chief for Yukla Hall, helping Airmen after hours.

“Zack is a great kid and has a lot of love for martial arts,” said Jarid Symens, head coach and owner of Martial Arts Alaska, where Throckmorton trains. “Every time he comes into the gym he is eager to learn and works diligently.”

Throckmorton starts work at 6 a.m. and works till either 3:30 or 5 p.m. and goes straight to the gym six days a week – it adds up

to more than 20 hours of training each week.

“You train not to get it right, but until you can’t get it wrong,” Throckmorton said. “In martial arts, a person can never get worse, only better.”

Throckmorton has sacrificed a lot to dedicate his life to fighting; minimizing his free time and limiting his intake of unhealthy food and drink.

“If you want this, you train for it – eat, sleep, wake up for it,” Throckmorton said. “I will prove to my coach I want this.”

He needs to be in peak physical



TOP: Throckmorton wraps his hands before sparring to prevent abrasions and injuries. Safety is important in training, and especially during a fight, which is why the trainees all wear protective gear during practice.

ABOVE: Throckmorton spars with fellow fighters and practices striking combinations at Martial Arts Alaska in Anchorage April 1. Mixed martial artists may fight on their feet, but the fight can also go to the ground – where grappling and locks become the most effective techniques.

and mental condition to beat someone with just as much desire to win.

“A mixed martial arts fight all depends on who’s comfortable where: on their feet or on the ground; top or bottom,” Throckmorton said.

The key to a MMA fight is to get your opponent out of their comfort zone, Throckmorton said. That is why you train to be a well-rounded fighter.

Throckmorton splits his training time between the Elmendorf Fitness center, and a private gym which teaches Muay Thai, boxing, kickboxing, jiu-jitsu, MMA, fitness

and self-defense. The gym’s motto is ‘no ego, no attitude, just hard work, respect and honor.’

“Through teaching martial arts and fitness, we inspire people to do more with their lives,” Symens said.

Throckmorton still goes to train despite being a bay chief and recently pinning on Senior Airman, which both require a lot of time helping younger enlisted members.

“It’s tough. It sucks,” Throckmorton said. “There are days I think ‘Why am I doing this?’ But I remember, I want to fight in that cage.”

Preventing sexual assault is our enduring responsibility

Editorial by Gen. Larry Spencer,
Air Force Vice Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — As we begin Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, clear signs point to the progress we have made in combating sexual assault.

We can cite encouraging numbers in the areas of prevalence, reporting and convictions; however, this serves as only the beginning of an enduring effort.

This effort must continue without pause and we must not lose sight of it for a moment.

Regrettably, in the few short years since we energized our efforts Air Force-wide to prevent sexual assault, echoes about shameful activities and behaviors from our past sometimes still resonate.

Most recently, a special interest group criticized the Air Force for an issue involving inappropriate material containing offensive language that was addressed in 2012. Disciplinary action was taken against those involved in the incident.

Any activity that goes against our core values and does not treat our people with dignity and respect is unacceptable and does not represent the culture we expect from all Airmen today and going forward.

Every Airman is aware of what the Air Force’s expectations are about sexual assault awareness and preventing sexual assault altogether. Leaders and Airmen at every level must foster a climate of mutual respect, dignity and inclusion for all Airmen.

In an effort to ensure the appropriate climate and culture, the Air Force Chief of Staff implemented a Health and Welfare Inspection in 2012.

The goal of this inspection was to create a professional environment for all Airmen.

This inspection was part of a bigger effort to refocus our force and ensure commanders create and foster healthy and respectful work environments.

In this area, we continue to see positive results and steady progress.

For instance, in less than a year’s time, the Air Force Office of Special Investigation has focused resources and efforts to reduce the time required to investigate instances of sexual assault from 179 days to a standard of 75 days today.

AFOSI also developed advanced sexual assault investigations training and enhanced field evidence processing resources.

Additionally, more progress was made because of Department of Defense Instruction 5505.18.

Organizations now initiate investigations on all rape, sexual assault, aggravated and abusive sexual contact allegations.

These changes in law and policy resulted in an immediate increase in the number of sexual assault investigations conducted by AFOSI.

Over the past three years, the Air Force has had fewer sexual assault incidents and more victims reporting these crimes.

In fact, approximately one in three victims reported crimes in fiscal year 2014 as compared to one in six in fiscal year 2012.

Air Force surveys show Airmen are more comfortable coming forward and reporting incidents as an increased focus is placed on care and support for victims.

We are going in the right direction, but we still have a lot of work to do.

It is important to note, the Air Force has made significant progress in both its sexual assault prevention and response efforts. Here are some examples since 2011:

- We have reinforced the commander’s role as central to preventing and responding to sexual assaults in their unit.
- We have required commanders to be

evaluated on their unit’s climate assessment and that these results are included in the commander’s annual performance report.

- We realigned and restructured the SAPR program by standing up a cross-functional directorate reporting directly to the Vice Chief of Staff which is led by a major general. The directorate includes a 34-person cross-functional team of experts in the Pentagon responsible for policy, operational guidance, force-wide training, and program development; all designed to help us operate an Air Force free from sexual assault.

- The Air Force funded an additional 32 sexual assault response coordinators and 91 full-time victim advocates at installations across the service to strengthen our victim response capabilities.

- The Air Force has reviewed and significantly revised the sexual assault response coordinator’s course to cover more content, update old content, and institute adult learning principals so that our SARC’s can be more effective in the field. To maintain professional standards, all SARC’s and full time victim advocates are now required to be nationally certified.

- The Air Force has trained an additional 75 sexual assault nurse examiners at medical facilities across the Air Force to strengthen our victim response capabilities.

- The Air Force stood-up a Special Victims’ Counsel Program that provides an attorney to advocate on behalf of sexual assault victims and enables judge advocates to assert their clients’ rights both in and out

of court. The special victims’ counsel is the first of its kind to provide Airmen and their family members who are victims of sexual assault with their own attorney. Additionally, improved AFOSI training along with establishing the Special Victims’ Counsel Program has led to a 90 percent increase in unrestricted reporting, allowing more thorough investigations.

- The Air Force established a special victims’ capability comprised of investigators, trial counsel, and victim witness assistance personnel and paralegals with specialized training in the unique dynamics of sexual assault cases. This team of professionals ensures the Air Force is appropriately holding alleged offenders accountable.

- In an effort to foster better synergy and provide better service to our Airmen reporting sexual assault and sexual harassment, in August of 2014, the Secretary of the Air Force directed new initiatives to harmonize our equal opportunity and sexual assault care for commanders and victims.

All of these actions represent significant strides we have made to enhance sexual assault awareness and now sexual assault prevention.

Prevention is logically the next phase and only these efforts, when taken seriously at all levels in the Air Force, will further the cultural commitment we place on ensuring lasting change.

We share in common a profession of arms that holds us to a higher degree of commitment to institutional standards.

This requires us to make the right choices for both ourselves and our fellow Airmen. Preventing sexual assault requires changing an atmosphere that enables such bad behaviors.

This is because all Airmen deserve to serve our nation in an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual assault.



