



ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Army plans to cut JBER by 2,631 troops

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — By the end of fiscal 2018, the active Army expects to have drawn down in size from 490,000 to 450,000, said Army officials during a press conference at the Pentagon July 9.

The service will also shrink the size of several brigade combat teams and cut 17,000 civilian employees.

“These are incredibly difficult choices,” said Brig. Gen. Randy George, director of force management for the Army. “The Army followed a long and deliberate process that included utilization of a [Government Accountability Office]-endorsed military value analysis process, and an inclusive total Army analysis, in order to determine the best construct for the Army, based on the threats we face and the current fiscal environment we must operate in.”

The most-recently announced cuts will heavily affect six installations, where more than 1,000 Soldiers will be cut.

These locations include 2,631 Soldiers on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; 3,402 Soldiers on Fort Benning, Georgia; 3,350 Soldiers on Fort Hood, Texas; 1,251 Soldiers on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; 1,214 Soldiers on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and 1,219 Soldiers on Fort Bliss, Texas.

During the press conference, the Army provided a list of 30 installations — including those six — where changes would be made.

At JBER, the Army will convert the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, to a maneuver battalion task force by FY17.

A maneuver battalion task force includes about 1,050 Soldiers, rather than the 4,000 in a full BCT.

The Army also said despite the temporary nature commonly associated with “task forces,” a maneuver battalion task force is actually a permanent part of Army force structure.

The task force allows the Army to maintain some combat power capability and also allows “reversibility” within a force size of 450,000 Soldiers — versus completely eliminating a BCT.

In January, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno had said the Army would achieve the 450,000 end strength through the elimination of four BCTs.

This is no longer the plan. Instead, the Army will convert some of the BCTs to maneuver battalion task forces, as it will in Georgia.

Communities outside those installations will regrettably be affected, by the changes, George said, but “the Army has to operate within the budget provided. Part of doing that is restructuring and reorganizing to be able to accomplish the Army’s mission in the best manner possible.”

Cuts will come from reductions of headquarters — focusing on two-star and above headquar-

TWO STAR TRADE



ABOVE: After serving as the U.S. Army Alaska commander for the past two years, Maj. Gen. Michael Shields passed the unit colors and leadership of America’s arctic warriors to Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens during a change of command ceremony July 10 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, was the presiding official for the ceremony on Pershing Field in front of the USARAK headquarters. (U.S. Air Force photos/Justin Connaher)  
BELOW: Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens takes the colors from Gen. Vincent Brooks.

Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens takes USARAK reins from Shields

By David Bedard  
JBER Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael Shields relinquished command of U.S. Army Alaska to Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens in a change-of-command ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Pershing Parade Field July 10.

Officials nominated Shields for directorship of the Pentagon’s Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency (previously the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization) and promotion to lieutenant general.

In his remarks, reviewing officer Gen. Vincent Brooks, U.S. Army Pacific commanding general, placed the ceremony in context of the Army’s nearly 150-year history in the 49th state.

“Today’s ceremony marks another milestone in the long history of the Army in Alaska,” Brooks said. “Since 1867, there has been an Army presence in a place long recognized as a strategically important location for the United States of America. That strategic importance continues today as we advance our national efforts to rebalance in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region, and as we continue to pursue our interests in the Arctic. Alaska is important to both of these efforts.”

Brooks said numerous US-ARAK deployments to Afghanistan, peacekeeping missions in Kosovo, and partnership exercises with allied nations during Shields’ tenure show the value of the Army in Alaska.

“Our arctic warriors under Major General Shields were found in places like Nepal, Mongolia, Chile, not to mention Deadhorse and the top of Mount McKinley — amazing work by a great outfit commanded by a great commander,” Brooks said. “This command — filled with arctic-tough Soldiers who are unique in the joint force — demonstrated to anyone who was watching that Alaska is a strategic location for the United States, and that we can project forces from here to any place our national leaders order them to go.”



Shields echoed Brooks’ sentiments during his remarks.

“No organization in the U.S. military can do what these Soldiers do,” Shields said. “They’re the cold-weather and cold-regions proponent of the Army. They’re expected to be the experts in the conduct of decisive action in support of unified land operations as well as operationally effective in extreme cold-weather environments.”

Shields thanked many of the senior officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians on his staff for making his command successful. He also recognized USARAK’s civilian neighbors for their support. “To the entire Alaskan community, thank you for your patriotism and loyalty,” he said. “Nowhere else in the world will you find a community more supportive of the military and so willing to express their gratitude. The love and unconditional support our Soldiers enjoy in Alaska is something special to witness and experience, and we don’t take it for granted.”

Above all, Shields expressed gratitude to USARAK’s Soldiers.

“America is fortunate to have such dedicated, outstanding warriors, and I’m proud to have been part of such a great team,” he said. “It’s been an honor to lead you.”

Most recently, Owens served as director of Joint Operations, U.S. European Command. He has

served in every officer leadership position from platoon leader to brigade commander.

“In choosing Bryan Owens for this command, the Army chose a leader with both the warfighting credentials of a seasoned infantryman and a vast array of high-level staff positions as a warrior statesman,” Brooks said.

Brooks acknowledged Owens and his wife, Jen, would face challenges, including the recently announced drawdown of more than 2,600 USARAK Soldiers.

“We are counting on Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens and Jen to move this command forward, working through the challenges of implementing the Army’s directed reductions here in Alaska while also increasing the pace of engagement activities and demonstrating our capabilities around the region,” he said. “I’m confident that Team Owens will be successful, because — as Bryan is known to say — in the end it comes down to leadership.”

Shields — who served with Owens when they were battalion commanders at Fort Bragg, North Carolina — said he is confident the new commander is the right Soldier to succeed him.

“He has an incredible reputation, which has only grown,” Shields said of Owens. “He’s led a brigade in combat. He knows what sacrifice and training is required to train units ready to answer our

nation’s call in support of any combatant commander. Bryan Owens is simply the right leader at the right time to lead the Soldiers of U.S. Army Alaska.”

Owens’ previous assignments include deputy commanding general-operations (South), 25th Infantry Division in Iraq; commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia; and chief of staff for the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Owens expressed his feelings at assuming command.

“It is truly a pleasure to be back with Soldiers again and to serve in such an awesome place,” he said.

“I fully commit myself to you and your families as we continue to provide trained and ready forces in support of worldwide contingencies, support theater engagements in the Pacific and the Arctic, and military operations in the Alaska Joint Operations Area in order to contribute to a stable and secure environment.

