



# ARCTIC WARRIOR

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## Joint U.S. forces kick off Northern Edge 2015 exercise

By Air Force Staff Sgt. William Banton  
JBER Public Affairs

Approximately 200 military aircraft filled the skies above Alaska Monday, signifying the start of the joint training exercise, Northern Edge 2015.

Hosted by Alaskan Command, Northern Edge brings together approximately 6,000 U.S. service members in a joint-forces environment to prepare to respond to crises in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

“Northern Edge is the premier combat exercise for joint forces ... anywhere in the world,” said Air Force Col. Charles Corcoran, 3rd Wing commander and Air Expeditionary Wing commander for NE15. “The objective is to make sure our air combat forces are ready as a joint team and to be able to execute real-world operations anywhere in the Pacific.”

The exercise is designed to sharpen tactical combat skills, improve command, control and communication relationships, and to develop interoperable plans and programs across the joint force.

“It’s really important to train like we are going to fight,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Tim Bobinski, Northern Edge control group lead. “As most people know, anytime we go to war, it’s not going to be just the Air Force, Navy, Army or Marines; we are going to need to work together as a team.”

Exercises like NE15 provide opportunities for the U.S. military to take advantage of a unique joint training environment so the military is prepared to respond to real world situations, Bobinski said.

“If we go into combat we are going to go as a joint team, so we need to be able to practice and exercise as a joint team,” Corcoran said. “There are nuances that you just don’t get to see when you are doing standalone service training. It really prepares us for anything that could happen.”

Major participating units this year include U.S. Pacific Command, Alaskan Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, U.S. Army Pacific, Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Force Materiel Command, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command and U.S. Naval Reserve.

Planning an exercise with such a broad joint interoperability has its challenges, Bobinski said.

“Each service has their own way of doing business and they do it very well when they’re in their own service channels,” he said. “Once they start trying to work together, there is sometimes different [language] being spoken that has to be overcome and different processes that are being used, which we have to come together and determine how we are going to execute them.”

Another reason this exercise is special is because of the location, Corcoran said.

“Alaska has some unique capabilities that you just can’t find anywhere else,” he said. “Because we value this place so much, we are going to leave it better than we found it. Everyone who deploys here understands what a unique and rare opportunity this is and wants to be able to come back and continue to practice these skills.”

Overall, NE15 aims to prepare the nations joint forces in a training environment.

“We need to be able to go at a moment’s notice anywhere in the world. “You aren’t ready if you don’t practice, so we have to do these types of exercises for any contingences so we can protect America’s interests around the world,” Corcoran said.

## BUILDING BARRIERS



Robert Gordon, a power production journeyman with the 773d Civil Engineering Squadron, ties one of the ropes which help hold the cable for the BAK-12 aircraft arresting system in place on the runway. The BAK-12s on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are designed to bring out-of-control aircraft to a safe stop with minimal damage. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

## Aircraft arrest system protects planes, pilots

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson  
JBER Public Affairs

The Air Force has a long history of breaking barriers. The Tuskegee Airmen broke the race barrier, Brig. Gen. retired Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier, and then-Col. Robin Olds broke the mustache barrier.

However, there are some Airmen whose mission is to build barriers, not break them.

They build barriers designed to stop machines, which routinely blow through the sound barrier.

“A lot of people don’t realize we have aircraft rescue systems on flightlines,” said Chris Meyer, the foreman of power production with the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron. “We have five systems out there, and 365 days a year we are maintaining these systems to make sure they are fully operational and ready to go at all times.”

These men and women are the power production specialists assigned to the barrier maintenance crew, 773d CES, and their job is to set up and maintain the BAK-12 aircraft arresting system.

“Electrical power production is broken into two different sections,” said Staff Sgt. Jared O’Neill, a power production specialist assigned to the barrier. “The generator section deals with all the emergency standby power for the mission-critical locations here on JBER.”

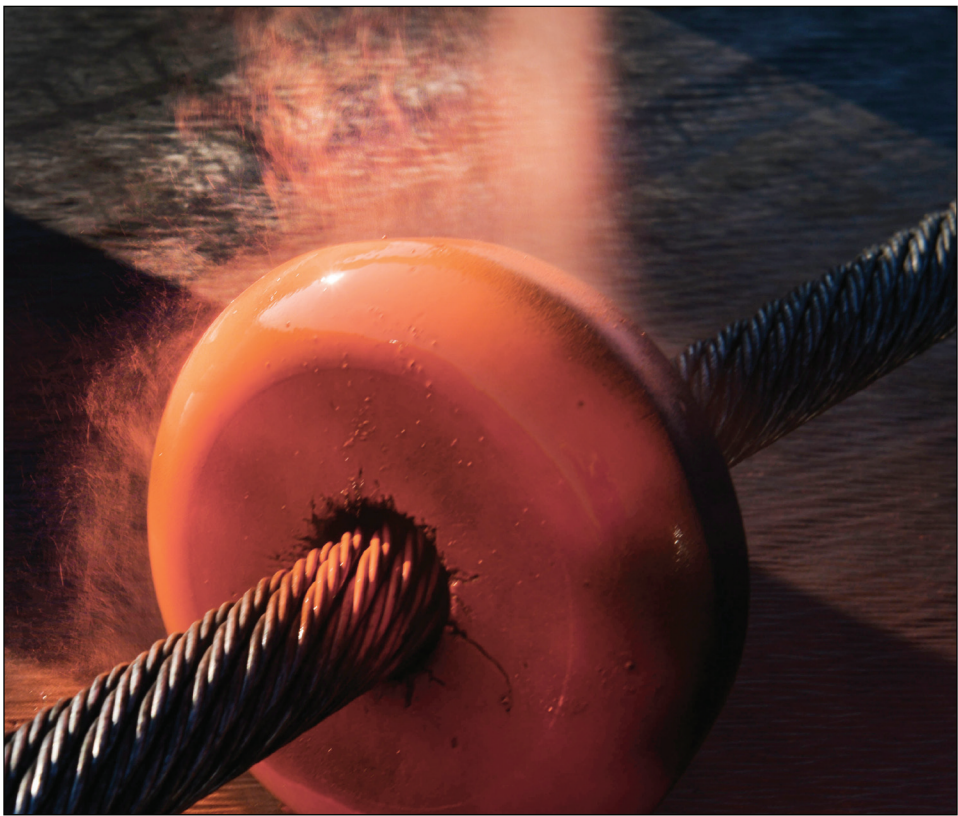
“The other side of the house is us, the barrier maintenance crew.”

Every morning at 6 a.m., two crews of Airmen head out to the flightline to set up the BAK-12 systems that were not left up for night-time flight operations and perform their daily maintenance checks to ensure each system is fully operational, said Airman 1st Class John Arcarola, also a power production specialist with the 773rd CES.

“We check for leaks, the oil, the hydraulic system, the fuel, and the pumps inside the [shelters]; we also do weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual checks,” Arcarola said.

The BAK-12 is not a barrier per se, but rather a steel cable strung across the flightline suspended two inches off the asphalt by a combination of tension and small rubber doughnuts wrapped around it. Those two inches of space are vital for allowing the incoming aircraft to reliably snag the cable, O’Neil said.

Attached to the cable is a nylon tape



An orange ‘donut’ holds a steel cable two inches off the ground on the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson flightline. An aircraft’s tailhook would grab the cable in the event of an emergency, and is one part of the BAK-12 aircraft arresting system. The donuts in the center of the runway are spray-painted so a pilot can more easily hook the center of the cable. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

woven into a rubberized compound similar to the material of a golf ball, O’Neill said.

The tape extends from the cable for a few feet before dropping underground and connecting to 66-inch storage reel attached to a 65 horsepower, four-cylinder diesel engine in a small shelter on either side of the runway. The tape is held at a tension of approximately 170 pounds per square inch.

