

2d Engineer Brigade bids the U.S. Army

FAREWELL



By Capt. Richard Packer
U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs

U.S. Army Alaska’s 2d Engineer Brigade, recognized by the unique seahorse shoulder patch, inactivated for the third time since its constitution 73 years ago during a ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Pershing Field May 15.

The Arctic Trailblazers have served in Alaska since September 2011 when the 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade reflagged to become 2d Engineer Brigade. The 3rd MEB had activated two years prior, at a time when the Army was still expanding to meet the demands of fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Both brigades afforded necessary mission command to a wide range of force-multiplier modular units with capabilities including chemical, finance, explosive ordnance disposal, engineer, military police and logistics. The largest difference between the organizations was 2d Engineer Brigade being equipped with a technical headquarters section staffed with engineers. This provided the brigade expertise necessary to manage construction and technical engineer planning and project management.

With the Army downsizing to meet fiscal requirements set by the Budget Control Act of 2011, 2d Engineer Brigade was identified in 2013 to inactivate by the end of fiscal year 2015. As the brigade was preparing in 2014 for inactivation the Army added further levels of complexity by slotting the brigade headquarters for a deployment to Afghanistan while also moving the inactivation date sooner by two months.

“Despite the fact that the operational deployments started to pick up in 2013, the Army upped



Soldiers of the 2d Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army Alaska, change out their shoulder insignia for the USARAK insignia during a ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson May 15. This is the fourth time the 2nd Engineer Brigade has inactivated since World War II. The brigade is inactivating as part of downsizing to restructure into a leaner, more adaptable fighting force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

the stakes by accelerating the inactivation timeline,” said Col. Pete Andrysiak, commander of 2d Engineer Brigade, during the inactivation ceremony. “The bulk of the work would fall dead center of the (brigade) headquarters’ deployment to Afghanistan. You can’t make this stuff up.”

Andrysiak also highlighted the brigade’s accomplishments and responsibilities during deployment where they served as the International Security Assistance Force’s final theater engineer brigade. These included training and advising the Afghan army’s only national engineer brigade and

synchronizing the deconstruction mission of bases across the nation resulting in 61 of 86 bases closing or transferring to the Afghans.

“Like all other units we also had to redeploy and retrograde all of the equipment left in Afghanistan over the years,” Andrysiak said.

Maj. Gen. Mike Shields, commander of U.S. Army Alaska, also spoke during the ceremony. His closing remarks were focused on the legacy of 2d Engineer Brigade and giving direction to the brigade’s Soldiers.

“Anywhere the nation needs effective forces, it calls on those

who serve in the Last Frontier. We are a special breed of Soldiers and our adversaries know it,” Shields said. “That will carry on for all of you as you transition into the brigade engineer battalions here and at Fort Wainwright or other units across the Army. Take pride in being an Arctic Trailblazer with you wherever you may go next.”

The ceremony was attended by two special guests. Jack Reed, who is 91 years old, served in 2d Engineer Brigade, known then as 2d Engineer Amphibian Brigade, during World War II. He was accompanied by Edwin Leard III whose grandfather, Edwin Leard,

also served with the brigade and was killed in New Guinea.

The 2d Engineer Brigade’s final remaining battalion, the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, stood in formation and changed their left shoulder sleeve patches identifying their parent unit during the ceremony.

The battalion command team, Lt. Col. John Gaivin and Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Brown, first removed each others’ 2d Engineer Brigade seahorse patches and replaced them with U.S. Army Alaska’s polar bear patch before proceeding to do the same for the rest of their Soldiers.

Big impact: 3rd MUNS Airmen train to build munitions

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

“The United States Air Force, dropping warheads on foreheads since 1947.” Many have heard this phrase before, perhaps chuckled, and moved on.

Those who hear it may attribute the glory to the brave men and women piloting fighter jets every day, but few think, “Where do the bombs come from; and how precise are they, really?”

Before those bombs can dish out some freedom, ammunition troops have to build them.

To accomplish this mission, every munitions systems specialist is required to complete combat munitions training on an annual basis, said Senior Airman Mary Smith, unit training monitor for the 3rd Munitions Squadron.

CMT is a three-part annual training program with a classroom portion, a practical portion on precision targeting missiles, and a practical portion on building bombs.

