

YOU CAN
CHANGE A LIFE



Take the opportunity to give to
a favorite cause during JBER's
Combined Federal Campaign
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JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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GERONIMO

1 and 3 Geronimos jump from helicopters

Spc. Michael McCann, a native of Minneapolis, Minn., assigned to Apache Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, descends while conducting helicopter jump training over Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Malemute Drop Zone Sept. 24. The paratroopers conducted the training to refine their airborne insertion skills and maintain operational readiness. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Pena)



Soldiers assigned to 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, descend after jumping from an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter of the 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, while conducting airborne training over Malemute Drop Zone Sept. 24. The Soldiers of 4/25 are part of the Army's only Pacific airborne brigade combat team with the ability to rapidly deploy worldwide, and trained to conduct military operations in austere conditions.



A Soldier of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), descends from an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, while conducting jump training over JBER Sept. 24. The 4/25 Spartans are the Army's only Pacific airborne brigade combat team; they have the ability to rapidly deploy worldwide, and trained to conduct military operations in austere conditions.

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'Everyone is my business'

Air Force first sergeants fill vital role in Airmen's lives, support commanders with sage counsel, Page B-1



CFC season is here again – see how you can change a life

JBER Public Affairs
Staff report

This time each year, service members and civilian employees on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson have the opportunity to donate to their favorite charities or select new ones through the Alaska Combined Federal Campaign, which begins Monday.

This year, the Alaska CFC theme is “You can change a life.” Since 1961, when President John F. Kennedy established the campaign with an executive order, the drive has collected more than \$7 billion in charitable donations, according to the organization’s website.

CFC is the federal government’s authorized charity drive – the only time troops and civilians should be solicited for donations to private organizations and charities with the exception of a few, like Army Emergency Relief, Air Force Assistance Fund, and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

In 2014, JBER gave \$216,592.16 through CFC, said Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Fuselier, the JBER CFC co-chair.

This year’s goal is \$260,000 by the campaign’s end Nov. 20, though organizers are hoping to surpass that amount.

Assisting Fuselier as co-chair is Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Frisbee, the U.S. Army Alaska CFC coordinator.

The goal of unit or department keyworkers is to make contact with individuals in their workplace and provide booklets listing the charities, the pledge cards, and assistance.

Federal employees can make contributions in cash, a check or through payroll allotments. Military members can create monthly allotments; civilian employees’ allotments are spread over 26 pay periods.

There is no need to wait to be approached



Lt. Gen. Russell J. Handy, left, commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Northern Command; commander, Eleventh Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and commander, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Region, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens, commander of U.S. Army Alaska, make donations to the Combined Federal Campaign at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Wednesday. The CFC, which provides opportunities for federal employees to give to charities of their choice, is the largest and most successful workplace giving campaign in the world. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

by a CFC representative; donors can view a list of local, national and international charities online at www.alaskacfc.org and sign up directly.

When registering, don’t stop at Air Force or Army; scroll down to JBER-Elmendorf or JBER-Richardson to find your unit. Registering online also allows use of a credit

card to donate.

To see how “you can change a life,” visit the organization’s Web site or seek out your unit keyworker for assistance.

Averted shutdown ‘not good enough for troops,’ Carter says

By Cheryl Pellerin
Defense Media Activity

Narrowly avoiding a government shutdown is not enough for service members and the national defense, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said at a Pentagon news conference Wednesday.

Carter said he and other advisors have recommended President Barack Obama veto the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act that will reach the president’s desk tomorrow. The bill sets spending goals for fiscal year 2016, which began Thursday.

“It appears, at this hour at least, that we will avoid the trauma of a government shutdown for now,” the secretary told reporters. “But that’s not enough,” he added. “It’s not enough for our troops [and] not enough for the defense of our country, because this is about more than just the short-term damage of a temporary shutdown. It’s also about the accumulating and lasting damage that comes from a paycheck-to-paycheck approach to budgeting for the defense of our country.”

Funding the Department

Carter said although the bill contains some funding authorities, the Defense Department needs an appropriations bill that funds the entire department.

The NDAA also tries to evade the question of overall fiscal responsibility, Carter said, by using what he referred to as “the so-called OCO gimmick,” in which overseas contingency operations funds are used to pay normal department expenses to get around budget caps such as those set by the Budget Control Act.

This approach, Carter said, “is objectionable to me and to [those] in other agencies,



Defense Secretary Ash Carter speaks during a troop event in Germany June 4. (DoD photo/Glenn Fawcett)

and I think ought to be to the taxpayer and certainly to the warfighter.”

The NDAA contains other objectionable provisions, he added, including disallowing key defense reforms that extend from health care to force structure and represent billions of dollars.

Next generation

“That’s not OK with me, because that is taking dollars that I already regard as short for national defense and using them in a way that we, the department leadership, have for several years determined are not in the national interest,” he said.

On the severe cuts in defense spending that sequestration-level funding represents,

Carter said the department must innovate and attract the best people to develop the next generation of capabilities and meet the current generation of threats. Political gridlock could hold it all back, he added.

“The alternative to a budget deal – a long-term continuing resolution – is merely sequester-level funding under a different name,” the secretary said, adding that this eventually will result in a \$38 billion deficit in resources for the military if Congress pursues this path for the full year.

Painful choices

Through seven straight years of continuing resolutions, Carter said, the department has made painful choices and tradeoffs in the

joint force’s size, capabilities and readiness. Meanwhile, he added, “the world has not stood still. Russia and China have advanced their new capabilities, and new imperatives, such as ensuring the lasting defeat of [the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant] have emerged.”

In such a dynamic security environment, sequestration and a long-term continuing resolution puts the Defense Department in a straitjacket, Carter said.

“Making these kinds of indiscriminate cuts is managerially inefficient and therefore wasteful to taxpayers and industry,” the secretary said. “It’s dangerous for our strategy, and frankly, it’s embarrassing in front of the world.”

“Most importantly to me, for the men and women serving our national defense and their families, it adds an absolutely undeserved element of uncertainty about their future.”

Force of the future

Carter also mentioned planning for the Force of the Future, noting that Wednesday service leaders would submit reports to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff containing recommendations on positions they plan to open to women, and any exceptions to doing so.

