

# REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



JBER, Anchorage memorialize firefighters who gave their lives in the line of duty – Sept. 11, 2001 and beyond  
Story, B-5

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON SOURCE FOR NEWS

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

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## RESERVE RAPTOR



**ABOVE:** Senior Airman Christopher Graham, an F-22 Raptor crew chief assigned to the 477th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, marshals 302nd Fighter Squadron F-22 pilot Lt. Col. Brian Budde out of the aircraft's parking location. Budde flew in a training sortie during the 477th Fighter Group's September unit training assembly. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso)  
**RIGHT:** Lt. Col. Clayton Johnson, 302nd Fighter Squadron F-22 Raptor pilot, waits for the final signal from the crew chief before shutting down his aircraft. Johnson just returned from a six-ship training sortie, the first of three during the 477th Fighter Group's monthly drill. The 477th is the only Air Force Reserve unit in Alaska, and many members integrate with the active-duty 3rd Wing during the week.



Senior Airman Elijah Todd, an F-22 Raptor crew chief assigned to the 477th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 477th Fighter Group, carefully checks the wheel assembly of an F-22 prior to launching the jet during the 477th Fighter Group's September drill weekend. During the Unit Training Assembly weekendss the 477th AMXS supports the Reserve flying operations. UTAs are an opportunity for the pilots of the 302nd Fighter Squadron to conduct Reserve flying operations. During the week, the Reserve pilots and maintainers integrate with their active-duty counterparts in the 525th and 90th Fighter Squadrons.

## JBER hosts memorial for Yukla 27 crew

By Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

On Sept. 22, 1995, at 7:47 a.m., a Boeing E-3B Sentry Airborne Warning And Control System from the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron on then-Elmendorf Air Force Base, crashed shortly after takeoff for a routine training sortie.

To honor the 20th anniversary of that tragic day, the 962nd AACS is hosting a memorial ceremony at Heritage Park at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. Parking will be limited; transportation will be provided from the Talkeetna Theater.

The event will include guest speaker Air Force Col. Jay Bickley, who was a member of the squadron during the accident, and will be attended by several distinguished guests including Alaska state governor Bill Walker.

This memorial service is dedicated to the memory of the 24 brave American and Canadian airmen who lost their lives in the defense of freedom that morning.

The Yukla 27 crew included:

1st Lt. Carlos Arriaga, weapons director  
Tech. Sgt. Mark Bramer, flight engineer  
Staff Sgt. Scott Bresson, airborne radar technician  
Tech. Sgt. Mark Collins, communications systems operator  
Senior Airman Lawrence DeFrancesco, communications systems operator  
Tech. Sgt. Bart Holmes Sr., flight engineer  
Lt. Col. Richard Leary, navigator  
Master Cpl. Joseph Legault, Canadian Forces, communications technician  
Capt. Robert Long, senior weapons director  
Master Sgt. Stephen O'Connell, advanced airborne surveillance technician  
Capt. Bradley Paakola, co-pilot  
Tech. Sgt. Ernest Parrish, area specialist  
Sgt. David Pitcher, Canadian Forces, battle director technician  
Capt. Glenn Rogers Jr., Aircraft commander  
Airman Jeshua Smith, airborne surveillance technician  
Staff Sgt. Raymond Spencer Jr., airborne surveillance technician  
Maj. Richard Stewart II, mission crew commander  
Tech. Sgt. Charles Sweet Jr., airborne radar technician  
Maj. Marlon Thomas, mission crew commander  
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Thomas, computer display maintenance technician  
Maj. Steven Tuttle, airborne surveillance officer  
Tech. Sgt. Brian Van Leer, advanced airborne surveillance technician  
Airman Darien Watson, airborne surveillance technician  
Senior Airman Joshua Weter, computer display maintenance technician

For more information about the event, please call 551-0033.

## A little grease doesn't get C-17 Globemaster III crew chief down

By Airman Valerie Monroy  
JBER Public Affairs

Airman Halbert arrives at the hospital for his appointment to get new glasses. Walking through the door, he notices how friendly everyone is. Each passerby grins or smirks at him.

The optometrist performing his eye exam has a comical glint in her eyes as she speaks to him. After the examination, an amused Airman has him try on different frames to find the ones he prefers.

As he looks in the mirror, something catches his attention. Horrified, he sees a black smudge on his upper lip, like the most enormous and grotesque mole he's ever seen, and all the pieces of the day fit together in his mind.

"I've talked to so many people today," Halbert mutters to himself.

Airman 1st Class Britton Halbert is an aerospace maintenance apprentice – also known as a crew chief – with the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron on Joint

Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Halbert said he is used to having permanently stained hands and being dirty from working on planes all day, but it had never caused him much embarrassment until that day. But it's all just part of the job, he explained.

His day begins with roll call at 6:45 a.m. Everyone is accounted for before the section chief relays the work requirements for the day.

Before any aircraft takes off, it has to go through the crew chiefs.

Crew chiefs are responsible for ensuring the plane is in perfect working order. If something's wrong, they coordinate with specialists to repair what's broken and get the plane on its way.

As soon as the morning briefing is over, they don't waste a moment before starting their jobs.

"People get to work," Halbert said. "Everyone knows what they need to do."

Halbert works on the C-17 Globemaster III, a high-wing, four engine cargo craft capable of carry-

ing payloads up to 169,000 pounds.

Some of his day-to-day duties include performing scheduled inspections and preventive maintenance on the aircraft and aircraft-installed equipment. Crew chiefs also maintain and repair aircraft and perform general mechanical work.

Before every plane takes off, a walk-around is performed to make sure there is nothing wrong. The crew chiefs check for leaks, ensure nothing is missing from the plane, none of the screws have disappeared, and that the tires aren't flat, said Airman 1st Class Damien Sloan, a fellow aerospace maintenance apprentice with the 703rd AMXS.