ARCTIC WARRIOR

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PATHFINDER: BLAZING THE WAY



LEFT: Sgt. 1st Class John Bailey, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment chief fire-control sergeant and Akron, Ohio, native, points toward an incoming CH-47F Chinook helicopter laden with paratroopers. As an Army pathfinder, Bailey signals the jumpmaster in the aircraft the appropriate time for the paratroopers to jump. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)
ABOVE: By establishing a clear drop zone and calculating weather conditions with a series of algorithms, Bailey and pathfinders like him strive to ensure airborne troops hit their target.
BELOW: Bailey waits by his equipment for a stick of paratroopers; when it's jump time, he will signal the jumpmaster with the command "Execute, execute, execute!"
BELOW LEFT: Paratroopers exit a CH-47 Chinook March 26 on a training exercise.



Air Force establishes cyber task force to synchronize efforts

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Mark Welsh signed a memorandum March 20 establishing Task Force Cyber Secure, to address challenges of the cyberspace domain in synchronization, operations and governance within the Air Force and the organizations it supports.

“This task force is fundamental to understanding the inherent risks within the cyberspace domain and instituting a culture change, in which our Airmen realize the impact cybersecurity has on all the Air Force core missions,” Welsh said.

Lt. Gen. Bill Bender, the Secretary of the Air Force chief of information dominance and chief information officer, outlined three focus areas for the group.

“The task force will diagnose the extent

of the cyber threat and the vulnerabilities that currently impact our core missions and will plan to develop a risk management plan that will allow the Air Force to fly, fight and win in a cyber-contested environment,” Bender said. “Finally, the task force will recommend investment priorities to the SECAF and CSAF for how best to address the cybersecurity challenges.

“The Air Force focuses the majority of the cybersecurity effort on protecting the information technology we’ve always protected the last 20 years, but that’s only 20 percent of the problem,” Bender continued. He envisions a “comprehensive, enterprise-level look at the cyber threat as it relates to everything outside of that 20 percent.”

A top priority of TFCS is to include all stakeholders working this cyber challenge already and to begin synchronizing and coordinating efforts for securing and mitigating

operational risk to the most critical nodes and “centers of gravity.”

Pete Kim, the Cyberspace Operations and Warfighting Integration acting director, will lead the daily operations and direct an organization that will include cyberspace stakeholders throughout the Air Force.

“Many efforts for securing the core missions in cyberspace are currently distributed across multiple organizations and commands throughout the Air Force,” Kim said. “We have great leaders moving out on fixing ‘the problem’ within their functional areas, but the time is right to look into opportunities to synchronize and maximize resources at the corporate level in order to establish a foundational, consistent enterprise-wide approach in the future.”

The task force efforts will inform strategic planning and programming for fiscal year 2017 and beyond. It will provide a

governance plan for Air Force corporate board management and synchronization of cybersecurity investments of the future in the planning, programming, budgeting and execution process. The task force will also integrate efforts and studies, attempting to address cybersecurity across the Air Force, focusing on Air Force core missions and provide a prioritized cybersecurity investment strategy for SECAF and CSAF.

“We’re already seeing benefits of a focused task force standing up to address the cybersecurity challenge,” Bender said. “At a practical level, sharing information across the Air Force, education on the seriousness of the threat and the vulnerabilities, and connecting the dots are the benefits I’m beginning to see. We are also connecting with academia and commercial industry because we recognize their contributions as significant force multipliers in this domain.”

Alaska is home to many potential threats; be prepared for them

By Tech. Sgt. Raymond Mills
JBER Public Affairs

They are there when you need them. The personnel of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Emergency Management office work hard planning for, mitigating and responding to emergencies that may result in death, injury, destruction of property, or disruption in operations.

“The primary mission of the Air Force Emergency Management Program is to save lives, minimize the loss or degradation of resources, and sustain and restore operational capability in hazardous environments at Air Force installations worldwide,” said Tech. Sgt. Leslie Baxter, JBER Emergency Management noncommissioned officer in charge of plans and operations.

Being prepared for contingency operations is a must, and the military is no different.

The Air Force EM program examines potential emergencies and disasters based on risks posed by likely hazards, develops and implements programs aimed at reducing the impact of such events, prepares for risks that cannot be eliminated, and prescribes actions required to deal with consequences of actual events and to recover from those events, Baxter said.

Baxter said in addition to their primary mission, emergency management technicians maintain



Emergency kits are essential to preparedness. Kits should be tailored to your geographical region and contain the essentials to survive for three days. For detailed information, visit the American Red Cross or www.ready.gov websites, or your local emergency management office. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Raymond Mills)

ancillary missions that include support of homeland defense, civil support operations, and support to civil and host nation authorities in accordance with Department of Defense directives.

Preparedness is crucial to mitigating disasters, since emergencies can happen at any time with little

or no warning.

Alaska has several natural and man-made hazards which give little or no notice, include earthquakes, windstorms, wildfires, volcanoes, floods, hazardous-materials spills and house fires.

“We have to be ready for the ‘what if’ situation,” said Jilene

Reichle, JBER emergency management plans and operations specialist.

JBER emergency managers must have plans ready to deal with a variety of natural disasters in Alaska, such as the 1964 earthquake.

According to the Alaska Earthquake Center, the 9.2-magnitude earthquake was the second-largest ever recorded and lasted about four minutes. It devastated 1.3 million square kilometers, killed 115 Alaskans and resulted in approximately \$300 to \$400 million in damage.

“The quake of ’64 helped bring the reality that disasters do actually happen here,” Reichle said.

The JBER Emergency Management Office sets-up base-wide drills and routinely travels off base to remind people to prepare for disasters.

The American Red Cross recommends maintaining an emergency preparedness kit in the event of disaster. Kits should be tailored to threats associated with your area, but still contain the basics.

The Red Cross suggests the following items as a basic preparedness kit:

- Water: one gallon per person, per day; three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home
- Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items; three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home
- Flashlight and/or lantern

- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio (NOAA weather radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (seven-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

Although the average emergency preparedness kit should have preparations for three days, the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website suggests a seven-day supply.

Once assembled, emergency preparedness kits should be put in a safe and accessible location.

According to the Center for Disease Control, emergency kits should be checked periodically throughout the year for expired dates on food, medicine and batteries.

“It’s not a matter of ‘if’ disaster will strike,” Reichle said. “It’s a matter of ‘when’.”

JBER recreational access

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson recreational permit fee costs \$10 for active duty, military-affiliated and civilian personnel. Senior citizens 60 years of age and older, and those disabled 50 percent or more as documented by the Department of Veterans Affairs, will see a \$5 rate per year. The fee will sustain the recreational program, according to Brent Koenen, chief of the natural and cultural resource program.

On March 31 all current permits became invalid. New permits must be purchased at www.jber.isportman.net.

Those recreating on JBER are required to have an iSportsman recreational permit and a government issued form of identification on them at all times.

Some activities – such as camping, picnicking, cross country skiing, boat or pavilion rentals, for example – do not need an iSportsman permit.

