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RED FLAG



U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft maintainers assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron out of Yokota Air Base Japan, observe a departing F-22 Raptor on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Aug. 14. JBER is hosting Red Flag-Alaska, a series of Pacific Air Forces training exercises for U.S. and international forces to provide joint offensive, counter-air, interdiction, close air support, and large-force employment in a simulated combat environment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

Seven countries participate in exercise

By Staff Sgt. Wes Wright
JBER Public Affairs

The Pacific Air Forces' area of responsibility is home to 60 percent of the world's population, comprising 36 nations spread over 52 percent of the Earth's surface. PACAF is charged with promoting peace, prosperity and stability across the entire domain. Enter Red Flag Alaska: a coalition exercise testing the capabilities of air forces from around the world in high-stakes aerial combat situations. Red Flag gives aircrews their first 10 simulated combat missions. During the Vietnam War, studies showed that the first 10 combat missions for aircrews were the ones where they are most likely to be shot down.

Red Flag Alaska 15-3 is the largest of the year and one of the most complex ever conducted.

The exercise includes more than 80 different aircraft spread between Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Eielson Air Force Base, with seven Pacific flags represented: the United States, Australia, Britain, New Zealand, Thailand, Japan and South Korea.

"Everyone has to work together to get the mission done," said Master Sgt. Phillip Sawin, 354th Operations Group Detachment 1 maintenance superintendent. "You'll see not only are we helping all the foreign units, but you'll see the foreign units helping each other. It's really a great visual of the interoperability and cooperation that happens here."

This year, that cooperation links the ground and the skies. Japanese paratroopers jumped out of U.S. C-130 Hercules for the first time and U.S. Army Soldiers honed their skills jumping out of Australian C-130s.

One of the U.S. Soldiers to fly with the Aussies was Staff Sgt. Colton Hurley, a jumpmaster with B Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

"I like the way they interacted with us. Communication was top-notch. They showed us how they did things and then asked us what we needed to make sure we executed our mission according to our standards," Hurley said. "As a Soldier about to jump out of an aircraft, it gives me a lot of confidence to know they know what they're doing and that our procedures are so similar. It builds trust, which is critical for real-world mission success."

The Red Flag deployed forces commander, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Campbell said the scale of the exercise offers unmatched training opportunities.

"One of the great things about Red Flag 15-3 is the number of international partners we have here," Campbell said. "Our ability to come out here, join forces and operate in a high-end combat environment with everything the Red Flag infrastructure offers us is an incredible opportunity to theater security out here in the Pacific."

The U.S. and its international partners are conducting several different types of scenarios designed to improve interoperability.



Warrant Officer Ken Rodney (center), Royal Australian Air Force C-130J loadmaster, goes over pre-jump atmospheric conditions with U.S. Soldiers aboard an Australian C-130 before a training jump during Red Flag Alaska 15-3 Aug. 11. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Wes Wright)



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Angela Tobin (left), and Master Sgt. Terence R. Zelek (right), assigned to the 3rd Operations Support Squadron, answer questions from Mongolia Air Force Col. Shiileg Enkhbat (second from right), while participating in the Red Flag-Alaska Executive Observer Program regarding aircrew flight equipment on JBER Aug. 14. Senior air leaders from Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, NATO, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the U.S., were on JBER to observe the series of Pacific Air Forces exercises. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

"We have defensive counter-air scenarios where they practice defense against a large-scale air attack," said Lt. Col. Dylan Dylan Baumgartner, 354th Operations Group Detachment 1 commander. "There are also offensive counter-air scenarios, practicing taking the fight to the enemy: taking down their air defenses and fighting their way into enemy airspace, while protecting themselves from enemy air defenses."

Several of the participating nations' aircrews spoke highly of the opportunity to come together with coalition partners to hone their skills.

"One of the biggest things we're looking for is the interoperability we get with the other Pacific nations," said Squadron Leader Scott Harris, Detachment C, 84th Wing, Royal Australian Air Force, commander. "That is very important when it comes to things like humanitarian assistance and

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Munitions Airmen blow doors off Red Flag

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — A unique aspect of Eielson is it only really has two seasons – RED FLAG-Alaska season, and RF-A preparation season.

The Airmen at the 354th Maintenance Squadron's munitions flight know this very well.

"We support the 18th Aggressor Squadron with countermeasures and training missiles," said Master Sgt. Rick Hedrick, the 354th MXS munitions flight materiel superintendent. "We ensure they are good to go for their training combat hours and maintain their qualifications, so when RED FLAG season comes around, they're ready to rock and roll."

To that end, the munitions flight has five operating locations where its Airmen actively build and inspect munitions and then store them in earth-covered igloos, which are large bunkers covered by earth that are isolated from the rest of the base.

"In general, we assemble chaff and flare, stuff it in modules, deliver it to the 18th Aggressors and process their expenditures," said Staff Sgt. Eleanor Coan, a 354th MXS munitions systems crew chief currently assigned to the chaff-and-flare operating location.

Every explosive munition Airmen work with is dangerous and must be handled with proper care.

"Flare is probably the most dangerous thing we have. It's electrically initiated, so static electricity could set it off," Coan said. "Once a little electricity hits the primer on it, it fires off a spark on the inside which pushes the flare and everything out, with enough force to launch it out of the aircraft and into the airstream. It's very beautiful and very, very hot."

To prevent static discharge, Airmen working on the flares must wear wristbands that ground them to some form of metal while they work.

They also cannot wear any cotton clothes, such as the waffle-top undershirt, as they generate more static electricity.

"Safety is our top priority," Coan said.

Risks like this become all the more prevalent when RF-A starts and new units begin to use the operating locations with the 354th munitions flight.

That risk is compounded by foreign military partners who sometimes use different names for the same equipment and there's often a language barrier, Coan said.

When RF-A gets underway, more than 1,000 extra personnel arrive with their own munitions and aircraft.

"We're responsible for the support and bed-down of all the units that come in, so basically we absorb them into our unit," Hedrick said. "Right now, we have five units we are working with. We bring them in and integrate them into our operations. They work as a team together to build each other's munitions and we provide the oversight, support and equipment."

During this time, the extra units all share the munitions flight facilities for their own munitions operations.

"We basically help them take custody of their assets and process each time they fire something off," Coan said.

During RF-A season, munitions Airmen join many other units at Eielson burning the midnight oil, working 24-hour operations in a three-shift system.

The other units on temporary duty at Eielson also need to pull such shifts in

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natural-disaster relief. It’s been good for the Royal Australian Air Force. We’ve learned a lot of lessons. Our crews have done really well. They’ve pulled their socks up on the operational and maintenance side as well.”

“It’s a capability test for us,” Harris continued. “What we’re looking for is to really test the guys in a radar-threat environment. We want to make sure the maintainers can support our rate of effort that we fly when we’re here.”

Building integration, interoperability and cross-cultural competence is one of the primary goals of Red Flag and other multinational PACAF exercises.

Red Flag is a culmination of exercises like Cope North and Cope Tiger that happen every year, with many of the same countries and faces in attendance.

Those exercises, while smaller in scale, help everyone execute at a much higher level during Red Flag Alaska, Campbell said. Everyone comes together and practices their craft in a world-class training facility with a much larger force to capitalize on all those lessons learned.

That facility includes the Joint Alaska Pacific Range Complex, composed of 67,000 square miles of what Campbell called “the best training space in the world for anyone who flies airplanes in combat.”