When a plane lands, the crew chiefs do another inspection to ensure the aircraft is still in operating-ready condition.

For Halbert, keeping busy and working with his hands is the best way to get through the day.

"I'm not somebody who can just sit down," Halbert said, tap-

ping his foot. "I enjoy seeing hard work pay off."

While Halbert said he loves his job, there are moments when it gets tough. Some days are longer than others.

The crew chiefs wait for everyone to finish whatever they were working on before leaving, he said.

"Everybody is getting ready to go home, but you have somebody still out there working on a plane," Halbert explained. "In that moment, you think it sucks – but when you see the plane in the sky you think, 'man, we're doing that.'"

With winter on its way, the job won't be getting any easier, especially for Halbert, from Texas.

"Today I couldn't even feel my fingers," he said. "And it's not even winter yet."

It took Halbert a while to realize this was the job for him.

"Technical school can only take you so far," he said. "You don't really know the job until you're actually doing it."

Getting the hands-on experi-

ence with the planes helped him realize why he was out there in the first place.

"I never saw myself in a mechanic role," Halbert said.

Both his grandfathers were mechanics and loved getting their hands dirty with whatever they could find. Halbert wonders if maybe it was in his blood the whole time and this is where he was always meant to be.

"Maybe it just took a spark to see that I was going to enjoy this job," he said.

After the crew chiefs are released, Halbert is exhausted – but he still goes to the gym.

"I'm all about the gains, yo," Halbert joked.

Halbert said at night he looks back on his life before the military and can't believe how much it has changed.

Though his days are long and often tiring, he said he looks forward to the possibilities of the next day – although hopefully without a huge grease mark on his face.

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Arctic Warrior Rodeo

JBER hosts some serious bull-riding, team-roping, barrel-racing rodeo action, Page B-1



# ‘We train together for everything’

## Couple runs Army Ten-Miler thousands of miles apart

By Vanessa Villarreal  
Army News Service

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — From the Boston Marathon to Alaska’s Mount Denali and Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro, this husband and wife team, in more ways than one, has never let distance stand in their way. And even though their next adventure separates them by thousands of miles, they said they’re still in it together.

On Sunday, Army Col. Marc Hoffmeister ran the Army Ten-Miler Shadow Run at Bagram Air Field, one of 14 official shadow race locations. On Oct. 11, his wife, Gayle, will run the 10-miler in Washington, D.C.

“We train together for everything,” he said. “She pushes me hard on runs, and I push her hard on the bike, and it balances out.”

Hoffmeister, who is stationed at Bagram Air Field for a year as joint engineer director for U.S. Forces Afghanistan, has been a runner since joining the Army as a United States Military Academy cadet in 1988.

“Though not competitively,” he said. “Just occasional recreational races over the last three decades. I’ve become increasingly focused on competitive distance running, biking, and triathlon events over the last few years and probably race one to two times a month back home. Here, I run about four times week and ride around three.”

Hoffmeister is from Massachusetts and his wife is from New York. They are now residents of Alaska.

“We call ourselves ‘born-again Alaskans,’” he said.

On June 1, 2009, Hoffmeister and Gayle flew to the base of Mount Denali to summit the highest point in North America. They were joined by their friend, Bob Haines, and three other Iraq veterans – Spc. Dave Shebib, retired Marine Capt. Jon Kuniholm, and retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Nyman.

Kuniholm and Nyman didn’t make it due to altitude sickness, and Gayle had to stop due to hypothermia. Hoffmeister, Shebib, and Haines succeeded in reaching the summit. And, two years later, Gayle summited Mount Denali.

On April 22, 2007, Hoffmeister’s patrol was hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq.



Col. Marc Hoffmeister, his friend Bob Haines, and Spc. Dave Shebib stop for a photo at the summit of Alaska’s Mount Denali in 2009. (Courtesy photo)

The blast severely damaged his left arm, causing broken bones, nerve damage, and a traumatic brain injury.

“My injuries create challenges every day – even typing,” he said. “However, I view the experience as an incredible opportunity for post-traumatic growth. It changed my life in more positive ways than negative ones.”

In 2009, he earned the National Geographic Adventure Magazine’s Reader’s Choice Adventurer of the Year Award for the Mount Denali expedition. And he said training helped prepare him for the summit and all of life’s demands.

“Life is about training,” he said. “We’ve trained all year for different events, but our training changes focus in preparation for specific races and life circumstances.”

He and his wife ran the ATM together for the last two years. This April, they raced the

Boston Marathon, and competed in Idaho’s Ironman Coeur d’Alene in June. The Mount Kilimanjaro climb happened in 2010. And they both climbed Argentina’s Aconcagua in 2013 – but didn’t summit due to weather issues and a medical situation where a climber had to be rescued.

“This has been a big year for me and my wife,” he said. “Shared training and competition is a big part of who we are as a couple. We jokingly call it our marriage counseling. We would have raced the ATM together this year, so this Shadow Run gives us a chance to run together in a different way.”

Gayle, a prior service medic, has been running since she was nine years old. Her very first run was in elementary school when she wanted to make the 6th grade track team. And she did her first marathon when she was 12.

“I am always training for one event or another,” she said. “I just change up the volume and speed workouts. I just came off an ultra-race, and I’m trying to add speed back into my training. But I also keep up the volume because I have another ultra in November.”

She said she is planning to run next year’s Boston Marathon. And said she’s happy that her husband will shadow her at Bagram.

“I plan to run a shadow Boston Marathon run here at Bagram whether or not a formal shadow event occurs,” Hoffmeister said. “So anyone who wants to can join me.”