“I look forward to leading this awesome team as we create opportunities and tackle the challenges that lie ahead, including new ones announced by our Army leadership,” Owens continued. “There is no doubt that [USARAK Soldiers] are the Army’s premier cold-weather, high-altitude cold region experts, and I’m proud to join your ranks.”

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Bear Paw Festival!

Soldiers, Airmen go on parade at Eagle River  
Chugiak’s biggest annual summer event,  
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**ABOVE:** Spc. Scott Lynn, with 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, pulls security during the Talisman Sabre 15 exercise at Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Australia, July 8. (U.S. Army photo/Spc. Nikayla Shodeen)  
**BELOW:** Joint Tactical Air Controllers wait on the drop zone during Talisman Sabre, a biennial exercise that provides an opportunity for nearly 30,000 U.S. and Australian personnel to operate in a combined, joint and interagency efforts. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Daniel Love)

# Soldiers, JTACs ply their trades

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia — The Army relies on its partners to win in an increasingly complex world. Such was the case demonstrated in Exercise Talisman Sabre 15 in Australia, which continues through Sunday.

Lt. Col. Matt Hardman and his 400 paratroopers, from the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, had just jumped from seven C-17 Globemasters, two of which were Royal Australian Air Force.

They landed in the scrublands of Kapyong Drop Zone, Williamson Airfield, in the northeast state of Queensland July 8.

“After a 19-hour flight and jump, it’s just started,” Hardman said. The 19 hours was long but it took the flight from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The Soldiers, joined by their allies, the Australian 7th Brigade, met stiff resistance from the opposing forces during the exercise – Australian Army’s 3rd Brigade.

The Royal Australian Air Force supported the battalion with an unmanned aerial system and four



Hawk-127 fighters.

To ensure the RAAF dropped ordnance at the right place and the right time, several Air Force joint tactical air controllers from JBER and some Marines from 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, out of Okinawa, Japan, talked to RAAF pilots and controllers from the ground.

The battalion secured the airfield and fanned out to seize two key objectives nearby. That’s when they met stiff resistance.

“We could see the Americans [from the air] popping green and yellow smoke yesterday. They were likely screening their movements,” said Lt. Tom Kinsley, operations flight pilot with 76th

Squadron, who flies the Hawk-127.

Kinsley spoke from Rockhampton’s commercial airport, where they were operating July 9.

They were invited for the exercise, but are normally based out of Newcastle in New South Wales, about 100 miles north of Sydney.

Kinsley said that during the exercise, the JTACs called for “danger close” air support – meaning the opposing forces and the Army were engaged in an up-close battle.

“Danger close” is the most extreme type of close-air support, Kinsley said. The ordnance, in this case laser-guided munitions, must be dropped precisely on target to avoid killing friendly forces.

To ensure that level of preci-

sion requires good communications between Hawk-127 pilots and the JTACs on the ground, Kinsley said.

Two of the four 76th Squadron’s Hawk-127s were engaged in the fight. One was doing the air support and the other providing air cover for it.

A JTAC provides grid coordinates to pilots, and also describes prominent features of the terrain. They also drill down to smaller details so the pilot sees the same thing the JTAC sees, he said.

Kinsley said there is a lot of conversation going on the whole time to minimize mistakes and deliver what is needed, and it creates a very effective arrangement for everyone.

To deliver ordnance, “we sometimes flew as low as 250 feet and at some points we were as high as 20,000 feet to get a better, overall view,” he said.

When close-air support is requested in a “danger close” situation, it sometimes makes more sense to make low passes for a show of force instead of dropping ordnance and risking friendly casualties, he said.

“Bogus or dummy stores were programmed” into the onboard computer “to simulate ordnance drops,” said squadron leader Capt. Barry Skennar, who also flew close-air support.

“The weapons symbology” shows up on the screen, “just as if you had that weapon on board,” he said.

The communications “between the guy on the ground and in the air is the same,” Skennar said. “The only difference is you don’t get the bang.”

The close-air support had its intended effect and the objectives were secured, thanks in large measure to the joint, combined effort, Hardman said.

Skennar said it would be nice to someday meet the Soldiers they supported, as it is not often they interact with the U.S. Army.

They do meet their counterparts in the U.S. Air Force and Navy, however.

Kinsley said he would one day like to come to the United States to train on U.S. military aircraft systems, which he called the most advanced in the world.

# U.S., Australian airmen trade air refueling techniques

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez  
CJIB – Darwin

RAAF DARWIN, Australia — U.S. Air Force members demonstrated forward aerial refueling tactics with Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force personnel July 8 during Talisman Sabre 2015.

The training demonstration helped provide Australian forces with the knowledge to establish similar capabilities for their future operations.

“We’re a forward area fuel extension, so we can set up anywhere, such as a farmer’s field or on a remote airstrip and act as a mobile gas station where aircraft can stop, refuel and either continue their mission or get home safely,” said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. John Dillard, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels specialist. “They’re in the process of rebuilding their forward aerial refueling teams, so this allows us to show them what we have and they can use what ideas they like most and tailor it to their missions.”

During the demonstration, members of the 353rd Special Operations Group and fuels specialists from the 18th LRS went through the steps they would use to rapidly deploy a forward area manifold cart and hook up fuel hoses from their aircraft to a helicopter.

A FAM cart is a large mobile generator that pumps fuel out of an aircraft and delivers it to aircraft in need. The cart has the capability to fuel up to three aircraft at the same time.

“We’re interested in developing this capability, and this exercise is a fantastic opportunity to see and learn while the Americans are here and able to demonstrate their processes,” said Australian Army Lt. Col. Tim Connolly, commanding officer of the 6th Aviation Regiment. “The 353rd SOG has been incredibly helpful and open to sharing their operations. The U.S. and Australia share a fantastically strong alliance, and this is a way to improve our interoperability and commonality, and we can work together in the future with com-



**United States Airmen partnered with the Australian Army during a refueling exercise in Darwin July 8 during Talisman Sabre 2015. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Steven Peterson)**

mon procedures.”

U.S. Air Force Col. Clay Freeman, the 353rd SOG and Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component commander, said the training is valuable for both the U.S. and Australia.

“This has been outstanding,” Freeman

said. “The focus of our exercise objectives is interoperability and integration with our Australian allies. It’s been a great experience with everyone working hard and having a positive attitude. Our ability to work together and share knowledge allows us to function even better as a combined force.

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From CUTS • A1

ters; the reduction of brigade combat teams; the Aviation Restructure Initiative; operational force design changes; and reduction to enabler and generating forces.

George said the Army will try to draw down the active force end strength gradually in order to “minimize the turbulence we have with Soldiers and their families.”