Participating in an exercise the size of Red Flag affords many unique opportunities to all countries in attendance, but particularly to those not used to flying in large formations or with a multitude of advanced and dynamic aircraft like the U.S.’s fifth-generation fighter, the F-22 Raptor.

“The most interesting thing for us is learning how compose a large flying package that involves many different types of aircraft,” said Senior Group Capt. Wachira Roengrit, Royal Thai Air Force’s Red Flag 15-3 Detachment commander. “The big takeaways for us are the improvements to our low-altitude flying techniques and knowledge on how to best build packages for airdrop. This large force employment is the biggest we participate in. We have many exercises in our country, but Red Flag is the most important one for our C-130 guys.”

Working together to ensure seamless integration of tactics, techniques and procedures is a goal set from day one at Red Flag Alaska.

“Over the years we’ve done a lot of work to make sure our doctrine is pretty similar,” Harris said. “So, it’s actually quite an easy thing for us to operate with each other. Procedures are very similar.”

Those similar procedures were crucial to the success of the Australian-led drop of U.S. Army Soldiers.

“Quite a bit of planning went into the front end of it,” said Warrant Officer Ken Rodney, Royal Australian Air Force C-130J loadmaster. “It was a unique experience to get to brief with our the U.S. jumpmasters and jump safeties. It was great to do it with another nation like the United States. It really showcased our interoperability to have U.S. Army Soldiers jumping out of our birds. It went quite smoothly.”

While the airborne contingent of the exercise is working through their hurdles and challenges, the same interoperability and cross-culture cooperation is happening on the ground with maintenance. With many nations traveling great distances to attend, only so many parts and supplies can travel with them.

“They try to bring as much as they can, coming from distant lands,” Sawin said. “A lot of the small parts and pieces we can get for them. Bigger things like props and



Army Staff Sgt. Colton Hurley (center), a jumpmaster with B Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, stares out the window of an Australian C-130 before a training jump during Red Flag Alaska 15-3 Aug. 11. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Wes Wright)



Airmen assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron out of Yokota Air Base leave the flight line after completing a successful sortie on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Aug. 14. JBER is hosting Red Flag-Alaska, a series of Pacific Air Forces commander-directed training exercises for U.S. and international forces to provide joint offensive, counter-air, interdiction, close air support, and large force employment in a simulated combat environment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

engines have to be shipped. That’s when our travel management office and supply guys step in and help get supplies shipped. The maintenance piece is very much a joint multinational effort to make sure everyone’s planes stay in flight.”

The success flying and maintenance operations are enjoying is made possible largely by the personal relationships forged between the men and women, hailing from different corners of the world, according to many of the countries spokespersons.

“Exercises like Red Flag support theater security cooperation, particularly with regard to personal relationships we develop,” Campbell said. “The relationships we build throughout the year at these other exercises enable us to have success during real world operations.”

Campbell’s Australian counterpart, Squadron Leader Harris, agreed with that assessment.

“The interrelations are very important,” Harris said. “From the mission planning

side of the house, good relationships are absolutely a key enabler to making this thing work. A lot of the time, it’s the personalities in the room that make the missions come off without a hitch.

“Around the Pacific rim, when we have things go wrong like in the 2013 Philippines disaster, we see each other all the time. The relationships we make in exercises like Red Flag pay massive dividends later when we need to talk to each other and provide assistance around the world,” Harris said.

Some of the JBER Airmen are going so far as to help advise partner nation participants on the best fishing holes for their off duty time.

“My favorite part is the camaraderie,” Sawin said. “Everyone is happy. People seem to really enjoy Alaska. I advised the Australians on what river to go to for the best fishing and which lures work best. They came back the next day and were excited they had caught a fish. The Thais even cooked it up for them. That spirit of

friendship is just awesome.”

Red Flag organizers are planning an end of exercise party to help cement relations.

“We’re going to cook up a big feast,” Sawin said. “We not only talk about work, but we talk about our respective countries and heritage. It’s really great to see. All the different units will bring an assortment of food from their native country. It’s a great experience.”

While aircrews from all the nations are honing their skill, fostering interoperability and improving cross-cultural competence, while at the same time having fun, the bigger strategic picture of why Red Flag exists is not lost on them.

“I absolutely believe these kinds of exercise like Red Flag and all the others PACAF and PACOM put together where we go out and engage with our Pacific partners are the foundation of the peace, prosperity and stability millions of people enjoy.”

Red Flag began Aug. 6, and is slated to conclude Saturday.

Army: Finish PME requirements before pinning those stripes

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers will no longer be promoted without first having successfully completed related professional military education, according to recently-signed Army Directive. Soldiers will need to complete their schooling before they are allowed their new stripes.

“By linking structured self-development and the NCO Education System to subsequent promotion, we better prepare [noncommissioned officers] for the complexities of today’s operational environment while reinforcing the benefits of a deliberate, continuous, sequential and progressive professional development strategy,” wrote Army Secretary John M. McHugh in Army Directive 2015-31, which was released Aug. 13.

Beginning with the January 2016 promotion month, pinning on the sergeant will require that Soldiers have first completed the Basic Leader Course, formerly known as the Warrior Leader Course.

Soldiers who want to pin on staff sergeant rank must first have completed the Advanced Leader Course.

“Soldiers on the recommended list who are not graduates of the respective course will not be considered fully qualified for promotion pin-on regardless of their accumulated promotion points,” the directive reads. “These Soldiers will remain on the recommended list in a promotable status, but they will not be selected for promotion pin-on until they become fully qualified by completing the required course and a promotion requirement exists.”

Soldiers expecting to pin on sergeant first class as a result of a fiscal year 2016 selection board must first complete the Senior Leader Course before pinning on their new rank.

“Conditions are set so we can enforce a standard for Soldiers to complete professional military education - that is the NCOES platform – before promotion to the grade in which it was designed to

support,” said Gerald J. Purcell, personnel policy integrator within the Army G-1.

Purcell said that a Soldier who is otherwise qualified to be promoted from corporal or specialist to sergeant, will be on the promotion list.

But when that Soldier’s name is next to fill an Army promotion requirement, if that Soldier is found to have not completed PME – for a specialist seeking sergeant, this means BLC – then the Soldier will be passed up for that promotion.

“There will be a filter in place that takes their name off the list of fully-qualified names,” Purcell said. “They will get skipped. Even if they have more promotion points, they will not be considered fully qualified to pin the grade of sergeant on.”

The Soldier who is skipped for promotion due to a lack of PME still stays on the promotion list. But once that Soldier gets the PME, he doesn’t automatically get stripes. Instead, the Soldier will have to wait for a future requirement.

Since the 1980s, Purcell said, the Army has allowed “conditional promotions,” where Soldiers could get their stripes without having had the corresponding professional military education.

“We had NCOs walking around who weren’t school-trained, with a follow-on requirement they complete the training or they were going to be reduced,” he said. “Today, the leadership believes there is a capability to provide Soldiers an opportunity to go to training, complete the training, and consequently, have all of the fundamental training in place before they are asked to perform at the next higher grade.”

With the new PME requirement, a Soldier’s stripes will not just be an indicator of rank or pay – it will be an indicator that the Soldier has been trained as a leader, Purcell said.