The ammo career field is split into different categories, so even though the training monitors teaching the class in the past have been ammo Airmen, they may not have been part of the particular category that deals with building bombs.

“While we are all munitions Airmen, we work in different capacities,” Smith said. “Some of these Airmen may never touch a bomb during their daily work, but they need to be fully capable to do whatever the mission calls for when they deploy.”

Because of this, the bomb-building training itself used to be handled by a training monitor. However, to increase the standard of training, they now use conventional maintenance Airmen – the section of ammo that actually builds bombs – to teach this portion.

“This is our first time as conventional

maintenance crew members doing the combat munitions training. It was a little bit of a process, but we were able to figure it out,” Murray said. “I’m happy that everyone came together and we were able to make it happen.”

In a deployed environment, someone who is fully qualified will lead the teams, but if everyone has a basic understanding of what is expected of them, the team will operate more smoothly, Smith said.

“Some of these people may not have touched a bomb in quite a long time,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Murray, crew chief of conventional maintenance at the 3rd MUNS. “This gives them the familiarity to get the job done.”

During the training, Airmen will be building inert bombs which are then used by pilots for their own training.

For regular training purposes, the team assembles the bombs on a trailer. During time-sensitive operations, they use the MAC.

The MAC, or the munitions assembly conveyor, is, as its name suggests, a conveyor or belt. Using the MAC, munitions Airmen can work together to assemble hundreds of bombs with efficiency.

It operates in much the same way one would imagine Santa’s elves work on Christmas presents.

The difference, of course, is these presents are given to naughty boys and girls, not nice ones.

“Airmen line up along the MAC and each is working on a different part of the bomb,” Murray said. “This training gives them the familiarization of building bombs in mass quantities.”

When they aren’t using it, it folds up and is packed away.

Inert bombs are exactly the same as live bombs, but lack the explosives and fuse, Murray said.



Senior Airmen Michael Crow (left) and Evan Kirchner, both assigned to the 3rd Munitions Squadron, attach strakes to a GBU-32 Joint Direct Attack Munition during combat munitions training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson April 23. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera)

“These same tails are used in actual bombs,” Murray said. “But instead of being attached to 1,000 pounds of concrete, they are attached to warheads.”

Before assembly, they update or install software in the tail-kit of the bomb, Murray said.

“Every bomb, even the inert [ones], is GPS-guided,” Murray said.

The software they install could mean the difference between mission failure and mission success.

“After our kit munitions units [tail kits] are tested and good to go, we move on to the bomb bodies,” Murray said. “We lift them up with the forklift and transport them over to the trailer. Then, we bring them them outside and attach them to our bomb bodies.”

The annual training used to be limited to summer, because of the unique cold weather

Alaska brings to bear.

To accomplish the mission with the limited time frame, they would train every week.

“It is extremely cold out here in the winter,” Smith said. “Even with gloves and hats, by lunch time, toes are getting numb.”

Now, they have a heater in their training shelter which allows them to schedule training year-round instead of monopolizing the facilities in the summertime.

“We have a huge impact on the mission; without bombs, those planes are just an air show,” Murray said.

Dropping warheads on foreheads may have a big impact, but it’s just the tip of the iceberg.

Out of sight, there’s a force that puts the weight behind the punch: the teamwork of the Airmen who support the planes.

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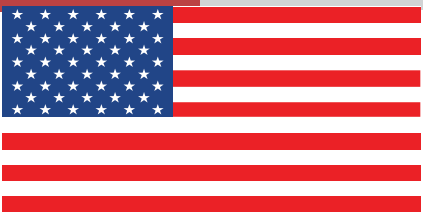
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Hitting the mark: forward observer doesn’t quit

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

*I am an American Soldier.
I am a warrior and a member
of a team.*

The Soldier’s Creed is a commitment every Soldier makes. They memorize it, recite it regularly, and strive to embody it every day.

Spc. Matt Miclean, a forward observer assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Battalion is no different.

Like many before him, his acceptance of this creed has been tested, and will continue to be tested.

Before enlisting, Miclean earned a bachelor’s degree in business management while working 30 hours a week at a supermarket.

Then, to create more opportunities in the future, he joined the Army, enlisting as a forward observer.