Once an aircraft takes the cable, the pressure on the tape is dramatically increased. This causes the hydraulic brakes to be incrementally applied to the turning reels of tape, providing the resistance needed to slow the aircraft to a gradual and safe stop.

“The reels spin at more than 600 revolutions per minute and hydraulic pressures can exceed 1,000 psi,” said Meyer.

After the aircraft has been secured and the tailhook removed, barrier maintenance crew members have 10 minutes to reset the system so as to cause minimal interruptions to flightline operations, Arcarola said.

Because of this need for timeliness, two Airmen are on standby at all times, O’Neill said.

“We have a crash phone in here, much like a fire station would,” he said. “in case there’s an in-flight emergency.”

When an aircraft comes to catch the cable, conditions may not be ideal, and sometimes the aircraft will not be able to strike the cable in the center.

“If the aircraft catches the cable on the left side, the right side is going to brake faster,” O’Neill said. “It will allow the aircraft to be pulled back to the middle.”

“We want him to come back into the middle and stay away from the edges as much as possible, to be as safe as possible.”

This too, is checked quarterly.

When there are no checks to be performed, barrier crewmembers stay busy repairing generators, Arcarola said.

The power production specialists who are not assigned to barrier crew maintain about 85 generators around base, and the barrier crewmembers assist with that as well as all the mobile generators that can be deployed for anything from emergency operations to an installation picnic.

The barrier crew rotates with the regular power production crew every six months, O’Neill said. This ensures the Airmen are all able to fill whatever capacity they are asked in a deployed environment.

“With Northern Edge coming up, we will have 88 fighters out here, and these systems are going to be their final lifeline in the event of an emergency.”

“Our [systems] have a huge impact on the Air Force mission,” O’Neill said. “Without us, the Air Force could potentially lose billions of dollars in aircraft; and we [potentially] save the life of every pilot that uses one of our barriers.”

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# Program offers safer, more convenient official travel

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department Monday launched an integrated lodging program pilot designed to provide quality government and commercial lodging, with greater safety and security and better services at reduced rates.

Dane Swenson, the lodging program’s project manager, discussed the elements of the pilot program.

“There’s really four pieces that we need to get right,” said Swenson who is also the chief of travel transformation for the Defense Travel Management Office. “One is the policy, the other is the program. The third piece is the strategic sourcing, and the last part is the [information technology] interface, which is the Defense Travel System.”

### Procedural changes

“What we’re doing is giving the traveler a single interface,” he explained. “Basically, what will happen then is that you’ll be able to go eventually to one place – the Defense Travel System – to book all your lodging.” Previously, he said, the traveler had to guide themselves through the process.

When filing the travel voucher, everything from room rates to the traveler’s government travel card information will already be embedded in the system, Swenson said. Travelers “will be able to book

safe, secure rooms,” he said. Travelers, however, should not contact their Commercial Travel Office to book government lodging, officials said. Travelers can, however, contact their CTO for assistance with booking commercial lodging, they added.

### Program inception

The pilot program was created to ensure “duty of care,” and to comply with Office of Management and Budget directives regarding efficiency.

“Duty of care,” Swenson explained, “is taking care of our travelers while they’re traveling, making sure they can ... get good accommodations. We know where they are, they can contact [us], they can go online.”

The other component – efficiencies – is no less important, he said.

“There have been a lot of efficiency initiatives,” Swenson said. “One was driven by OMB ... Memo 12-12, and it basically came out and [directed] federal agencies look at reducing your travel by 30 percent.”

Additionally, he said, OMB Memo 13-02 suggested looking at strategic sourcing so the commercial side of lodging is primed to do lifecycle strategic sourcing to get better rates, amenities, and safety and security features built into what is offered to DoD travelers.

### Pilot sites

Currently, Swenson said, certain components such as preferred

commercial lodging are already available in the Defense Travel System at seven initial pilot sites:

- Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina
- Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
- Select Norfolk, Virginia-based installations
- Naval Support Activity-Sarasota Springs, New York
- Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Washington
- MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida
- Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California

“Then we’re going to do a soft launch through all the different DoD lodging programs,” he said.

As of the pilot launch date, Air Force Inns will be active, and Navy Gateway Inns and Suites and Army lodging are expected to be active within the next week followed by Navy Lodge.

“The last piece will be the Marine transient program,” he said.

### Protection and convenience

These changes are about quality, protection and convenience for the traveler, Swenson said.

“We’re looking at the quality of the property for the traveler,” Swenson said, “and making sure that they meet all of the standards.” In addition, for “...traveler safety and security... we’re making sure that the properties are well lit, interior opening rooms, etc.”

Additionally, he said, financial protections are being looked at to

ensure travelers are protected from paying extra fees and that sort of thing.

“And the last part is the convenience,” Swenson said. “The whole thing [with] convenience online, but with that, that the travelers are getting a set of amenities.”

Citing information from surveys where travelers were asked what amenities they would like to see, Swenson said the program will include properties with free internet and parking “100 percent of the time.”

### DTS ‘workhorse’

During this pilot program, Swenson said, “DTS is the workhorse” and will perform many of the tasks travelers previously had to do themselves, such as reservations.

“It goes out to these global distribution systems,” he said, “and pulls in all of the reservation information. For the government lodging it goes to multiple service systems to bring back the lodging information.”

Swenson said that DTS guides the traveler through the process, while keeping them from making mistakes.

There are pre-audits and pop-up menus, he said, so travelers can make a reservation at the right location and comply with government travel policies and business rules.

### More information

Travelers will not always be directed to government lodging

before DoD preferred commercial lodging and “the simple answer for travelers is you have to check first where your orders say you are going,” Swenson said.

If you are traveling to a government installation at a pilot site, “you’re supposed check the government lodging first,” he said. If government lodging is not available, or when TDY to a pilot site metro area, travelers are directed to book preferred commercial lodging before booking other lodging options. “It depends what your [approving official] put on your orders.”

### Use and feedback

DoD says that travelers benefit from the program pilot because of the choices and protections it offers, Swenson said.

“I think it’s a win for them,” he said. “It’s not just efficiencies. We’re looking at balancing taking care of our service members and our civilians with the efficiencies in the department.”

Swenson encouraged travelers to use the DTMO’s customer service survey to provide feedback.

“We’d encourage them to give us the feedback,” he said, “because this is a pilot, and we already have a list of enhancements of what we’re looking at, as we move forward we expand the pilot.”

Swenson added, “We want to incrementally improve the program and to take care of our people because we think we really have a duty of care responsibility to all of our travelers.”

## Military medical leaders express concerns over health care reform

By Terri Moon Cronk  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Defense Department medical leaders addressed health care reform June 12, expressing concern over impacts on military medical readiness and overall readiness.

Appearing before the House Armed Services Committee’s military personnel subcommittee were Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, and top medical officials from the services: Army Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, Air Force Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark A. Ediger and Navy deputy surgeon general Rear Adm. (Dr.) C. Forrest Faison III.

Military health care reform was examined as part of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

“We agree with [the commission’s] findings of overarching challenges facing military medicine and concur with many recommendations,” Woodson said, adding some of its recommendations are now in place.

Woodson described strategies that are now in place to make the military health care system “better, stronger and more relevant for the future,” and stressed the critical nature of military readiness, ensuring quality health care and using money wisely in the

military health system.

“We’ve undertaken a comprehensive review of our medical infrastructure and resources,” he said, “and [we’ve] presented a modernization plan that proposes to place our most-skilled professionals in the military communities where they are likely to keep those skills sharpest.”

The military health system has reformed governance and stood up the Defense Health Agency to enhance collaborative work affordably among the three medical services, Woodson told the panel. “We’re making it easier to access care in the system by focusing on quality, safety and making performance data more transparent,” he said.

Woodson said he agrees with recommendation to reform the TRICARE plan, and told the panel work is already underway.

### Surgeons general share concerns

The surgeons general said that while they support the objectives of the commission’s findings, they have concerns about elements that threaten readiness and medical skills.