By the end of fiscal 2015, the force will be at 490,000 Soldiers; at the end of FY16, 475,000; at the end of FY17, 460,000; and at the end of FY17, 450,000.

In 2012, the regular Army had an end strength of about 570,000 Soldiers, during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

In 2013, the Army announced a draw-down of 80,000, to be completed by the end of FY17, that would bring the size of the Army to 490,000 Soldiers.

The newest reductions of 40,000, in support of the president’s budget, will further reduce the force to 450,000 by the end of 2018.

Much of the initial 80,000-Soldier reduction was achieved by elimination of

temporary end-strength increases, wartime allowance and reductions in Europe.

With the latest reductions, the Army will try to use attrition as well, George said, and the slope of the drawdown will help.

But the Army will need to continue officer and enlisted involuntary separations to meet the end-strength target of 450,000 Soldiers.

There will also be early retirement boards. “We do expect that will happen,” George added.

Among civilians, there will be a 17,000-person reduction in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The Army has said these reductions can be achieved through attrition and by not filling currently unfilled positions.

The Army has already cut the civilian workforce by 8,000.

The additional 17,000 cuts will mean a total loss of 25,000 Army civilians by FY17.

The expected change on Fort Benning means it no longer needs to expand its training area.

The change will also reduce the competition for ranges and training areas that exist now between the 3rd BCT, the Armor School

and the Infantry School.

The Army has said Benning scored in the bottom third of a military value assessment, which is largely related to the quality and availability of its training spaces.

The unit will continue to support the U.S. Army Pacific Command rapid reaction capability with an airborne capability.

The reduction will also reduce training complications at Fort Benning, which, like JBER also scored in the bottom third of the MVA—due primarily to availability of quality training ranges.

When determining which cuts to make – and where – the Army conducted environmental and socioeconomic analysis of reductions at the Army’s 30 largest installations.

Additionally, the Army received more than 111,000 public comments on the force structure changes.

The Army also conducted “community listening” sessions at those 30 installations to receive input from residents and civic leaders.

More than 22,000 attended the listening sessions to provide input.

If sequestration continues, the Army is

expected to shrink further to about 420,000 Soldiers – a loss of an additional 30,000 personnel.

George said those losses would happen after the recently announced cuts were completed, so they would begin sometime in 2019.

Citing earlier comments by the Army’s chief of staff, George said cuts below 450,000 Soldiers “would be a significant risk” for the Army, in terms of meeting current combatant commander requirements and also “being ready for the unknowns.”

“Certainly it’s about choices, about where you apply forces and what you want those forces to do,” George said.

The Army is able now to respond to a variety of scenarios, and multiple scenarios, at the same time, he said.

A total strength of 420,000 will mean these capabilities would no longer be possible.

“The resulting force would be incapable of simultaneously meeting current deployment requirements and responding to the overseas contingency requirements of the combatant commanders,” George said.

# JBER All-Army triathlete goes on road to professional status

By John Budnik  
USACE Alaska District

Underneath his quiet and cool demeanor, Army 1st Lt. Marcus Farris is ready to be unleashed on race days.

A disciplined athlete, he has trained for many hours to represent and compete as a member of the All-Army Triathlon team.

Farris, a quality-assurance representative in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District’s construction division, said he realized his passion for running in high school in Huntsville, Alabama.

As a cadet in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, he did lots of running to prepare for physical training tests.

It wasn’t long before he was attending Auburn University and, in his free time, participating in ultramarathons — distances longer than the standard 26.2 miles.

Now, Farris said, his lifestyle consists of athletics and racing individually and for groups such as the All-Army Triathlon team and U.S. Military All-Endurance Sports team.

“There are some days that feel like workouts and some that feel

like I am playing outside,” Farris, 25, described. “It is good to see that your training pays off now and again.”

**Army athletics**

On June 7, he competed for the first time with the All-Army Triathlon team in the 2015 U.S. Armed Forces Championships hosted by the Leon’s World Fastest Triathlon at Hammond, Indiana.

According to the race results, he finished 17th out of 40 male competitors from all four branches, including members from the Canadian military.

Farris completed the Olympic standard triathlon distances of a 1.5 km swim, 40 km bike ride and 10 km run just under two hours.

As part of the Army’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program, All-Army sports are available to active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, according to its website.

Soldier-athletes must complete an application process to be considered for each activity, and to compete at national and international levels.

Some of the teams include basketball, boxing, bowling, golf,

rugby, soccer, softball, triathlon, volleyball and wrestling.

Making it on a team roster can be as competitive as race day, Farris said.

Specifically for triathletes in Olympic distances, male applicants must have a confirmed time of less than two hours, seven minutes; for females, it’s two hours, 35 minutes.

Previous experience as an armed forces team member or past collegiate racing is a bonus.

**Expanding skill set**

Farris keeps his skills sharp while contending for triathlons with the U.S. Military All-Endurance Sports team, a non-Defense Department entity.

The program is a division of the nonprofit organization American Service Members Amateur Sports Inc.

It supports amateur athletes while teaching endurance sports and activities for active-duty, retired and veteran military members, he said.

“This was a team created by service members for service members,” Farris said.

It’s not just natural athletic

prowess that sets Farris apart from other competitors – it’s also his willingness to apply proven exercise physiology principles, said Graham Wilson, triathlon coach for the endurance sports team.

“He is a focused individual,” Wilson said. “Once he sets his mind on a goal or mission, he will do everything in his power to achieve it.”

Within the next two to three years, Farris said his objective is to continue training and competing with the best.

“I am trying to earn a pro card to race at the professional level, but I still have some work to go,” he said. “Short term, I will be racing in the International Triathlon Union’s World Triathlon in Chicago [in September].

“That is my biggest race of the year, other than the All-Army sports team.”

**More than winning**

Meanwhile, Farris broke a seven-year-old record July 11 in the men’s 50-mile time trial at the 13th annual Fireweed 400, according to an Alaska Dispatch News report.

In preparation for the World

Triathlon, he will race in the Olympic-distance Alaska State Triathlon hosted near Wasilla on Aug. 2.

Since moving to Alaska in 2013, Farris’ greatest challenge has been adapting to indoor training because of the long, dark and cold winters.

“It turns into a mind game of how long you can stay on your trainer [machine] without going insane, but still obtaining the miles you need to stay competitive,” he said.

Maintaining that competitive edge can pay dividends on race days, but it’s not all about victories.

Farris said his most memorable moment as a triathlete came when he was on stage during a ceremony that honored veterans before the Armed Forces Championships.