Shortly after graduating from training, Miclean was offered the opportunity to go to airborne school. Since FOs frequently jump into a mission, airborne qualification allows him to operate in a wider spectrum of missions.

“I had no desire to go airborne, but I had the chance to do it,” Miclean said. “I know people I went to basic and [advanced individual training] with who would have jumped on it if they got the chance; I didn’t want to waste that opportunity.”

In retrospect, Miclean said, he’s glad he stepped up.

“If I had the chance to do it all over again,” he said. “I would.”

He’d need that hindsight to drive him up the next step in his military career, the biggest obstacle he’s overcome in his life so far – Ranger school.

Ranger school consists of three phases in which trainees learn to lead platoon- and squad-level missions in a variety of different terrains.

Miclean’s supervisor said Ranger school is one of the most difficult courses the Army has to offer.

The teams are put together without regard for rank, so as a junior enlisted Soldier, Miclean found himself filling officer-level roles, like platoon leader – and leading personnel who significantly outranked him in experience and pay grade.

“It was definitely a big change for me,” Miclean said.

Meals were scarce, and exercise was plentiful.

“The lack of food and the lack of sleep takes its toll,” Miclean said. “I was so skinny, you could



Spc. Matthew Miclean, a forward observer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), U.S. Army Alaska, is seen with his equipment during a brigade field exercise, May 12. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

see every one of my ribs all the way up.”

Trainees are only given the bare minimum of nourishment possible during the course. But the purpose of this limitation is not anything physical.

“There’s the physical part, getting smoked for hours and hours, but the mental stress, that’s the worst part,” Miclean said.

The course is just over 60 days long, but many find it takes longer. The recycle system is just one tool the instructors use to test mental fortitude.

There are points throughout the school where the teams vote for the most productive members of the team, and those who are ranked lower are recycled.

The whole time, he knew he could just give up at any time, make all the hardship go away.

“I stayed down there for almost six months,” Miclean said with a thick voice. “I wanted to quit several times, but I didn’t. I couldn’t come back here saying I quit.

“Everybody back here was my motivation; I couldn’t come back here saying I quit.”

By persevering, he learned more about himself.

In basic, Miclean supported his fellow Soldiers to accomplish the mission together.

In jump school, he relied on the riggers who packed his parachute.

In Ranger school, he supported his exhausted platoon, and relied on their support to complete the mission.

Now, he’s the bridge between the infantry downrange and the artillery support that could save their lives.

Forward Observer

“If we have infantry in a combat zone taking contact, and they want some relief,” Miclean said, “That’s what we do.”

An Army artillery gun line can provide support to operations more than 15 miles away. With that kind of distance, cannoners don’t identify and locate the target; the FO at an observation post several miles away does.

The FOs set up camp at the observation post with the fire support officer, fire support noncommissioned officer and radio telephone operator.

The FO uses a grid system 17 times more precise than a regular compass to relay precise firing data to the fire direction center through the radio telephone operator.

Down by the gun line, the FDC decides whether or not they are going to fire, and relays the coordinates to the Soldiers at the gun line, who pull the proverbial trigger, Miclean said.

It may sound complicated, but it works much the same as the human body.

The FO is the eyes, then relays information to the FDC – the brain – who then tells the gun line, the muscle, to fire the weapons.

If corrections need to be made, the FO adjusts the coordinates and the process starts over again.

However, the goal is to not need to make adjustments – to hit the target on the first round.

“You want to have first-round effects on the target,” said Sgt. Gregory Gatewood, also HHB, 2/377th PFA, and Miclean’s supervisor.

To accomplish this, the Soldiers take the guns out to a safe location and fire practice rounds before going on a mission. The FO uses the information from these practice shots to accurately determine how the guns will behave when it really counts.

This process is called ‘registering the guns.’

“If you register the guns correctly, then you use that information in the mission location,” Miclean said. “It’s just a different target location.”

Even though artillery is used chiefly for suppressing an area, rather than hitting a specific element, precision is still very important.

A large part of what FOs do is battle tracking, a term used to describe being aware of everything

going on in the area.

“We maintain [knowledge of] friendly positions on the battlefield at all times, so we always know where to safely put ordnance,” Gatewood said. “Whether it’s infantry, other forward observers or civilians, you have to be aware of anyone that could be affected by rounds at all times.”