“What’s next on the list? I’m not sure yet,” he said. “Lots on that list. But I take command of the 20th Engineer Brigade at Fort Bragg, [N.C.] next July immediately upon redeployment, so the focus will be on taking care of our troopers to the best of our ability.”

# Airmen 2.0: The Air Force’s human capital plan

By Tech. Sgt. Torri Hendrix  
Air Force News Service

A panel of personnel experts talked about the way ahead for equipping, training and growing future Airmen as part of a discussion during the 2015 Air Force Association Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 15 in Washington D.C.

“We are here because all of us have a filter of the lives we’ve lived up to this point,” said Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast, the Air University commander and president. “The reality, when you look at the facts, America is really at a unique juncture in the history of our nation and in the history of our Department of Defense, where the world has changed foundationally.”

This change is in the form of rapid technology advancement and the Air Force is still operating under policies and procedures designed for conscription service. All members of the panel agreed responding and adapting more rapidly than potential adversaries is necessary to remain a relevant force into the future.

“The environment that we’re in today is a chaotic environment,” said Michelle LoweSolis, the director of plans and integration, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, Headquarters Air Force. “We’ve got a pace of change that is unmatched in the history of the world. The need for air, space and cyber power is increasing ... on top of all of that, we’ve got resources that are decreasing. We have to

react in minutes, not hours.”

The Air Force’s plan to harness and amplify its human capital involves several initiatives that focus on changing the culture and approach to the old way of doing things.

Some of these changes include more performance-based promotions and compensation; potentially longer careers; better matching of talents to jobs; a more robust intermission program; the possibility of technical tracks and leadership tracks; more inclusion in diversity; and quality-of-life improvements.

“Airmen are as capable today as they ever have been,” said Daniel Sitterly, the principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.

“As long as we continue to educate, train and equip our Airmen, we’ll be the best Air Force in the world for a long time.”

One of the main points of discussion was the integration of the total force. The Air Force is reviewing plans for an integrated personnel and pay system, begin making total force policies and affording more permeability between components. These changes, however, will require strong and innovative leaders.

“Cultures do not change unless you have strong leadership,” Kwast said. “Leadership doesn’t happen unless you invest in it. I cannot overemphasize the fact this is a contact sport, and it requires everybody involved. It’s not enough to have words ... it goes

back to a culture of leadership, the profession of arms and the art of war.”

By innovating more rapidly than potential adversaries, the Air Force can continue to maintain its capability and technological edge, the panelists explained. However, it remains paramount to the success of the force that Airmen continue to strive to be technical experts and leaders within their fields and share information and ideas to turn existing technology into the fundamental tools of modern warfare.

“That’s why this is such an important conversation,” Kwast said. “The human capital plan is truly the third technological offset, because it starts with people – if you get the people part right, the ideas take care of themselves.”

# Alaska Air Guardsmen rescue three from sinking boat

By Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead  
Alaska National Guard PAO

Airmen with the Alaska Air National Guard’s 210th and 212th rescue squadrons rescued three people in Cook Inlet who were stranded the morning of Sept. 11 on a sandbar in the mud flats about six miles southeast of Fire Island.

The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center received a call from the Anchorage Fire Department at 9:05 a.m., requesting assistance to rescue occupants of a small

vessel near Fire Island that was taking on water and had begun to sink.

An HH-60 Pave Hawk from the 210th Rescue Squadron, with a Guardian Angel pararescue team from the 212th Rescue Squadron on board, immediately responded.

They spotted the three survivors in their small Jetcraft boat stranded on the mud flats, several miles from dry land.

During the quick outgoing tide, the boaters rapidly went from taking on water with a real possibility

of sinking, to being stranded on the mudflats with no way to evacuate on their own.

The Air National Guard’s rescue team hoisted the three survivors into the Pave Hawk and transported them to Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage at 9:54 a.m., where they were released for medical evaluation.

## AFD statement

“The Anchorage Fire Department received a 911 call at 9:02 am [Sept. 11] from a small watercraft in Cook Inlet, request-

ing assistance.

“The boat was described by the caller as a blue Jetcraft that was rapidly taking on water and was 50 percent submerged.

“The caller reported that there were three persons onboard, all wearing lifejackets and carrying a radio and flares. They reported GPS coordinates that put them in the vicinity of Fire Island.

“AFD dispatched 10 units, including Boat 1, a rescue boat, to search for the sinking watercraft. AFD units responded to ground vantage points, simultaneously,

in an attempt to quickly locate the watercraft.

“A call was made to the Alaska Air National Guard and Alaska State Troopers, as well.

“Approximately 20 minutes later, the watercraft was located by AFD Boat 1 as an AKANG rescue helicopter arrived over the scene. The helicopter airlifted the boaters and transported them to a local hospital for evaluation.

“AFD reminds boaters to file a float plan and carry the necessary rescue equipment and lifejackets onboard for each person.”

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# AFE Airmen provide lifesaving equipment on every JBER flight

By Airman 1st Class Christopher Morales  
JBER Public Affairs

In 1995, Air Force Capt. Scott O’Grady was shot down over Bosnia. He survived a week until his rescue with only a 29-pound survival bag of gear, rations and most importantly, a radio.

A routine mission or an emergency night flight can have the same consequences. Human error and technical difficulties can take down an aircraft just as swiftly as anti-aircraft fire.

When all else fails, the personnel of Aircrew Flight Equipment are the last to let you down.

Their job is to inspect, maintain and configure aircraft and aircrew with the equipment they need to survive. They maintain oxygen equipment and survival gear for emergencies, in addition to flight helmets, masks and night vision goggles for everyday missions.

