

THE DRONES YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
AND WHERE TO FLY THEM

Page A3

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE NEWS

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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FIRE FOR EFFECT



2-377 PEAR
lobs steel
downrange

By Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez
JBER Public Affairs

A lone group of artillerymen stand by a M119A2 howitzer, waiting for a fire mission. The Soldiers, masters of their craft, have set up their station. They have trained for this day, practicing every aspect until they could do it asleep. The call comes, and instantly the team springs into action. Every movement is calculated, each step purposeful. The speed and dexterity of the Soldiers make the ring from the incoming call and the billowing smoke from the howitzer seem simultaneous. It's difficult to determine which is more impressive – their speed, or the strength they exemplify standing in the frigid Alaska winter. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, are preparing to deploy to the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, Louisiana, in the coming months. “We stay overnight, and that’s also where we get a lot of our arctic training,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Ricci, B Battery, 2-377th PEAR section chief. “We have to sleep outside and use our equipment. There aren’t many units in the Army that are artillery like us and work in the Arctic. Especially being airborne, we are the only [unit] in the world that are airborne-qualified and arctic-qualified. Arctic warriors as they call us.” Utilizing the weapon in the frigid temperatures of Alaska makes PEAR fire missions unique. “If we have to go to war in a location where [the temperature] is below freezing, we will probably be the first ones they call,” Ricci said. Leading up to the deployment, the Soldiers performed live-fire exercises using the howitzer on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to ensure Soldiers are proficient at their job, said Sgt. 1st Class Jairo Torres, a 2-377th PEAR platoon sergeant. The exercises are part of the certification to then fire at JRTC.

Paratroopers assigned to B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, fire high-explosive rounds from a M119 105mm howitzer at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 11. USARAK is home to the Army's only Pacific airborne brigade combat team, and maintains the only airborne rapid-response capacity within the Pacific Command area of responsibility. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)



Sgt. Michael Jimenez, a native of Chicago assigned to B Battery, 2-377th, adjusts a howitzer gun sight while conducting live-fire training. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)



Sgt. Andre L. Diggs, ammunition team chief for B Battery, 2-377th, prepares 105mm rounds – which can travel just over eight miles. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

“There are different criteria we have to meet prior to deploying to JRTC,” Torres said. “Soldiers have to complete a safety written test, the artillery skills proficiency test, the gunner’s test, and section certification. Section certification involves crew drills, dry-fire missions, rigging, and direct-fire missions.” The howitzer can be used to combat a variety of targets, whether they’re personnel, buildings or weapons caches, or to support troops in contact with the enemy. There is little room for error when operating the gun, which is why attention to detail is so important – and why the need for checks and balances for each part of the operation is equally critical. Everyone’s job in the fire mission is important, Ricci said. This is a team effort and no one man can do everything. After receiving the coordinates from the fire direction center, field artillery units have 30 seconds to

Guard
director
tours rural
areas, talks
engagement

By Sgt. David Bedard
with reporting by
Sgt. Marisa Lindsay
134th PAD

Director of the Army National Guard Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy visited Alaska National Guard units and Alaska communities across the state Jan. 10 to 13, with stops at JBER, Fort Greely, Bethel and Napaskiak. As director, Kadavy guides all programs and policies affecting the Army National Guard – a force of more than 350,000 Soldiers in the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia. The general was accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, the Army National Guard command sergeant major, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Peter Panos, the Army National Guard command chief warrant officer, along with other members of his staff. During visits to remote sites, Kadavy witnessed the ongoing implementation of the rural engagement plan, an initiative directed by Alaska Gov. Bill Walker and Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel. The rural engagement plan is a statewide effort to restore and enhance the presence of the National Guard in rural Alaska.

“I think [the Rural Engagement Plan] is a commitment that the Alaska Army National Guard needs to make to the citizens of Alaska, and I think General Hummel – in how she wants to implement it – is on the right track,” Kadavy said. “We [the Army National Guard directorate] are doing everything we can to provide the capacity and the capability to assist her in what she wants to do.” Hummel placed the director’s visit in context. “We thank General Kadavy for visiting Alaska, and Governor Walker for helping to bring another national-level leader to our state,” the adjutant general said. “It’s important the head of the entire Army National Guard understands Alaska – especially rural Alaska – with its unique challenges and impressive capabilities of the men and women who fulfill the Guard’s missions here. Alaskans are the unquestioned subject matter experts on arctic operations, and Alaska is vital to our nation’s success as the entire world turns its attention to the Arctic.” Kadavy met with Alaska Army National Guardsmen Jan. 10 at the Alaska National Guard armory on JBER, where he hosted a town hall meeting. He briefed Soldiers concerning the vision he and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark Milley have for the future of the Army National Guard. The director flew to Bethel Jan. 12 with Alaska National Guard leadership to meet with local Guardsmen and residents. He also met with veterans at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. From Bethel, Kadavy boarded a tracked small-unit support vehicle for Napaskiak, 6 miles from Bethel, where he attended