With advances in technology, artillery is much more than hunks of lead propelled by raw explosive power.

There are rounds guided by global positioning satellites, laser-guided rounds, rounds that simply light an area up like a big flashlight, and rounds that do the same on the infrared spectrum.

“It’s fun to get out on the hill,” Miclean said. “Watch rounds come in and blow some stuff up.”

While the FDC is the one deciding what to use and how, each round has a different trajectory, and the target might not be in the same place every time.

Miclean accounts for all this and needs the discernment to consistently provide accurate instructions to his team so they can accomplish their mission, together.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I am an American Soldier.

Air Force leadership focuses on assured access to space

By Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Ending America’s reliance on the Russian-built RD-180 rocket engine was the primary topic of conversation during a hearing with the Senate Armed Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Strategic Forces April 29.

Changes to the space industry over the last 10 years have Air Force leaders optimistic about the future of the space enterprise, and the ability to cease reliance on the RD-180 engines used in the Atlas V launch vehicles.

“The competitive space environment, coupled with rapid changes in the landscape, present our national security launch capability with significant opportunities as well as challenges going forward,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “No single organization should monopolize launch services, and the good news is, for the first time in almost a decade, our nation has an opportunity very soon to compete launch services and leverage the commercial space-launch market to drive down costs and improve our resiliency.”

This opportunity for competition comes at a time when the U.S. government is looking at ways of more efficient spending, and the Air Force is focusing on making every dollar count.

“A little over a year ago, the Air Force awarded a contract to (United Launch Alliance) for a block buy, which allowed us to drive down costs for the (fiscal year 2013 to 2017) ULA launch orders,” James said.

“ULA has produced a tremendous success record for us through the years and has been the foundation of our assured access to space for the last 10 years. The block buy provides us more affordable pricing to continue that track record as we transition to full competition, and that’s what we want,” she said.

James stated assured access to space must remain the nation’s top priority going forward, especially with increased threats and potential adversaries within the space arena.

“While our combatant and theater commanders have fully realized how fundamental space-based effects have become to every military operation in the world, our potential adversaries have been watching and working to challenge those very capabilities,” said Gen. John E. Hyten, commander of Air Force Space Command. “We must be ready to respond to any threat, and we’re doing just that. With today’s national reliance on space capability, assured access has gone from important to imperative.”

This access relies heavily on the Atlas

V, the less-expensive option to the Delta IV, and the Air Force is seeking the ability to continue use of the RD-180 until other companies are able to compete for the engine and launch vehicle capabilities.

The Air Force has made significant progress in this realm.

One company, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (or SpaceX), is on track to receive its certification to conduct national-security space launches using its Falcon 9 rocket some time in summer this year.

“If adopted, this proposal will allow us the flexibility to keep the cost-competitive Atlas in play until we have this fully developed domestic alternative,” James said. “There are opportunities to reduce the time and costs by leveraging ongoing industry activities.”

Using existing technology, companies have the opportunity to begin developing a domestic rocket engine, and the Air Force is confident these engines will be developed by 2019.

However, there would still be a requirement to fully integrate that engine to an accompanying launch vehicle, a process that would likely take two years.

“Remember, this will give us an engine, and an engine alone will not launch us into space,” James said. “Transitioning the engine to a fully integrated, tested

and certified capability will take longer than that – this is the consensus of experts across the space enterprise – therefore, our partnership with industry must also expand beyond the propulsion system to [include] the launch system.”

The Air Force recognizes there will be challenges, but is optimistic about what new technologies and capabilities will be implemented through competition.

“We support the introduction of competition as soon as possible,” Hyten said. “We’re on the verge of that right now, and we must maintain a healthy space launch industrial base.”

This competition, he explained, will aid in rapid independence from the RD-180, and a more robust rocket engine and launch vehicle industry in the future.

These advances may also determine the mission success of posturing for defense and space situational awareness, which are key mission areas for AFSPC and the joint space community.

“A lot of what we’ve been talking about here is technology, but technology alone will not put our nation on a sure footing in space,” James said. “A sure footing for our nation ultimately depends on our people, and I just want to take a moment and say ‘thank you’ to the tens of thousands of Airmen and the joint force across the world that is making this happen for us today.”