“We don’t always see the fruit of our labor [because] the emergency equipment on board isn’t used every day, which is a good thing,” said Senior Airman Robert Moran, 3rd Operations Support Squadron AFE journeyman. “When they need to use AFE, it works every time.”

AFE covers gear like lifeboats, chemical protection bags and personnel-recovery kits, as well as location-specific items like arctic kits, survival vests and body armor.

From night vision goggles to parachutes and everything in between, the AFE Airmen check, inspect, correct and double-check for maximum mission-readiness.

Every piece of equipment must be inspected, so AFE Airmen operate on a cycle, such as a 90-day rotation for masks and helmets. The cycle differs based on the use and nature of equipment.

“If [an item] has any write-ups they have to fix it again, and we check to see if it was done correctly. Then they put them it back in the lockers,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Felicia Druin, an AFE craftsman. “We also have technical orders.



**Air Force Staff Sgt. Felicia Druin, 3rd Operation Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment flight craftsman, inspects night vision goggles on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 1. AFE Airmen inspect, correct and double-check flight masks, parachutes and other equipment. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)**

They go step-by-step by the TO.”  
The flight supports the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron as well as the 90th and 525th fighter squadrons.  
“We have approximately 190

aircrew members, and each one has [a] locker room here with their helmets, masks, [protective] gear and other equipment,” Moran said. “Sometimes, you are inspecting and maintaining gear that is just rarely used – but when it is, it really matters.

“We specialize in C-17 [Globe-master IIIs] and C-12 [Hurons],” Moran said. “Sometimes, when the Airmen finish their upgrade training and are knowledgeable in this area and airframe, it’s likely that leadership will move Airmen for their benefit to get a better understanding of the entire career field, not just focus on C-17s. [They then] get a taste of what it’s like to work with the fighters.”

Each aircrew member has a “D” bag, a chemical-defense bag which includes specialized in-flight protective equipment, such as coveralls and a mask with filters and a blower, gloves, hoods, boots, and detection papers.

“We maintain their helmet[s], and their masks,” Moran said. “If the aircrew members are going to go on a mission, they usually come here in the morning requesting their gear.”

The Airmen also maintain

aircraft gear – from the oxygen masks for passengers to life rafts and life vests.

“We installed [personnel-recovery kits], which contain two C-cell radios which call out in case of emergency,” Moran said. “There are instructions for our guys to follow, and it will reach out to a rescue unit which will find them and take them home.”

Sometimes more or different equipment is packed.

“We have seven survival vests that go on the jet along with seven body-armor vests,” Moran said. “This is what the aircrew members would use when flying over [a] hostile environment.”

“In the winter time, we put on extra kits for the C-17 and C-12, called arctic kits,” Moran said.

There are two on each C-17 and one on each C-12, he explained, each containing a ‘wiggy-walk-around suit,’ – like a walking sleeping bag – and other cold-weather gear.

The kits, designed for tundra survival, are placed on JBER aircraft between October and May each year.

“You always have [to] trust in what they do,” said Air Force Capt. Joshua Topliff, 517th Airlift Squadron Readiness Flight commander.

There are low margins of error when flying, especially when the aircraft is only 500 feet above the ground in limited visibility, Topliff said.

Equipment differs by location. “At my last base, I packed personnel parachutes,” Druin said. “It is very rewarding knowing that what you’re doing is saving a life and giving them the good training they need.”

**LEFT: Airman 1st Class Daniel Gil, a 3rd Operation Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment flight apprentice, inspects a gas mask Sept. 1. AFE Airmen inspect and configure equipment for crew and passengers on U.S. Air Force aircraft – everything from life jackets to arctic kits for the pilots of fighter jets.**





## Dining facility closure

The Gold Rush Inn permanently closes Sept. 25.

The Wilderness Inn will remain open with new hours as follows:

Breakfast: 7 to 9:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5 to 6:30 p.m.

## Drug takeback event

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson hosts a prescription drug take-back event Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the JBER BX.

Several JBER agencies join forces with the Drug Enforcement Agency to safely dispose of unneeded or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications.

For more information about drug takeback, visit [dea.gov](http://dea.gov) or call the DEA hotline, (800) 882-9539. For information about the installation event, call 384-1418.

## JAG law school programs

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Up to 25 active-duty officers will be selected to attend law school while on active duty and at government expense beginning in 2016.

The program is open to lieutenants and captains. For information and eligibility requirements, visit [www.jagcnet.army.mil/sites/jaro.nsf](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/sites/jaro.nsf) or call 384-2434.

## 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 web-

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

## U-Fix-It Store

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

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

There are 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.

## 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.

All beneficiaries who are enrolled in the family health, pediatrics, flight medicine and internal medicine clinics are eligible to participate.

Patients need to show a military identification card and provide information, including name, social security number, birthday and email address.

The enrollment specialist will enter the information and patients will receive an email which contains a link and instructions for completing the process.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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).

## JBER MyBaseGuide

Stay informed on where to find schools, places of worship, places to live, local services, day-care providers, auto mechanics, veterinarians and more.

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





ABOVE: Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Alaska watch an airborne operation with USARAK Commanding General Army Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens from CH-47 Chinook helicopters over Malemute Drop Zone, Sept. 10.  
RIGHT: Pfc. Malcolm Troyle, E Company, 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion, from Albuquerque, N.M., pulls on the suspension lines of his parachute after conducting an airborne operation, Sept. 10.  
BELOW: USARAK commanding general Army Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens tightens his helmet strap after conducting an airborne operation, Sept. 10.