Carter said he would carefully review the information and analysis from all four services and U.S. Special Operations Command to make his final determination.

“I’m committed to seeing this through,” he said, “because attracting the best and staying the best means that wherever possible, we must open ourselves to the talents and strengths of all Americans who can contribute with excellence to our force.”

New AKNG command sergeant major hits the ground running

By Sgt. Marisa Lindsay
AKNG Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Marc Petersen assumed the state command sergeant major position for the Alaska Army National Guard effective Aug. 1, bringing with him a career that has spanned three decades and multiple continents.

Petersen’s story begins around 1973, not more than 10 miles from his new office within the National Guard armory. His father retired from active duty in the Air Force and moved the family to the Last Frontier when he was offered a job with the Health, Education and Welfare federal government agency in Anchorage.

“Even as an Air Force brat, to tell you the truth, it never crossed my mind to join the military,” laughed Petersen. “All that I knew was that I was interested in aviation

and maintenance.”

It wasn’t until he began talking to his best friend and his best friend’s dad, who was a Vietnam veteran and Huey helicopter pilot, that the long journey within the Alaska National Guard took hold.

“The year was 1985 and my best friend and I were having a conversation about how the National Guard was getting Black Hawk helicopters later on that year,” explained Petersen. “The wheels started turning and I thought to myself, ‘I could stay in Alaska, gain experience, learn about helicopters and aviation, and get paid to do it.’ It almost seemed too easy.”

The first four Black Hawks arrived by C-5 Galaxy aircraft in the fall of 1985, and Petersen, along with two of his best friends, joined the Alaska Army National Guard in January of 1986.

“Like so many people, I hadn’t

initially started out thinking that I would make the Guard a career, but within a few years, and thanks to some wonderful mentors along the way, the Guard became so much more than a one-weekend-a-month job,” described Petersen.

Ultimately, Petersen stayed the Army Guard course. He progressed quickly with the aviation career field and focused on helping advance junior Soldiers through training and mentoring.

Petersen volunteered for disaster relief missions in Guatemala and Haiti, and he was a member of the first Alaska Army National Guard aviation company to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005.

With his new position, Petersen’s focus continues to be the advancing junior enlisted Soldiers, ensuring they know their career options, and that others in the

organization care about them and want to see them succeed.

“One item that I particularly want to concentrate on is enlisted career management,” Petersen said. “I would like to see tools and processes in place to make sure that periodic counseling sessions are conducted in a timely manner,” he continued. “It’s important that each Soldier’s direct leadership understands the short- and long-term professional and personal goals of their subordinates.”

With Petersen’s new role keeping him busy, he continues to make time for what’s most important to him. His wife, Heather, whom he’s been married to for 18 years, and their two children.

“Heather, she’s my rock,” beamed Petersen. “With my hectic job and through two deployments to Iraq, she’s raised our kids and run our home. She does everything

– she does it all.”

Outside of Petersen’s home and work life, Petersen enjoys lacing up his running shoes and hitting the trails, as it allows for an outlet to think through work situations, reflect on the day’s events, and to feed his competitive spirit.

“I entered my first half-marathon in 2003, and I was hooked,” described Petersen. “Since then, I have completed a few 10-milers, more than 10 half-marathons, 17 marathons, and two ultra marathons ... I hope to run as long as I can.”

A 30-year career with the Guard could be compared to a marathon in itself, but Petersen takes it all one step at a time.

“I just want to make a difference,” concluded Petersen. “For this organization, and most importantly, for the Soldiers who keep it running.”

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**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/
673d Air Base Wing Vice Commander**
Col. Timothy R. Wulff (USA)

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Best Soldiers

By Sgt. Marisa Lindsay
AKNG Public Affairs

During a rainy, foggy weekend, seven Soldiers competed in the 2015 Alaska National Guard Best Warrior Competition at a variety of training locations on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

This year’s three-day competition, Sept. 25 through 27, consisted of 15 events that physically and mentally challenged the sleep-deprived Soldiers.

The 72-hour course began Thursday night with inprocessing and a brief night of rest. The competitors started early Friday morning with an Army physical fitness evaluation, and the remaining competition included written examinations, evaluations on day and night land navigation, weapons knowledge and tactical shooting; and participation in an obstacle course and a variety of other assessments.

“What the Best Warrior Competition is looking to do is identify the Soldiers that are mentally and physically equipped to perform these Soldier tasks alongside environment-produced and self-induced stress,” said Master Sgt. Justin Shaffer, the operations sergeant and deputy commandant for the 207th Multifunctional Training Regiment, who administered the competition for the fifth time.

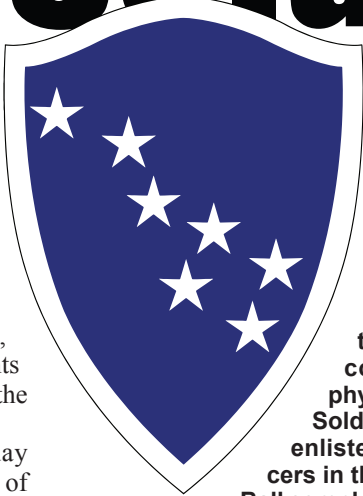
Constant drizzle, fog and chilly temperatures delivered plenty of environmental stressors as participants navigated through the mainly-outdoors competition.

“The rain really did present a challenge,” said Private 1st Class Michael Notti, a paralegal specialist with the 761st Military Police Company and competitor. “You’re coming through an event feeling exhausted and physically drained and on top of that it’s raining, so it was hard to focus – it really tests your skill set and your abilities.”

Despite the strict competition, Notti explained everyone covered down to make sure each competitor was supported and had what they needed.

“At the end of the day, we are all in the Alaska Army National Guard and we want everyone to do well,” he said.

After the competition concluded, the wet, muddy, weary Soldiers were given a few well-deserved hours to eat and clean up before reporting to the drill hall floor where friends, family and fellow Guardsmen awaited the announcement of winners.