The special moment made quite an impression.

“It was all very patriotic,” Farris said. “It was a pretty cool moment right before the race. You remember what you are representing and that it is not just a sport, but everybody you are doing it with. They are your competitors, but they are your brothers-in-arms as well.”





# Montana engineer squadron levels JBER flightline

By Air Force Staff Sgt. William Banton  
JBER Public Affairs

Gray clouds roll down the mountains, across the valley and over Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson as excavators demolish a proverbial mountain.

No one blinks as two F-22 Raptors take off over the construction site, causing a surge of sound on the already-noisy mound overlooking the flight line.

The inconsistent Alaska weather, and the sounds of freedom, courtesy of America’s premier fighter aircraft, have become par for the course for the Airmen working six-day weeks.

They are on a temporary duty assignment from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, as part of the 819th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) Squadron.

“We are a self-contained unit and we can go anywhere in the world and operate,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Isaac Moses, 819th RED HORSE project manager.

According to the Headquarters Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency, RED HORSE units are self-sufficient, 404-person mobile heavy construction squadrons capable of rapid response and independent operations in remote, high-threat environments worldwide.

They provide heavy repair capability and construction support when requirements exceed normal base civil engineer capabilities and where Army engineer support is not readily available.

“We use training projects, so if we [deploy] and are tasked with building a runway



**An excavator operated by an 819th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) Airman loads a dump truck July 7 with dirt removed from the approach to the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson north-south runway. The earth-moving equipment used by 819th REDHORSE was rented from a local contractor. Airmen of the 819th RED HORSE are deployed to JBER from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. (U.S. Air Force photo/David Bedard)**

or setting up a base we already know how to run each piece of equipment and can just roll in and start working,” Moses said.

While assigned to a training project, like at JBER, RED HORSE units work as if they were operating out of a deployed environment, he said.

In late May, RED HORSE began removing a hill at the end of one of the runways, hoping to make it easier for pilots to take off and land.

The JBER project originated after the dangers of the foliage around JBER’s flight line were reassessed.

As an aircraft was approaching the runway on a north-to-south trajectory, pilots were required to fly over trees on a hill and then drop down onto the airfield.

This approach was complicated by the fact that the short length of the runway would require an aircraft to stop quickly.

“We came up here under a contract and chopped off about 700,000 cubic yards of material (trees), which basically brought the point of the hill down and opened it up so pilots could then see the airfield,” said Robert McElroy, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron chief of construction management.

During this time, the 673d CES planned for the removal of the hill, an additional 2.5 million cubic yards of dirt, to ensure the

glide slope for the runway was within Air Force regulations.

A single cubic yard of material is the equivalent of three feet in height, by three feet in length, by three feet in depth, and can weigh as much as 3,000 pounds.

The final project required the removal of more than seven billion pounds of dirt.

For comparison, the heaviest object ever directly weighed by Guinness World Records was the Kennedy Space Center Revolving Service Structure of launch pad 39B, weighing approximately 5.3 million pounds.

Projects like these are prioritized based on installation needs and then submitted Air Force-wide for additional support, which is where RED HORSE comes in, McElroy said.

Due to lower labor costs, using military assets can make allocated funds go further.

“The equipment is rented from companies here in Anchorage,” Moses said. “Typically, we don’t get to work with this equipment at the home station. We would normally operate equipment this size in a deployed environment, so this is a huge plus for us as an added training value.”

The professionalism and capabilities provided by the 819th RED HORSE made for easy planning and communication with

their counterparts at the 673d CES, McElroy said.

“When the RED HORSE folks stepped in, it was pretty easy to just stand there and say, “Here’s our plan, here’s what we need to get done, here’s what we need to have when we are done moving everything,” he said. “Without even batting an eye, they said ‘we can do that.’”

RED HORSE units usually operate by first assigning a project engineer, usually a company grade officer, as well as a project manager, usually a senior noncommissioned officer.

They work with local subject matter experts to coordinate the needed resources prior to arriving on location.

“[The project] is scheduled for three years, but at the rate they are moving, I don’t think it will take three years,” McElroy said.

The 819th RED HORSE is scheduled to finish up the first phase of construction in early September and to return next spring to continue construction.

“This year we did a three-month and maybe next year we are looking at coming up for four,” Moses said. “Now we know exactly what we got into and what we need. Like Mr. McElroy said, maybe next year we could be close to finishing.”



**Disposition of effects**

Army 1st Lt. Westin Reuter, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 725th Brigade Support Battalion, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Spc. Frederick Jenkins of HHC, 725th BSB, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Reuter at (720) 299-6087.

**ASD early enrollment**

The Anchorage School District offers early enrollment for families new to the area or those who need special assistance. Sessions are available July 23 from 3 to 7 p.m. and July 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Education Center at 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

For information about what to bring, call 742-4000 or visit [asdk12.org](http://asdk12.org).

**Road closures**

Finletter Avenue will be closed from 5th Street to 9th Street through Friday.

Fighter Drive is closed between Johnson Avenue and 18th Street.

West Sijan Avenue will be closed through July for water line maintenance.

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

**Pharmacy renovations**

The JBER hospital pharmacy in the main building is undergoing renovations through November.

There will be three functioning windows and a slight reduction in waiting area; wait times will increase slightly, especially during lunchtime and other peak hours.

When renovations are complete, there will be six windows, 100 percent more waiting area, and an expanded inpatient pharmacy.

**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.

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

**U-Fix-It Store**

The JBER U-Fix-it Stores are open to all Aurora Military Housing tenants. Assorted items for maintaining your home may be issued from the U-Fix-It Store.

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

There are also American flag kits and fire extinguishers available. U-Fix-It work includes all home maintenance activities, allowing occupants to make minor improvements and repairs to their home and cut down on the number of service orders. There are two stores on base. The JBER-Elmendorf location is 6350 Arctic Warrior Drive and is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, closed from 1 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch noon to 1 p.m.).

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

A blind-cleaning machine is available at the JBER-E location. A “reservation required to use” policy is in place with the priority going to military members PCSing. For more information, call 375-5540.

**JBER Bargain Shop**

The JBER-Elmendorf Bargain Shop, located in Building 8515 Saville 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 is eligible for a maximum of two years from the date of the PCS orders and is in the program for one year. Spouses who have never filled a federal position can now register for PPP.

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.

**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).

**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.

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 occurs, crews will act quickly to restore service.

**MiCare registration**

MiCare, the online personal health record and secure messaging application, has been available to patients and medical group staff at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson since 2011. Patients can take advantage of the ability to communicate with their primary care clinicians online.