“[Fewer than] one of five service members evacuated from Iraq and were injured in battle,” Horoho noted. “During Operation United Assistance, the major threat to soldiers was endemic infectious diseases. The Army already uses joint infrastructures ...

[for] medical readiness. The Army does not support establishing a four-star readiness command,” a commission recommendation echoed by Ediger and Faison.

Though the surgeons general support affordable health care and increased choices for patients, “to establish TRICARE choice would negatively impact the readiness of our entire health care team and present financial challenges for active-duty families and retirees,” Horoho said.

“To put [military treatment facilities] in competition with the private sector would drive up administrative costs and significantly detract from the operational mission of our medical facilities,” Ediger agreed.

The Air Force surgeon general said requiring Airmen and their families to “navigate a complex system of insurance marketplace on a recurring basis” could increase their stress.

“[The MHS] is working hard to recapture its [patient] workload into the direct-care system,” Faison said, adding that offering commercial insurance to military patients would compete with that goal.

“Nonactive-duty beneficiaries compose 67 percent of our total beneficiary population, 83 percent of our inpatient care and 79 percent of our high-acuity workload,” Horoho emphasized.

## Army program provides Soldiers time to achieve personal, professional goals

By Daniela Vestal  
U.S. Army HRC Public Affairs

*Editor’s note: For information on the similar Air Force program, see page A-4.*

FORT KNOX, Ky. — The Army’s Career Intermission Pilot Program, back for another iteration, has been extended through the end of 2019.

Soldiers can apply for a one-time, temporary transition to the Individual Ready Reserve to pursue professional or personal growth outside the Army, said Albert Eggerton, deputy chief, Officer Division, U.S. Army personnel. At the end of their intermission, they will re-enter the Army with a service obligation of two months for every month they were out.

“The program has slots available for 20 officers and 20 enlisted Soldiers each calendar year,” said Eggerton.

“The pilot program was authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act in 2009 to determine whether giving Soldiers a break in service will help ‘retain the valuable investment in experience and training that is otherwise lost when a Soldier separates per-

manently,’ said Eggerton.

Patricia Woods is the CIPP manager for the Enlisted Personnel Management Division at U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

She said most of the enlisted applicants she is working with are looking into the program to pursue educational goals or spend time with family members when unexpected life events occur.

Woods said this program is a good option for Soldiers who have something in their lives they need to focus on before continuing their military careers.

Woods discussed several situations in which Soldiers have decided, or are considering using CIPP. One Soldier had parents who are in very poor health; he wants to be able to spend the last couple of years with them. Another has a child with disabilities, and he wants to be able to take the child to appointments and focus his full attention on the child.

Others are undergoing fertility treatments and want to focus on starting families, said Woods.

While on intermission, Soldiers cannot use Army tuition assistance but are able to use their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, said Woods.

While Soldiers are able to pursue any education degree or program they want to, they also maintain their current rank and grade.

“CIPP is not a commissioning program,” said Woods. “So, you are going to come back in, the way you went out.”

“It is important for Soldiers to understand the differences in their benefits while using this program, said Robert Peterson,” CIPP Program Manager, Officer Personnel

Management Division, HRC. “Soldiers will continue to receive TRICARE, commissary privileges and one-thirtieth of their base pay twice a month.”

Peterson previously worked with compassionate reassignments for Officer Personnel Management Directorate. He said CIPP can be an alternative for Soldiers who cannot be reassigned under the Compassionate Reassignment Program but have the financial resources in place to support themselves and

their families through CIPP.

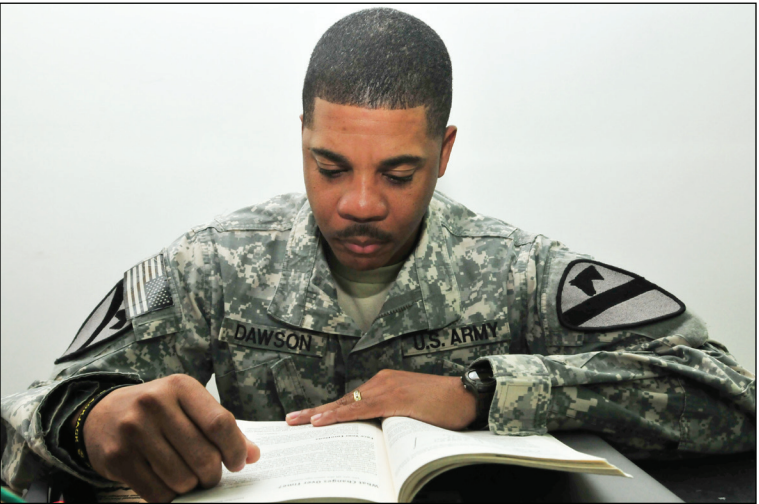
“Through the compassionate program, the situation the Soldier is being reassigned for has to resolve itself within one year,” said Peterson. “Many of the Soldiers looking into compassionate reassignment had family members with illnesses requiring treatments that would exceed the year time limit. A program like CIPP would’ve been an ‘excellent’ alternative for them.”

Peterson said the program can also benefit dual-military families who may not have had much time together based on the deployment rhythms of the last several years.

“With the second iteration of this program, there is no cut-off date for applications,” said Eggerton. “Soldiers must apply for the program eight months before they want to begin their intermission to allow time to complete the application and complete the congressionally-mandated Soldier for Life program.”

“Soldiers who believe they are not eligible for the program may be able to apply for an exception,” said Eggerton. “Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.”

For information, refer to Milper message 15-161.



**Soldiers can take time through the Career Intermission Pilot Program to pursue personal goals while in the Inactive Ready Reserve. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Justin Naylor)**

## ARCTIC WARRIOR

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# Cutter Roanoke Island departs Homer en route to decommissioning

By Petty Officer 3rd Class  
Meredith Manning  
USCG District 17 Public Affairs

The Coast Guard Cutter Roanoke Island shrunk toward the horizon as family members gathered on the pier to wave goodbye to the crew and cutter. After 23 years of service, the Roanoke Island is making its final departure from Homer.

On an overcast day June 10, the 110-foot cutter began the journey that marked the end of its Coast Guard career. The Island-class patrol boat will travel to the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland, where it is scheduled to be decommissioned.

“The Roanoke Island began its service in Louisiana with a formal commissioning on February 8, 1992,” said Cmdr. Shawn Decker, chief of response, Sector Anchorage, during a departure ceremony for the vessel in Homer June 4. “It then completed the grueling transit through the Panama Canal to its new, first and final homeport in beautiful Homer.”

Past local news articles document that many Homer locals did not welcome the Roanoke Island when it first arrived in the city. However, only three years after arriving, crew members aboard the cutter earned recognition from Congressman Don Young and Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens. They were recognized for rescuing two men when their vessel, the Arctic Flyer, was taking on water and enduring 10-foot seas near Kodiak.

The crew was recognized again by the mayor of Homer in 1988 for their response efforts to a large explosion on the Homer Spit. They assisted in evacuating tourists and providing medical emergency personnel.

More recently, the crew, along with Air Station Kodiak, responded to the vessel



**Family members wave as the Coast Guard Cutter Roanoke Island departs Homer for the last time June 10. The cutter is transiting to the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland, to be decommissioned. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 1st Class Aleksander Kay)**

Jenoah after it ran aground. The vessel was taking on water and the cutter’s crew members stopped the leak and towed the vessel to Kodiak, saving the lives of the three people on board.

In the past year the cutter has patrolled more than 4,000 miles of coast, conducted 46 commercial fishing safety boardings and responded to five search and rescue cases.

“Those impressive numbers are a testament to the exceptional crews that have sailed on Roanoke Island for the past 23 years,” said Lt. Clell Thomas, the commanding officer of the cutter.

Along with their Coast Guard-related duties, the crew members have also supported the Homer community. Since the late 1990s, the crewmembers have collected, cut and distributed truckloads of firewood to local residents every year. They also volunteered at local elementary schools, the town’s senior center and the Special Olympics.