Users must sign in and sign out using the iSportsman system, using computers, kiosks at the visitors centers, or by phone.

For more information, visit the website or call 552-2439 or 384-6224.

CID recruiting

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command hosts a recruiting presentation at the Frontier Theater Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Soldiers interested in becoming a CIC agent are invited to learn more about the requirements.

For information, call 384-3974 or visit www.cid.army.mil.

Special victim counselor

Victims of sexual assault are entitled to legal assistance services.

Army Capt. Callin Kerr provides special victim counseling services at Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Communication is protected by attorney-client privilege. The SVC ensures the victim’s rights, as outlined in the Crimes Victim Act, are protected.

Those rights include being treated with fairness and respect; being reasonably protected from the accused offender; being notified of court proceedings; being present at all public court proceedings related to the offense; being able to confer with the prosecutor; receiving available restitution; and receiving informa-

tion about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender.

Eligible clients include all active duty military of all branches of service, mobilized Reserve Component members, retirees (and the dependents of these sponsors) who make a restricted or unrestricted report for sexual assault.

For more information, call 353-6507.

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 issues, such as combat zone benefits and the effect of the Earned Income Credit. Volunteers also are also trained to deal with the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend.

All tax returns done through the centers are forwarded electronically to the IRS, and taxpayers can receive their refunds in as little as a 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. Walk-in service is available, but those with appointments take precedence.

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 unavailable.

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 contact a unit tax advisor, who may be able to complete tax returns at the workplace and forward it to the tax center.

Rental Partnership Program

The Rental Partnership Program provides active-duty personnel with affordable off-base housing and consists of two options.

The first, 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 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. They also handle the design, printing and distribution of business cards, letterhead, invitations and programs.

Document Services’ Equipment Management Solutions Program provides networked multifunctional devices that print, scan, copy and fax.

Production facilities offer scanning and conversion services for all types of documents.

They also offer 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 information, visit 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.

Availability is subject to change and limits; some may have a cost.

There are also American flag

kits and fire extinguishers available.

U-Fix-It work includes all home maintenance activities, allowing occupants 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 blind-cleaning machine is available at the JBER-E location.

A “reservation required to use” policy is in place with the priority going to military members PCSing. 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 their 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. Spouses can register at the Civilian Personnel Office at JBER-Elmendorf or the personnel office at JBER-Richardson.

For information, call 552-9203.

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 delivers 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.

Provider Drive closure

Civil engineers are repaving Provider Drive between the Exchange and JBER hospital through Aug. 15. Housing will have one-lane access to Wilkins Ave. The detour uses Westover Avenue, Grady Highway and Zeamer Avenue.

JBER MyBaseGuide

Stay informed on where to find schools, places of worship, places to live, local services, day-care providers, auto mechanics, veterinarians and more. Browse a wide range of area services, get phone numbers, and download the mobile application for iOS or Android at <http://tinyurl.com/ltsywzr>.

Quartermaster Laundry

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

Giant Voice testing

Giant Voice mass notification system testing occurs every Wednesday at noon. If the announcement is difficult to hear or understand, please call 552-3000.

To ensure they're not forgotten

3rd ASOS Airmen remember their fallen with a 24-hour run

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera
JBER Public Affairs

Each year, members of the 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron's Tactical Control Party organize and participate in a 24-hour run challenge to honor the 10 fallen TACP family who were killed in combat and training operations in the last 20 years.

The 24-hour run challenge is a worldwide competition to see how many miles the TACPs can run, but to some, it is more than just a run. It is to ensure those who made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Lombard, chief joint terminal air control instructor with the 3rd ASOS, knew Air Force Maj. Walter David Gray and Senior Airman Bradley Smith, both of whom died in combat.

"I knew Major Gray when I was deployed with him in Afghanistan," Lombard said. "I talked to him pretty much every day when I was there and he told me stories about his near-death experiences."

"I was just sitting there looking at him, thinking he was crazy. He died twice; one was from drowning and the other was from an intravenous line infection, but he was still there fighting."

Within a month of meeting Gray, Lombard heard the news of his death. Remembering their conversations about their families, Lombard was in disbelief.

"I was looking forward to how he would affect the career field," Lombard said. "So when I heard about his death, it blew me away, because I knew he was doing great things for the community. It was hard to take; I can still see his face so fresh in my mind."

Gray, an air liaison officer assigned to the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron, was killed by an insurgent in Kunar province, Afghanistan. He was hit by the second of two suicide bombs after he and his team rushed to the scene after the first blast.

Brushing shoulders with mortality, however, was not something Lombard was unfamiliar with; he lost one of his Airmen nearly five years ago in Afghanistan. During



Members of the 3rd Air Operations Support Squadron complete a lap inside the Alaska Dome in Anchorage March 27 during their annual 24-hour run challenge. The challenge is a worldwide competition to see how many miles the TACPs can run and also to ensure those who made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera)

a patrol, Senior Airman Bradley Smith and his team entered a village in the Kandahar province and came under fire. After calling in close air support, Smith volunteered to assist an Army medic in retrieving a body when an improvised explosive device exploded, killing them both instantly.

"I was one of [Smith's] trainers and trained him in the field when he was a brand new Airman," Lombard said. "I knew that he [would] be a good JTAC someday – motivated, very proactive and always having a positive attitude."

Lombard said he will never forget Smith's ability to find innovative solutions, which he saw in action when they were stationed with the 14th ASOS at Pope Field, North Carolina.

"The delta flight wanted to have a deck, but was trying to figure out how much it would cost them out-of-pocket to have a deck," the Cottonwood, California native said. "Smith took it upon himself and found a way; within weeks, there was a truck pulling in at the 14th ASOS full of lumber."

"Because of him, the deck is the nicest thing the 14th ASOS had in a long time," Lombard said smiling. "He was there, willing to help others, and did it for the whole squadron."

Lombard also remembers how, during the last month they were stationed together, Smith would constantly talk about how excited he was excited to move to Colorado

to be with his wife again and how he was on his way to becoming a JTAC.

The next time Lombard saw Smith was at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

"I went to his funeral and as soon as I saw his grave, it finally hit me," Lombard said. "I broke down crying."

Knowing two of the fallen TACPs, Lombard said the 24-hour run challenge means a lot to him because he wants to raise awareness about what they do.

"Combat career fields are not well-known in the Air Force, so it is good to bring attention to everybody," Lombard said. "I want to raise awareness that is outside my career field and to the local community of what TACPs have done for the military and for the nation fighting for our freedom – these guys put their lives in harm's way every day."

Seeing personally how the TACP community comes together to honor the fallen, Senior Airman Jacob Gavulic, a TACP assigned to the 3rd ASOS, gets the opportunity to remember his brother, Master Sgt. Joshua Gavulic, who was killed in a parachute training incident on Feb. 21, 2014 in Eloy, Arizona.

The death of his brother has been hard for Jacob and his family, but they relied on the TACP community.

"We talk about how big our extended family [TACP community] and that came into play when my brother passed," Jacob

said. "It showed us the full spectrum of what it means to be part of the TACP family when they stepped in and helped us."