RIGHT: Spc. Dillon Ball, with B Company, 1st Battalion Airborne, 143rd Infantry Regiment, conducts a road march along Pole Line road on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during the 2016 Alaska Army National Guard’s Best Warrior Competition, Sept. 27. Army National Guardsmen from across the state took part in the 72-hour competition, which tested the physical and mental toughness of Soldiers to determine the best junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers in the Alaska Army National Guard. Ball completed the competition and nabbed the honors as junior-enlisted Soldier of the Year. (Alaska Army National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Balinda O’Neal Dresel)

BELOW: Alaska Army National Guardsmen vie for the title in the 2016 Alaska Army National Guard’s Best Warrior Competition on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 25 through 27. The Best Warrior Competition was designed to test Soldiers in a series of mentally and physically challenging events over the course of 72 hours. Chilly temperatures, drizzling rain, and fog made for tough competition, but troops also worked together to ensure everyone had what they needed. (Alaska Army National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Kristopher Fager)



State Command Sgt. Maj. Marc Petersen, with the Alaska Army National Guard hosted the awards ceremony, where Spc. Dillon Ball, with B Company, 1st Battalion Airborne, 143rd Infantry Regiment, was named Junior Enlisted Soldier of the Year and Staff

Sgt. Edsel Huyhn, also with B/1-143rd Infantry, was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

“Win or lose, the Soldier walks away knowing more about himself ... they know what it takes mentally to get through situ-

ations – because this is so much more than a physical competition,” explained Shaffer. “I’ve never seen anyone walk away from this event having wished they didn’t participate; they always walk away knowing themselves, their skill set, and the Army better.”

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 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 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.

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.

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; enrollment specialists in primary care clinics will assist with sign-up.

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.

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 on 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, Wednesday and Friday from 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. Volunteers are always welcome.

For information, visit jber-spousesclub.com or 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/ltsywzr>.

Quartermaster Laundry

The Quartermaster Laundry, located at 726 Quartermaster Road, cleans TA-50 gear for free and is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mortgage relief

Policies are in effect to provide significant housing relief to thousands of service members and veterans who have faced wrongful foreclosure or been denied a lower interest rate on their mortgages.

Service members and their dependents who believe their Service Member Civil Relief Act rights have been violated should contact their servicing legal assistance office. On JBER, call 552-3048 for the JBER-Elmendorf office, and 384-0371 for the JBER-Richardson office.

Dissimilar training for similar goals

Navy, Air Force hone skills in the skies

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

From Sept. 14 to Sept. 25, Air Force F-22 Raptors from the 90th Fighter Squadron duked it out with Navy Strikefighter Squadron 15 F-18 Hornets from Naval Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, each maneuvering to wrest as much training experience from the other with every second of flight time.

The Hornets flew with JBER Raptors as part of dissimilar air-combat training (DACT); a training operation in which fundamentally different airframes work against and with each other, much as they would in an actual warzone environment.

When flying against the Raptors, the Hornets were known as “red air,” a term used for the pilots simulating enemy aircraft for training purposes, while “blue air” is used for the pilots who are the recipients of the training.

Through this, pilots on both sides were able to gain experience with combat operations against an enemy with different training and a different airframe.

“There are different tactics for different airframes,” said Navy Lt. Michael Koch, VFA-15 pilot. “It is good to work against someone using a different tactic and potentially a different game plan to see where your strengths compare to theirs and your weaknesses to theirs.”

With six Hornets and approximately half their maintainer squadron, the VF-15 arrived at JBER; flying four jets in the morning, and four in the evening with JBER Raptors over the course of two weeks, said Air Force Capt. Brendon Boston, 3rd Operations Support Squadron pilot attached to the 90th Fighter Squadron.

The goal of the training is to provide red air to the 90th FS, so they can get their blue air sorties, but that doesn’t mean the visiting Navy pilots aren’t benefiting from the training.

“It’s awesome we are up here to get some extra flight time,” Koch said. “There’s definitely stuff to be learned from seeing someone fight with an aircraft differently



A Navy F-18 Hornet leaves the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson flightline Sept. 23 for dissimilar air combat training. DACT involves different types of airframes training with and against each other. The goal is to expand pilots’ proficiency in as many circumstances as possible. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

than what you’re used to seeing.”

In addition to providing traditional red air to the 90th FS, the visiting Navy unit assisted in designing different exercises that may not have been previously thought of, and worked together with the Raptors in cooperative exercises.

“In one flight, we had two Raptors and two Hornets; the Hornets were dropping bombs on simulated targets while the Raptors protected us against a red air force composed of two Raptors and two Hornets,” Boston said.

Air Force pilots are required to fly a certain number of sorties a month to remain proficient.

Those sorties are scheduled to meet these requirements every month, but sometimes, even the best planning can’t circumvent circumstance.

“If we go up and it’s bad weather, we don’t accomplish anything tactical, we can’t actually count that as a sortie for our proficiency,” Boston said.

“That’s why we have the aggressor squadron at Eielson, which we use to the maximum extent we can, but occasionally they are flying with [another unit], are tied up in RED FLAG, and sometimes they go on deployment or [temporary duty assignment]

so we won’t have them available.”

“When this happens, we use our own jets for red air, and we can only fly so many of those a fiscal year to count toward that monthly limit,” Boston said. “Pretty much everyone runs out of red air about halfway through the year.”

When they begin running low on red air, the squadron reaches out to their fellow aviators in other squadrons and branches. If they can coordinate training with another entity, they can accomplish their mission and earn some unique experience on the way.

While DACT can be done with Air Force pilots on both sides, – and often is – training with members of a different branch incorporates dissimilar mindsets, policies and procedures.

“There are some significant advantages of working with the Navy,” Boston said. “Getting exposure to the tiny differences, what their [communication] calls are, and how their procedures work on the ground. Later on, when we do integrate, people are more used to it when it matters.”

Exercises like this one wouldn’t be possible without the cooperation of hundreds of service members, both Navy and Air Force. From the maintenance squadrons to the security forces, everyone has a role in getting

these pilots in the air.

“We fly some of the oldest operational Hornets in the Navy, so our maintainers work extremely hard keeping our jets up,” Koch said. “They’re great aircraft, but they just require a little bit more work than our newer brethren; they do the same job any brand new Hornet squadron can do because our maintainer squadron is that good.”