# ARCTIC WARRIOR RODEO



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Participants compete in various events during the Arctic Warrior Rodeo on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 12 and 13. Service members and their families were treated to free events including bull riding, tie-down roping, team roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, a petting zoo, pony rides and live country music. (U.S. Air Force photos/Maj. Angela Webb)

**LEFT:** A participant in a bull-riding competition jumps over a fence to escape being gored by a bull at the Arctic Warrior Rodeo on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 12. Some of the other activities during the two-day event included mechanical bull rides, pony rides and face painting. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Airman Valerie Monroy)

## Alaska Forget-Me-Not Coalition hosts community outreach event

By Army Staff Sgt. Balinda O'Neal Dresel  
Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

The Alaska Forget-Me-Not Coalition kicked off an initial community outreach event for members of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough at the Alaska National Guard's Alcantra Army in Wasilla Sept. 3.

More than 30 Mat-Su Borough service organizations, including the Palmer Pioneer Home, American Legion, and office of Sen. Lisa Murkowski, collaborated on how to support service members, veterans and families in the region.

The event also offered an overview of the coalition and opportunity to network with like-minded community members.

"Mat-Su is a well-organized community," said Lt. Col. Kay Spear-Budd, Alaska National Guard Family Program director and Alaska-Forget Me Not co-chair.

"In just four hours, we were able to identify several gaps specific to the service member, veteran and family population in the Mat-Su Borough that aligned with the Mat-Su Health Foundation Health Assessment.

"Some of the gaps the group decided to work include building collaborative relationships that enhance sharing of information, expediting housing for military members by

developing a relationship between the JBER housing office and the Mat-Su relators' association, improving access to services with help from the tribal veteran representative," added Spear-Budd.

Alaska Forget-Me-Not Coalition's mission is to ensure service members, veterans and families are supported and cared for within their communities through a collaborative effort.

The coalition focuses on statewide coordination, community outreach and education.

There are approximately 10,000 veterans in the Mat-Su Borough, with numbers increasing. There has been a 10 percent total population increase in the region in the last four years.

Special guest speakers at the event included Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, Alaska National Guard adjutant general; retired Alaska National Guardsman Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges; and Mat-Su Borough Mayor Larry DeVilbiss.

From hiring and financial fitness fairs to military cultural awareness and behavioral health education, the coalition has helped coordinate more than 30 statewide community events this year alone.

"Even more exciting is the Mat-Su group's decision and commitment to meet



The Alaska Forget-Me-Not Coalition hosted an outreach event at the Alaska National Guard's Alcantra Army in Wasilla for organizations in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough that were interested in supporting service members, veterans and families, Sept. 3. More than 30 service organizations attended the event, which offered an overview of the coalition and opportunity to network with like-minded community members. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Balinda O'Neal Dresel)

monthly and continue collaborating together," added Spear-Budd.

The next meeting will be at the Alaska

National Guard's Alcantra Army in Wasilla, Oct. 20 at 8:30 a.m.; the public is welcome to attend.



## Life is not perfect in an imperfect world

Commentary by Sgt. 1st Class  
Naomi C. Moreno  
JBER Senior Chaplain assistant

Life is not perfect and can sometimes be confusing. People learn early that life is like a roller coaster. You have your ups, downs, and sometimes twists and turns leaving you sick.

After getting off the roller coaster, it does not matter whether you became ill or if you loved the ride. What matters is that you are alive, which is far more significant than anything you have ever endured.

The older people get; the wiser they should become. The more they can reflect back on their personal experiences, the better. In fact, imperfection surrounds us in nearly every area of life.

We live in an imperfect world inhabited by imperfect people.

As I sit here deep in thought, reflecting about where I am at this point in my life and career, I ponder the feeling of disappointment, sadness, thankfulness and uncertainty.

The world produces beauty, but can also be the source of our greatest pain. The birth

of a newborn is one of the most beautiful things, but the death of a close relative or friend is among our greatest pains.

I often look at the events around the world, which highlight greed and self-centeredness. The world's problem of pain becomes reality when a person listens to the daily news or the local radio stations broadcasting tragic stories of people losing their lives.

Things like war, atrocities, money laundering, natural disasters, diseases, and racism remind me of outside forces that cannot be controlled.

Sometimes, I wonder what the real purpose of life is. Interpersonal misconceptions play a role in human interactions, harming relationships. As time passes, hatred and contempt continue to impact the world of today.

We live in a world of imperfection and pain.

Additionally, we often get tripped up by the enticements and addictions of our society. We war within between doing what is ethical and what is expedient.

People are often left scarred by the bumps and bruises of good and evil, as life continues to present obstacles. They give up their dreams, their purpose; and they trade their lives in exchange for money so they can make a living.

While making money to sustain their needs, people sometimes forget their unique gifts. They temporarily lose touch with the enormity of their inner being and distance themselves from self-confidence.

People hold on to their pain and sufferings while blaming others for their unhappiness. We surround ourselves with anxiety, stress and depression. We become consumed by negativity. We stay in a world of imper-

fection where things do not go as planned. We sometimes falter about lessons learned about love and faith.

I try to have hope, as there are many days that I ask myself what is the purpose of worrying.

Sometimes, we become victims of difficulties from others, and in many cases we create trouble for ourselves.

In either case, what is required is patience and faith. Attempting to be perfect will leave you missing out on opportunities, because we know we are not perfect. Whether a person desires to confess it or not, we all have our faults.

We get jealous and judgmental without knowing the facts, but that is ok because it is a part of life. People will make mistakes as they continue to nurture their souls.

We are imperfect people living in a world of imperfection; our life experiences are a portion of the fee we pay for being human. However, even though personal challenges are an inescapable part of one's journey, the goal is not to make the same mistakes again and again.

When a person encounters inevitable mistakes, they can correct it, learn from it, and pray to God for the strength and courage not to repeat it.

However, if we are successful, our faults become learning experiences and our lives become adventures in maturity, not stagnation.