Trying to keep his composure, Jacob said it is nice to know he is not alone.

"We are a small community, everybody knows somebody who also felt a loss, too," Jacob said. "This run is not just about a run, but it is a run to remember their legacy, and we are going to talk about each and every person who has been affected by those killed in action or in training like my brother."

While it's been more than a year since his brother passed, the memorial run means Jacob and his family see first-hand how his brother is remembered.

"My brother was always very big on tradition and paying respect to those who gave everything they had," Jacob said. "I know that he would feel privileged and honored and this is the way he wanted to be remembered – even though he is gone, he is not forgotten."

24-hour challenge results:

3rd ASOS miles run: 1,786

Participants: 159

Air Force wide miles: 37,000

Total participants: 5,153

Airmen left behind ... Zero.



Air Force Maj. Matthew Kaercher (left), 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron director of operations, runs alongside his two-year-old daughter, Brynn, during the annual 24-hour run challenge inside the Alaska Dome in Anchorage March 26. The 24-hour run challenge is an ASOS tradition across the Air Force honoring the 10 TACPs who were killed in combat and training operations in the last 20 years. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera)



A TACP beret and ABU blouse worn by Senior Airman Bradley Smith is displayed in the "Duty First, Always Ready" exhibit, located in the Cold War Gallery at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, highlights the service of Senior Airmen Michael Malarsie and Bradley Smith, a two-man Joint Terminal Attack Controller team who deployed together to Afghanistan in December 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo)

OPSEC, social media: keeping our military safe

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Amanda Dick
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Social media. It incorporates several platforms that allow military members to stay in touch with friends and loved ones around the world; however, sometimes what is shared comes with a hefty price tag – loss of operational security.

As seen in recent events, these platforms can also be an instrument for adversaries to target military members, providing an avenue for identity fraud, which is why more than personal safety is at stake.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft has been the No. 1 consumer complaint in the last 15 years.

In an independent research

study conducted by Next Advisor, 54 percent of social media profiles were the target of identity fraud with another 70 percent of profiles targeted to visit a scam website via private message.

"Using social media is a personal choice, and you have a degree of control over the information you share. Carefully consider how much information you make available and to whom," said Tanya Schusler, Air Force Public Affairs Agency social media chief.

"You need to protect your safety, your career and the Air Force's mission while balancing your need to connect with people."

"It takes just an extra few seconds to thoroughly consider what you're about to share online, but the consequences of a mis-step could follow you for years

to come."

Practicing good operational security helps combat risks that arise from using social media, namely by protecting critical information.

The Interagency OPSEC Support Staff lists several examples of CI:

- Usernames, passwords, computer and networking information
- Job title, location, salary, grade or clearances
- Operational, security and logistical data
- Social Security numbers, credit card and banking information
- Work/personal addresses and phone numbers

The biggest hurdle on social media is posting information that

may not be critical on its own, but when pieced together by someone following an Airman across one or more platforms can have detrimental effects.

According to the Next Advisor study, it was determined that 30 percent of Facebook users do not have their profiles set to private and 14 percent don't know their privacy settings.

There are several ways people can protect themselves on social media:

When posting, remember "when in doubt, throw it out."

Take notice of security settings: Are you hard to find/access? Each social network platform has security settings, but people should not solely rely on those settings and should make their profiles as secure as possible.

Disable location-based social

media, or geotagging: this alerts others to your exact location and could inadvertently reveal more information than should be out there.

Do not post work or personal schedules or travel itineraries; this is especially true if the travel is related to deployments. Posting this information could give adversaries information on troop locations and movements.

Be aware of backgrounds in photos: sensitive or classified information could inadvertently be in the photo. The background could also give clues as to where you are and what you are doing.

Do not post information on casualties in your unit; the military has a procedure in place to properly and respectfully notify next of kin in case of injury or death.

And again, remember "when in doubt, throw it out."

Hope, comfort in the midst of chaos and instability

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Maj.) Will Harrison
JBER Chaplain

A recent Gallup poll said Americans are not very concerned with global warming; in fact, fewer than fifty percent of Americans are greatly concerned with any environmental issue at all.

This is a significant drop from five or ten years ago, when more than half the country was very concerned about ‘green’ issues.

Much has changed in that time. Our economy is still struggling; we hear about constant war in countries we have devoted lives and dollars to secure and our culture seems to be slipping away from fulfillment even as we strive after it more and more.

The dismay and disappointment can sometimes feel almost palpable.

Is not our culture more educated, more advanced, more civilized than in the 1940s and 1950s? It is easy to look back to some golden era in which we think life was grand and everything was easy. The reality is no generation is without



The chaos and tumult of the world can be overwhelming, but peace can be found. (Courtesy graphic)

its hardships; every decade brings some new fear, some worry, that drives people to irrational action and taints the world we live in.

Economic woes have hit the 30s, 70s, and 80s, even as they hit us now. No decade has been without significant wars, whether one large conflict, or multiple small-scale entanglements. We

have been afraid of Y2K, the red scare, nuclear holocaust, civil strife, global warming, and a host of other terrifying scenarios. All these issues are important, and we should all be concerned with the threats that exist today, but we should not let concern drive us into pessimism and depression.

In our current culture it is easy

to insulate ourselves from many of these fears and worries. We have faster internet, more advanced phones, efficient automobiles, hundreds of high-definition television channels and opportunities for fun and relaxation only emperors could have managed a century ago. But none of this has driven the fear from our lives. We still remain

very worried about ISIS, recession, Iran’s nuclear program, and petroleum to fuel our daily lives.

It can be disheartening to feel that the world is spinning out of control and that there is nothing one can do to alter the centrifugal force that drives everything away from the center and sends it all spinning away into oblivion. It is a dark and dreary way to live, yet so many choose it because they have no confidence that things can be any different than they are.

The world, however, is different than it appears. Iran is still pursuing nuclear weapons, our economy is still in the pits, and wars are still raging despite our best efforts. Those things are not different, they really are shaping the world we live in. But there is a different perspective on this world that brings hope and comfort in the midst of the chaos and instability.