The VF-15 squadron was deployed from February to November 2014, after which they transitioned into a period of readiness, Koch said. This means they are considered the most ready to deploy, and receive the most funding – but that period ended in May.

“All the funds are sent toward units that are either getting ready to deploy or are currently deployed,” Koch said. “Since we are now the furthest unit from deploying, a lot of those funds dry up. So we’ve got flight hours we can use, but we don’t necessarily have a lot of money that can go elsewhere.”

Because of this, the 90th FS arranged to pay for their trip so they can get the red air they’re looking for and the VF-15 can use their flight time, showing downrange isn’t the only place cooperability is key to mission success.

“You can’t put a price on flight time,” Koch said.

Everyone is my business

First sergeants fill vital role in service members' lives

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera
JBER Public Affairs

"My job is people – everyone is my business. I dedicate my time and energy to their needs; their health, morale, discipline and welfare. I grow in strength by strengthening my people. My job is done in faith; my people built faith. The Air Force is my life; I share it with my people. I believe in the Air Force goal – We take care of our own; my job is people – everyone is my business."

The First Sergeant's Creed offers a reminder that first sergeants are the center for all readiness, health, morale, welfare, and quality-of-life issues within an organization.

"The full creed offers a little bit more as an overarching principle," said Master Sgt. Philip Peters, 673d Communications Squadron acting



Air Force first sergeants are easily recognized by a lozenge, or diamond, on their rank insignia. A first sergeant provides a dedicated focal point for all readiness, health, morale, welfare, and quality-of-life issues within an organization. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera)

first sergeant. "I prefer the third line, which reads 'I dedicate my time and energy to their needs.' While that line should be true for any supervisor, it is especially important for a first sergeant to remember.

"It's not about you; it's about your Airmen. It can be easy to lose sight of that and the creed can serve as a reminder," Peters added.

Early in his military career, Peters was going through some tough times as a young Airman. In his struggles, he had two distinct experiences with first sergeants.

"I had one who was very engaged and was very tough on me, but who helped me through my difficulties and genuinely wanted to see me improve," the 20-year veteran said. "Conversely, I had

another first sergeant whose approach was a lot less helpful. As I got on track and progressed through the ranks, I decided early on that I wanted a chance to try to be like the 'shirt' who taught me so much. So, the week I made master sergeant, I talked to my shirt about what I needed to do to become a first sergeant."

While Peters had two notable

experiences that drove him to his current position, Master Sgt. Danny Damons, 673d Comptroller Squadron and Wing Staff Agency first sergeant, said there were several individuals who pushed him to become a first sergeant.

"Marine Sgt. Frank Pearson left a lasting impression on how I wanted to be when he was my Sergeant of the Guard for several years during my time in the Marine Corps," Damons said.

"He wasn't a big-muscle type of guy that yelled and barked, he was tall and skinny, and soft-spoken, but the way he carried himself and interacted with people inspired me to become like him. If you screwed up he would definitely let you know, but he had a way making you better without all of the extra nonsense."

The drive to listen and interact with people made him think about becoming a first sergeant when Damons witnessed firsthand how the first sergeants in Korea took care of their people.

Having the possibility of becoming a first sergeant in the back of his mind motivated him to look into it further when he was deployed to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

"Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Drake gave me a first sergeant coin for addressing some issues that

See BUSINESS • B-5

JROTC cadets complete firefighter challenge

By Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales
JBER Public Affairs

Junior ROTC students learn basic military knowledge, but not how to be a military firefighter. Can they step up to the challenge?

The 673d Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters hosted a team-challenge demonstration for the Eagle River High School JROTC to show them first-hand what firefighters do.

"They wanted hands-on [experience], so why not let them simulate the tasks?" asked Air Force Master Sgt. Louis Martinez, 673d CES firefighter. "This lets them feel the physical rigors on scene. These are some of the things we do in case of a fire or rescue."

The tasks ranged from pulling, lifting and connecting a fire hose, to climbing a ladder and dragging a 130-pound dummy.

"It lets them know [that even] without gear, it's a pain in the butt," Martinez said.

"It's truly a challenge, but a completely different beast in gear. We've got another 40 to 45 pounds of gear [while] doing these tasks."

The students were divided into six teams of five players each, one for each station. After completing a station, that student tags the next student until all the stations are complete.

The firefighters demonstrated each station and stayed as support in case the tasks were too difficult or the students needed guidance.

The tasks put the students in the firefighters' bunker boots - without the weight of the gear or a real situation.

Megan Hancox, ERHS sophomore, participated in the fireman's drag – considered the most challenging by the firefighters and her peers, because it requires lifting the dummy by the torso and walking backwards about 10 feet.

"It was much harder than I thought it would be, especially picking [the dummy] up," Hancox said. "I knew it was going to be the most difficult one, but it was fun."