The Roanoke Island’s crew members also participated in the 2014 Operation Alaska Health Shield.

Acting as a transport platform in conjunction with the National Guard, they delivered medical supplies to remote

Alaska villages.

In the cutter’s 23 years in Homer, it has played a major role in supporting the Coast Guard’s missions and the communities of Alaska.

As the Roanoke Island departs, Homer will be welcoming the Coast Guard Cutter Sapelo which is transferring from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“It is through the traditions and performance of the ship’s crews that the Roanoke Island will be remembered for an eternity,” Thomas said. “I look forward to the final voyage and the sea stories we will share.”

## Army temporarily suspends re-enlistment window limit for dates through Sept. 30

By Daniela Vestal  
U.S. Army HRC Public Affairs

FORT KNOX, Ky. — The re-enlistment opportunity window for Soldiers, which previously ran from 15 months to 90 days before their separation from the Army, has been temporarily suspended, but only for Soldiers with a separation date through Sept. 30.

Before this suspension, a Soldier had to make the decision

to re-enlist no less than 90 days from completing his contract. If he changed his mind, he was required to submit an exception to policy which went to U.S. Army Human Resources Command for adjudication, said Sgt. Maj. Vickie Rivera, retention and reclassification sergeant major for the Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate at HRC.

“They still need to be a quality Soldier,” Rivera said. “What

we see at our level is all the paperwork and the documentation. This suspension streamlines the procedure.”

Sgt. Maj. Mark Mayo, retention sergeant major for the XVIII Airborne Corps, said the suspension of the window will likely not affect many Soldiers. However, those who want to reverse a decision to leave the Army will benefit.

“There are some good Soldiers out there whose plans do

fall through — either with college, or jobs, or their spouse gets pregnant,” Mayo said. “There’s a lot of things that come up; so this change would give them the opportunity to move forward.”

Another benefit of this suspension is the opportunity for Soldiers within 90 days of separation to be offered the same options as those who re-enlisted earlier, Rivera said.

Previously, a Soldier re-enlist-

ing within this window was limited in choice for potential duty assignments, or locations, based on the needs of the Army.

One thing which will remain the same is the option for a Soldier who has signed up for the Army Reserve or National Guard to change his mind and continue on in an active-duty capacity, Rivera said. Those people can change their mind any time before their separation date.



# Guardsmen head to Ulaanbaatar for Exercise Khaan Quest

By Sgt. Balinda O’Neal  
Alaska Army National Guard

About 80 service members from the Alaska National Guard and U.S. Army Alaska’s 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, departed here aboard two Alaska Air National Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft bound for Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Monday.

The service members will join efforts with approximately 1,200 participants from across the Pacific region to participate in Khaan Quest, a peacekeeping-operations focused, combined training event co-sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

The exercise is hosted annually by the Mongolin Armed Forces.

“This exercise allows our National Guardsmen to get out of Alaska and train in a new environment where they can experience another culture,” said Maj. Aaron Kelsey, tactical command post officer for AKARNG’s 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. “Having familiarity and learning perspectives of other cultures will help them adjust quicker in a deployed setting.

“In the end, I think all sides will better appreciate what each brings to the fight.”

The exercise is designed to enhance international interoperability and military readiness, develop peacekeeping capabilities, and build military-to-military relations between the U.S., Mongolia and other international forces in the Pacific region.

“I think it’s really beneficial, especially for junior enlisted Soldiers, to be emerged in and around other countries,” said Capt. Pancho Gonzales, 3-21 Infantry Regiment, exercise platoon leader. “With the Army’s change in mission and identity from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, I think peacekeeping operations is going to be the next significant focus.”

This year, Khaan Quest consists largely of a command post exercise and field training exercise.



**Members of the Alaska National Guard and U.S. Army Alaska’s 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, board an Alaska Air National Guard, C-130 Hercules on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson bound for Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Monday. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Sgt. Balinda O’Neal)**

During these events, Mongolian, U.S. and multinational forces will work to enhance regional interoperability, and mission effectiveness, as well as develop common

tactics, techniques and procedures.

“I think one of the best things for us to take away from this as a platoon is to improve our troop leading procedures and

take the best of what other countries have to offer,” Gonzales added. “Hopefully, we can show them a few things that we do differently.”

Mongolian and U.S. armed forces, along with other regional partners, will also collaborate to conduct Engineering Civic Action Program projects, as well as Cooperative Health Engagement events in Ulaanbaatar, enhancing joint Mongolian and U.S. medical capabilities and providing outreach to undeserved communities.

Gonzales explained that even being from foreign countries, all soldiers share a communal bond.

“We have a lot in common and the more we are able to experience this, the easier it will be to work beside each other in the future,” explained Gonzales. “I really feel like as allied countries we are all brothers-in-arms.”

Partnered in 2003, Alaska and Mongolia have formed a strong bond, sharing information through multiple exchanges and exercises.

“Khaan Quest is one way we continue to enhance the relationship between the U.S. and Mongolian militaries,” Kelsey said. “I’m hoping my troops appreciate the interaction with other countries and take their new skills and knowledge back home with them.”

In addition to U.S. and Mongolian military forces, personnel from 25 other nations are slated to observe or participate in various portions of the exercise.

Some of the mission partners include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, Czech, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

2015 marks the thirtieth year of the training event.

Khaan Quest will run through July 1 at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Center near Ulaanbaatar.

## Air Force Career Intermission program application window opens July 1

By Debbie Gildea  
AFPC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force Career Intermission Program application window opens July 1 for eligible Airmen interested in taking one to three years off active duty for personal or professional needs.

Applications must reach the Air Force Personnel Center no later than Aug. 31, with the total force selection panel scheduled to convene Sept. 29.

The program, in its second

year, allows up to 40 top-performing regular Air Force and career status Active Guard/Reserve officers and enlisted members to be inactivated and transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve, receiving partial pay for up to three years, before returning to active duty.

During the 2014 pilot program, 35 regular Air Force, Guard and Reserve Airmen were approved to participate. They included 33 regular Air Force, one Guard and one Reserve Airman. The 35 selected included 15 officers and 20 enlisted personnel; 18 women and 17 men.

CIP allows participants to

retain full medical and dental benefits for themselves and their dependents, as well as exchange and commissary benefits. They also receive a stipend of 1/15th of their monthly basic pay. In addition, members will be allowed an Air Force-funded permanent change of station move to anywhere in the United States when entering the program, and a move to their base of assignment when they complete the program.

Return to duty following a CIP intermission is the key to the program. Top performers with bright futures won’t have to separate

to take care of personal or other professional concerns, and once they return to active duty service, those Airmen will bring greater experience, education, knowledge, commitment and passion to their career, said Col. Arch Bruns, Director, AFPC Personnel Services.

While participating in CIP, Airmen will be required to maintain all Air Force standards, including health and fitness, and be ready to fully resume their duties.

Airmen approved for CIP will incur a service commitment of two months for every one month of CIP participation.

Information and complete eligibility criteria are available on the myPers website. Select the appropriate component and corps from the drop down menu and enter “Career Intermission Program” in the search window.

Links to component-specific application procedures will be available July 1.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one at [www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf](http://www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120510-068.pdf).



**Road closures**

Boniface Gate inbound lanes will be closed 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 through July 17.

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

West Sijan Avenue will be closed beginning June 1 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 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 covers loan pre-qualifications, offers and acceptance, inspections, title searches, types of loans, and the closure process to prospective home owners.

For information or to sign up, 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, 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 information 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.

**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. 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.

It is open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For information, visit [www.documentsservices.dla.mil](http://www.documentsservices.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.

Get the app 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.

**Utilities upgrades**

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

Doyon regrets any inconvenience, and is working to avoid unnecessary interruptions.

Work is expected to continue through 2016.