“When you see a Soldier wearing sergeant rank, you know that Soldier is going to have been trained formally through an education system to prepare him or her

and give them tools to succeed at that grade,” Purcell said. “So the Soldier is going to have all the tools in their kit bag to fully succeed at their grade.”

The new policy also similarly affects National Guard Soldiers.

Enlisted Soldiers on a promotion list who have completed their SSD requirements will be selected and assigned to higher-grade vacancies.

Soldiers selected for higher-grade vacancies without the NCOES requirement will have 24 months to complete the level of NCOES required for promotion pin-on or will be removed from the position.

Additionally, the directive makes changes to the retention control point for active-duty and Army Reserve Soldiers.

According to the regulation, effective October 1, Soldiers selected for promotion to sergeant first class and master sergeant will not get an extended retention control point until they actually pin on their higher rank.

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THE

GUNS OF AUGUST



TOP LEFT: Artillerymen with A Battery, 2-377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division fire an M119 105 mm howitzer during direct-fire training at Fort Greely Aug. 13. The unit practiced direct and indirect fire during Operation Arctic Aurora, a combined-joint exercise which takes place across Alaska. (U.S. Army photos/Staff Sgt. Daniel Love)

ABOVE: A Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces member from the 1st Airborne Brigade parachutes to the ground while 4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division paratroopers perform parachute recovery at Fort Greely Aug. 12.

LEFT: A member of 1st Airborne Brigade, Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces, and a U.S. Air Force tactical air controller from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson prepare to release a wind-measurement balloon at Fort Greely Aug. 12. The event was part of Exercise Arctic Aurora 2015.

From **MUNITIONS** • A1

order to keep up with their own munitions demands, and it is the job of the munitions control facility to determine who is going where to build what, Hedrick said.

“The melding together of all personnel is on us,” Hedrick explained. “Depending on what they are requesting to drop munitions-wise, each unit is responsible for bringing their supporting personnel according to their allocation. The more they want to drop, the more personnel they are required to bring to support their mission operations.”

Depending on which operation facility munitions Airmen may be assigned, they could have little with the visiting units – or they

may be working extensively with them.

“The [South Korean] airmen were here last week building GBU-10s and we walked them through the whole process,” said Senior Airman Justin Ponder, a 354th MXS munitions flight munitions systems journeyman.

Sometimes, they all pitch in.

“If multiple units, including foreign units, are flying the same type of chaff or flare as us, we’ll just take a couple of people from each unit and do a massive build. This is what they all pull from,” Coan said. “They each have their own expenditure limits and allocations, so we don’t give them more than each unit is allotted.”

One of the objectives of RF-A is to increase interoperability between allied forces to create a



A Japan Air Self-Defense Force crew chief performs pre-flight inspections on an F-15J Eagle at Eielson Air Force Base Aug. 14 during Red Flag-Alaska 15-3. RF-A is a series of Pacific Air Forces commander-directed field training exercises for U.S. and partner nation forces. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua Turner)

stronger, more unified force.

That mission reaches beyond the skies and is evident in ground-level missions like this one.

“We’ve got five units that all want to do different things at the same spot, so having to that, and overcome those language barriers with the foreign units can be challenging,” Hedrick said. “We are always able to the mission and get it done.”

First two female Soldiers graduate from Ranger Course

By Fort Benning Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Georgia — The U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence announced Monday 94 men and two women met the standards of the Swamp Phase and will graduate from the Ranger Course Friday.

Ranger School is the Army’s premier combat leadership course, teaching Ranger students to overcome fatigue, hunger and stress to lead Soldiers during small-unit combat operations.

A graduation ceremony will be held at Victory Pond on Fort Benning for those students who met the standards of the entire Ranger Course.

The Ranger Course is a 62-day course on leadership and small unit tactics, which pushes Ranger students to their mental and physical limits by forcing them to operate on minimal food and sleep.

Approximately 34 percent of students who enter Ranger School, recycle at least one phase of the course, adding to the student’s physical and mental fatigue.

Male and female Ranger students completed the phases of Ranger School and have proven their determination, physical stamina, and mental toughness to succeed. All have earned the right to wear the Ranger Tab.

“Congratulations to all of our new Rangers. Each Ranger School graduate has shown the physical and mental toughness to successfully lead organizations at any level,” said Army Secretary John M. McHugh.

“This course has proven that every Soldier, regardless of gender, can achieve his or her full potential. We owe Soldiers the opportunity to serve successfully in any position where they are qualified and capable, and we continue to look for ways to select, train, and retain the best Soldiers to meet our nation’s needs,” he said.

During the course, students learn how to operate in three different environments: woodlands in Fort Benning, mountainous terrain in Dahlonega, Georgia, and coastal swamp in Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Highlights of the course include a physical fitness test consisting of 49 push-ups, 59 sit-ups, a five-mile run in 40 minutes, and six chin-ups; a swim test; a land navigation test; a 12-mile foot march in three hours; several obstacle courses; four days of military mountaineering; three parachute jumps;



Soldiers participate in an obstacle course during the Ranger Course on Fort Benning, Ga., April 21. Soldiers attend the Ranger Course to learn additional leadership and small unit technical and tactical skills in a physically and mentally demanding, combat simulated environment. (U.S. Army photo/Pfc. Antonio Lewis)

four air assaults on helicopters; multiple rubber boat movements; and 27 days of mock combat patrols.

Approximately 165 men and two women began the challenging training in the coastal swamps of Eglin Air Force Base, Aug. 1. Additionally, Ranger students selected to recycle the Swamp Phase will start the phase again on Aug. 29.

Nineteen women and 381 men started Ranger Class 06-15, April 20. Eight women successfully completed RAP week; however,

all were recycled into Ranger Class 07-15 as Darby inserts for a second attempt at patrolling. After the second Darby Phase attempt, five were dropped from the course and three were given a day one recycle into Ranger Class 08-15, starting the course again June 21.

These three women successfully met the standards of the Benning Phase and moved on to the Mountain Phase, July 10. All three women passed the knot test, military mountaineering skills assessment, the foot

movement up Mount Yonah, and were given opportunities to lead patrols.

One woman recycled into Ranger Class 09-15 to start the Mountain Phase again, Aug. 9.

Two women received a passing grade in the mountains during platoon level combat patrols and moved on to the Swamp Phase, Aug. 1. The two women also met the standards of the Swamp Phase, proficiently leading waterborne platoon-level combat patrols, and earned the Ranger Tab Friday.

COLA town halls

The Defense Travel Management Office hosts town hall meetings, focused on ‘primary shoppers,’ to ensure maximum participation in the upcoming survey. Meetings are Monday at 8 a.m. at the Talkeetna Theater and 2 p.m. at the Frontier Theater, and Tuesday at 8 a.m. at the Frontier Theater and 6 p.m. at the Talkeetna Theater. For more information, call 552-3074.

Munitions inventory

The 3rd Munitions Squadron will be conducting a semiannual inventory of the munitions stockpile Sept. 3 through 12. All munitions users must schedule requests for munitions issue or turn-ins around the inventory. During the inventory, only emergency requests will be processed, after written approval by the group commander or equivalent. For information, contact Munitions Operations at 552-3098 or jbberfv5000@elmendorf.af.mil.

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 provides 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 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, 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 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.

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 more information, call 552-9203.