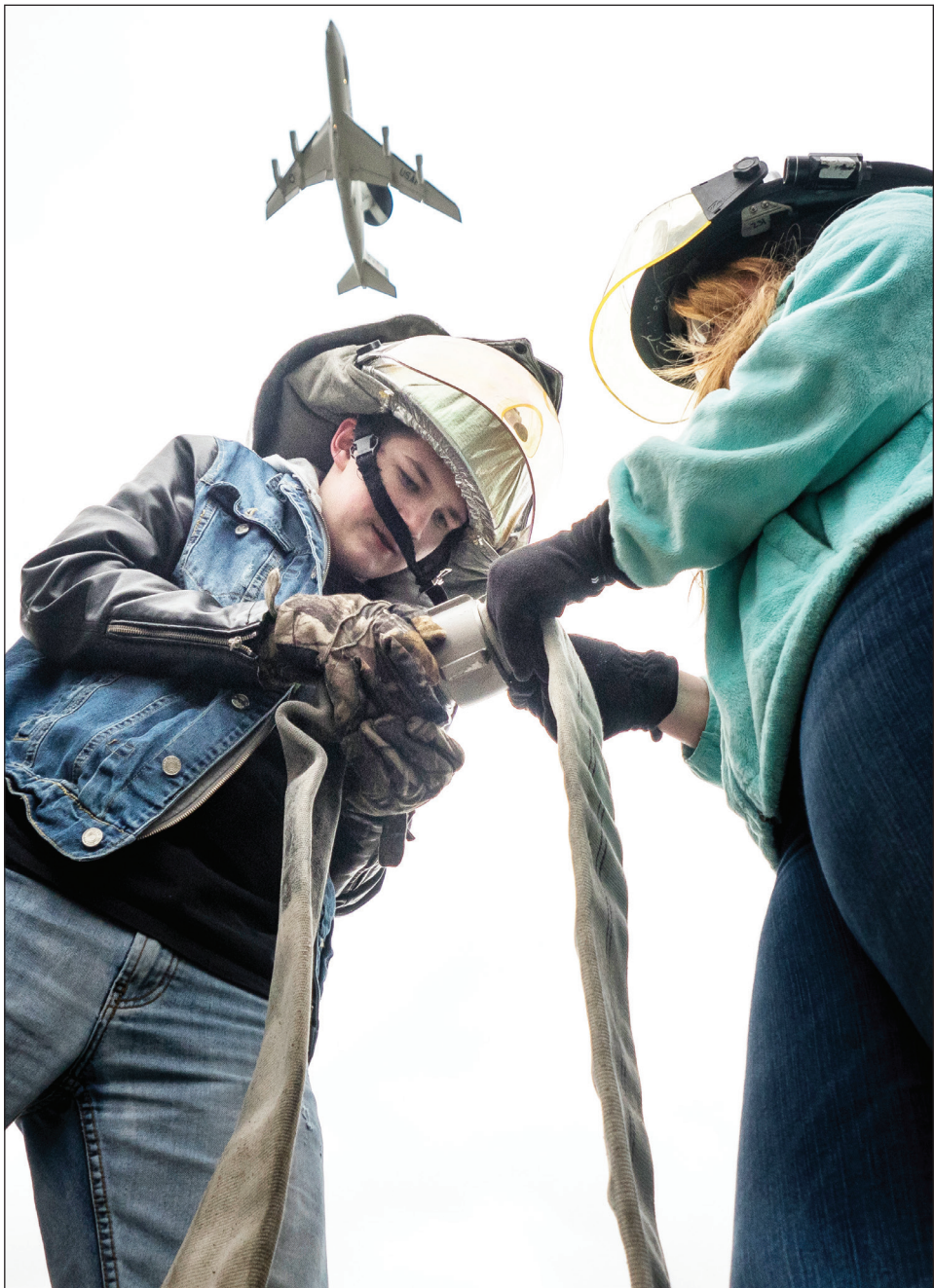
Danny Thomas, a junior in the Eagle River High School JROTC program, uses a fire hose during a visit with Airmen assigned to the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 25. The students ran through buddy-team drills with firefighting equipment used by the Airmen for training, and firefighters talked with them about their duties and the rigors of emergency service responders. (U.S. Air Force photos/Justin Connaehr)



Aszia Fisher, Meadow Burley, and Abi Odom, students from the Eagle River High School JROTC program, cheer for a fellow cadet as he competes in an obstacle course during the firefighting demo challenge on JBER Sept. 25.



John Timmins, a sophomore in the Eagle River High School JROTC program, carries a dummy during firefighting demo challenge while visiting Airmen assigned to the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 25.



Caleb Hjertquist, a sophomore, left, and Carrie Nordlof, a junior in the Eagle River High School JROTC program, join two fire hoses during a firefighting demo challenge hosted by JBER firefighters Sept. 25.

Life lessons from the Alaska Highway

Commentary by Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) D. Shane Marley 673d ABW Chaplain

Living in Alaska has been a lifelong dream. When I received an assignment to JBER earlier this year, the first thing that came out of my mouth was “Hallelujah” and the second was “road trip.”

Over the next several months, I spent hours planning the route my family would take to move from Texas to the Last Frontier. Should we follow the Rockies or travel up the Pacific Highway? Would it be better to fly or drive to Seattle and catch the ferry? In the end, it all came down to one thing. The Marley family was going to conquer the Alaska Highway – all of it.

I have to admit, that while planning the road trip I was a little concerned about my family’s ability to make the 5,000-mile journey safely. It’s not that my family isn’t tough; they are warriors. The question was, “Could my wife and I survive several weeks packed into a truck with two kids and the fam-

ily dog?” The good news is we did, and had some fantastic memories along the way.

Favorite parts of the trip were getting to know my family better, recharging the spiritual batteries, and making it through the Alaska Highway in one piece. In fact, looking back on the experience several months later I have to say, it was worth it. The more I think about it, the lessons learned and precautions we took to get to Alaska are the same things that make life successful. Here are a few to consider.

Be prepared. There were a lot of great tips in the books and magazines I read when getting ready for the Alaska Highway, but I saw those two words repeated over and over again. Being prepared meant servicing your vehicle, making early hotel reservations, filling up at every stop, and keeping extra food around just to name a few. The point was not to travel the road unprepared and without a plan. The same can be said about life. We need to be ready and focused for

the journey. Life can be difficult, but it’s the preparation that makes a person successful and able to finish with excellence. You can do this by taking care of your body, mind, and spirit as well as discovering God’s purpose for your life – we all have one.

Stay positive. For the most part, the trip from Texas to Alaska went smooth. The rough part came about halfway through the Alaska Highway. It was the bumps, frost heaves, miles of dirt roads and construction, and all the other potholes that made life miserable. For a day, all I could do was pray and stay positive. Thankfully relief came the closer we got to Alaska, and the scenery helped too.