See FIRE • A3

See KADAVY • A2

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Inside	Mortarmen mix fire and ice: A-2
JBER’s snow removal	A-3
Let’s get political ... or not	A-4
Matters of Faith: Everybody needs a hand	B-2
School partner spelling bee	B-4
Airman continues service after cancer	B-6

Hard-fought hockey

JBER’s Army hockey team
beats out Air Force in third
annual battle at Sullivan
Arena, Page B-1

FIRE & ICE



ABOVE: Soldiers of U.S. Army Alaska’s 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment practice setting up 60mm mortars during a light snowfall. The Soldiers were training for live-fire qualifications Jan. 12 at Firing Point Upper Cole on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army photos/John Pennell)
LEFT: A 120mm mortar round exits the tube in a flash of smoke as Soldiers cover their ears.
BELOW: Staff Sgt. Ryan Fountain, C Company 1-501st, works with Soldiers to set up a 60mm mortar tube.



From KADAVY • A1

a ceremony recognizing retired Guardsmen. After meeting with Guardsmen, veterans and residents in rural Alaska, Kadavy said he was impressed with the people he encountered.

“I learned about the patriotism of the community that resides here in Alaska,” he explained. “They care very much about their families, their state and the nation.”

During his town hall with Guardsmen at JBER, Kadavy stressed how the Army National Guard, along with the Army Reserve, is an integral part of the Army’s total force. He related how his No. 1 priority, readiness, is in line with the chief of staff of the Army.

“We can never lose focus of our warfighting mission,” the director said. “In the Army National Guard, we are part of the Army – the total Army.

“We fight and win our nation’s wars. We have been doing that since the beginning of our country ... and we will continue to focus on our warfighting capabilities.”

Kadavy spoke candidly about the effects of cuts to the defense budget and how the Army will shrink to a total force of 980,000 Soldiers: 450,000 active duty, 335,000 Army National Guard and 195,000 Army Reserve.

“There’s a lot of risk we’re dealing with in an Army of that size,” the general elaborated. “With an Army that size, we’re all in. We’re all there for our nation, and we’re all there for our states.”

Pursuant to a request by Milley for selected Guardsmen to train beyond the 39 annual days prescribed by law – 24 weekend days and 15 annual-training days – Kadavy acknowledged Guard units could train more in the future in an effort to ensure more rapid mobilizations in response to global conflicts.

“We may ask you to do more days,” he said. “We may ask you to do a little bit more as you train up and get ready.”

Kadavy said if Guard units were called to more training days, there would be a balance between readiness and the needs of Guardsmen and their employers.

“This is not going to be the active component,” he said. “We have an active component to do those missions, but we are part of the Army, and there are certain expectations of us as well.”

Despite a shrinking force, Kadavy said the Army National Guard will continue to invest in up-to-date technology and organization.

“Modernization is critical,” he said. “If we’re going to go to war with ... the regular



Alaska Army National Guard Maj. Ben Carpenter, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, poses a question to Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard, during Kadavy’s Jan. 10 town hall meeting at the Alaska National Guard armory. As director, Kadavy guides the formulation, development and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Army National Guard, a force of 350,000 Soldiers in 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. David Bedard)

Army and the Army Reserve ... we have to be able to operate together and fight together, and our modernization must ensure we are interoperable with the active components.”

Another theme Kadavy spoke about was the Army National Guard as a profession.

“Let there be no doubt that everyone in this room is an Army professional,” he said.

The pillars of professionalism for Army National Guard Soldiers, Kadavy said, are the Three Cs: character, competence and commitment.

To be professionals of character, the general referenced “Not in my Squad,” a grassroots initiative championed by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey that aims to extinguish sexual assault at the lowest level. He said it was an example of how honor is instilled Army wide.

“That means doing the right thing all the time, every time,” Kadavy said. “It’s never wrong to do the right thing.”

To be a competent professional, the director said Guardsmen have to be knowledgeable in their basic Soldier and military occupational specialty skills.

“You have to know your job ... because we are a team of teams, and it all starts with the individual,” he said. “We all know individually what our duties and responsibilities are. If you’re a professional, you have to be an expert.”

Finally, Kadavy said the committed professional takes ownership.

“This is your Army,” he said. “This is your Army National Guard in Alaska, and these are your units and your Soldiers. This is our profession. We’re committed to ensuring

we’re the most professional and best Army in the world.”