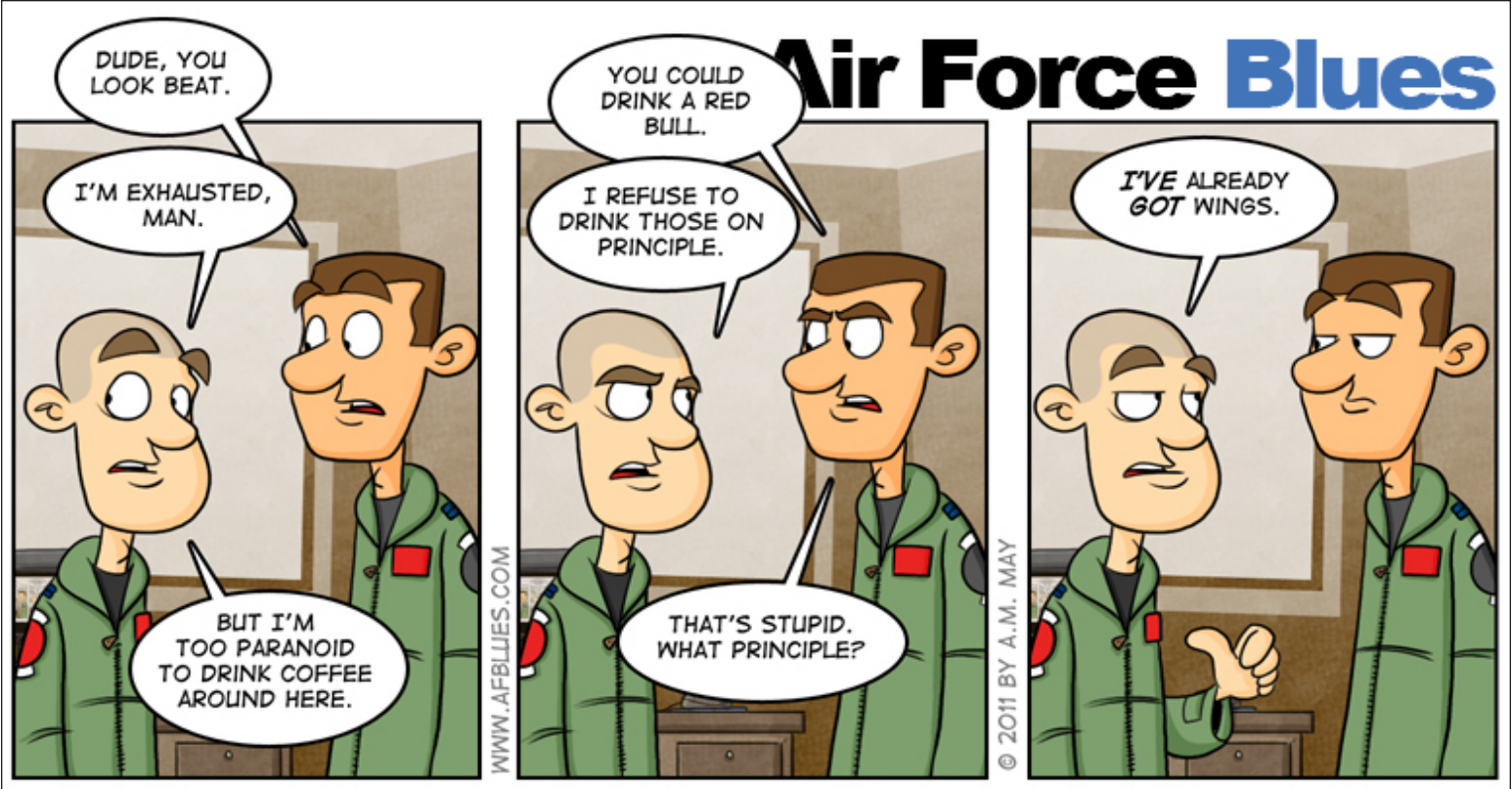
Jesus said there would be all sorts of trouble in the world; he said things were going to get very bad, especially for his followers, but those who turn to him should not fear. Jesus said he loves the world, and that he has everything under control whether it seems that way to us or not.

That love, according to Jesus, drives out fear and fills one with peace in the face of the tumult of the world.

Peace is something nearly everyone says they want, but no one seems to be able to get it. Perhaps it is because we are going about it the wrong way. We think our advances and our technology, our reason and our sophistication, will bring peace to the chaos and fear that we experience, but it continues to elude us.

Perhaps our fear and worry is because we think we must fix the mess that we have made. Jesus tells us otherwise.

If you are feeling crushed by the fear and worry that pervade our lives, consider this: you are loved by a person who defeated all of those fears and says if you trust him, however bad things may look, you will have peace knowing that it will turn out alright.



FRIDAY
Swim/Row challenge
Registration runs through April 9 in the Buckner Fitness Center lobby for this swimming and rowing competition that takes place April 10 at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will swim 300 meters and row 2000 meters, best times win. There are only 30 slots available, register now.
For information call 384-1301.

Youth open house
In celebration of Month of the Military Child, youth center members can bring a guest to the Kennecott Youth Center from 2 to 6 p.m. for cake and fun. There will be a kids-versus-staff challenge; kids get to choose the game.
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 1 to 5 p.m.
For information, call 552-5113.

Flashlight money-egg hunt
Bring your flashlight and friends to the Arctic Oasis Community Center for an Easter Egg hunt with a twist. The hunt, presented by JBER Youth Programs gets under way at 9:30 p.m. and is open to kids ages 9 to 18.
For information, call 552-2266 or 384-1508.

SATURDAY
Easter Egg Scramble
The Arctic Oasis Community Center hosts free Easter Egg hunts to offer another way to get out and enjoy the holiday and have fun. The hunt, sorted by age, and presented by JBER Youth Programs gets under way at 10:30 a.m. The event will take place outdoors; please dress accordingly.
For age-specific times and information, visit elmendorf-richardson.com.

Easter Bunny lunch
Come out to the Arctic Oasis Community Center and enjoy lunch with the Easter Bunny. There will be a resource fair, petting zoo, crafts and more. Purchase tickets at the Arctic Oasis soon before they're sold out.
For information, call 552-8529.

Bunny bowling
Celebrate Easter with bowling specials from noon to 3 p.m. at the

Polar Bowl. Join the hunt for special prizes, all kids receive a goody bag with purchase of bowling.
For information, call 753-7467.

THROUGH EASTER
Catholic Lenten services
Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. in the Arctic Warrior Chapel followed by a short meditation and meatless soup, bread and salad meal.
Good Friday service will be hosted at 7 p.m. in the Midnight Sun Chapel.
Easter Vigil is Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Arctic Warrior Chapel.
Easter Masses are Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the Arctic Warrior Chapel and 11:30 a.m. in the Midnight Sun Chapel.

THROUGH SUNDAY
Alaska Sportsman Show
The Sullivan Arena and Ben Boeke Arena host this annual event, which offers demonstrations, clinics, activities for kids, ranges and much more. If you're looking for outdoor gear, this is the place to be.
Free shuttle service is provided from the Midtown Wal-Mart and the Northway Mall.
For information, visit greatalaskasportsmanshow.com.

MONDAY
Operation Purple Alaska
Operation Purple Camp is a free week of camp where military kids, ages 9 to 17 can connect with other kids just like them. Camp will take place July 26 to 31 at Camp K on Kenai Lake. Application deadline is Monday.
Apply online at militaryfamily.org.

Children's bowling
In honor of Month of the Military Child, every Monday throughout the month of April from 4 to 9 p.m. kids can enjoy special pricing on bowling and shoe rentals at Polar Bowl.
For information, call 753-7467.

Armed Forces Kids run
Registration for the Armed Forces Kids color run begins April 6. The run which will occur on military installations world-wide takes place May 16.
For information and to register, visit americaskidsrun.org.

Homeschool Mondays
Looking for an activity that incorporates physical fitness with fun for your homeschool group? Head

to the Polar Bowl to receive special pricing on bowling and shoe rentals every Monday throughout the month of April from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For information, call 753-7467.