Article 139 claims
A Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 139 claim is a claim against any service member for willfully damaging or wrongfully taking property while the service member is not on duty. Claimants are eligible to file an Article 139 claim whether they are civilian or military, a business, a charity, a state or local government. Claims covered by Article 139 are:

- Claims for property wrongfully taken. A wrongful taking in an unauthorized taking or withholding of property not involving a breach of a fiduciary or contractual relationship, with the intent to deprive the owner of the property temporarily or permanently. Claims not covered by Article 139 are:
- Claims resulting from negligent acts such as normal “fender-benders” or other such accidents;
- Claims for personal injury or death;
- Claims resulting from acts or omissions of military personnel acting within the scope of their employment (these may be payable as a tort claim);
- Claims resulting from the conduct of Reserve Component personnel who are not subject to the UCMJ at the time of the offense;
- Subrogation claims. That is a claim where your insurance company pays you and then seeks reimbursement; and
- Claims for theft of services.
- Claimants should submit claims within 90 days of the incident from which the claim arose unless there is good cause for the delay. Your claim must be presented either orally or in writing.
- If presented orally, the claim must be reduced to a signed writing within 10 days after oral presentation.

Claims should be filed by branch of service. For claims against Army members, contact the Army claims office in Bldg. 600, Suite 313, at 384-0330. For claims against Air Force members, contact the Air Force claims office in the People Center, Suite 330 at 552-3048. Claims relating to members of any other branch may be made at the Army claims office and will be forwarded to the proper service.

Richardson Thrift Shop
The JBER-Richardson Thrift Shop, 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 information, call 384-7000.

High octane racing with ZERO carbon emissions



Elmendorf Fitness Center hosts 17-mile bike race

ABOVE: Participants begin a 17-mile bike race hosted by the Elmendorf Fitness Center on JBER Aug. 14. Twenty-six riders competed; Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Hancock of the 176th Air Defense Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Paul Hosmanek of the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron were the top male finishers, and Senior Airman Therese Holm of the 673rd Medical Operations Squadron and Lisa Ramstad of the 673rd Civil Engineer Squadron were the top female finishers. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman Valerie A. Monroy)

ABOVE RIGHT: Air Force Master Sgt. Steven Cherry, 176th Maintenance Group, catches up to another participant in the 17-mile bike race on JBER Aug. 14. Prizes were awarded to the top two male and female finishers.

RIGHT: Participants line up and await further instructions at the start of a 17-mile bike race hosted by the Elmendorf Fitness Center on JBER, Aug. 14.



Alex Haley crewmember leaves a lasting legacy

By Petty Officer 3rd Class
Lauren Steenson
17th District Public Affairs

As you walk through the passageways, mess deck and wardroom of Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley, you will see nicely framed photos of the cutter, crew, operations and training that look like they came from a recruiting poster or an art gallery – but they came from neither.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Dale Arnould, an operations specialist stationed aboard the Alex Haley from 2012 to 2015 is the man behind the camera in each of the photos.

In Arnould's three years on the Alex Haley, his primary focus was his job as an operations specialist – preparing and delivering daily operations briefs, locating vessels for fisheries inspections, assisting in the coordination of search-

and-rescue cases and acting as a command security clerk reviewing security clearance submissions. He also went above and beyond the expectations of his daily job wielding multiple collateral duties including telling the Coast Guard story.

“Arnould’s enthusiasm to seek out story-telling opportunities not only enabled him to take photos of the crew at work, but his photos greatly contributed to the exceptional morale of those teams,” said Ens. Joel Hill, the public affairs officer aboard the Alex Haley. “His photos have been featured on the Coast Guard 17th District website and social media pages, but on a more personal level, his photos were instrumental in keeping families in touch with their deployed sailors.”

Arnould served as the unit’s assistant public affairs officer with the responsibilities of producing

and distributing news releases and photos, publishing photos for the Coast Guard’s archives, maintaining a social media presence and organizing community relations activities.

Arnould excelled at all of the above and also created and put together the Alex Haley’s newsletter, The Bulldog, to keep family and friends connected to their loved ones while underway. The Bulldog is a bi-weekly newsletter with photos, messages and updates of the crew that has received recognition throughout the service.

With no formal background in writing or photography, Arnould used his knack for creativity and an artistic eye and took the initiative to self-educate to improve his proficiency on the technical side of the craft.

“I’ve always been interested in both writing and photography and made an effort to educate myself,” said Arnould. “While the writing came naturally, I’ve spent a lot of time learning about camera mechanics and photo composition over the years.”

His initiative to learn and excel paid off; it played an integral part in the Alex Haley earning the 2014 Commander Jim Simpson Award, an award given to a unit for their overall public affairs program. The Alex Haley earned it for their captivating photography, the Bulldog newsletter, their pro-active stance on sending out news releases, community relations with local villages around Alaska, and social media presence.

“He was responsible for a significant part of the imagery



Petty Officer 3rd Class Arnould keeps his camera above water while documenting his shipmates during an Arctic swim in northern Alaska in the summer of 2014. (Courtesy photo/U.S. Coast Guard)

produced and the written work submitted that earned Alex Haley the Commander Jim Simpson Award and earned himself the Alex Haley award,” said Hill.

Arnould earned first place in 2014 for the Chief Journalist Alex Haley Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Coast Guard Public Affairs, which recognizes the achievement of an individual not assigned to full-time public affairs assignment for their efforts and published works that have helped raise the visibility of the Coast Guard.

“From hanging out of helicopters to being drenched in small boats, I’ve been allowed great liberties to record epic moments of the Coast Guard’s Alaskan story,” said Arnould.

Arnould’s passion for visual arts and storytelling, and his dedication to continue excelling in his craft, drives him to further pursue

his ambition to be a filmmaker. He is planning to attend film school in France this fall and is considering applying to Officer Candidate School after earning a bachelor’s degree.

“I’d regret it the rest of my life if I didn’t try for this dream I have,” said Arnould.

The Alex Haley’s exemplary public affairs program is a reflection of the amount of time outside of normal work hours and overall commitment Arnould devoted to his collateral duty.

His work displays the power of a photograph as it shines the light on the Alex Haley crew carrying out Alaska’s Coast Guard missions with the utmost honor, respect and devotion to duty.

“Using the foundation that Arnould established, the Alex Haley crew looks forward to having a continued record of excellence in public affairs,” said Hill.



One of Arnould’s photos taken of the Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley conducting operations and training between 2012 and 2015. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Dale Arnould)

Air Force initiates Make Every Dollar Count program

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
Staff Report

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has initiated the Make Every Dollar Count program, aimed at creating a culture focused on minimizing costs, harnessing efficiencies and redefining Air Force business paradigms. Currently, the MEDC portfolio consists of 13 Headquarters Air Force-level programs and 26 major command-sponsored initiatives that cut across multiple Air Force lines of business including acquisition strategy, contract management, maintenance repair operations and energy management.

The Airmen Powered by Innovation program is one of the initial 13 Headquarters Air Force initiatives under the MEDC umbrella. Moreover, it is the MEDC initiative most visible to Airmen in the field. API is the platform for empowering Airmen to make

every dollar count and is intended to be an engine for grassroots innovation across the Air Force. It is the Airmen’s voice to share innovative ideas that affect cost savings, quality, productivity, cycle time, process improvement and morale from the ground up to Air Force senior decision makers.

“The API program gives Air Force personnel, both military and civilian at all levels, a voice to share their ideas to improve our service,” said Col. Dennis King, the director of transformation outreach.