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

Once registered, patients have the ability to participate in the study by completing a short series of surveys during the course of the next year. This provides an opportunity for all active-duty, retired and dependent patients to have an impact on shaping the future of Air Force health services.

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



## 1/40th CAV redeploys

By Air Force Staff Sgt.  
William Banton  
JBER Public Affairs

Approximately 350 Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division were honored in a redeployment ceremony at Buckner Physical Fitness Center July 10.

Several hundred paratroopers assigned to the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, along with a small contingent assigned to the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, returned from a 10-month rotation in support of peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

"This team ensured a continuous safe and secure environment for the freedom of the people of Kosovo," said Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens, U.S. Army Alaska commanding general, at the redeployment ceremony.

"These arctic warriors served daily alongside our North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies supporting nations including Hungary, Armenia, Germany, Poland and Turkey."

As part of the NATO-led Kosovo Force, Multinational Battle Group-East, the 1-40th CAV supported Kosovo police, alongside a multinational force which included Soldiers from Romania, Armenia, Moldova and Kazakhstan.

This support included conducting steady-state operations involving more than 1,000 presence patrols, 180 unexploded ordnance disposals, 139 synchronized patrols and 18 reconnaissance operations.

"I think the behavior and the conduct of the Soldiers was extremely professional," said Col. Clint Baker, MNBG-E commander. "We had a flawless record of mission success. All in all, I think the Soldiers did it as about as good as anyone could do it. I'm really proud of them."

Owens echoed the same sentiment in his remarks.

"They epitomize what the chief of staff of the Army refers to as globally deployed, regionally engaged forces," Owens said.

"Today it is an absolute pleasure to welcome home this team and say job well done."

KFOR entered Kosovo in June 1999 in support of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244, tasked with maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all Kosovo's citizens.

At that time, the Balkans were in turmoil, facing the biggest military and humanitarian crisis since World War II.

A mounting conflict between the Serb-dominated military of the Federal Yugoslav Republic and the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army demanding independence from Belgrade had claimed some 10,000 lives and sparked the exodus of almost a million Albanian refugees.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. forces played a key role in KFOR operations to end the war and established diplomatic relations with Kosovo, following its declaration of independence in 2008.

*Additional reporting by Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service, and Army Sergeant Brian Rabin, 4-25 Public Affairs.*



Family, friends, loved ones, and fellow Soldiers wait to reunite with their husbands, fathers, brothers, and comrades assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, during a redeployment ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 10. The contingent of paratroopers returned home from a 10-month deployment in support of peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Pena)



## Veterans in Blue: Johnny "Bulldog" Hernandez

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

Johnny Hernandez joined the Air Force in 1981 with dreams of flying. However, the cost of education prevented him from becoming a pilot, so he settled for a job as a tactical aircraft maintenance specialist.

The job allowed him to travel the world, where highlights of his career included serving in Germany, England, Kuwait, Korea, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

After being treated for several ear infections, he was referred to different specialists. In 1987, Hernandez underwent a computerized axial tomography scan and was diagnosed with cancer.

It took two surgeries to remove it, leaving a scar that reached above his left ear down to his throat.

"When you almost lose your life ... you don't feel indestructible anymore," Hernandez said.

dez said.

"You realize you can be hurt."

He was now completely deaf in his left ear and considers his biggest challenge being told he would not be able to continue in his career field. "It made me keep pressing forward," he said.

Hernandez convinced the doctors to let him keep going on the condition that he report his condition getting any worse. It never did.

He retired in 2001 and became a recovery care coordinator at the Warrior Transition Unit on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Motivated by his experiences with cancer, Hernandez is dedicated to helping military members access their benefits, from education to medical needs.

"I want to share my story with others," he said. "It really brings what I'm doing here into perspective. I'm extremely passionate about people."



Johnny Hernandez retired as a master sergeant after 20 years of service as a tactical aircraft maintenance specialist in the Air Force. He was diagnosed with cancer in his left ear in 1987, an experience which motivated him to help military members access their benefits today as a recovery care coordinator for the 673d Medical Group at the Warrior Transition Unit on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett)



# Life interruptions happen; are you prepared?

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

Rarely does a day go by without something interrupting the tasks that need to get accomplished. It seems as though those interruptions usually occur at the most inopportune time and disrupt the most critical tasks. These interruptions derail us, they knock us out of our zone, and distract us from living our lives.

On particularly dramatic days it can seem as though we have accomplished nothing important and have simply failed at life for the day.

Interruptions happen in small ways that are annoying, and very large ways that can be debilitating.

Our attitude and response, however, can shape what these interruptions mean, how we react to them, and turn them from frustrations into the building blocks of a rich and meaningful life.

Jesus told a story that illustrates this. One day a man gets mugged and beat up so badly he is left to die on the street. Two people walk past the man, unwilling to assist. A third, however, was attentive to the interruption, aided the man, and took him to get care.

Jesus lauded this third man as example for all of us to follow in our attitudes and interactions with others. It also helps us see how to handle interruptions.

Our culture today fosters inter-



Jansz Wijnants’ painting depicts the actions of the Good Samaritan (Courtesy photo)

ruptions and breeds an attitude of immediacy. “Everything must be done the way I want it done and on my timeline.”

We take this attitude with us throughout the day and into our relationships. If something does not meet our expectations, or another, seemingly more beneficial opportunity arises, our culture approves flaking out of previous commitments. Our entire life is structured to accommodate and enable this frenetic shifting of activity and priorities.

This lack of rhythm has not,

however, made us more adaptable and capable of adequately handling interruptions.

The loss of our rhythms, the narratives that undergird our lives, has actually made it more difficult to adapt to interruptions.

Without an overarching sense of meaning or purpose to our culture, every event must be measured against every other event to determine its value, the importance we choose to give it, and how much we focus on that event based on what we feel matters that day.

Our values shift easily, and

without a strong sense of belonging many are left to try and understand and accomplish this alone.

Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan shows that life’s interruptions don’t have to be negative, but can instead be positive events that are woven into life that give us the meaning and purpose we so often lack today.

While it is impossible to know the mind of the Samaritan, as he was a fictional character from a parable Jesus told in response to a question, there are some principles that will enable us to embrace in-

terruptions and transform them into opportunities for success.

We know interruptions will happen, but so often we do not prepare for them. The Samaritan was prepared for contingencies and was able to assist the injured man with the skills he had.