TUESDAY
Parents' Night Out
Parents, need a date night? Let the professional staff at the Juneau Child Development Center care for your children from 6 to 10 p.m.
For more information and to pre-register, call central registration at 384-7483.

WEDNESDAY
Intramural swim meet
Registration deadline for the JBER intramural swim meet is April 3. An organizational meeting will take place April 7 at 1 p.m. in the Bucker fitness center. The competition will occur April 16 at 5:50 p.m.
For information call 384-1312.

Intramural wrestling
Registration deadline for JBER intramural wrestling is April 3. Weigh-ins will take place April 7 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. in the Bucker fitness center. The tourney will occur April 8 at 7 p.m. and is for individuals age 18 and older.
For information call 384-1312.

THURSDAYS THROUGH APRIL 30
Indoor rock climbing 101
Ever wanted to learn to rock climb? The Outdoor Adventure Program in Bldg. 7301 will provide instruction on their 40-foot indoor climbing wall from 5 to 7 p.m. every Thursday throughout the month of April.
For information, call 552-2023 or 552-3812.

APRIL 10
Autism awareness
April is Autism Awareness month. There will be a resource fair hosted by the Exceptional Family Member Program staff at the Joint Military Mall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
For information, call 384-1517 or 552-4943.

Little League
Registration deadline for JBER Youth Programs little league baseball and softball is fast approaching. Season begins April 20 and runs through June 30. All participants must be registered with Youth Programs and have a current sports physical. Register at Kennecott or Two Rivers youth centers

or visit tiny.cc/0xndwx.
For information, call 552-2266 or 384-1508.

Open Mic Night
Take the stage and show off your talent at the Fire Pit from 6 to 8 p.m. Stop in to see what's new.
For information, call 384-7619.

ONGOING
Keystone meeting for teens
Keystone Club is a leadership development experience providing community service opportunities for young people ages 14 to 18. Meetings take place every Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Two Rivers Youth Center.
For information, call 384-1508.

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.
For information, call 753-7467.

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.

Neon bowling
All military E-4 and below receive a 10 percent discount every Friday night 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Polar Bowl. Gather your friends, bowl in the neon lights while enjoying today's top music hits.
For information, call 753-7467.

Torch meeting for youth
Keystone Club is a leadership development experience providing community service opportunities and character development for youths ages 11 to 13. Meetings take place every Monday at 4:15 p.m. at the Two Rivers Youth Center.
For information, call 384-1508.

4H Purple Up
Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military. Teens and youths, keep healthy and strong through Healthy Habits and Cooking and yoga activities at the Two Rivers Youth Center. Teens meet Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and youths meet Thursdays at 4:15 p.m.
For information, call 384-1508.

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.

Protestant Sunday Services

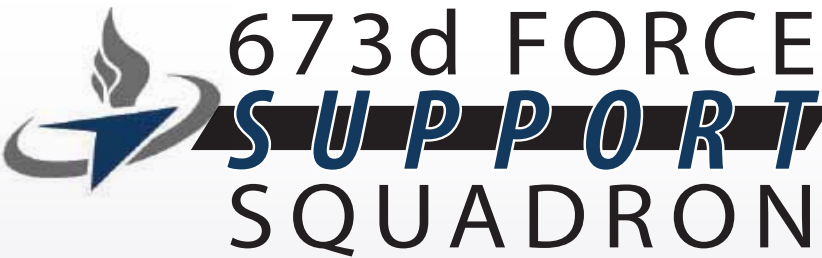
Liturgical Service
9 a.m. – Heritage Chapel
Gospel Service
9:30 a.m. – Midnight Sun Chapel
Community Service
10:30 a.m. – Heritage Chapel
Collective Service
11 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Chapel Next
5 p.m. – Chaplain Family Life Center

Jewish Services
The Jewish service scheduled for Friday has been cancelled as it is the first night of Passover. For more information on Passover events and seders in the local area on Friday and Saturday, please call 384-0456.

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

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 or call 384-1461.



MWR events & activities



MARKETING TIDBITS
FSS = MWR

Explore Alaska with the Single Airman Program

The Gray Whales are migrating and Single Service Members on JBER have an opportunity to get out and hop on a day cruise for only \$10. Transportation is included with the registration fee. The Single Airman Program (SAP) is open to all single service members of all branches of the Military on JBER.

The Single Airman Program is an Air Force initiative and endorsed by the Office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air force. Their Mission Statement reads: *To provide Force Support Squadron resources that foster a strong culture, mission, and sense of community for Single Service Members.* According to Michelle Hartman, SAP Program Director, "Our goal is to get the single Airmen and Soldiers out of the dorms and barracks doing things in Alaska."

SAP offers an inexpensive way to get out and exploring this great state. Other upcoming programs include "Behind the Scenes" at the Alaska Zoo for a \$10 registration fee and a full day Hailbut Charter out of Seward, Alaska with Seward Army Resort. The cost of this trip is \$50 and includes transportation to Seward.

"The success of this program is determined by the size of the smile on the participant's faces when we return from a trip. I feel this program makes a big difference to our Single Service Members," said Hartman, when asked about the overall program.

According to JBER Single Airman Program statistics, over 1,500+ Single Service Members have taken advantage of this low cost program, which began in October of 2011.

Past trips have included dog sledding, whitewater rafting, zip lining, snowmachining, back country skiing/snowboarding, and jet boat tours in the rivers around Denali National Park. Events are first come, first served and spots can fill up very quickly. For more information on upcoming trips, you can find the Single Airman Program on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JBERSingleAirmanProgram or call 907.552.8529 to speak with Ms Hartman.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is another program that serves the JBER Single Service Members on JBER. You can find their contact information at www.facebook.com/JBER.BOSS.AK or by calling 907.384.9023. Keep an eye out for an upcoming article highlighting the BOSS program.

For information on all FSS events and activities, check out our website at www.elmendorf-richardson.com.



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA
Teen Flashlight Money Egg Hunt
April 3 • 9:30 p.m.
For 13 - 18 YRS. OLD
FREE EVENT
Sponsor: JBER Youth Programs
Don't forget your flashlight!
Spring Fling
April 4
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
\$7 per person
1 yr. old & under free
Limited Quantity Available
Purchase your tickets at the Arctic Oasis before they are sold out!
Easter Egg Scramble
April 4
FREE EVENT
10:30 a.m. - Ages: 0 - 4 YRS. OLD
11 a.m. - Ages: 5 - 8 YRS. OLD
11:30 a.m. - Ages: 9 - 12 YRS. OLD
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Please do not be late for your designated times.
JBER Youth Programs

Swim/Row CHALLENGE
APRIL 10 | 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Registration: April 1 - 9
at Buckner Fitness Center Lobby
30 Slots Available
Participants will swim 300 yards and row 2000 meters on the row machines.
Call 384.1301 for more information

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BUCKNERFITNESSCENTER **BLDG. 690 | 384.1301**

the Polar Bowl
17376 Fighter Dr.
953-7467 (PHN)
Closed April 5th for Easter

BUNNY BOWLING
April 4 | Noon - 3 p.m.
\$6.99 per person 1 hr (shoes included)
Come out to hunt for special prizes, including a goody bag for every child with paid purchase of bowling!