“It allows them to review previously submitted ideas prior to submitting their own ideas which could lead to true savings in time, money and resources. Overall, API is making a real difference across the enterprise.”

Since its inception in April 2014, the API program has received more than 5,300 ideas from Airmen throughout the Air Force which

has identified potential cost savings of more than \$37 million in taxpayer dollars.

“These figures continue to grow daily and are savings that can be used to make our Air Force more cost efficient, people-focused and mission effective,” King said.

“It’s exciting to see that the API message is reaching our Airmen out in the field. For instance, I recently met an Airman from the 11th Force Support Squadron, at Joint Base Andrews, who was very excited to learn about API and how she and her colleagues could submit their ideas to improve our service. She was very interested and enthusiastic when learning these API ideas are being reviewed by the Air Force’s most senior leaders – our leadership is listening. These types of feedback from our Airmen continue to motivate our team, knowing that this program is making a difference.”

Submitting an API idea is simple; in Sep-

tember 2014, the Air Force’s Office of Business Transformation launched an enhanced API page hosted on the Air Force Portal.

The page provides information including the latest API approval statistics, access to historical data, current status of ideas in progress and commonly received ideas that were approved or disapproved and rationale for disapproval.

These are tools that can help refine and enhance potential submissions, making it even easier for Airmen to communicate their ideas on how to improve the way the Air Force does business.

Although the API program is one of the smallest of the MEDC initiatives that total \$8 billion over the next five years, API is changing the way Airmen think about their role in making every dollar count and their responsibility to be good stewards of the taxpayers’ money.

How God and your spouse are not alike

Commentary by Army Chaplain (Maj.) Matthew Atkins
JBER Family Life Chaplain

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series by Chaplain Atkins.

I am a fairly committed adherent to a way of thinking about relationships known as attachment theory.

Among other things, when applied to adult romantic relationships, attachment theory helps couples identify the kinds of cycles they can get stuck in, especially when it comes to the way they fight.

Attachment theory was not initially proposed for that purpose; rather, it was descriptive of the way that children arrive in the world with the biological tools to form an attachment bond with a primary care giver ... most specifically, mom.

The kind of attachment “style” a particular child will manifest, according to the theorists, depends

on the proximity, accessibility, and generally the security of the primary relationship.

So, if mom (or whoever is the primary care-giver) is accessible, responsive and engage, the child will form a very secure bond.

But significant gaps in accessibility, responsiveness and engagement will result in attachment styles that are less secure, and tend to manifest in either anxiety about the proximity of the parent – or avoidance of the parent’s too-infrequent affections.

Keep in mind this is spectrum disorder stuff – which pretty much means we are all sufferers to one degree or another.

Noone parents, or was parented, perfectly. Not to mention there are other variables that help shape the kinds of attachment anxieties

we tend to carry.

Therefore, the point is not to highlight parental failure – rather, it is first to say we come into marriage with a particular way

of relating that tends to look like anxiety or avoidance.

Think about what happens in you when you feel like your husband is treating you carelessly. Or think about what happens in you when your wife treats you disrespectfully.

Most people I know fall into one of two patterns of reaction that look a lot like anxiety or avoidance. They either react by energetically confronting the careless or disrespectful behavior, or they withdraw from it.

The energetic reaction, if we could hear it, would sound something like “You are supposed to be

accessible to me; you are the one who is supposed to be responsive and emotionally available! And if I have to, I will make you be those things!”

The withdrawn reaction, if it were spoken, may sound more like, “Here we go again ... more evidence that I am alone in this relationship; no one is really here for me.”

Most marriages exhibit a pretty classic confront/withdraw pattern.

That is to say, either the husband or the wife tends to confront relationship problems head-on, while the other tends to withdraw from the confrontation – this is pretty typical.

You are well within the bell curve if this describes your marriage. The most volatile relationships are typically those wherein both spouses are confrontational.

Volatile by no means implies most troubled. These relationships just tend to be louder, more energetic, and very passionate, for better and for worse.

Honestly, the most difficult relationships to repair, when they are fractured, are those wherein both partners habitually withdraw from conflict. This is a dangerous place for your marriage to be; not by any means hopeless, but certainly concerning.

Withdrawal, when it becomes an entrenched pattern, cannot help but move spouses away from one another. Withdrawal, without intervention, drags us toward isolation and despairing.

My thinking is that both confrontation and withdrawal are ultimately reactions to the same kinds of deep questions about ourselves.

There are questions like, “Am I chosen? Do I measure up? Does anyone really see me as deeply valuable? Am I worthy of admiration?”

There are also questions we begin to hear answers to in childhood – and those answers are challenged or reinforced throughout our lives.

A large part of the difficulty in marriage is both you and your spouse find it difficult to answer those deep, ubiquitous questions for one another – precisely because you are still looking for answers to your own.

It is as if your own “woundedness” continually frustrates your ability to apply first-aid to the wounds of your husband or wife.

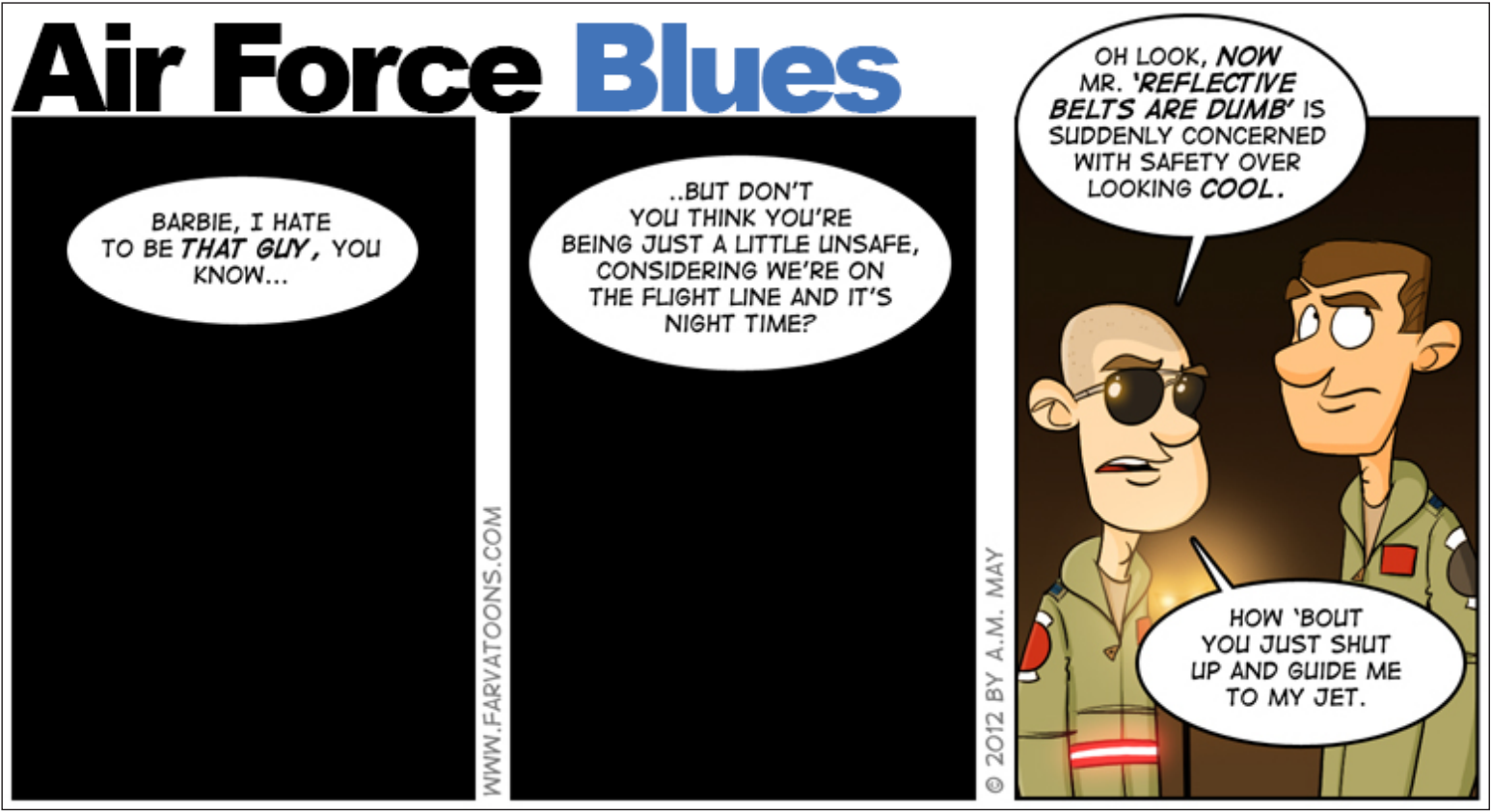
Of course, that raises the most important question – “how do we heal one another?”