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

To minimize impacts, Doyon is working to schedule work that could potentially result in an outage for completion during off-peak periods.

If an outage does occur, utilities electrical crews will act quickly to restore service.

**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.

If the announcement is difficult to hear or understand in any base housing area, please contact JBER at [Facebook.com/JBERAK](https://www.facebook.com/JBERAK).



# Arctic Oasis offers family fun

By Staff Sgt. Wes Wright  
JBER Public Affairs

With summer in full bloom, all of Alaska could be considered an oasis, but for JBER families and service members, the Arctic Oasis Community Center is a paradise that blooms year-round.

The Arctic Oasis, in Building 9497 on 20th St., provides a meeting place for a host of activities, including table tennis, foosball, video games, pool, darts, board games, micro golf, an indoor archery range, an indoor skate park, indoor playgrounds for big and small children, full-swing golf, and two rock climbing walls.

Also, the center features Nautilus equipment, stair steppers, treadmills, and Life-cycles. The center also provides a location for Information, Tickets and Travel, the Paradise Café, and Paradise Cuts.

“Our mission is to provide families and groups quality recreation and programs,” said Karl Croft, 673d Force Support Squadron Arctic Oasis community center director.

According to Croft, the rock-climbing walls are the most popular draw at the oasis. “Kids are fearless,” Croft said. “We have a 24-foot self-belaying climbing wall and a 30-foot horizontal boulder wall.”

Patrons are required to check out a safety harness and receive instruction from staff prior to use. Children must be supervised by an adult.

The themes of family bonding and fitness are interwoven into the way the Oasis is laid out.

“Oftentimes, it can be difficult for a parent to make it to the gym,” Croft said. “This is a parent-supervised facility, so we have our fitness equipment set up to where it directly faces the playground. Parents can get in a workout while their kids have fun in a safe environment.”

In keeping with the family fun theme, the center has picnic benches set up around the facility and people are encouraged to bring lunches and “make a day of it,” Croft said.

Families and military units are also

encouraged to take advantage of birthday and celebration packages the center offers.

“We offer birthday and celebration packages at varying rates, depending on how big you want to go,” Croft said. “We do all the setup: tables, balloons, streamers . . . the works. We have a lot of birthdays and unit celebrations here.”

As part of its party catering service, the oasis has a “Ballooney Bin,” which stocks a large assortment of balloons: from standard happy birthday to extra-large cartoon character likenesses.

For anyone looking to start a new hobby or acquire a new skill, the Arctic Oasis offers three different martial arts classes: Ketsugen karate, taekwondo, and Tang Soo Do.

Additionally, ballet, tap and jazz dance classes are offered, as well as golf lessons on a golf simulator.

The Arctic Oasis also has a licensed massage therapist on-site for anyone looking to relax or receive deep tissue therapy.

“Another thing our young folks may not be aware of is that we handle the JBER Single Service member Program,” Croft said.

We offer discounted rafting, zip line and fishing charter trips at a heavily discounted price to get service members out do things they might not otherwise be able to afford.”

The program’s mission is to provide force support squadron resources that foster a strong culture, mission, and sense of community for single service members.

Active duty military can like their Facebook page: JBER Single Airman Program to receive notifications of upcoming events. They can also sign up for an email distribution list at the Arctic Oasis front counter.

Finally, the center offers several computer terminals with internet access and a printer for whatever a patron’s needs may be. Free Wi-Fi is also offered throughout the facility.

For more information on the facility or programs offered, call 552-8529, or visit the 673d FSS website at [www.elmendorf-richardson.com](http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com).



**Joshua Genera, 10-year-old son of Air Force Staff Sgt. Marshall Preston scales a climbing wall at the Arctic Oasis Community Center June 16. The Arctic Oasis provides a meeting place for a host of activities, including table tennis, foosball, video games, pool, darts, board games, micro golf, an indoor archery range, an indoor skate park, indoor playgrounds for big and small children, full-swing golf, and two rock climbing walls. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Raymond Mills)**

## ATV safety course prepares riders for all terrain

By Airman Christopher R. Morales  
JBER Public Affairs

The state of Alaska has only a handful of paved roads and highways in its 586,000 square miles, making off-road transportation very practical for many off-duty activities.

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Outdoor Recreation centers offers a recurring all-terrain vehicle safety course during the summer for service members and civilians on base to acquire their ATV Safety Institute certification card, so they can ride legally on base.

“The ATV safety course is not only to allow access to ride on base, but it also teaches proper riding habits,” said Tyler Glenn, director of JBER Outdoor Recreation.

“The safety class is not necessary to attend the ATV off-base trips we provide, but is encouraged for less-experienced riders.”

The maximum number of students in a class is eight, so reserving a spot may be necessary.

The course costs \$5 if the students brings an ATV and all the safety equipment (eye protection, full-fingered gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, over-the-ankle



**A row of students enter the all-terrain vehicle riding course during an ATV course at the Hillberg Ski Resort on JBER June 10. The JBER Outdoor Recreation Center offers an ATV course to first-time and seasonal riders to earn their JBER ATV license in a four-hour class. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Christopher R. Morales)**

hard-sole shoes or boots and a reflective vest), but \$50 if an ATV needs to be provided.

The ATV organized trips work similarly. Fees differ, but pay to cover ATV use and all necessary safety equipment. Providing personally owned essential gear and an ATV will lower the cost.

Leading the classes this year

is Bob Braun, general equipment repair technician and ATV safety instructor for the Outdoor Recreation Center with the 673d Force Support Squadron – classes are at the Hillberg Ski Resort unless otherwise posted.

“I started riding [ATVs] around 1993 and have been teaching this course for over five years here,”

Braun said. “I’m licensed to teach this course anywhere in the United States.” Generally all are welcome to take these classes because the main thing is safety, learning the capabilities of their vehicle,” Braun said.

The safety courses include step-by-step introduction to the vehicle and general control like

any other driving test, Braun said.

Students will properly learn to start, stop, turn, swerve, ride over obstacles and traverse steep hills. The course gives riders the skills necessary to safely operate the vehicles and to quickly react in an emergency situation.

ATVs are useful for adventure, but they can serve a larger operational purpose in the military.

Service members use ATVs for perimeter checks, security details, and general transportation in deployed missions.

In 2013 there were three confirmed injuries on JBER due to off-road accidents; two of those happened on ATVs.

The number may be miniscule compared to 100,000 ATV injuries in 2012 all over Alaska, but they are accidents that could’ve been avoided had the riders employed skills such as those taught in the course.

Whether it’s a ride on base with a friend or an organized trail ride with a group, ATVs can take you there and get you back, but only if you know how.

For more information, contact the JBER Outdoor Recreation Center at 552-2023 or visit [jber.isportsman.net](http://jber.isportsman.net) or [elmendorf-richardson.com/fun/outdoor-recreation](http://elmendorf-richardson.com/fun/outdoor-recreation).

## Partners in Care provides support to service members

By Sgt. Belinda O’Neal  
Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

A newly-formed partnership between the Alaska National Guard and faith-based organizations is benefiting Alaska National Guardsmen who are in need of support.

Partners in Care is a program that links faith-based organizations that provide specific services with the more than 4,000 Guardsmen and their families to address the unique challenges service in the Guard presents.

“We are building a network of support,” said Alaska Army National Guard (Lt. Col.) Chaplain Ted McGovern. “Instead of all these different agencies working independently to support service members, we are trying to synchronize the support.”

McGovern referred to the support network as a web that will hopefully catch more of the service members who fall through the cracks and do not receive help.

From grief and marital issues to financial hardships and parenting struggles, PIC facilitates an efficient referral opportunity for chaplains to help Guardsmen receive assistance. Guard members can go through their unit chaplain for support.

“The need is great and the hurt is great,” explained McGovern.

“There are a lot of people who struggle with life’s challenges and we want to do everything we can to reach and help them.”

In the last seven months, chaplains have been contacted by more than 1,000 Alaska Guard members. This has generated over 100 counseling sessions.