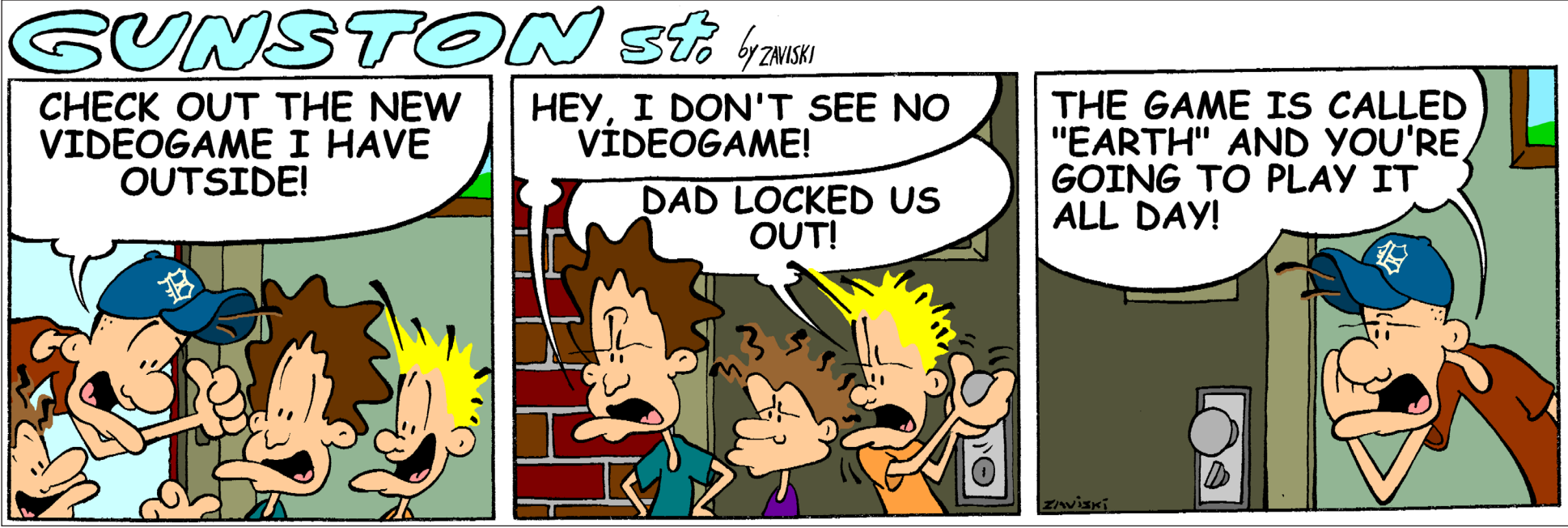
What are your skills? If you are good at something, how prepared are you to perform that skill at a moment’s notice? Anticipate you will need to, and prepare for it. That will give you a solid foundation from which to adapt to the interruptions that arise.

When we view interruptions as distractions, they catch us off guard. Changing your attitude towards them can go a long way to helping you be ready for them.

By seeing interruptions as a chance to showcase and to shine, when they arise, it will be easier to evaluate how you can best address the issue rather than trying to figure out how you can avoid it.

By accepting that interruptions will happen, and that they can’t be avoided, we can start to shape our lives in such a way when they occur, we know what matters to us, why we act the way we do and are prepared to live out our values.

If you can do that, you will find that the number of true interruptions you face is quite minimal and rather than being overwhelmed with distractions, you will have a consistent chain of opportunities to make a difference that matters to others, to our culture, and to you.





**FRIDAY**  
**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 552-4599.

**SATURDAY**  
**RecOn 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.

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

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

**SUNDAY**  
**RecOn Eklutna ATV trip**

Head to Eklutna on a guided ATV tour from 9 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 and services to service and family members.

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

**Women's half marathon**

The Her Tern Women's Half Marathon begins at 9 a.m. at the Delaney Park Strip.

For registration information, call 274-7222.

**MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY**  
**Yoga clinic**

Youth center members ages 9 to 18, take advantage of the opportunity to learn a new fitness routine through a yoga clinic offered by the Two Rivers Youth Center starting at 2 p.m. each day.

For information, call 384-1508.

**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY**  
**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 Denaina 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.

**THURSDAY**  
**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.

**JULY 25**  
**Hatcher Pass ATV trip**

Take a day trip and head to Hatcher Pass 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.

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

**Portage Lake kayak trip**

Paddle along the northern shore of Portage Lake 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sign up at JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center.

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

**JULY 25 AND 26**  
**Historical Tent City**

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Anchorage at the Delaney Park strip 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 25 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 26.

The two-day festival will host a reenactment of the original land auction, rides, activities, food, games and amazing sights. Enjoy live music and an abundance of Anchorage history.

For more information visit <https://anchoragefairsandfestivals.org>.

**JULY 27**  
**Matsu Miners military appreciation night**

Take in a free baseball game at the State Fairgrounds where the Matsu Miners will face the Anchorage Glacier Pilots. Gates open at 4:30 p.m., first pitch at 6 p.m. Free admission for all veterans, service members and families.

For information, call 761-6712.

**AUG 1**  
**Jim Creek ATV trip**

Take a day trip and 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.

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

**AUG 6**  
**Outdoor rock climbing**

Scale rocks along the Seward Highway 5 to 9 p.m.

Sign up at JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center.

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

**AUG 8**  
**Glacier ice climb trip**

Traverse Matanuska Glacier from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sign up at JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center.

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

**ONGOING**  
**Golf clinic**

New to the game of golf or want to brush up on your skills?

The Moose Run Golf Course offers golf clinics for adult beginners through advanced players every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

For information, call 428-0056.

**Single Airman Program**

Single service members, are you interested in getting out and enjoying all that Alaska has to offer? Take a trip with the JBER Single Airman Program.

There are a plethora of outings offered at deeply discounted prices such as guided halibut and river fishing charters, mountain biking, white-water rafting, and rock climbing.

For more information, call 552-8529 or stop by the Arctic Oasis.

**Family golf**

Every Tuesday after 3 p.m. is Family Golf at the Moose Run Golf Course.

Get a free bucket of balls, hot dog, chips and fountain drink with each purchase of a 9-hole round.

For information, call 428-0056.

**FSS summer jobs**

Looking to earn some extra cash to fuel your summer adventures? The JBER Force Support Squadron has multiple positions open to get you started.

Visit [nafjobs.org](http://nafjobs.org) to search for current openings.

**Family golf clinic**

Learn another way to enjoy Alaska's midnight sun. Bring your family out to Moose Run Golf Course every Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. for a free golf clinic.

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

To sign up, call 428-0056.