In my mind, part of that answer requires the introduction of a third party, and I am not talking about a skilled marriage counselor; rather, the God who says we are chosen, we do measure up and who sees us as supremely valuable.

He is not wounded. There is nothing to get in the way of his application of grace.

When I have invited Jesus to answer my deepest questions, my wife is liberated from that responsibility.

Then, quite simply (but perhaps not easily) I offer the grace I have received.



Community Happenings

August 21, 2015

ARCTIC WARRIOR

B-3

THROUGH AUG. 31 Gold Rush Inn closure

The Gold Rush Inn will be closed for business through August 31 to accommodate an Army field training exercise.

Both the Wilderness Inn and the Iditarod dining facilities will continue with normal operations and hours and will be able to meet customer demand.

For information, call 384-2793

FRIDAY Back-To-School Bash

JBER Youth Programs members age 13 and up, bring a guest and join the staff at the Two Rivers youth Center from 6 to 8 p.m. for fun games, challenges, food and friends.

For information, call 384-1508.

Smart girls lock-in

Girls age 9 to 18, grab your BFFs and head to the Kennecott Youth Center from 9 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. for an all-night party filled with fun, food and games.

For information, call 552-2266.

SATURDAY RecOn 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.

This course 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.

RecOn Xtreme paintball

Get your adrenaline rush from noon to 4 p.m. at the Warrior Xtreme Paintball course near Otter Lake.

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

Blood drive

The Blood Bank of Alaska will be accepting donations in their LIFEmobile from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the JBER Military Mall parking lot.

To make an appointment, visit <http://tiny.cc/qq3lvx> or call 222-5630.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY COLA town hall meetings

With the recent significant drop in Cost of Living Allowance for all military personnel in the

state, Alaskan Command requested an out-of-cycle survey of the entitlement. The Defense Travel Management Office will conduct the Living Pattern Survey, Sep. 1 through 30.

Town hall meetings will show participants how to accurately fill it out. The meetings are intended for all military personnel and their spouses, with focus on the primary shopper of each household. Meetings are, Monday, 8 a.m., in the Talkeetna Theater and 2 p.m. in the Frontier Theater. Tuesday, 8 a.m., in the Frontier Theater and 6 p.m. in the Talkeetna Theater.

WEDNESDAY ATV safety course

Certified ATV Safety Institute instructors host an ATV Riders Course from 5 to 9 p.m. at the JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center. Course completion is required to operate personally owned ATVs on the installation's trail system.

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

Richardson spouse's club

RSC Super Sign up guarantees a super 2015-16 year.

Richardson Spouses Club super sign up event takes place at the Hoonah Community Center starting at 6:30 p.m. All spouses, all branches, all ranks, active-duty and retirees are welcome to this free event with free child care.

Bring a friend and receive half-off yearly membership.

For more information visit www.richardsonspousesclub.com.

THROUGH THURSDAY Zoo animals

Staff from the Alaska Zoo bring a live animal to the Old Federal Building Thursdays for a discussion of biology. The event is free; bring photo ID for entry.

For information, visit alaska-centers.gov/zoo.cfm.

ONGOING Kids in the Kitchen

The Two Rivers Youth Center hosts this event Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.; learn to help out by preparing meals.

For information, call 384-1508.

Anchorage museum tours

Visit the Anchorage Museum for a guided tour with a docent. Learn about the history of Alaska and Anchorage, the indigenous people, and art.

These 45-minute tours are free

with admission.

For information, visit anchorage-museum.org.

Alaska Outdoors hikes

The Alaska Outdoors group hosts easy hikes for beginners and families with small children Monday evenings, and moderate hikes Thursdays, year-round. Hikes start at 6:30 p.m.

For locations and information, visit alaska-outdoors.org.

Market and Festival

The largest outdoor market in Alaska happens every weekend through Sept. 6 at 3rd Ave. and E St. More than 300 vendor booths, food, and entertainment are a good reason to get out from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

For information, visit anchorage-markets.com.

Guided nature walks

Join a docent at the Eagle River Nature Center at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays for a 3/4-mile walk around Rodak Loop. Learn about the history and flora and fauna of the Eagle River Valley.

For information, visit ernc.org.

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.

Many outings are offered at deep discounts 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.

Quidditch scrimmage

Muggles 12 and up are invited

for a scrimmage at the Park Strip at the corner of 10th Ave. and G St. every Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. throughout August. Bring your own broom.

For information, visit facebook.com/AlaskaQuidditch.

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 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 blend spiritual resiliency with fitness at the JBER-Elmendorf Fitness Center outdoor track. The chaplain prays for units and meets with unit members from 6 to 7 a.m. Aug. 24 through September 4.

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 arguing 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.

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)

Next Service Sept. 4

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.

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/msmrre.

673d FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Jim Creek ATV Trip
August 22 • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
\$50

REC★ON
FEED YOUR RUSH



For more information or to sign up,
call 552.4599/2023/3812



Kayak Training
August 27
6 - 8 p.m.
\$35

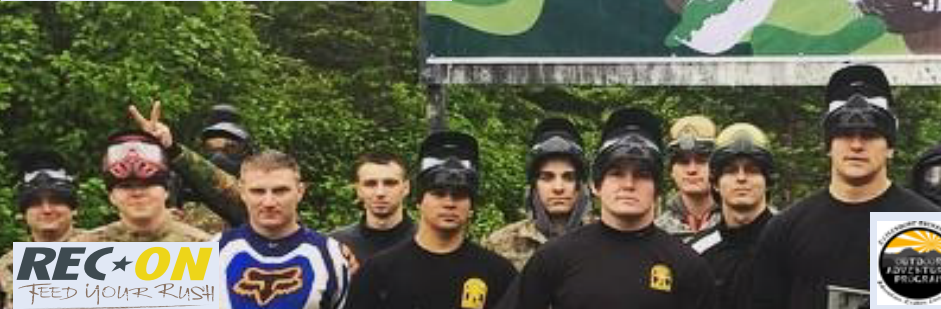
For more information or to sign up,
call 552.4599/2023/3812

ATV Safety Course
August 26 • 5 - 9 p.m.
Free with your ATV
\$50 with our ATV



For more information or to sign up,
call 552.4599/2023/3812

Warrior Xtreme Paintball
August 22 • 12 - 4 p.m.
\$10



REC★ON
FEED YOUR RUSH



For more information or to sign up,
call 552.4599/2023/3812

Pool Tournament
August 22 • 2 p.m.