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3rd ASOS conducts joint ‘jump week’ with 1 Geronimo troops

By Airman Christopher R. Morales
JBER Public Affairs

Two doors on the aircraft flew open with a bang and the wind pulled and tugged, trying to grab whatever or whoever it could. The jumpmaster yelled “Go! Go! Go!” as the Airmen and paratroopers fell like a hail of arrows.

Kodiak Solstice jump week is hosted by the Air Force 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron and combines the Army’s 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division to work together in a joint-training environment.

“This symbolizes the effort to our Soldiers, Airmen and mission to practice executing safe and tactical airborne operations,” said Air Force Lt. Colonel Ty Bridge, 3rd ASOS commander.

The unit provides air support for both Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

“My role as one of the primary jumpmasters for this event is to take responsibility for coordinating jumpmaster inspections, parachute harnesses and putting jumpers on the aircraft to the drop zone,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Steward Ferguson, jumpmaster with the 3rd ASOS.

Jumpmasters were provided by both branches to help standardize and acquaint each other with their respective jumping procedures and safety.

Army jumpmasters integrated with Airmen and Air Force jumpmasters mixed with Soldiers.

“We have to maintain the joint relations because it’s integral to our job,” said Capt. Nathan Maxton, 3rd ASOS Operations Flight commander.

A joint effort is paramount because in a deployed environment, Airmen and paratroopers will work together, acquainted or not.

The first day of the Kodiak Solstice jump week was the Basic Airborne Refresher course; the instructors took the participants through procedures with different parachutes and environments.

A few of the participants were fresh out of the Basic Airborne Course.

“The first thing we are doing is familiarizing them with the equipment and how to put it on,” Ferguson said. “We’ll go through the action in the aircraft and practice some parachute landing falls.”

Air Force Staff Sgt. Dustin Stelljes, jumpmaster with 3rd ASOS, demonstrated putting an H-harness on a single-point release assembly.



ABOVE: A Tactical Air Control Party specialist with Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron, jumps out of a UH-60 Black Hawk during Kodiak Solstice jump week on JBER Thursday. Kodiak Solstice was hosted by the 3rd ASOS and integrated Soldiers from the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th infantry Division. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Staff Sgt. William Banton)

LEFT: An Airman with the 3rd Air Support Operation Squadron practices rigging an H-harness on a rucksack during Basic Airborne Refresher course at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson May 14. The BAR kicks off Kodiak Solstice jump week, a joint training effort which familiarized Airmen and Soldiers with each other's airborne tactics. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Christopher Morales)

The harness forms the shape of an ‘H’ to distribute weight equally. The single-point release allows a jumper to drop the rucksack, but keep it connected to break the fall before impact.

“The H-harness is used to secure your equipment to yourself during an airborne operation,” Stelljes said. “These guys are learning how to rig it and know how to do it properly.”

Before earning their role as tactical air

control party members by jumping five times and going through the proper training, the trainees wear white helmets for their first jumps and are unofficially termed ROMAD: radio operator maintainer and driver.

“The white helmets are [for] the brand new graduates from the first airborne course; they get special attention, because they don’t have the experience to know what’s going wrong or identify the issue,” said Tech. Sgt. Logan English, jumpmaster with the

3rd ASOS. “The entire training event is a proficiency exercise to educate our guys on airborne operations.”

Kodiak Solstice trains new and old jumpers on the safety procedures and techniques used with different parachutes such as the MC-6, T-10 and T-11.

Personnel also trained for landing on environments ranging from water to trees, and of course the ground, but more importantly, to ensure joint camaraderie for future deployments.

Boniface Gate to close to inbound traffic until July 18

JBER Public Affairs
Staff report

The inbound lanes of Boniface Gate on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson will be closed from June 1 until July 18, JBER officials said, as workers improve the pop-up barriers at the gate.

The closure is not due to the recent increase in the force protection condition.

The pop-up barriers, designed to stop runaway or unauthorized vehicles, have actuators underground that lift them into position, said project manager Hazim Yunis. In the winter, water drains through the seams and into the mechanical parts, then freezes.

Ice blocks the actuators, and even without freezing, water deteriorates the parts.