Five faith-based organizations have signed an agreement of partnership with the AKNG since its inception in October 2014: Eagle River Grace Church, Eagle River Presbyterian Church, Faith Christian Community, Grace and Truth Christian Church and the Conflict Resolution Center.

To further assist efforts, PIC has linked up with the Alaska Forget-Me-Not Coalition for Service Members, Veterans and Families.

The coalition’s focus is on statewide collaboration, community outreach, identifying gaps in services, minimizing duplication and maximizing use of existing funding.

Some of the services that PIC can refer Guardsmen to include addiction recovery, mediation, youth and adult fellowship groups, pastoral care and counseling, grief support and conflict.

“We are really looking forward to the possibilities this program has to offer in terms of creating a mutual appreciation and growing understanding between Alaskan communities and the military members serving here,” said State Command Chaplain (Col.) Richard Koch.

If you are an Alaska Guard member or family, or you know someone in need, please contact the full-time chaplain staff.

State Command Chaplain (Col.) Rich-



**A memorandum of understanding between the Partners in Care congregation and the Alaska National Guard was signed during a workshop at the BP Energy Center April 16. In attendance were, from left, JP Ouellette, program administrator and family mediator for the Conflict Resolution Center; Joel Brown, family pastor at Faith Christian Community; Col. Joseph Streff, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, Don Marson, senior pastor at Grace and Truth Community Church and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ted McGovern. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Sgt. Balinda O’Neal)**

ard Koch, [richard.j.koch14.mil@mail.mil](mailto:richard.j.koch14.mil@mail.mil), 428-6904; Army Guard Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Theodore McGovern, [theodore.j.mcgovern.mil@mail.mil](mailto:theodore.j.mcgovern.mil@mail.mil); 428-6547; 176th Wing Chap-

lain, (Capt.) Angela Erickson, [angela.erickson.2@us.af.mil](mailto:angela.erickson.2@us.af.mil), 551- 0268. (The 176th Refueling Wing is currently in the process of hiring a full-time chaplain.)



# What determines contentment, and how do you sustain it?

Commentary by Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) James Hendrick  
JBER Chaplain

How content (satisfied) are you? To what degree is everything ok in your world? Maybe the most important question: what determines your contentment and how do you personally sustain it?

I think it goes without saying that humans are universally driven by the desire to have our needs met and to be at peace – to be content.

We see this expressed from birth to death.

I think it also goes without saying many people around the world and in America are largely lacking contentment, given the types of speech and behavior we frequently see on social media.

I would even go so far as to say discontentment, sometimes connected to personal, unfulfilled, and unrealistic expectations, can lead to irrational thought, speech, and behavior.

Contentment and discontentment are huge in navigating the emotions, morale, and motivation of individuals and groups.

So again I ask, how content are you? What determines your contentment and how do you sustain it?

Contemplating these questions, Benjamin Franklin once proclaimed, “Contentment makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich men poor.”

Contentment is a beautiful thing. It enlarges healthy resiliency. It blesses our minds, bodies, and relationships.

It even has the power to reduce high-maintenance attitudes that major on the minors, which are counter-productive to healthy relationships, teams, and leaders.

I wonder, have you ever noticed the connection between discontentment and the frequency of a cynical and critical mindset?

I thought about this recently when reading some feedback comments recorded by Mike Neifert in his “Light and Life” article.

These comments were given to park staff at the beautiful Bridger Wilderness Area in Wyoming.

As I share some of these, do you hear contentment or discontentment?

“Trails need to be reconstructed, please avoid building trails that go uphill ... trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands ... there are too many bugs, leeches, and spider webs, please spray the wilderness



Located in Western Wyoming, the Bridger-Teton Wilderness Area offers more than 3.4 million acres of public land for outdoor recreation enjoyment. (Courtesy photo/U.S. Forest Service)

to remove them ... chairlifts need to be installed so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them ... a McDonald’s at the trailhead would be nice ... the coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake, please eradicate them ... a small deer came into my camp and stole my jar of pickles, can I get reimbursed?”

Sound familiar? Sound like those wrestling with discontentment?

Again, what determines con-

tentment for you? How do you personally sustain it? To what degree must you be ‘in control’ to enjoy it?

After 45 years of life, under the faith-label of Christianity, I continue growing in a level of contentment that is not primarily connected to anything in this world. I have found it not only satisfies, but transforms.

That is, my role as a man, husband, father, and chaplain have been greatly enriched by it.

Additionally, my contentment

source is untouched and unaffected by my circumstances or ability to control. I have found it absolutely unchanging in its trustworthiness.

What is it? From a faith perspective, King David described it best in holy scripture when he proclaimed, “Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).

My primary source of contentment is God.

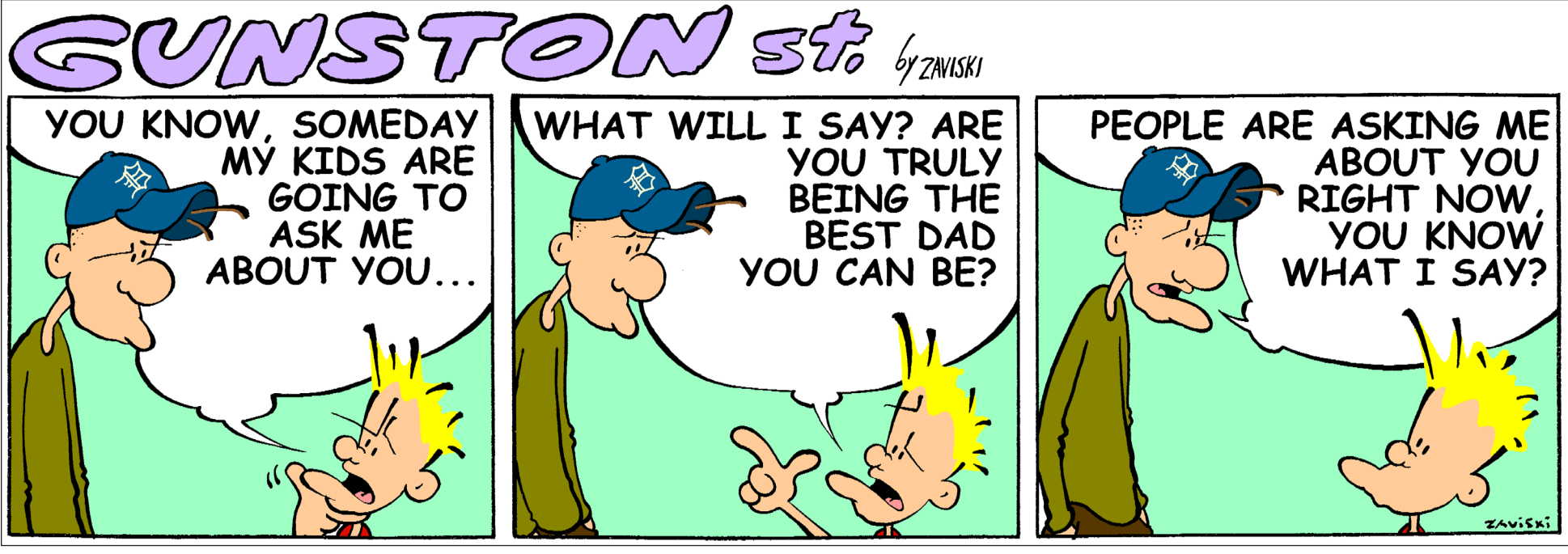
Given our American currency and its inscribed ‘trust statement’ it seems I’m not alone.

How about you? What is your primary source of contentment? To what degree does it sustain you? To what degree must you be in control to enjoy it?

As we contemplate these questions may we consider one more voice of faith. It comes from Thomas à Kempis who understood our inability to control all things and his belief in ultimate justice.