Must be 18+ to enter
FREE Event!

1st Place • \$100
2nd Place • \$75
3rd Place • \$50



Bldg. 655 • 384.9006

Hex Tanning Booths

at Buckner Fitness Center



Looking for a great place to tan at an amazing price? Stop by Buckner Fitness Center and check out our stand up tanning booths! Appointments are recommended, walk-ins welcome! Tanning lotions available for purchase 12 Minute Maximum in booth

Sessions
Single • \$3.50 Ten • \$25 Twenty • \$40

Call for more information:
Buckner Fitness Center, Bldg. 690 • 384.1308



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



FSS/MWR events & activities

Make-A-Wish Ranger reunites with general years later

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Army News Service

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — It was more than 10 years ago when 9-year-old Evan Schneider was granted his wish as part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation to become an Army Ranger. Schneider was diagnosed with a heart defect before birth and had a heart transplant when he was just four weeks old.

After years of medications and the risk of his body rejecting the transplanted heart, Schneider qualified to fulfill his life-long wish through the non-profit organization. On Nov. 21, 2004, a limousine escorted Schneider and members of his family to the airport where they were then flown to Fort Benning, Georgia – home of the U.S. Army’s Ranger Training Brigade.

The commander of the regiment, Col. K.K. Chinn met Schneider, outfitted him with a specially-sized uniform, then escorted him on a five-day tour with the elite unit.

Schneider participated in various activities including wearing night-vision goggles, riding in a tank, repelling down a 30-foot wall and learning hand-to-hand combat techniques.

He even enjoyed a Thanksgiving Day feast with the Rangers before flying back to California with his family.

After experiencing life as a Ranger, Schneider always hoped he would someday be healthy enough to become a part of the Army family and fulfill a lifelong dream.

Fast forward to today; the little nine-year-old with a life-



Pfc. Evan Schneider, a former Make-A-Wish Foundation recipient, his brother, Austin Schneider, and Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, commanding general of U.S. Army South, receive a tour at the Fort Sam Houston Museum in San Antonio Aug. 7. (U.S. Army photo/Frederick Hoyt)

threatening medical condition is now a tall, private first classand is a citizen-Soldier with the California State Military Reserve.

The unit is an all-volunteer service whose mission is to support California National Guard service members during times of state emergencies.

The former commander of

the Ranger Training Brigade now wears two stars and is the commanding general of U.S. Army South on Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Remarkably, Schneider and Chinn have stayed in touch throughout the years.

Schneider recently mentioned to Chinn that he and his brother would be in Texas on vacation and Chinn invited them to visit. Schneider was thrilled to visit his Ranger friend again.

“Hanging out with the general today was really great. I got to see a lot of behind-the-scenes work with the wounded warriors, the inner workings of the base and a day in the life of a general,” said 19-year-old Schneider.

“I really appreciate the general taking time out of his day, because I know he is pretty busy.”

Just as in 2004, Chinn was glad to see Schneider and to show him around his command and the post. Chinn said he always felt a connection to Schneider through the years.

“I stayed in touch with his mom over the years and one day he emailed me and asked if I remembered him. I told him absolutely,” Chinn said.

“I was really excited and inspired when he said he wanted to come and see me again. I told him to come on down to San Antonio.”

During Schneider’s visit, he and his brother, Austin, toured U.S. Army South headquarters; the Quadrangle, the oldest building on post – built in 1876; the Fort Sam Houston Museum; the Center for the Intrepid, a state-of-the-art medical facility; the Department of Combat Medic Training and

the Warrior and Family Support Center, an organization dedicated to providing wounded warriors and their families support during their recovery.

“Today inspired me,” said Schneider, a native of Murrieta, Calif. “My mentor for wanting to stay connected to the Army is Major General Chinn and to see all of the support and training outlets available to Soldiers reaffirms my choices.”

The commanding general was glad to see Schneider fulfilling his dream as a member of the CSMR.

“I’m really proud to see how he has grown. The last time I saw him was when he was nine,” Chinn said. “Evan is a remarkable human being. He is the kind of son that personifies the best of America; I am extremely proud of him.”

Schneider said he never wanted to do anything else but be a part of the Army, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Ranger Training Brigade made his dream come true as a young boy.

With great perseverance, he continues to fulfill his dream as a member of CSMR.

“Working with the California State Military Reserve is great, because we are all volunteers and we all have the same reasons for serving,” Schneider said.

Not only is Schneider proud of the journey he’s made, but his brother, Austin, who accompanied him to Fort Benning years ago and traveled with him to San Antonio, is also proud of his brother.

“Back then it was a dream, but now it is a reality,” said Austin, 24. “It is amazing to me. Although

because of health limitations, he can’t be in the Army, he still gets to be a part of it.

“I loved watching him buy equipment the other day that he will actually get to use when he is back at the CSMR. The Make-A-Wish Foundation made his dream come true back then and today he is continuing to fulfill that dream.”

Founded in 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation’s mission is to grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Its goal is to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Today, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has grown to granting a wish, on average, every 37 minutes. In 2014, it granted more than 14,200 wishes.

According to the Make-A-Wish Foundation mission statement, “a wish experience can be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition.

This one belief guides us in everything we do at Make-A-Wish. It inspires us to grant wishes that change the lives of the kids we serve.”

Schneider said the wish granted to him did change his life. But enjoying a week with the Rangers and spending a day with the general were only the first steps.

He has more aspirations, and hopes he can fulfill those wishes too.

“After I graduate from college, I want to be a police officer,” said Schneider, currently a sophomore at California Baptist University.

“I can now see the sky is the limit for my future.”



As a nine-year-old and a Make-A-Wish Foundation recipient, Schneider stands with then-Col. K.K. Chinn, commander of the Ranger Training Brigade, as part of Schneider’s dream of becoming an Army Ranger. (Courtesy photo)

JBER Family Advocacy hosts Daddy Day



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Fathers and sons build crafts together at a Home Depot station during Daddy Day hosted at Hangar 1 on JBER Aug. 13. Daddy Day was set up by JBER Family Advocacy to provide parents with an opportunity to bond with their children in a fun and informative way. (U.S. Air Force photos/ Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)

Dads and kids visit the Child Development Center's children's food health informations station during the Daddy Day event Aug. 13 in Hangar 1.

Fathers and their children visit the Sexual Assault Prevention information station during Daddy Day hosted at Hangar 1 Aug. 13. The event was set up by Family Advocacy to provide parents with an opportunity to bond with their children in a fun and informative way. "In family advocacy our goal is to prevent domestic violence, said Sarah Blanning, Family Advocacy outreach manager, and when people are healthy, have fun hobbies and take care of themselves, they are better parents, better spouses, better workers and better friends."