SIGNUPS BEGINNING FOR UFC SUMMER BOWLING LEAGUE!
League will run from May through August 2015! Join the league - bowl a minimum of 15 weeks and receive a UFC Bowling Ball and a chance to win a trip to Las Vegas to see a UFC Title Fight!
Sign up at the front counter beginning April 2!

JBER INTRAMURAL WRESTLING
Buckner Fitness Center
Bldg. 690 | 384.1312

WRESTLING MEET # 1:
Registration Deadline: Weigh-Ins: Ages:
April 6 April 7 | 4 - 4:30 p.m. 18 & over
Call 384.1312/1304 for more information. WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BUCKNERFITNESSCENTER

Let's Do Lunch With A Vendor
at Information, Tickets & Travel
(located inside the Arctic Oasis Community Center Bldg. 9497)

April 3 Kenai Fjords 50% off
April 6 Ninilchick Charters Stay & Fish Package
April 10 Ninilchick Charters Stay & Fish Package
April 17 Major Marine 50% off

** Discount prices are good from 9:30am until 5:30pm on date specified.

USA Information Tickets & Travel

ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON
FORCE
SUPPORT SQUADRON
<http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com>

Stop by and see us!
www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS

FSS = MWR

Birth Announcements

ARCTIC WARRIOR

April 3, 2015 **B-4**

FEB. 24

A son, Ryder Terence Merkel, was born 21 inches long and weighing 10 pounds, 5 ounces at 10:35 p.m. to Taylor Brooke Merkel and Spc. Eric Robert Merkel of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

FEB. 25

A daughter, Jamie Rose Wall, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces at 9:48 a.m. to Amber Marie Wall and Spc. Michael Thomas Wall of the 545th Military Police Detachment.

FEB. 27

A daughter, Kendall June Gatewood, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 6:46 p.m. to Ragan Alyssa Gatewood and Sgt. Gregory Cole Gatewood of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

FEB. 28

A son, Reuben Craig Fredericksen, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 2 ounces at 8:49 p.m. to Krystle Corbin Fredericksen and Army Capt. Morgan Craig Fredericksen of the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

MAR. 1

A son, Dylan Wade Anderson, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces at 6:20 a.m. to Crystal Marie Anderson and Sgt. Joshua David Anderson of the 4th Quartermaster Company.

A son, Landon Matthew Frey,

was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at 5:11 p.m. to Senior Airman Kristal Lovett Salinas of the 611th Air and Space Operations Center and Spc. Thomas Matthew Frey of the 109th Transportation Company.

MAR. 2

A daughter, Autumn Madison Brewer, was born 18 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 8:02 a.m. to Angelique Danille Brewer and Sgt. Reginald Juan Brewer Jr. of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

MAR. 3

A daughter, Amya Rose Sanders, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces at 2:50 a.m. to Melinda Sue Sanders and Sgt. Trey Allan Sanders of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A daughter, Amethyst Rangel, was born 18 inches long and weighing 4 pounds, 9 ounces at 5:05 a.m. to Herandie Sera Fina Meza and Spc. Ramiro Rangel Villa of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

A son, Maximus Quintus Kooistra, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 7:55 a.m. to Ashlee Brianna Kooistra and Air Force Staff Sgt. Steven Edward Kooistra of the 732nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

MAR. 4

A daughter, Iris Andromeda Brenden, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 8:08 p.m. to Keela Renee Brenden

and Air Force Staff Sgt. John Michael Brenden of the 517th Airlift Squadron.

MAR. 5

A son, Bryan Maxwell Benson, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 12:32 p.m. to Stephanie A. Benson and Sgt. Bryan W. Benson of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

MAR. 6

A daughter, Aaliyah Grace Harmon, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 6:56 a.m. to Shannon C. Harmon and Sgt. Rodriquez D. Harmon of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

MAR. 8

A daughter, Audrey Elisabeth Caukin, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces at 7:51 a.m. to Tiffany Anne Caukin and Army Maj. Patrick Walter Caukin of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

MAR. 9

A daughter, Sorren Grace Simons, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 5:45 a.m. to Sierra Diana Simons and Senior Airman Sean Patrick Simons of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron.

MAR. 10

A daughter, Alaiya Elizabeth Sumrall, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 8:13 p.m. to Deanna Elizabeth Sumrall and Pfc. Kenneth Larell Sumrall of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

MAR. 11

A son, Ora Keith Phillips, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 11:58 p.m. to Kate Elizabeth Phillips and Airman 1st Class Kurt Matthew Phillips of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron.

MAR. 14

A son, Brayden Thomas Casler, was born 21 inches long and

weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce at 2:10 a.m. to Kimberly Ann Casler and Tech. Sgt. Melvin Thomas Casler of the 176th Air Defense Squadron.

A son, Dean Vincent Konen was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 11:06 a.m. to Stephanie Ann Konen and Cpl. James Anthony Konen of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

MAR. 17

A son, Charlie Benjamin Kifer, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 11:29 p.m. to Meghan E. Kifer and Air Force 1st Lt. Ben R. Kifer of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.

MAR. 19

A son, Hunter Lee Daybell, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces at 7:46 a.m. to Mallory Luanne Daybell and Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Quinn Daybell of the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

MAR. 20

A daughter, Talia Grace Canaday was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 3:36 a.m. to Kimberly Ann Canaday and Jeremy Dustin Canaday.

A daughter, Sienna Grace Kaiser, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces at 2:52 p.m. to Army 1st Lt. Anita Shanel Kaiser of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment and Army 1st Lt. Steven Mark Kaiser of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

MAR. 22

A son, Dominic Raydon Sanchez, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 1:25 p.m. to Stacey Rae Sanchez and Spc. Alejandro Sanchez of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A son, Landon Christian Jaronik Rivers, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 11:21 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Tina Michelle

Jaronik of the 673d Medical Support Squadron and Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Brian Rivers of the 35th Security Forces Squadron.

MAR. 23

A daughter, Aubrey Rose Wilson, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces at 4:51 a.m. to Ashley Jean Wilson and Senior Airman Seth Alexander Wilson of the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

A son, Bryson John Luescher, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces at 6:05 a.m. to Michaela Mary Luescher and Sgt. Joseph Alan Luescher of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

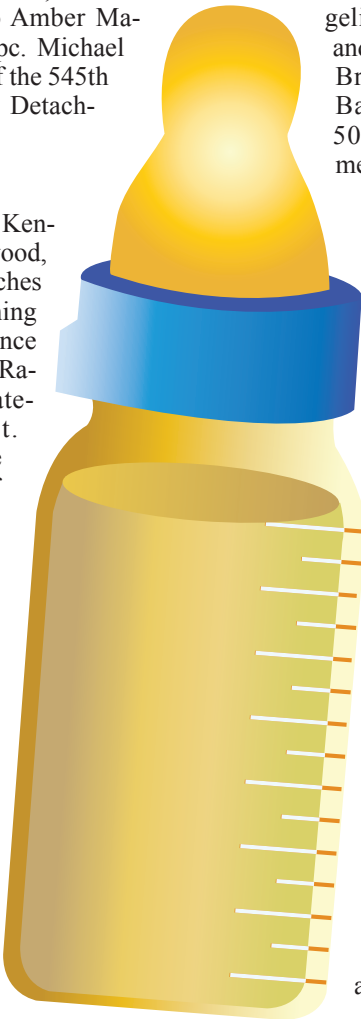
A daughter, Whitley Quinn Sheets, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 7:16 p.m. to Samantha Don Sheets and Army Capt. Clinton Richard Sheets Jr. of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

MAR. 24

A son, Mark Ervin Clark, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 11:05 a.m. to Crystal Renee Clark and Army Staff Sgt. Billy Joe Clark, Jr. of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

MAR. 25

A son, Jackson Avery Norman, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 1:30 a.m. to Giulia Norman and Spc. Zachary Edward Norman of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.