Before dying in 1471, he stated, “When a man has arrived so far, that he seeks his consolation from no created thing, then at this point he truly begins to taste what God is; then, too, he will be well content with everything that happens.”

May you and yours find yourselves satisfyingly content.





**THROUGH JUNE 21**  
**Slam'n Salm'n Derby**

Anglers of all ages try for the biggest salmon out of Ship Creek in downtown Anchorage. There are prizes galore – and some winning fish weigh more than 40 pounds.

For information, visit [shipcreeksalmonderby.com](http://shipcreeksalmonderby.com).

**THROUGH JULY 17**  
**Summer reading program**

The JBER library hosts a music-themed summer reading program “Read To The Rhythm” through July 17. The program is open to all ages.

To register, call 384-1640.

**FRIDAY**  
**Science fair and picnic**

Engage in a fun learning experience with your children while exploring age-appropriate science activities at all JBER Child Development Centers. Afterward, enjoy a summer picnic in the great outdoors.

For details, see your child's CDC staff.

**Youth center bowling club**

Kennecott Youth Center members enjoy an afternoon of bowling from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. for one low price.

For information, call 552-2266.

**Army Birthday Ball**

As Soldiers around the world celebrate the birthday of the U.S. Army, join in at the Captain Cook Hotel, starting at 6 p.m.

For information, contact your unit representative or email [e.lind@alaskausa.org](mailto:e.lind@alaskausa.org).

**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. Open to all active-duty families.

For information, call 384-7330.

**Kayak roll class**

Designed for experienced kayakers, the roll class teaches how to roll right-side-up without exiting the kayak. The class takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Elmendorf Fitness Center pool.

To register, call 552-2023 or 552-2023.

**SATURDAY**  
**Jim Creek ATV trip**

Head to Jim Creek on a guided ATV tour from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sign up at JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center. Helmet

and transportation will be provided; bring weather-appropriate clothing and lunch.

This trip is part of the RecOn program, which provides discounted trips to service and family members.

To sign up or for more information, call 552-4599 or 552-2023.

**Portage Lake kayak trip**

Paddle along glacial icebergs on beautiful Portage Lake.

Trip departs the JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center at 8 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. All kayaking gear provided; bring warm clothing and lunch.

To sign up or for more information, call 552-4599 or 552-2023.

**Ladder ball and corn hole tournament**

Grab your battle buddy or wingman and head over to the Warrior Zone for a ladder ball and corn hole tournament starting at 5 p.m. in the patio area. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

For information, call 384-9006.

**SUNDAY**  
**Father's Day bowling**

Having trouble deciding what to do for Father's Day? Take Dad bowling at the Polar Bowl from 1 to 8 p.m. for 10 percent off bowling and a special gift just for him.

For information, call 753-7467.

**MONDAY**  
**Paddle board class**

Looking for some new outdoor skills? Learn the ins and outs of stand-up paddle boarding in Alaska with this training course offered by the Outdoor Adventure Program at Otter Lake from 5 to 7 p.m.

For information or to register, call 552-4599 or 2023.

**TUESDAY**  
**Family fun golf clinic**

Learn another way to enjoy Alaska's midnight sun. Bring your family out to Moose Run Golf Course from 5 to 6 p.m. for a free golf clinic.

Open to ages 6 and up; golf clubs will be provided.

To sign up, call 428-0056.

**Mountain biking**

Let the experts at the Outdoor Adventure Program lead you on an exciting mountain biking outing through Hillside Park from 5 to 8 p.m. There are beginner through advanced single-track trails to challenge riders of all skill levels. Sign up at JBER-Elmendorf Out-

door Recreation Center.

To sign up or for more information, call 552-4599 or 552-2023.

**THURSDAY**  
**Ten steps to a Federal job**

Is *USAjobs.gov* driving you crazy? Are you trying to “step” your way through the website alone?

This course, taking place from 8 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 600, Room A37 on JBER-Richardson is designed to teach job seekers about the federal hiring process, how to research job announcements, how to navigate *USAjobs.gov* and how to format a resume for federal employment.

To register or for more information, call 552-4943.

**Captain's class**

Thinking about renting a boat from JBER Outdoor Recreation? This class, taking place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center along with completion of the Alaska Boater Safety Education Course (available free online from *boat.us.org*) is required to rent boats that will be used on the ocean.

For more information call, 552-4599, 552-2023 or 552-3812.

**Outdoor rock climbing**

Climbing the walls this summer already? Channel that energy into an outdoor rock-climbing trip with the Outdoor Adventure Program staff on the cliffs along the Seward highway from 5 to 9 p.m. All climbing gear is provided.

To sign up or for more information, call 552-4599 or 552-2023.

**JUNE 26**  
**Youth movie night**

Youth ages 9 to 12, ready to get out of the house for an evening of movies and fun?

Head to the Two Rivers Youth Center from 5 to 7 p.m. for youth movie night.

For information, call 384-1508.

**JUNE 27**  
**Glacier ice climb**

Get up close and personal with the Matanuska Glacier on this guided tour from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trip departs from the JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center.

Climbing gear and transportation will be provided; bring weather-appropriate clothing and lunch.

To sign up or for more information, call 552-4599 or 552-2023.

**JULY 22 AND 23**  
**Transition summit**

Join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's “Hiring Our Heroes” hiring fair and transition summit.

The summit, which starts at 10 a.m. at the DenalIna Center in Anchorage, will feature workshops, panel discussions, and a hiring fair – all focused on improving competitive employment for service members, veterans, and their spouses.

For information or registration, visit: [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call (202) 463-5807.

**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.

**Financial counseling**

Does more than 25 percent of your pay go to bills? Are you making only minimum payments, or taking out new loans to pay off old ones? Are you having frequent family arguments over money? Do you really need that new TV, watch or cup of fancy coffee?

Financial counseling is available through Army Community Service or Army Emergency Relief, at 384-7478.

**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 and bowl in the neon lights while enjoying today's top music hits.

For information, call 753-7467.

**Civil Air Patrol meetings**

The JBER squadron of the Alaska Civil Air Patrol meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. in the JBER Aero Club Hangar.

For information and access, call 250-9548.

**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

## 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**

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

**Religious Education**

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

one free game.

For information, call 753-7467.

**Model railroading**

The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday and 1 p.m. Saturday in the basement of Matanuska Hall, Room 35. Anyone interested in model railroading is invited.

For information, call 552-4353, or visit [trainweb.org/msmrr](http://trainweb.org/msmrr).

## 673d FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

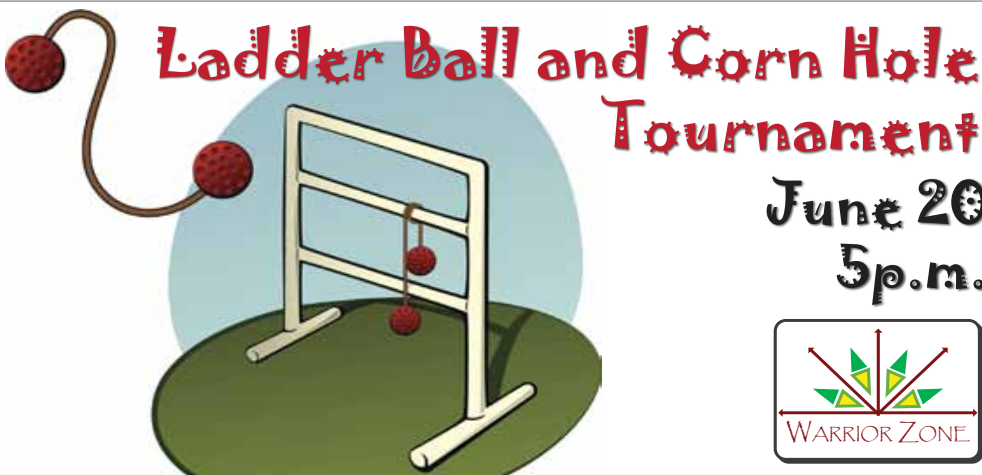
- 2 person teams
- Located on the Patio outside of the Warrior Zone

1st place • \$75

2nd place • \$50

3rd place • \$25

Bldg. 655 | 384.9006



### Ladder Ball and Corn Hole Tournament

June 20  
5p.m.