Kadavy extended his gratitude to the assembled Guardsmen.

“Thank you,” he said. “Thank you for serving your country, thank you for serving this state, and thank you for being members of our Army National Guard and our Army. I am going to ask you to stay – stay in the Army National Guard. It’s important for your country, and it’s important for your state.”

In addition to asking Guardsmen to thank their employers for allowing them to serve, Kadavy had another request.

“Please, when you go home at night, thank your families for serving and tell them that I’m thankful they let you serve each and every day in our Army National Guard and our Army,” he said.

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Even in a warm winter, there’s still snow on the way

By Airman Valerie Monroy
JBER Public Affairs

Though some might consider this year warmer than normal, it’s still winter and there are still dangers on the roads.

The personnel of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron snow barn attack these dangers by keeping the airfield and streets clear of snow and ice.

Beginning in October, the heavy equipment shop transforms into the snow barn and starts their non-stop operations. While most people are sleeping, the snow team is out making the base as safe as possible.

“The heavy equipment shop, or snow barn in the winter, runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Dennis Sessler, 773d CES Horizontal Construction shop foreman. “We work through all the holidays, all the family days and everything. We don’t take any days off.”

Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Shelton, with the 773d CES snow barn, said the team’s mission is to keep installation runways, airdrome, roads and parking areas clear and safe so Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson personnel can safely execute their missions.

The operators use an array of equipment to complete their job, starting with brooms, plows, blowers and vehicles that apply chemicals to the airfield surface, Sessler said. On the streets they operate graders, loaders, dump trucks and sand trucks.

The shop is always ready to go out to the airfield at a moment’s notice, Sessler explained. The operators maintain runway conditions for aircraft that need to take off. The main priority is to make sure aircraft can take off; then they go to the streets, Sessler continued.

With clear and safe runways and roads being mission essential, the 24-hour operations become crucial.

“We always have personnel here,” Sessler said. “They could be out at midnight [or] they could be out at two in the morning.”

In order to expedite the snow removal operations, people should pick up or remove items and debris around base facilities and parking areas which could impede or damage snow-removal equipment.

Before using unit-owned plows, facility managers must contact the snow barn for



While it’s not shaping up to be a particularly snowy winter at JBER, there’s always some. Snow-removal personnel of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron encourage everyone to be cautious and remember some basic tips for keeping them – and themselves – safe around plows, snowpiles and other equipment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jack Sanders)

instructions on how to plow, snow removal strategies and where to stockpile snow.

To prevent accidents, people should remember to maintain a 75-foot clearance from all snow-removal equipment, yield the right-of-way to snow-removal equipment and slow down and drive according to road conditions.

“People need to have situational awareness when they see snow removal equipment,” Sessler said.

Operators have a reason for moving snow or ice in certain directions for storage. When the heavy equipment is going in reverse vehicles should keep their distance because drivers may not always see them. Operators have narrowed fields of vision and with the noise of the heavy equipment they can’t always hear everything.

When clearing parking lots, unmoved cars pose many threats. To remove the ice,

the heavy equipment operators put a large amount of pressure on the blade, which leaves the tires with less maneuverability.

“Parking lots aren’t getting cleaned [and] you still have ice because the cars have not been moved,” Sessler said. “If the cars are gone, we can come in and clean the parking lot [without] risk or danger of hitting a car.”

With cars scattered throughout the parking lot and operators not having total control, accidents are waiting to happen. You can guess what would happen when 60,000 pounds of snow removal equipment runs into a 2,000-pound car.

Upon requesting snow removal operations, facility managers need to post parking lots as closed. Parking lots with vehicles left in them may not be cleared of snow to avoid potential accidents.

Personnel going on temporary duty

should park in long-term or deployment parking areas and make arrangements to have their vehicles moved as needed throughout the winter.

Another problem is failure to clear snow off sidewalks to the end of the street or concrete, Sessler said. When warm spells come through, the ice melts and then refreezes causing ice buildup along the edges.

“They go out there and throw ice-melt on it and it breaks up the ice,” said Sessler. “But instead of shoveling all the broken up ice and getting it off of the concrete, they leave it there.”

Ice melt is not a friendly product for concrete, explained Sessler, and it can eventually make a hole in the ground: once the chemical gets inside the hole it just starts eating it away.

For more information about snow removal, call 552-3726.

From **FIRE** • A1

launch the round, Torres said.

It requires accuracy and precision.

A round from the howitzer can travel miles depending on the charge used.

“The forward observers will call in the data,” Ricci said. “They will get a grid and send it to the fire direction center; they’re the brains of the artillery. They calculate where the target is and the give us the quadrant and the deflection. We input the [data] into the sight. We line up [our shot]. When [everything] is verified, we launch the round.”