Students learn disappearing act

JBER information specialist teaches kids the art of magic

By Airman 1st Class Tammie Ramsouer
JBER Public Affairs

A magician pulled out a deck of cards and asked an audience member to shuffle the deck, choose a card and shuffle again.

During the performance, the audience member wanted to shuffle the deck himself, thinking the man would cheat.

What the magician didn’t know was his assistant from the audience had a plan to sabotage the trick.

The man gleefully shuffled the deck, but half of the deck was face up and the other face down — with the intent of making the trick difficult for him to perform.

The magician knew what he had to do. He waved his hands over the cards and split the deck in half.

What the crowd saw next would fill them with awe.

All of the cards were in perfect order, and the card the man had chosen was the only card face down in the deck.

The magician is Richard Kennedy, an information specialist working with the 59th Signal Battalion, and this is one of many tricks he teaches to children during his class.

Any child interested in magic can participate in Kennedy’s classes, organized through the Youth Instructional Program on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. With only a few children participating when Kennedy began teaching the class, today more than 10 attend the class regularly.

“This class I am teaching here at the Illa School-Age Program has been an ongoing commitment since 2012,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy has been teaching his skills to others wanting to learn magic for more than 25 years.

“I teach the children the fundamental principles of magic,” Kennedy said.



Richard Kennedy, 59th Signal Battalion information specialist and professional magician, teaches a magic class at the Illa School Age Program on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson March 20. Kennedy, a native of Portland, Oregon, has been teaching magic since 2012 to children ages seven and up through the Youth Instructional Programs. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tammie Ramsouer)

Blaze Byrne, son of Brent Byrne, an Amerisafe safety engineer, is one of Kennedy’s current students.

“I found out about the class through Cub Scouts, and Mister Kennedy did a show for us,” Blaze said. “I like the class, because we are learning about all these types of tricks I have always wanted to know how to do.”

Blaze said he especially likes working with cards.

“My favorite part about the class is performing for my other classmates when I do my card tricks,” Blaze said. “I recently won a trophy during one of our magic contests for my card tricks, and Mister Kennedy has nicknamed me the Card Man.”

Three times a year, Kennedy allows all of his young pupils to star in his show-cases.

“I pick those who I believe to be the most thriving and passionate students of mine to perform with me at the Frontier Theater,” he said. “A lot of the show

is made up of stage illusions, which I have a set up to teach my classes how to properly execute the magic tricks we will be doing.”

Although he is a professional, he said he wouldn’t be where he is today if he hadn’t developed a penchant for magic at a young age.

“My interest with magic began on my sixth birthday,” Kennedy said. “My grandmother bought me a puzzle kit, but I knew it wasn’t magic because at the time magic wasn’t supposed to be a puzzle. At a young age, I knew magic was supposed to be mystery and not puzzles.”

Following his first encounter with magic, Kennedy became a self-taught magician.

“I would go to the library and check out magic books,” he said. “In the magic books, they always said not to tell anyone the secrets.”

“I would get in trouble, because I would never return those secrets. I wasn’t a thief by any means, I was just trying to protect the secrets of

magic.”

At the age of 14, a young Kennedy met his mentor through a high school friend.

“He was doing a simple card trick and told me his dad was a magician,” Kennedy said.

He decided to visit his friend’s father to show him what he can do.

“I performed the only good trick I could do at my age and he was really impressed,” he said.

From that encounter Kennedy had a mentor to help him improve.

“I learned a great deal from him,” Kennedy said. “And he helped me start performing magic, professionally, at my young age. It grew from there, and I have been performing for the past 33 years.”

Since becoming a professional magician, Kennedy has been performing all over the world in Europe, Canada and throughout the U.S.

“I think the biggest things magic teaches, and what I have learned throughout the years of performing magic, is it helps children gain self esteem, creativity and using critical thinking,” Kennedy said.

For more information about this class or other classes, contact the Youth Instructional Program at 384-1508.





Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard's 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade speak with elementary school students at Z. J. Williams Memorial School during a break during their annual training in Napaskiak March 25. The Soldiers' annual training is based in Bethel and includes many of the smaller surrounding villages. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Sgt. Marisa Lindsay)

Army National Guard Soldiers visit Napaskiak students

By Sgt. Marisa Lindsay
Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

BETHEL — Alaska Army National Guardsmen visited with students here March 25 while taking a break from the annual training that brought them to Bethel and outlying villages.

Soldiers from the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade conducted a portion of their training in Napaskiak, a small village seven miles downriver from Bethel with approximately 400 residents.

The Soldiers were near K-12 Z.J. Williams Memorial School while performing small unit support vehicle operator's training, and made sure to provide village residents with an interactive

experience with the 10,000-pound vehicles.

"It's important for our students, for the children, to get these experiences with visitors from other places because as educators, we see it as part of their education," said Tolbert Bentley, principal of Z.J. Williams Memorial School.

"The presence of the Soldiers has given the kids a situation where they can ask questions and see opportunity beyond their world, all while having fun."

The Soldiers carved time into their training schedule in order to visit with students for two hours. They ate lunch with the students in their cafeteria, and acquainted them with medical, audiovisual and other military equipment and tactical gear.

Six Soldiers also provided an impromptu presentation to a classroom of 1st through 4th graders on what it means to be in the Alaska National Guard.

"We saw this as the perfect opportunity for community outreach for our Soldiers," said 1st Sgt. Rodger Morrison of B-Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment out of Bethel.

"One thing we try and train our Soldiers on is that there is so much more to Alaska than just Anchorage, Fairbanks and Wasilla ... and until our Soldiers are able to visit with and connect with the members of these smaller villages firsthand, it's something that's hard to train and even harder to grasp."

A significant amount of community involvement has been incorporated into the Soldiers' annual training this year, as a handful of smaller villages that surround Bethel have been coordinated with to provide the scene for military training scenarios.

"Being interactive with the community like this has been fantastic for our Soldiers," Morrison said. "Watching the excited expressions on the children's faces as they were climbing on the equipment and trying on pieces of the uniform was a priceless experience for all involved, and definitely one of the highlights of my training this week."