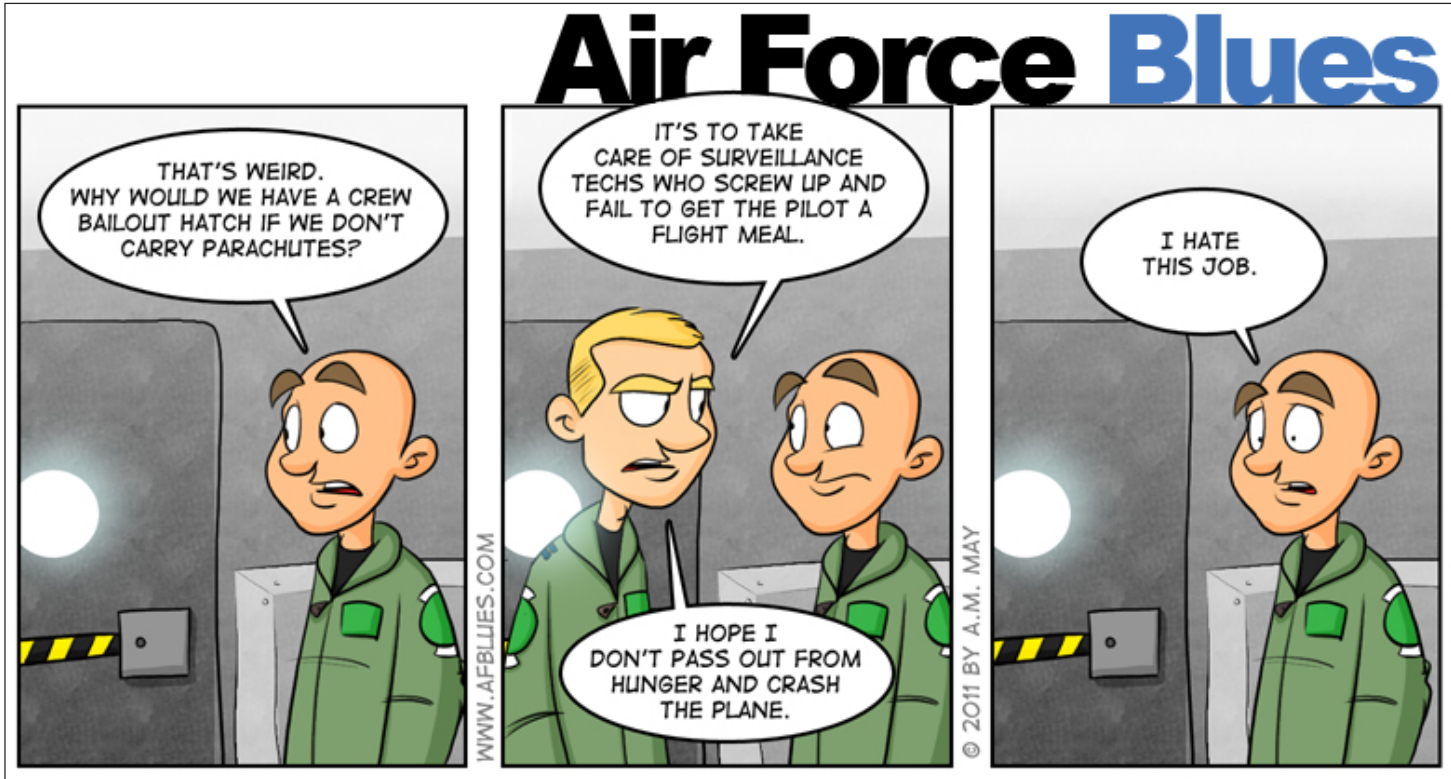
Change is very frightening to some, whether it be their personal changes or the changes in someone they love. Our responsibility remains with ourselves and not dependent upon how others respond to healthy changes.

Change starts with being true to ourselves; before we can have others be true to us. Change is at serious risk when people take others for granted and irresponsibly destroy relationships for selfish reasons.

Regardless of what circumstances people may encounter, the power of patience and prayer will overcome any obstacle. We have to remember the world is imperfect and – within the imperfect community – people will make mistakes.

Are we willing to learn from our mishaps and mistakes, or are we ready to repeat the past?

We live in an imperfect world inhabited by imperfect people.





**SEPT. 25**  
**Dining facility closure**

The Gold Rush Inn permanently closes Sept. 25. The Wilderness Inn will remain open with the following new hours: Breakfast: 7 to 9:30 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner: 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**THROUGH SEPT. 30**  
**COLA survey**

The Out-of-Cycle Cost of Living Allowance Living Pattern Survey is now available through Sept. 30. This survey is the ONLY opportunity offered to all service members and their spouses every three years to report their shopping behaviors and patterns at the overseas location they are assigned. It's imperative participants not guess when filling out the survey because doing so will skew the data, and could have negative ramifications on COLA entitlements. To take the survey, visit <http://tiny.cc/fsfs2x>

**FRIDAY**  
**POW/MIA remembrance**

Join guest speaker, Army Col. Scott Green, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at 1 p.m. in Hangar 1 for a remembrance ceremony honoring POW/MIA service members. Dress is uniform of the day. For information, call 552-1953.

**Air Force birthday**

Celebrate the Air Force's 68th birthday with an informal party featuring cake, beverage tasting, prizes and more starting at 4 p.m. in the Fire Pit. For information, call 552-3699.

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

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

**RecOn ice climb trip**

Traverse Matanuska Glacier with the Single Airman Program-

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The SAP offers a plethora of outings to single service members at deeply discounted prices. Sign up at JBER-Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center. For information, call 552-4599 or 552-2023.

**Air Force Ball**

Celebrate the Air Force's 68th birthday and heritage at the Dena'ina Center with the Air Force Ball and keynote speaker Sen. Dan Sullivan starting at 6 p.m. For information or to register, visit <https://jberafball.com>.