It’s interesting how life can change in a moment, just like the Alaska Highway. Everything is running smoothly at work, the kids are listening to you, your relationship is heaven – then out of the blue your world is shaken. You may find yourself being called to the commander’s office or a person you love says, “We need



A marker greets travellers at the starting point of the Alaska Highway in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada (Courtesy photo)

to talk.” Bad things are inevitable and will happen in life. When they do, what should you do to make it through? Staying positive is a good place to start, but there are other things you can do. Prayer, reading scriptures, watching a sunset, telling that special person how much

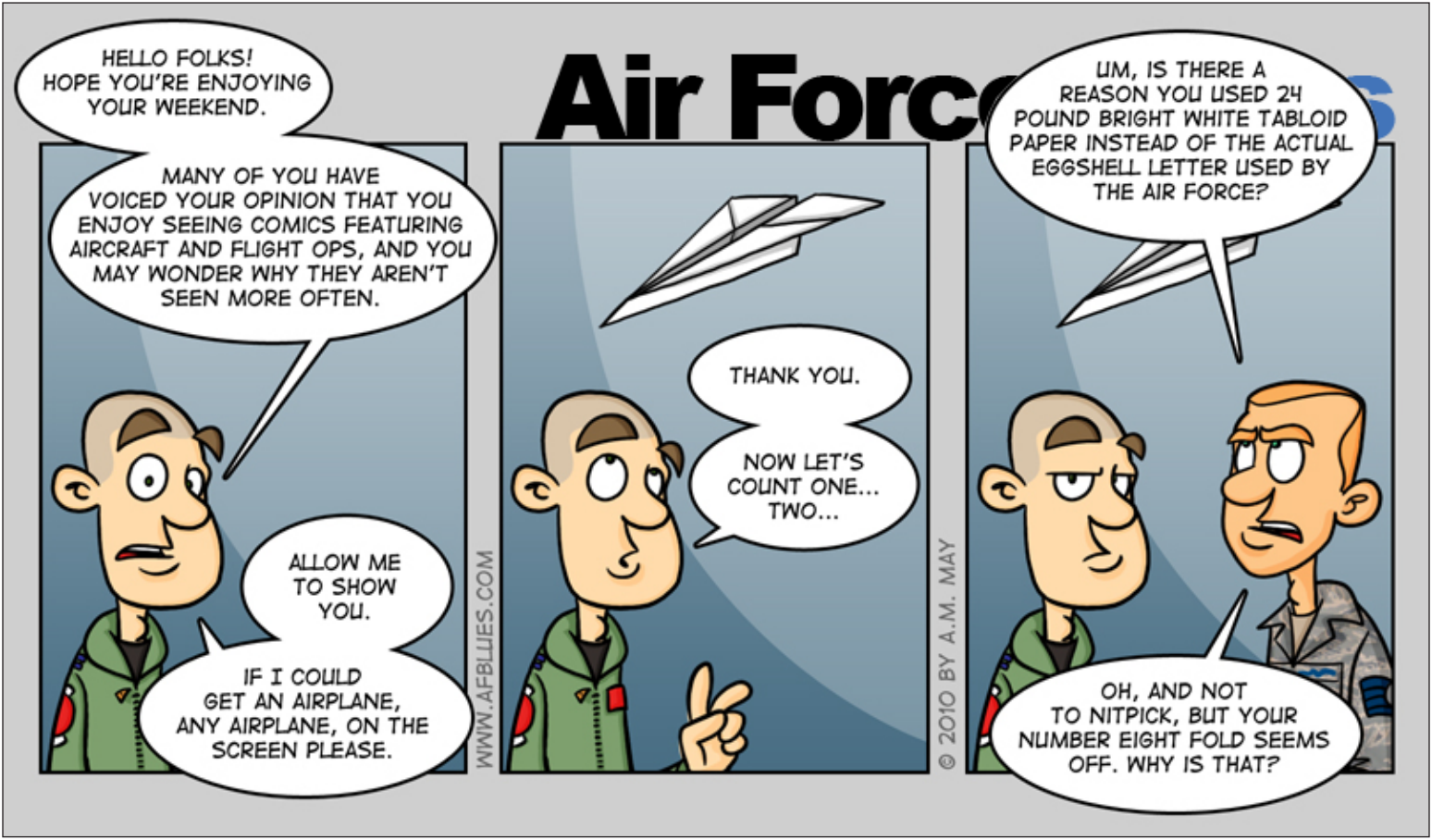
you love them, and helping the less fortunate are just a few of the ways you can strengthen your spirit and build personal resiliency. Don’t just do these things when crisis hits – make them part of your daily routine.

Enjoy the journey. At the end of the day, being prepared and staying positive made our trip successful, but it was sharing the experience with my family that made it enjoyable. Seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, camping outside of Glacier National Park, finding Sasquatch (a wooden statue) in British Columbia, and completing the Alaska Highway safely are a just few of the things we did as a family – memories I will carry the rest of my life.

The truth is, if I would have been focused on getting to Alaska too quickly or let the frost heaves get the best of me, the trip would have been a disaster. I had to appreciate every part of it. Life is the same, enjoy every bit of it ... the ups, downs, bumps, bruises, and hidden wonders. Each mile has a lesson to teach you if you are willing to learn.

Would I travel the Alaska Highway again? In a heartbeat, especially if my family was with me. In the end, I learned a lot about myself, those I love, and even a few life lessons.

Wherever life may take you, keep these simple truths close by.



FRIDAY

Education Benefits 1-2-3

Seeking information about your GI Bill benefits? Need more information on the Montgomery and Post 9-11 GI Bills? Have questions on which GI Bill is best for you? Come to the Education Benefits 1-2-3 briefing from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Education Center, Building 7 on JBER-Richardson for answers. For information, call 384-0970.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
Genuine Oktoberfest

Head to the Egan Center from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and enjoy traditional German music, dancing, food, and entertainment. Live bands, bell ringers and concessions. For information, call 263-2800.

THROUGH SUNDAY
Make It Alaskan Festival

Get an early start on your holiday shopping at the Make It Alaskan Festival at the Sullivan Arena. The festival takes place on Friday from noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This free event is the oldest and largest of its kind in Alaska and has grown to be the number one location to find and purchase unique Alaskan-made authentic products. For information, visit makeit-alaskanfestival.com.

SATURDAY
Comic Con at the library

Slip into the nearest phone booth, don your cape, tights and mask, and head to the JBER Library from 1 to 3 p.m. for a free, fun-filled celebration of comics and comic culture. For information, call 384-1640.

Inspector Moose

Why do moose shed their antlers? How do they survive Alaska winters? Find out with the Junior Naturalist Program at the Eagle River Nature Center while on a one-mile walk around the Rodak Trail starting at 2 p.m. in search of signs left by moose. For information, visit ernc.org.