The seven-week gate closure will enable workers to excavate under the barriers and install heating capabilities and improve drainage,



JBER's Boniface Gate will be closed to inbound traffic from June 1 until July 18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. William Banton)

Yunis said. When complete, the actuators – warm and dry year-round – will provide the security they were designed for.

For the first three weeks of the closure, outbound traffic will use the inbound lanes as laborers work on the outbound lanes. Thereafter, traffic will use the outbound lanes.

Because there will be no inbound traffic allowed at the Boni-

face Gate, the Visitor Control Center there will be closed for the duration of the construction.

Those needing visitor passes will be required to use the Richardson Gate Visitor Control Center, in Building 47303 on D Street, until July 18. That VCC is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Muldoon Gate will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week

during the closure.

Commercial vehicles, which currently use the Richardson and Post Road search facilities, must use the Post Road Gate only. That gate is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The Arctic Valley Gate has reduced hours – 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Officials do not anticipate a

change in the hours at the Government Hill Gate, which is open Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sundays from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. On Unit Training Assembly weekends, the gate opens at 5:30 a.m. On holidays and down days, the gate operates on weekend hours.

HAZMAT RESPONSE

Air National Guard Staff Sgt. James Mainolfi, left, and Senior Airman Matthew Castellanos prepare to take hazard readings from a simulated body during Integrated Base Emergency Response Training on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson May 14. The annual requirement provides units more in-depth training in their fields than most other exercises. Mainolfi is a 176th Medical Group bio-environmental engineering technician. Castellanos is a 773d Civil Engineer Squadron emergency medicine technician.



LEFT: Castellanos (foreground) dips M-8 and M-9 paper into chemicals on a simulated body to determine which contaminants are present as Senior Airman Alex Liccione examines used paper. Liccione is a 673d Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician and a native of New York, N.Y.
RIGHT: Castellanos gets his first breath of fresh air after simulated decontamination. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett)



Disposition of effects

Army 1st Lt. Tyler Sinisgalli, A Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Spc. Paolo Grassi of A Co., 1-501st INF, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Sinisgalli at (631) 741-5086.

Disposition of effects

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sean Hitchcock, 38th Troop Command, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Sgt. Dakota Volkman of Joint Forces Headquarters, Alaska Army National Guard, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Hitchcock at 428-6297.

Disposition of effects

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jean Simon, D Company, 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne), is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Pvt. David H. Lean, D Co., 6th BEB, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Simon at 382-4136.

Road closures

Boniface Gate inbound lanes will be closed from June 1 through July 17 for construction. For information specific to this closure, call 384-3012.

Finletter Avenue will be closed from 5th Street to 9th Street, May 25 through June 15.

Gibson Avenue will be closed until June 12 for sewer line upgrades.

West Sijan Avenue will be closed beginning Tuesday for water line maintenance.

For information about any of the closures, call 982-4433.

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.

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.

Home buying seminar

Volunteer realtors and mortgage lenders present an hour-long home buying seminar every Wednesday at either the JBER-Elmendorf or JBER-Richardson Housing Management Offices from 1 to 2 p.m.

These seminars are intended to support those interested in purchasing a home by explaining the buying and selling process in the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas. The seminar will cover home loan pre-qualifications, offers and acceptances, inspections, title searches, types of loans available and the closure process as well as many other points of interest to prospective home owners.

For more information or to sign up for the seminars, contact the management office. For the JBER-Elmendorf HMO, call 552-4312, or visit Bldg. 6346 Arctic Warrior Drive.

For the JBER-Richardson office, call 552-3088, or visit Bldg. 600, Room 104.

Special victim counselor

Victims of sexual assault are entitled to legal assistance services.

Communication is protected by attorney-client privilege. The SVC ensures the victim's rights 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 information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender.

Eligible clients include all ac-

tive 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.

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 through a Housing Management Office is required for 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.](http://www.documentservices.dla.mil)

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 PCS-ing. For more information, call 375-5540.

JBER Bargain Shop

The JBER-Elmendorf Bargain Shop, located in Building 8515 Saville across from the log cabin, 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.

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 range of area services, get phone numbers, and download the mobile application for iOS or Android at <http://tinyurl.com/ltsywzr>.