## JBER Spouse Orientation

June 25  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Orientation will be held at Military & Family Support Center (MFSC) 8535 Wewak Drive JBER, AK 99506



Call to register: 552.4943 or 384.1517

**GET GOLF READY**

WANT TO LEARN HOW TO GOLF? Give us FIVE days & we'll give you a sport for a lifetime!

**PACKAGES**

- \$99** • 5 Lessons - Beginner Clinic (open to all adults)
- \$149** • 5 Lessons - Beginner Clinic
  - FREE Set of Golf Clubs, Bag & Putter (while supplies last)
  - 3 rounds of Golf on the Hills Course! (only open to Military, Retirees, DOD Civilians & Dependents)

» Get comfortable with the game through a series of beginner friendly lessons.

» Meet new people in a casual golf setting.

» Enjoy the outdoors & get in shape!

All lessons are held at Moose Run Golf Course's driving range.

907-428-0056

27000 Arctic Valley Road

JBER-Richardson /mooserungolcourse.com

[www.mooserungolcourse.com](http://www.mooserungolcourse.com)

UNDER THE 2 MIDNIGHT SUN GOLF TOURNAMENT 5

June 20, 6 - 7 p.m. Tee Times  
Entry: \$55 for Military \$65 for Civilians  
Entry includes: Golf Carts, Long Drive, KP Contests, Green Fee, Door Prizes, and Dinner!  
Space Limited! Sign-up early! Sign up Deadline June 16.  
\*All players must have a HDCP to be eligible to win prizes.

Moose Run Golf Course, bldg. 27000, 428-0056  
[facebook.com/MOOSERUNGOLFCOURSE](https://facebook.com/MOOSERUNGOLFCOURSE)



7176 Fighter Dr.  
753.7467 (PINS)

## CELEBRATING ALL FATHERS

June 21 | 1 - 8 p.m.

10% off bowling & a special gift for the Fathers!

## 10 STEPS TO A FEDERAL JOB

USAjobs driving you crazy?  
Trying to “step” your way through the website alone?

To register call: 552.4943 or 384.1517

This course is designed to teach:

- Federal Hiring Process
- Research Job Announcements
- Navigating USAjobs
- How to format your Resume for Federal Employment.

June 25 • Bldg. 600 Rm. A37  
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



## FSS/MWR events & activities



Stop by and see us!

[www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS](https://www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS)

[www.elmendorf-richardson.com](http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com)





# Children aim for the bullseye with the JBER Instructional Youth Program



Josephine Condrey, 6, takes aim at her target during an archery class at the Skeet, Trap and Archery Range on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson June 15. Condrey is one of the youngest students of the group and is the daughter of Army Lt. Col. Jason Condrey, commander of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera)



Eden (front) and Gavin Warner, children of 1st Sgt. Ryan Warner, of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. Both children participated in the archery class offered by the JBER Youth Center June 15.



CJ Willett retrieves his arrow from a target during an archery class offered by the JBER Instructional Youth Program at the Skeet, Trap and Archery Range on JBER June 15. The archery class teaches the fundamentals of archery safety and basic techniques.



Archery instructor Tech. Sgt. Jarod Cappon helps Sawyer Condrey take aim at a target during an archery class at the Skeet, Trap and Archery Range on JBER June 15.



# Fun for all at the Stars and Stripes summer fest



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Service members and their families participate in free carnival rides and entertainment during the Stars and Stripes Summer Festival on JBER June 13. Magic shows, paint-ball and a petting zoo were available during the summer festival. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Tammie Ramsouer)

Various models of cars, trucks and motorcycles were entered in the car show and on display during the first day of the Stars and Stripes Summer Festival on JBER June 13.

A magician performs a trick during the Stars and Stripes Summer Festival on JBER June 13. The magic show was one of many events which entertained service members and their families during the festival.

Service members and their families played carnival games, enjoyed rides and sampled food from various vendors during the Stars and Stripes Summer Festival June 13. More than 2,000 service members and their families participated in the rides and events.



# It’s motorcycle season and safety is a top priority

By Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Kirsten Wicker  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Summer in Alaska is officially here and for motorcycle enthusiasts that means it’s time to gas up the tank and hit the open road on two wheels.

Officials with the 354th Fighter Wing Safety Office remind Airmen, family members and civilians to practice safe motorcycle riding that could save a life in the event of a mishap.

“Alaska has the potential to be a great place to ride, but it can also be a dangerous place,” said Staff Sgt. Devon Ellis, a 354th FW ground safety technician.

“There are safety considerations unique to Alaska to be aware of when riding here that are different than when riding in other locations.”

Ellis advises riders to remember there are often long distances between gas stations, road conditions that include construction zones are hazardous, fatigue can influence judgment and reaction time, and remain aware of other drivers, particularly those driving rented recreational vehicles.

A motorcyclist is 26 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Although speed and alcohol consumption are large contributing factors to motorcycle accidents, the agency found two-thirds of fatal motorcycle crashes involve a motorcycle and another vehicle. Motorists either do not see the oncoming motorcycle, or the motorist doesn’t see the motorcycle in time to avoid a crash.

“Really look out for rented RVs, often driven by tourists driving across the state, because many times those drivers are not familiar with driving a vehicle that large and may not be looking out for motorcycles,” Ellis said.

“Keep in mind construction zones can have a lot of gravel on the roadway or heavy equipment operating nearby.

“Pay attention to how tired you are and how much fuel you have when riding long distances.”



**Motorcyclists from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson participate during a motorcycle mentorship ride as a part of Safety Day, May 23. The 90 riders started from the Army’s military police building and ended their ride at Eklutna Lake in Chugach State Park. All motorcyclists are required to wear personal protective equipment on and off JBER during motorcycle season such as a helmet, reflective gear, gloves, a jacket and proper closed-toe footwear. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tammie Ramsouer)**

While riding can be fun and liberating, base safety officials also remind everyone to ensure personal protective equipment is worn at all times while operating a motorcycle.

According to the Air Force Safety Center, 13 Airmen were killed in off-duty motorcycle crashes in fiscal year 2014. Although none of the deaths occurred in Alaska, riders are still encouraged to continue safe riding for mishap prevention.

“If you ride a motorcycle, on base or off base, you must wear correct personal protective gear,” Ellis said. “The same rules apply

to civilian and Defense Department ID card holders on base.”

Personal protective equipment applies at all times and includes a certified Department of Transportation helmet that properly fastens under the chin, impact or shatter-resistant eye protection such as goggles or a face shield, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves, and sturdy, over-the-ankle boots.

It is recommended, but not mandatory, for riders to wear a reflective garment that will assist other drivers in seeing them.

Individuals planning to ride this summer must complete a

free Motorcycle Safety Foundation course, either Beginner Rider Course or Experienced Rider Course, possess a valid driver’s license with an “M” endorsement and follow all personal protective equipment guidance.

“[Air Force] riders also need to register on the motorcycle unit safety tracking tool, known as MUSTT and attend the pre-season riding briefing given by the wing safety office,” Ellis said.

“The weather is nice and we encourage [service members] to have fun riding this summer, but to also be safe when they head out.”

Additional considerations for

safe riding include ensuring preventative maintenance is completed with an inspection of the tires, wheels, controls, lights, oil and bike chassis. Riders must also obey speed limits and never mix alcohol with motorcycle riding.

Consuming alcohol and driving any motorized vehicle, to include a motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle, greatly increases the chances of having an accident.

“Alcohol affects balance and coordination, which are essential to operating a motorcycle,” Ellis said. “Just avoid drinking alcohol completely if you plan to ride, it’s never a good idea to begin with.”