**SUNDAY**  
**Arctic Orienteering**

The Arctic Orienteering Club hosts their "Fall-O" meet from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on JBER. Follow orange signs from south Muldoon Rd. to Klutina Dr. Meet is free for first time participants, youth and military in pay grades E-4 and below. Participants must sign into the JBER iSportman system, training areas 424 and 429. For information, visit [oalaska.org/event/fall-o/](http://oalaska.org/event/fall-o/).

**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.

**THURSDAY**  
**Outdoor rock climbing**

Scale rocks along the Seward Highway from 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.

**SEPT. 25**  
**Youth movie night**

Youths ages 9 to 13, come enjoy a free movie night from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Kennecott Youth Center. A current G or PG movie will be shown in the computer lab. For information, call 384-1508.

**SEPT. 30**  
**Run to be ready 5K**

Disasters could happen any time, are you ready? The 773d

Civil Engineer Squadron hosts a 5K fun run to raise awareness on National Preparedness Day. Run starts at 8 a.m. outside Hangar 5. For information, call 552-5058.

**ONGOING**  
**SATURDAYS THROUGH SEPT. 26**  
**Muldoon Farmer's Market**

There's a new market in town. Enjoy new vendors offering locally grown and caught, baked and cooked foods, as well as locally made arts and crafts. Shop, eat, play and chat with fellow community members at the Muldoon Farmers Market at Begich Middle School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, visit [muldoon-farmersmarket.org](http://muldoon-farmersmarket.org).

**Football on NFL Ticket**

Looking for a place to watch your favorite NFL football team? Join the staff at the Warrior Zone or Polar Bowl and never miss a game. For information, call 384-9622 or 753-7467.

**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](http://anchorage-museum.org).

**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](http://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.

**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.

**Protestant Women of the Chapel meetings**

Women are invited to meet with the Protestant Women of the Chapel. Bible studies are Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Arctic Warrior Chapel, JBER-Richardson. For more information, email [jber.ak.pwoc@gmail.com](mailto:jber.ak.pwoc@gmail.com) or call 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/msmre](http://trainweb.org/msmre).

**Wired Cafe for Airmen**

The Wired Cafe at 7076 Fighter Drive has wireless Internet access and programs for Airmen in the dorms. There are free meals Fridays at 6 p.m. For information, call 552-4422.

**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.

**Help for homebuyers**

JBER Volunteer Realtors and Mortgage Lenders present an hour-long home buying seminar every Wednesday alternating between the JBER-Elmendorf or JBER-Richardson Housing Management Offices from 1 to 2 p.m. These seminars explain the buy-

## 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.

ing and selling process in the Anchorage, Eagle River and Wasilla/Palmer areas. For more information or to sign up, contact either HMO office; JBER-Elmendorf at 552-4312 or JBER-Richardson at 384-3088.

## 673d FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON [www.facebook.com/JBERLIFE](http://www.facebook.com/JBERLIFE) [www.jberlife.com](http://www.jberlife.com)

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**September 24**  
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Shoes, helmet, & harness provided

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## Celebrate the Air Force's 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Win an Alyeska Overnight Excursion**

**Join Today**  
[MyAirForceLife.com/Clubs](http://MyAirForceLife.com/Clubs)  
**September 18 • 4 p.m.**  
**Held at the Fire Pit • FREE Event**

**Join us for:**  
Hors d'oeuvres, birthday cake, beer & wine tasting, prize drawings, & more!  
**FREE** membership sign-ups available! Low membership fees!  
**FREE** Air Force Birthday t-shirts to all new club members!

Call 552- 3669 for more information.

The Fire Pit • Bldg. 9387

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# USO hosts free concert at Buckner



**ABOVE:** Fans take pictures with Rodney Atkins after a performance at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 15. The week-long tour in Alaska has USO-tour veterans Rodney Atkins and The Swon Brothers as they perform at Eielson Air Force Base, JBER and U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)

**RIGHT/BOTTOM:** The Swon Brothers perform for a crowd of service and family members at Buckner Physical Fitness Center Sept. 15 during a USO hosted concert.





# Remembering Alaska’s fallen firefighters

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett  
JBER Public Affairs

Parents wake with a start at the sound of their smoke alarm screaming. Their bedroom is as black as night, and their senses are flooded with the thick, gagging smell of smoke. They make their way to the door and are able to feel the heat through it. Not a good sign.

Concerned for their children, the parents open the door anyway. Smoke clouds everything. Somehow a fire started downstairs, and now everyone in the house is facing a potentially deadly situation.

How do they get everyone out without catching on fire or suffocating from the smoke?

The sound of breaking glass catches their attention and they turn towards the window. Only when the window is gone do they hear the sirens and see the firefighters making their way in.

Their house might be gone, but their lives are spared because a few chose to make the commitment and risk their own lives saving others.

This scenario is an example of what firefighters do. Various films such as ‘Ladder 49’ and ‘Fireproof’ also provide examples portraying how firefighters risk, or give, their lives to save others.

These scenarios pale compared to what was required on Sept. 11, 2001. The service sometimes requires the full commitment and ultimate sacrifice, and such sacrifices are remembered during these and similar observances.

They were once again remembered on Sept. 11, during the Alaska Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony, next to Fire Station One in Anchorage. The event was attended by numerous firefighters and fire departments from across the state, military from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and other bases, and civilians from the community coming to pay their respects and remember.

“It’s important that we never forget,” said Mark Barker, chairman of the Fallen Firefighter Committee. “This memorial is here for the family members of the fallen, so they know we will never forget their loved ones. It also stands here for the fellow members of the

department, signifying that we will also never forget them. It stands here for those who may not know what happened to their loves ones, whose names may be lost to history, or those who now, generations later, are learning about family members who died in the line of duty in Alaska.”