LEFT: Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan Murphy, 673d Air Base Wing safety technician, and his sons, Titus and Emerson, visit the Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention station during Daddy Day Aug. 13 at Hangar 1.

Small-town Army NCO shaped by family, war, football

By Keith Oliver
Defense Media Activity

FORT MEADE, Maryland — Russ Currie had not yet been born when his uncle, Jerry Lee Patrick, was killed in Vietnam.

An icon in his hometown of Eustis, Florida, Patrick was an accomplished football player, who had wanted to join the Army since he was a kid. At the high school’s traditional “class night” the week of graduation, the somewhat reserved teenager surprised many by walking alone onto a bare stage and performing “The Ballad of the Green Beret.”

“When he started singing, I don’t think there was a dry eye in the audience,” remembered Dawn [Gosnell] Diehl, then a 7th grader. “For me, it made the war a reality. It hit home that our boys were going to join in that fight.”

Patrick spent the rest of that short summer of 1966 getting in top shape for boot camp and airborne school. Less than two years later, March 31, 1968, he was gone, caught in a hail of enemy fire while leading a special forces patrol in the Thua Thien Province.

At the end of the 1969 football season, the Eustis Panthers inaugurated the Jerry Lee Patrick Memorial Award to be presented to the graduating senior, who had best exemplified its namesake on and off the field.

Fast forward to 1992. The award had been mysteriously discontinued for more than a decade until some of Jerry’s teammates from the 1963 state championship team found the trophy in a closet and had it refurbished, including individual plaques to ensure its perennial status and featuring a rubbing of Patrick’s name from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Later that year, the restored honor was bestowed on Jerry’s own nephew.

Known today as Army Sgt. 1st Class Russell B. Curry, #60 (the same jersey number worn by Uncle Jerry) went on to attend Florida State University, join the military, get himself hand-picked for the Army’s vaunted Old Guard ceremonial unit and pull two combat tours in Iraq.

“My Uncle Jerry was my inspiration for becoming a Soldier, and he is still an inspiration to me,” Currie said.

“In high school, my best friend



Staff Sgt. Russ Currie, now a Sgt. 1st Class, wears the distinctive blue-striped patch of the 3rd Infantry Division, known as the “Rock of the Marne” for its battle exploits in France during World War I. The placement of the patch on his upper right shoulder identifies him as a combat veteran. (Photo courtesy of the Currie family)

Brea Croak took a rubbing of his name from ‘the Wall’ on a trip to D.C.,” he said. “Later, when my Army unit would conduct road marches from Arlington, across the Key Bridge and all along the Potomac River, I made it a point to always visit the Vietnam Memorial and touch Uncle Jerry’s name.”

A self-described “career student,” who was “a little dog chasing his tail around” in college, Currie disenrolled from FSU with broken walk-on aspirations and a blown-out knee. He has since completed his bachelor’s degree and is now enrolled in a masters program.

The Army “paid back” his tuition loans, and at basic training, saw something special in both his size (6 feet 2 inches, 230 pounds) and character, sending Currie to the Military District of Washington to join the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), where he served as a casket bearer with the “Full Honors” team.

After September 11, 2001 and in the days and weeks following,

“everything changed,” said Currie, recalling the horror and sickening aftermath of a terrorist-piloted airliner crashing into the Pentagon. Now he was part of Operation Noble Eagle – with a specific focus on search and recovery.

“I can’t tell you [that] one or two funerals outweighed them all,” said Currie of his time in the nation’s capital, “but the Pentagon ones meant a lot because we had worked to find the remains. We were with our comrades-in-arms at both locations [the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery].”

He was also in the detachment that traveled to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to receive some of the first American Soldiers killed in major unit combat in Afghanistan, just six months after 9/11.

Back at home station, serving as “head of detail” for one particularly young casualty, Cpl. Matthew Commons, Currie said that “now there was a personal connection” and a full-circle feel to the Penta-

gon attack, as his duties required him to somberly come face-to-face with his nation’s response both here and in the terrorists’ backyard.

“My outlook, my life, my service ... everything changed,” he said. “I now understood my true debt to society, my opportunity to serve.”

And serve he has. Currie’s 16 years in uniform have seen him on Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; and riding into his own combat experiences in Baghdad in 2005 and through the nasty streets and alleys of Sadr City during the American forces’ “surge operations” in 2007.

Currie was also stationed at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, working with badly wounded combat veterans during that portion of their tailored, doctor-monitored pilgrimages to top stateside facilities.

The infantry Soldier is presently posted at Camp Shelby, Miss., where, for four years, he has trained soon-to-deploy National Guard units for rotations in Afghanistan and other contingencies.

He and his wife Brandy, herself a former Soldier and Afghanistan veteran, anticipate orders to a new assignment soon. And the couple is expecting their sixth child this month.

The teammate and coach

That baby will be born into a family, whose bloodlines evoke quiet honor and a strong sense of purpose, according to at least one observer.

Kevin McClelland played on the Eustis Panthers with Patrick and after three decades (which included his own time Soldiering in Alaska and elsewhere), the career educator was now Currie’s head coach.

McClelland was Eustis’ senior star quarterback when Patrick was a rare sophomore starter. “Jerry Lee was tougher than a piece of rawhide,” he said. “He didn’t have a lot to say. He was just one tough, rawboned kid.”

That tenacity – and selflessness “made it a mission” for McClelland, teammate Art Hilbish and others to resurrect the Jerry Lee Patrick Memorial Award, he said.

Nobody knew that now Coach McClelland would be saying much the same about a Panther of another generation, calling Currie “a big ol’ kid, who was very intelligent. On the practice field and in games, he was the epitome of mental tough-

ness and dedication.”

The Gold Star Mom

Such comments mean a lot to Patrick’s mother and Currie’s grandmother, twice-widowed Mary Patrick Hammond, who lives with daughter Lynnette Currie and her family in Andersonville, Tenn.

As a Gold Star Mother, that pain-won distinction accorded women who have lost a child in combat, Hammond has heard similar words from the men, who trained and fought alongside Patrick.

“Absolutely the best human being I ever met,” squad-mate Tom Bailey posted on a memorial website. “Jerry Lee, you left me too soon. I ride my motorcycles in memory of you and Bobby Rera.”

Hammond received countless letters from her son’s fellow Soldiers, and corresponded “a long time with one particular boy who came to see me,” she said.

“It seemed to help him to talk it out as he was fighting his own battle with what we now call PTSD.”

Known to church members and friends as “Miss Mary,” the 91-year-old stays more than busy driving to nearby Norris Elementary every week.

“I helped in the classroom three times a week until last year,” she said. “Now I’m the school grandmother.”

She teaches Sunday school and regularly visits the local nursing home, where she brings encouragement and mentors adults in reading.

Her first husband, Charles, died in Eustis when Patrick was 12 years old and it was his World War II Army uniform that Hammond used to stitch together a reasonable facsimile for her son’s turn at the mic at that class night so many years ago.

Even in the midst of her grief when the family learned of Patrick’s battlefield death, Hammond was comforted by the fact that “his life’s ambition was to be a Soldier and, as a sole surviving son, he even had to fight to get over to Vietnam.

“Jerry was exactly where he wanted to be. Many mothers did not have that comfort.”

Currie was not the least bit surprised upon hearing Hammond talk of Patrick’s selflessness and desire to serve. “We were brought up that way,” she said.