WEDNESDAY
Parent Advisory Board

For all parents of Child Development Centers and Family Child Care. Join the Parent Advisory Board to stay informed

about what's going on and where the programs are headed. Meeting will take place in Bldg. 600, Room B170 from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact your child's CDC staff.

OCT. 9
Van Gogh Alive

The Anchorage Museum transforms the traditional museum experience with Van Gogh Alive, The Experience, a multi-sensory exhibition event viewable Oct. 9 through Jan. 10, 2016. Through this exhibit visitors are surrounded by a powerful and vibrant symphony of light, color and sound immersing them in Van Gogh's masterpieces. For information, visit anchoragemuseum.org.

OCT. 10
Wolf Day at the zoo

Join the Alaska Zoo for a howling good time celebrating wolves. Zoo guests will enjoy a wolf fact scavenger hunt, canine touch table, wolf-themed storytime and kid's craft and coloring station and much more. For information, visit alaska-zoo.org.

OCT. 15
Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with featured guest speaker Angelina Estrada-Burney, from the staff of Sen. Lisa Murkowski from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Frontier Theater. All JBER personnel are encouraged to attend. For information, call 552-5910.

THROUGH OCT. 31
Halloween wood shop

Throughout the month of October the Polar Express Arts and Crafts Center takes on a Halloween theme. Create your own tombstones and scary signs to enhance your holiday decor. For information, call 384-3717.

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.

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.

Sunday bowling bingo

Every Sunday enjoy discounted bowling at the Polar Bowl and receive a bowling bingo card. Bowlers will attempt to cover the pattern of the day on their bingo card for a chance to win prizes. For information, call 753-7467.

Adult Writing Society

The Loussac Library hosts this multi-genre group the second Thursday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. for writers 18 and up. Share your work and get constructive criticism and feedback. For information, call 343-2909.

Keystone meeting for teens

Keystone Club is a leadership development experience providing community service opportunities for young people ages 13 to 18. Meetings take place every Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Two Rivers Youth Center. For information, call 384-1508.

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 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/msmrr.

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 buying 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.

Conservator's Corner

Go behind the scenes at the Anchorage Museum and see conservators in action. Ask questions while they repair objects at a mobile conservation station, and learn how they maintain displays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call 929-9200.

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 or after any mass. 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.

Storytime for Toddlers

Pre-school-aged children can join zoo staff for stories about an animal, followed by meeting animals featured in the story, starting at 10:30 a.m. Mondays at the coffee shop. For information, email camp@alaskazoo.org.

673d FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Halloween themed Wood Shop

Come over to the Polar Express Arts & Crafts Center during the month of October to make tombstones & scary signs!



Sunday

Fun Day Bowling Bingo!

Every Sunday \$3.49 per game. Receive 1 Bowling Bingo Card. 1 card per game, per person. Bowlers will attempt to cover the pattern of the day posted at the front desk for a chance to win prizes! \$12.99 for 3 game series, 3 bingo cards per person, including shoes!



Polar Bowl, 7176 Fighter Drive, 753-7467 (PINS)

Warrior Zone Lounge & Polar Bowl have the NFL Ticket!

FOOTBALL



Watch your favorite teams battle it out with the Warrior Zone Lounge's NFL Ticket! Enjoy drinks, snacks, friends, & 24 large TVs.

Wanna see your team play while enjoying great drinks & fun times? Wear your football gear & enter to win prizes!

7176 Fighter Dr. 753-7467

Building 7 384.1640



JBER LIBRARY =Comic Con=

FREE Comic Books! sponsored by Bosco's (For adults only)

October 3 1 - 3 p.m.

Do you have a love for comics or want to learn more about them? Join the JBER Library to spread awareness and appreciation for Comics!

- Fun for the whole family!
- Face painting
- DIY super hero masks
- Lego pit ... and much more!

National 4H Science Day

October 7 4:30 p.m.



Motion Commotion Activity. FREE! Pre-register by October 6, limited space! For more information call 2 Rivers YC or Kennecott YC 552-2266, or 384-1508

Youth PARENT ADVISORY BOARD

2nd Thursday of each Month 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Held at Bldg. 600 - Rm. B170

- Open to all parents/guardians of JBER youth members & community partners
- Learn more about JBER's exciting Youth Programs & Activities
- Direct link to Program Directors & School Liaison Officers
- Take a look at upcoming installation-wide events, programs & school district happenings

Come support the JBER Youth Community! For more information please call: 552.2266 or 384.1508

- School Age Programs • Youth Centers • Teen Centers •
- Youth Sports • Instructional Youth Programs • School Liaison •





Stop by and see us!
www.facebook.com/JBER673FSS
www.elmendorf-richardson.com

JBER highlights disaster prep with the Run to Be Ready 5k



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Participants “run to be ready” during the National Preparedness Day 5k, hosted by the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management office on JBER Sept. 30. The 5k run highlighted the importance of being prepared for disasters. Scattered around the course were signs with tips for surviving disasters. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)

Jilene Reichle, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management plans and operations manager, hands out starter emergency kits at the end of the ‘Run to be Ready’ National Preparedness Day 5K.

Air Force Reserve Chaplain (Capt.) Ronald N. Lawrence, Jr. (left) and Airman 1st Class Andrea Louise Klessler, 773d Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management specialist splash through a puddle as they finish the run.

Runners slog through melting snow and slush during the ‘Run to be Ready’ National Preparedness Day 5K on JBER Sept. 30. The event not only got participants’ blood pumping, but also highlighted the importance of being prepared for disasters.



From **BUSINESS • B-1**

arose throughout the deployment, and said he was proud of me for standing up for what I believed was right,” Damons said.

“So, when I came back [from my deployment], the seed had been planted for me to think more seriously about becoming a first sergeant in the future.”

Eight years later, Damons now wears a lozenge. The lozenge, or diamond, on the first sergeant’s chevron is a symbol recognized by every Airman, Soldier, and Marine.

They are given distinct privilege, trust, duty and responsibility of taking care of every member in their unit and their families.

When Peters took on the role the first time, he said it was a little intimidating.

“This is not a job you learn to do in the classroom; no job really is, but so much of a first sergeant’s job is situational, often reactionary,” Peters said. “The scary part

when you start out is wondering if you will know how to react to a difficult situation.