During the ceremony, a special guest was introduced.

“Every one of the names on the plaques has a story, but one today is particularly special,” Barker said.

“Not many people know, but during the early days of World War II, the U.S. Navy built a number of bases across Alaska. One of these Navy bases in Sitka was protected by an Army base called Fort Ray. On the evening of Oct. 12, 1941, a grass fire started on one of those islands [off the coast of Sitka].”

The grass fire started to spread to a dynamite and ammunition shed on one of those causeways on an island, he said. The U.S. Army fire brigade was called and a fire truck with four firefighters responded.

As they pulled up to it, the shed exploded, killing all four firefighters.

“The officer in charge of the fire brigade that evening was a guy named Capt. Francis Allen – That’s his plaque on [our] wall,” Barker said. “Today, we have his grandson [visiting], a retired fire chief, Jeffrey Allen.”

The news of Allen’s death found its way to his wife via a telegram, asking what she wanted to do with the body, Jeffrey Allen said.

“After the official report of his death, nothing was done,” he said.

Jeffrey Allen had looked into his grandfather’s death before, but recently had discovered something new. He found the Alaska Fallen Firefighter’s Memorial online, he explained.

“I was able to confirm that my grandfather and the other three firefighters had been immortalized on the wall here,” he said. “I sat there with tears streaming down my cheeks. I could not believe what I was seeing – after all this time, his sacrifice had been recognized.

“So I’m here to say thank you to my fellow firefighters who have kept that promise that, even after 70 years, we never forget our fallen



**Retired fire chief Jeffrey Allen tells his grandfather’s story during an Alaskan Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony next to Fire Station 1 in Anchorage Sept. 11. “I was able to confirm that my grandfather [Army Capt. Francis Allen] and the other free firefighters had been immortalized on the wall here,” Allen said. “I sat there with tears streaming down my cheeks. I could not believe what I was seeing – that after all this time, his sacrifice had been recognized. So I’m here to say thank you to my fellow firefighters who have kept the promise, after 70 years, we never forget our fallen brothers and sisters.” (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett)**

brothers and sisters.”

After the ceremony, many chose to stay and view the plaques on the walls, and the bricks in the ground with names of Alaska’s fallen firefighters engraved

on them.

“If people cannot depend fully on the fire service, then nothing is sacred,” said keynote speaker retired fire chief Dewey Whetsell. “You can still look inside a fire

station and note those inside who won’t sit by and watch the suffering of others, who won’t turn a deaf ear on their needs. You can still find the continual testimony of what’s good in man.”



**LEFT: The Alaska Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony was hosted next to Fire Station 1 in Anchorage on Sept. 11. “It’s important that we never forget,” said Mark Barker, chairman of the Fallen Firefighter Committee. “This memorial is here for the family members of the fallen so they know we will never forget their loved ones. It also stands here for the fellow members of the department signifying that we will also never forget them. It stands here for those who may not know what happened to their loves ones, whose names may be lost to history, or those who now, generations later, are learning about familyl members who died in the line of duty in Alaska.”**





**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:** Air Force Master Sgt. Kelly Totten, 301st Intelligence Squadron, performs take-down and function checks on an M16A2 rifle during the Alaska Mission Operations Center’s, Team Intelligence Challenge on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Jasmine Kegler)

The winning team, “The Red Rockets,” (left to right), Air Force Staff Sgt. Nicholas Prosser, Master Sgt. David Bergen and Senior Airman Ben Suhr are presented the winning trophy by the 373rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group commander, Air Force Col. Suzanne Streeter and group superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Odenthal.

Winning team members, Air Force Master Sgt. David Bergen, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Prosser, Tech. Sgt. Robert Hernandez and Senior Airman Ben Suhr of the 301st Intelligence Squadron perform mental tasks during the Team Intelligence Challenge on JBER. The challenge is an annual event started by the AMOC in 2006 as a team and morale-building event designed to take advantage of the warm summers and wilderness experiences available in Alaska.

# Intel squadrons give new meaning to intelligence

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Jaymie Rupp  
Alaska Mission Operations Center

What comes to mind when wilderness survival – a pastime usually left to the hardest of individuals – is put together with the sparsely settled state of Alaska? Those unfamiliar with Alaska can’t help but conjure images of bitter cold, unforgiving terrain and large hungry animals just waiting for overconfident adventurers to venture beyond the relative safety of civilization. Combine that with the military’s tough-

as-nails training and discipline, and you have the theme of this year’s Alaska Mission Operations Center’s Team Intelligence Challenge ... Alaska military survival. The Team Intelligence Challenge began at the AMOC in 2006 as a team and morale building event designed to take advantage of the warm summers and wilderness experience available in Anchorage. Redesigned every year – with previous themes such as zombie apocalypse – the only thing the teams can count on is the unexpected. With the friendly athletic event



and barbeque for the non-participants, the TIC has grown to be the AMOC’s largest event of the year. This year, six teams of four members each had to navigate seven and a half miles of terrain pausing only to complete seven tasks designed to push them both mentally and physically. Each team had to work together to overcome challenges in first aid, M16 rifle assembly and disassembly, canoeing, animal snares, plant identification, camp setup, physical obstacles and land navigation.

Slowed some by a family of black bears trying out the obstacle course, the first place team, the “Red Rockets,” finished in a time of one hour, 27 minutes. The next closest team came in at a respectable two hours, four minutes. The event was supported by site leadership and the more than 25 volunteers who helped run each station, supervise safety, provide first-aid, cook and get everything else done that was needed in order to make this year’s AMOC Team Intelligence Challenge a success.