**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.

**Hour of prayer power**

The 176th Wing Chaplain's Office invites all to participate in 40 days of spiritual resiliency coupled with fitness at the JBER-Elmendorf Fitness Center outdoor track.

During this "Hour of Prayer Power" the 176th Wing chaplain will commit to praying for units and meeting with unit members from 6 to 7 a.m. on the following days: July 20 through 24, 27 through 31 and Aug 3 through 6, 10 through 14, 17 through 20 and 24 through 27.

For information, call 551-0268.

**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.

**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).

## 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.

**Eat and play weekdays**

What goes great with lunch? A free game of bowling.

Present your receipt at the front counter totaling more than \$5 from Ten Pins or Topios (located inside the Polar Bowl) between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Mon., Thurs., or Fri. and receive one free game.

For information, call 753-7467.

## 673d FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

**Space is limited, so sign up early!**



Moose Run Golf Course  
27000 Arctic Valley Rd.  
[mooserungolfcourse.com](http://mooserungolfcourse.com)



**Nine & Dine**  
with special guest:  
**LPGA Tour Player**  
**Amy Read**

**July 20 - 5:15 p.m.**

Light Dinner: 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.  
Play starts at 6:30 p.m.  
\$30 for military | \$40 for civilian  
Price includes green fee, golf cart, food & door prizes!

For more information, call: 907.428.0056



**Matanuska Glacier Ice Climb**  
July 18, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • \$40

Call 552.4599/2023/3812 to sign up or for more information.



**Stand up Paddle Board Class**  
July 23, 5 - 7 p.m. • \$25  
Held at Otter Lake

Call 552.4599/2023 to sign up or for more information.

**Portage Lake Kayak Trip**  
July 25 • 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
\$80



Call 552.4599/2023 to sign up or for more information.

**Build - A - Boat Competition**  
**July 24** **FREE**

- Located at Buckner Swimming Pool
- 1:30 - 4 p.m.
- Build your own boat out of duct tape and card board (supplies provided)
- All teams must be registered by COB July 20th in person
- Teams of no more than 5 people (including Captain and First Mate)

**PRIZES:**

- Prizes given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place boats
- Prizes also for best team costume, best team chant, and the Titanic award





**Outdoor Rock Climbing**  
July 23, 5 - 9 p.m. • \$10

Call 552.4599/2023/3812 to sign up or for more information.



Call 552.4599/2023 to sign up or for more information.



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



MAY 30

A son, David Patrick Hosmanek, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 9 ounces at 12:16 a.m. to Suzanne E. Hosmanek and Tech. Sgt. Paul J. Hosmanek of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron.

JUNE 1

A daughter, Amelia Gene Forbes, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 4:04 a.m. to Karey Ann Forbes and Army 1st Lt. Devin Mark Forbes of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

JUNE 2

A daughter, Maryanne Elizabeth James, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 1 ounce at 1:56 p.m. to Christina Elaine James and Air Force Master Sgt. Steven Thomas Reter Hakon James of the 673d Air Base Wing.

JUNE 4

A daughter, Amiyah Lorrain Weary, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds at 10:08 p.m. to Pfc. Jasmine Latrell Weary of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and Spc. Marcus Lee Weary of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

JUNE 9

A daughter, Phoenix Ayla Stewart, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at noon to Dana Wakhuna Stewart and Devon Matthew Stewart.

JUNE 11

A daughter, Madelyn Shay Naramore, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 12:09 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Kelli Nicole Naramore of the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron and Sean Thomas Naramore.

JUNE 13

A daughter, Ariel Rayne Ward, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 2:23 a.m. to Jacqueline Reneé Ward and Spc. Jason Wayne Ward of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

JUNE 14

A daughter, Mia Jean Valdez, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 1:56 a.m. to Magdalena Agnieszka Rayner and Sgt. Blake Hudler Valdez of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion.

JUNE 15

A son, Kamber Michael Primmer, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces at 8:18 a.m. to Amanda Michelle Primmer and Senior Airman Bradley Michael Primmer of the 82nd Security Forces Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

JUNE 16

A son, Caleb John Star, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 9 pounds at 6:29 p.m. to Casey Danielle Star and Air Force Capt. Thomas Jason Star of the 3rd Operational Support Squadron.

JUNE 16

A daughter, Alexa McKay Williams, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 8:18 p.m. to Geri Williams and Tech. Sgt. Robert Williams of the 176th Air Defense Squadron.

JUNE 17

A daughter, Amilia Elysandra Santiago Rodriguez, was born 18 inches long and weighing 4 pounds, 12 ounces at 4:58 a.m. to Iraida Lee Santiago Rodríguez and Senior Airman Yomar Emil Santiago Henriguez of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

A son, Emmett Ryan Taylor, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces at 8:32 p.m. to Tonya Lee Taylor and Spc. Devin Reece Taylor of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

JUNE 19

A son, Ezra Mason Topete, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 8:37 a.m. to Destiny Divine Topete and Spc. Rene Alejandro Topete of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

JUNE 20

A daughter, Addalyne Juno Sanderson, was born 22 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 6 ounces at 12:27 a.m. to Kristine Elizabeth Sanderson and Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Scott Sanderson of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron.

A daughter, Madeleine Kathleen O’Neill, was born 22 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 11:47 a.m. to Kathleen Anne Van Voorhis and Army Capt. William Paul O’Neill III of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

JUNE 22

A daughter, Cali Jade Corbin, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces at 5:45 p.m. to Mandi Laree Corbin and Air Force Staff Sgt. Jared Cole Corbin of the 3rd Munitions Squadron.

JUNE 24

A daughter, Zoey Nicole Brown, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at

6:58 a.m. to Raquel Maggiore and Air Force Staff Sgt. Drew Jacob Brown of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

JUNE 26

A son, Caleb Joel Ligman, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces at 8:12 a.m. to Kara L. Ravenscroft-Ligman and Army Capt. Keith D. Ligman of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

A daughter, Evelyn Warmerdam was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 10:38 a.m. to Haylee Warmerdam and Pfc. Jacob Warmerdam of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

JUNE 27

A son, Calvin Douglas Ausenbaugh, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces at 10:15 p.m. to Army 1st Lt. Megan Marie Ausenbaugh of the 716th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company and Army Capt. Douglas Joseph Ausenbaugh of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