“Fortunately, every base has a community of first sergeants who are always there to help each other out.

I always knew I had people around I could lean on, even in the middle of the night.”

One day, an Airman came by to see Peters about an issue that needed to be resolved. Peters promised to help the Airman after jotting it down in his notebook with a box to check off when completed.

“At that moment, I realized I had to be careful not to lose the humanity of the tasks,” Peters said. “For me, each Airman who came in with an issue was just one more thing.

“For them, it was likely a significant event, something major going on in their life, and therefore deserved the best effort I could muster.”

To maintain their sense of self and self-esteem, both first

sergeants said they enjoy running.

“To spend time by myself, I just go for a long run,” Damons said.

“I enjoy listening to the natural sounds to help me clear my mind, but I do enjoy listening to music at home, in the car, and at work. Bob Marley is the greatest stress relief for me.”

“Learning how to separate your work life from your home life is one of the most important skills first sergeants develop,” Peters said.

“Shirts often deal with unpleasant situations, and it can be difficult to leave those things at work. During those years, I developed a love of running. You can do it anywhere, it provides time for reflection, and releases pent up energy.

“Also, being able to go home every night to a family that supported me through six years of late-night calls and lots of time away was huge.”

Peters said he would learn new things every day. Some days he feels successful and on other days

he doesn’t. On some days, it’s paperwork, while on other days it’s non-stop action – there are always high and low points as a first sergeant.

“All my greatest highs as first sergeant have come while interacting with and learning about the lives and jobs of the Airmen I worked for,” Peters said.

“The lowest moments I had as a shirt always involved children. It can be difficult to personally reconcile the situations you deal with as a first sergeant where a family is struggling in some way and the children suffer because of it.”

“I haven’t been doing this position that long, but when you can successfully help somebody, that is the high point,” Damons said.

“The low point would be when bad things happen to good people. I take on that stuff personally.”

Tech. Sgt. Vernon Cunningham, 673d Air Base Wing Public Affairs, said he agrees that a first sergeant puts the needs of the unit personnel above all else.

“Setting up leave for an Airman can take quite a bit of time, given all the routing and signatures,” Cunningham said. “But in case of a family emergency or other incident that may adversely affect an Airman’s life, first shirts get involved and expedite the process to allow the Airman to take care of personal needs right away and not be distracted by the admin process.

“In my career, I have even worked with a first sergeant who we called in the middle of the night, and he had the Airman on leave and by his family’s side by noon the next day.”

Peters and Damons said they agreed the job is never easy.

First sergeants work 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the members of their respective units – one thing is certain, they said; a day in the life of a first sergeant is challenging and rewarding.

“My job is people,” Peters quoted from the First Sergeant’s Creed. “Everyone is my business at the start and the end.”

Next week is Fire Protection Week – is your home safe?

By Fire Chief David Donan
JBER Fire Emergency Services

If I asked you where your smoke alarms are in your home, could you tell me? If you’re like many people, you may not pay much attention to where they are. However, location matters.

Smoke alarms should be installed inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

Working alarms are a critical fire-safety tool that can mean the difference between life and death in a home fire. According to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association, smoke alarms can cut the chance of dying in a home fire in half.

Meanwhile, NFPA data shows home fires killed 2,755 people in 2013, an average of eight people every day that year. Many of these deaths could have been prevented with the proper smoke alarm protection.

As a member of the fire service for 32 years, I’ve seen the devastating effects of fire firsthand; the burn injuries, and the loss of homes and possessions are distressing.

What’s even worse is witnessing a family’s anguish after a loved one has been killed in a fire. It’s heartbreaking.



Working smoke alarms are a critical fire-safety tool that can mean the difference between life and death in a home fire. (Courtesy photo)

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 through 10, NFPA is promoting “Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!” to better educate the public about the true value of working smoke alarms in the bedroom.

In support of these efforts, JBER Fire

Emergency Services will be hosting local campaign activities throughout the week.

My sincere hope is that all residents participate in one or more of our Fire Prevention Week activities, and make sure there are working smoke alarms installed throughout their homes.

These simple steps can help make a life-

saving difference, and prevent the potentially life-threatening impact of fire.

- Additional smoke alarm tips to follow:**
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
 - Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
 - Test alarms each month by pushing the test button.
 - Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year old batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
 - Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear the smoke alarm.
 - If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.
 - Go do your outside meeting place. Call the fire department from outside the home.

To learn more about the “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month” campaign, visit NFPA’s Web site at firepreventionweek.org and sparky.org/fpw.



Air Force Col. Brian R. Bruckbauer, commander of the 673rd Air Base Wing and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, signs a fire prevention week proclamation on JBER Sept. 28. The proclamation declares Oct. 4 through 10 Fire Prevention Week and urges JBER residents to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level of the home. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

Commander issues Fire Prevention Week proclamation

JBER Public Affairs Staff Report

In preparation for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 through 10, the 673d Air Base Wing and JBER commander, Air Force Col. Brian Bruckbauer issued the following proclamation:

- Whereas, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting JBER; and
- Whereas, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and
- Whereas, home fires killed 2,755 people in the United States in 2013, according to the National Fire Protection Association, and fire departments in the United States

responded to 369,500 home fires; and

- Whereas, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and
- Whereas, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without workWhereas, in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, none were working; and
- Whereas, when smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so it was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead; and
- Whereas, half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep; and
- Whereas, JBER residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home; and
- Whereas, JBER residents should install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet

the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

- Whereas, JBER residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and
- Whereas, JBER’s first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and
- Whereas, JBER’s residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and
- Whereas, the 2015 Fire Prevention Week theme, “Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!” effectively serves to remind us that we need working smoke alarms to give us the time to get out safely.

- Therefore, I, Brian R. Bruckbauer, commander of JBER, do hereby proclaim Oct. 4 through 10 as Fire Prevention Week throughout this city, and I urge all the people of JBER to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of JBER’s fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2015.

Visit the information booth and display focused on fire prevention and safety Monday through Thursday at the main Exchange from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

An open house featuring fire and rescue vehicle demonstrations, give-aways, hotdogs, beverages and cake will take place Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fire Station 4; with another open house Oct. 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fire Station 1.