Rendering courtesy and honors to the FLAG

Staff report
JBER Public Affairs

Why did those Airmen stop on the way out of the gym? Why is traffic backing up? Is that a Soldier standing outside his vehicle?

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

The music, played through the installation's mass-notification system, signifies the raising and lowering of the national colors.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Garry Berry, 673d Air Base Wing command chief, and Command Sgt. Maj. Eugene Moses, 673d ABW sergeant major, the differences pertain mainly to rendering honors when driving a vehicle and in the numerous bugle calls encountered on the former Army side of the installation.

"For the Air Force, normal retreat protocol, if you are outside in uniform, including physical fitness uniforms, you should face the flag or the direction of the music if the flag is not visible, and render the proper honors: stand at attention and salute," Berry said.

"If you are not in uniform you would stand at attention, face the flag or the music, place your hand over your heart or you can just stand at attention.

"Civilians should basically act the same as military members not in uniform."

According to Air Force instruction 34-1201, if the flag is being raised or lowered, all outside sporting or physical training activities will stop during reveille and retreat, and proper honors shown to the flag.

The playing of "To The Colors"



A flag detail of Soldiers assigned to the 109th Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 2nd Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army Alaska, folds the colors after retreat on Pershing Field at JBER April 21. Retreat signifies the end to the official duty day on U.S. military installations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

or the national anthem while raising or lowering of the flag requires proper honors to be displayed to the flag.

All U.S. flags on JBER-Elmendorf, including those at the 3rd Wing headquarters, the POW/MIA monument, and the Yukla 27 memorial, are illuminated 24/7 and are never lowered except in cases of severe weather.

Because U.S. flags are not raised each morning, reveille is simply a bugle call signifying the start of the official duty day and vehicles are not required to stop.

Retreat is sounded at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All personnel are expected to render the proper courtesies outlined in the preceding paragraph.

"If you're exercising in the Buckner Gym, Elmendorf Fitness Center or Hangar 5 fitness facilities you do not have to stop working out unless there is a ceremony

taking place in the facility," Moses said. "However, everyone should always be mindful of their surroundings and practice appropriate customs and courtesies while working out."

Berry also addressed the appropriate honors when driving a vehicle on JBER-Elmendorf.

"If you are in a vehicle, then you stop the vehicle, normally pulling off the road completely, and sit quietly in the vehicle," he explained. All too often, he said, motorists will ignore the signal.

Moses said vehicle procedures on JBER-Richardson differ in accordance with Army Regulation 600-25, "Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy."

During reveille and retreat, he said moving vehicles will stop. Military passengers will dismount and render the proper courtesies. Drivers will remain in the parked vehicle. When in buses and trucks,

only the senior occupant will dismount and render courtesies.

"It's important to understand there is a difference," Moses said of the two sides of JBER. "You are expected to perform in accordance with your respective service requirements."

But that is not to be confused with retreat, which signals the end of the official duty day and a time to render honors to our nation's flag.

There are other major differences on the JBER-Richardson side.

Moses said the garrison flag at Pershing Field is not illuminated. It is raised and lowered by U.S. Army Alaska to perpetuate Army customs at JBER-Richardson.

Reveille and retreat are accompanied by a cannon salute fired from a World War II-era 75-millimeter pack howitzer using 10-gauge shotgun shells.

The Army senior noncommissioned officer said although both sides of the installation play reveille at the beginning of the day, JBER-Richardson plays retreat and to the colors at the end of the day, while JBER-Elmendorf plays retreat and "The Star Spangled Banner."

Yet another difference, which may catch Air Force personnel off guard when visiting JBER-Richardson, is the series of bugle calls spread throughout the day.

According to Moses, the mass notification system is used to play scheduled music, which includes everything from reveille in the morning and taps to tattoo in the evening hours.

"Retreat is sounded at 5 p.m.," Berry said.

"It doesn't matter which side of the installation you are on, all personnel are expected to render proper respect to the colors."