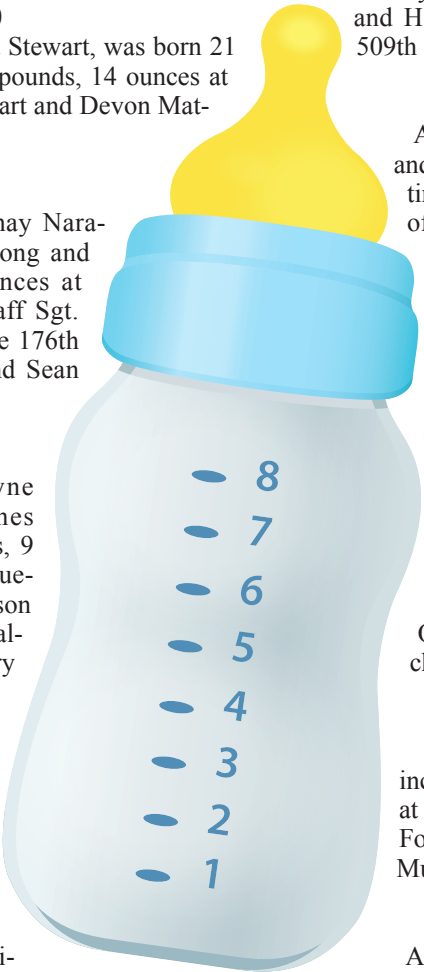
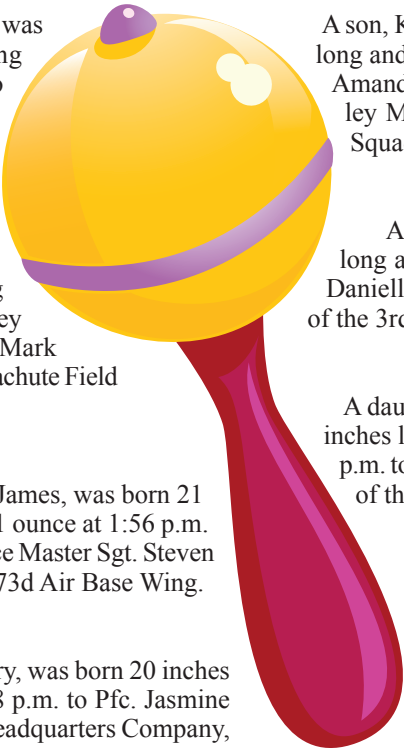
A son, Brixton Jay Arellano, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 11:34 p.m. to Jessica Janelle Arellano and Airman 1st Class Christopher Raul Arellano of the 673d Force Support Squadron.

JUNE 28

A daughter, MeLody Lorraine Weber, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces at 1:08 p.m. to Manuela Stephanie Weber and Army Staff Sgt. Daniel James Weber of the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

JUNE 29

A son, William Anthony Kidwell, was born 21 inches long and weighing 11 pounds, 7 ounces at 11:16 p.m. to Lucia Mae Kidwell and Spc. Cody L. Kidwell of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.





# Arctic Warriors participate in Bear Paw festival

By Senior Airman  
Tammie Ramsouer  
JBER Public Affairs

Since the birth of the Bear Paw Festival in Eagle River in 1985, Alaska service members have been a major part of the annual event.

The Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce created the Bear Paw Festival to celebrate growing businesses in Eagle River and bring the community together. This year’s festival was hosted July 8 through 12.

“We were a small organization when I started volunteering in 1987,” said Suzie Gorski, Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce executive director.

“I inherited my current position two years later and have been organizing this wonderful event since.”

During the five-day festival, local service members and the Alaska community participated in many attractions such as carnival rides and the 5K Bear Paw Classic through downtown Eagle River.

One day during the festival is dedicated as Military Appreciation Day.

“We have this day every year during our festival to honor our military neighbors and friends,” Gorski said.

The Joint Base Against Drunk Driving and Drug Abuse Resistance Education vehicles, a Soldier



**Soldiers from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson march in the annual Bear Paw Parade in Eagle River July 11. The Joint Base Against Drunk Driving and Drug Abuse Resistance Education vehicles, a Soldier marching unit from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and the 9th Army Band from Fort Wainwright participated in this year’s Bear Paw Parade. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tammie Ramsouer)**

marching unit from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and the 9th Army Band from Fort Wainwright participated in this year’s parade.

“The band has played at the Bear Paw Parade for many years,” said Army Warrant Officer Michael Krzmarszick, 9th Army Band commander.

“We love performing for the

community. It’s an honor for us to provide music and esprit de corps for the people of Alaska. “We always appreciate the open arms from the Alaska community, especially Anchorage and Eagle River has shown us.”

Senior Airman Matthew Dunlap, 673d Security Forces Squadron armorer, said this is his first

time marching in the parade. “I think Bear Paw Festival is a great opportunity to get out in the community,” Dunlap said. As a law enforcement member, it’s good to let the community know that we care about them and want to keep them safe just as much as the people we protect on base.”

The new U.S. Army Alaska

commander, Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens, also participated. This is Owens’ first time at Bear Paw, as well as the beginning of his first tour in the 49th state.

“The community here is incredibly supportive towards the military,” Owens said. “You can feel it, it’s not just words.

“It’s exciting to be here and in uniform to represent USARAK and participate in the event.”

As the organizer of Bear Paw, Gorski said she designs the festival to be as inviting as possible to the local community and military.

“This festival is the best way for people to feel they are part of their community by participating in and contributing to [it],” Gorski said.

“The event provides nonprofit organizations an opportunity to raise funds.”

The proceeds made from those fundraisers will be donated to different charities around the community.

This is Gorski’s last year organizing the Bear Paw, but she said her career as the executive director has been a fun and great opportunity.

“Alaska is often a stopping place for many people in their journey through life and the time they spend in this state,” Gorski said.

“We want them to feel like it is home during their time here.”



**ABOVE LEFT: The local community, service members and their families participate in family games before the start of the Bear Paw Parade in Eagle River July 11. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tammie Ramsouer) ABOVE RIGHT: U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) shows her support as she competes in the Slippery Salmon Olympics during the festivities. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)**





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- Includes workshops, panel discussions, and hiring fair, focused on improving competitive employment for service members, veterans, and their spouses
- Networking opportunities for all involved
- Lessons learned will bring together job seekers and employers in a culminating hiring fair and career forum on July 23

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Pick-Up Locations/Times: Theaters at Elmendorf and Richardson @ 0900 hrs

Return Locations/Times: Theaters at Elmendorf and Richardson @ 1700 hrs

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<p><b>EMPLOYERS</b> Must Register for FREE at <a href="http://HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG">HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG</a></p>	<p><b>JOB SEEKERS</b> Register for FREE at <a href="http://HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG">HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG</a> to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.</p>
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