Retreating the COLORS



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A flag detail of Soldiers assigned to the 109th Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 2nd Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army Alaska, escorts the colors off Pershing Field after retreat on Pershing Field on JBER April 21. Retreat signifies the end to the official duty day on U.S. military installations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

A flag detail of Soldiers assigned to the 109th Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 2nd Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army Alaska, retrieves the colors during retreat. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Raymond Mills)

A flag detail of Soldiers assigned to the 109th Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 2nd Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army Alaska, folds the colors during retreat. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Raymond Mills)

Honor Memorial Day as a true ‘holy’ day

Commentary by Air Force (Maj.) Chaplain Steve Richardson
673d Air Base Wing Chaplain

On the last Monday in May at cemeteries across the United States, Americans will observe Memorial Day, a tradition that began three years after the Civil War ended. There will be speeches, patriotic songs, flags, and parades. Memorial Day evokes strong emotions. It was originally known as Decoration Day, a day to decorate the graves of the Civil War dead with flowers.

After World War I, the day was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars. Then in 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday.

The word “holiday” comes from the Old English, “holy day.” Memorial Day is truly a holy day.

It is not a day for parties and picnics and celebrations; it is a day for respect and patriotism. It is a day to remember and honor the men and women who died in military service while fighting to defend the cause of freedom.

It is a day to be thankful for the courage and sacrifice of those who never came home.

We enjoy a great deal of freedom in America. We have freedom of worship, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and a host of other freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and



Air Force Master Sgt. Robert Lilly pays his respects to a fallen veteran May 28, 2013, at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City, Nevada. Lilly and other Airmen from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., volunteered their time to place flags over veterans’ cemetery plots for Memorial Day weekend. Lilly is a 57th Operations Group joint terminal air controller. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Daniel Hughes)

unparalleled in the world.

These freedoms didn’t just happen. They exist today because of the courageous men and women who paid with their lives to secure them.

Those are the men and women

we honor on Memorial Day.

For generations, my extended family in West Virginia has gathered at our family cemetery every Memorial Day to decorate the graves of our ancestors with flowers (pronounced “flairs” in West

Virginia talk).

There are special flowers reserved for those who died in military service.

I’ve not been to that mountain cemetery for many years, but I can never allow myself to forget it.

For me it holds the true meaning of Memorial Day: honoring our dead.

Remembering lives cut short. Respecting those who, “more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!”

GUNSTON st.

by ZAVISKI

MOM, DAD WOKE UP AND WENT OUTSIDE AGAIN...

HE'S O.K., HE'S JUST THINKING.

WHAT'S HE THINKING ABOUT?

HIS OTHER FAMILY...

High-risk-response training; active shooter



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: John Knipe, right, a high-risk-response instructor, debriefs Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson police officers and role players while conducting active shooter training at the Exchange on JBER May 15. Pacific Air Forces High Risk Response Training is a project that provides security forces personnel with an intensive course based in real-life scenarios emphasizing effective tactics to eliminate active shooters and other threats. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Pena)

JBER police officers Brian Cannon, left, and Kevin Bullock, assigned to the 673d Security Forces Squadron communicate with fellow officers while conducting high-risk-response training at the base exchange.

Marines assigned to Delta Company, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, search for an active shooter threat while conducting high-risk-response training at the Exchange.

Senior Airman Sean Pender practices restraining Army Sgt. Thomas Kruse while conducting high-risk-response training on JBER May 15. Pender and Kruse are respectively assigned to the 673rd Security Forces Squadron and the 545th Military Police Company.

Role players simulate an active shooter scenario while participating in high-risk-response training at the base exchange on JBER May 15. The training provided law-enforcement personnel with an intensive course based on real-life scenarios emphasizing effective tactics to eliminate active shooters and other threats.



JBER students plant a tree for Arbor Day



Aurora Elementary School 5th grade students celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson May 18. 673d Air Base Wing and JBER commander Air Force Col. Brian Bruckbauer, Alaska State Community Forester Stephen Nickels and JBER ecologist Charlene Johnson were on hand to deliver remarks and information regarding Alaska trees and the importance of environmental conservation. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Pena)

COLOR

Armed Forces Kids Run 2015



U.S. service members and their families participated in the 14th annual America's Armed Forces Kids Run on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson May 15. As part of Armed Forces Day activities, military children representing all military branches stationed around the world participated in the run. Locally, the run was hosted as a "color run," an event where participants are dusted with colored corn starch in an effort to promote healthiness and happiness by bringing the community together. Participants were treated to free t-shirts commemorating the run and a burger burn at the Warrior Zone following the race. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Pena)