While the process might not be instantaneous, it is impressive to consider the speed at which Soldiers calculate the necessary trajectory of the fired round.

“In a real-world [situation], not training, from when the forward observer calls for a fire mission to [...] when we launch it, I would say it could be completed in five



Pfc. Michael Lancaster, 2-377th PFAR, laughs with fellow paratroopers before firing a howitzer. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

minutes,” Ricci said. “Downrange, fire missions have to be approved. That could play into some waiting. If troops are dying, or are in contact with the enemy, we can [provide

support] in less than five minutes.”

While current fire missions might go on until 2 a.m., the Soldiers from the 2-377th don’t have the luxury of going home

for the night.

“The weapon is made for mountainous regions,” Ricci explained. “A lot of units that are in Afghanistan right now – that

are in the mountains [or] in the outposts – are using the 119A2 howitzer. It is a very maneuverable weapon and is the optimal weapon for Afghanistan.”

Yes, these are the drones you’re looking for – they’re registered

By Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez
JBER Public Affairs

The Federal Aviation Administration expects more than 700,000 drones – or unmanned aircraft systems – in American skies following the 2015 holiday season.

To ensure safety on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the 3rd Wing Safety Office, in coordination with Pacific Air Forces, has offered guidance for drone usage on base.

“With the increase in the use of drones and with the increase in availability of model aircraft, the potential for a mishap involving an aircraft and model aircraft is going to increase,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Dave Skalicky, 3rd Wing chief of safety. “That’s why we’re interested, and that is why the command has put out guidance for us to follow.”

The UAS flying locations and procedures will change in the coming weeks to reflect the guidance given by PACAF, said Skalicky.

While operating their UAS on military installations, hobbyists can expect stringent requirements.

“Use of [UAS] is prohibited during [Force Protection Condition] Bravo or higher,” said Skalicky. “Safety and security are the big tenets that we are trying to hit with this policy and with the procedures that we are developing locally.”

According to the Command Post, JBER is currently in FPCON Bravo.

“We are in contact with the



The increase in drone popularity has prompted the Federal Aviation Administration and Pacific Air Forces to issue guidance for proper use of drones and model aircraft on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The FAA now requires the registration of drones weighing more than 0.55 pounds. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Justin Connahey)

clubs on base, [and] 673d Safety and 3rd Wing Safety to get together and come up with good procedures so we can keep everyone safe,” Skalicky said. “The primary goal of everything we’re doing is for the safety and security of all people on the installation. That’s our number one goal.”

Things to know and keep in mind when flying on JBER and PACAF installations:

According to the FAA website, the FAA now requires registration for all UAS weighing more than

0.55 pounds. Those who have operated their UAS before Dec. 21, 2015, have until Feb. 19 to register it.

Those who acquired an UAS after Dec. 21, 2015 must register it before operating it outdoors. Failure to register can result with penalties that include fines of up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment of up to three years.

Further guidance provided by PACAF and 3rd Wing Safety includes:

-Contact base operations prior

to flying at 552-2107

-Only fly over approved grounds. Currently the Alaska Radio Control Society field is the only approved location.

-Must be registered with the FAA.

-Stay less than 300 feet above ground and within line of sight of the UAS.

-Be mindful of the weather.

-Know personal and UAS limitations.

-The use of cameras and other recording devices is not allowed,

including first-person view from a built-in camera.

-Do not fly within five miles of a military installation or airport unless properly authorized.

Those interested in flying their UAS on the ARCS Field at JBER, just off Richardson Drive, must join the ARCS, said Edward Cunningham, a member of the ARCS.

“All club members must have insurance through the Academy of Modeling Aeronautics,” Cunningham said. “That covers them with insurance in the event that personal or property damage is caused. All ARCS members must be registered with the FAA and have insurance through the Academy of Modeling Aeronautics, [which] offers free membership through age 19.”

Active duty military personnel E-5 and below are allowed free membership in the ARCS. For enlisted military personnel E-6 and above, dues are \$25 per year.

ARCS has five field locations where hobbyists can fly their UAS: ARCS Field in JBER, Storck Park, and the Teeland Middle School and Lumen Christi High School gymnasiums in Anchorage, and Groeschel Field in Wasilla.

“To anyone that is interested in operating model aircraft on base, we encourage them to join the model aircraft club because they are going to know the proper procedures to operate their model aircraft safely on JBER,” Skalicky said. “Check with your local safety office, [either] 3rd Wing Safety or 673d Wing Safety, to make sure you are in compliance.”

Talking politics: exercise your rights, but don’t step on toes

By Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

Anyone who has spent time in uniform knows there are limits to a service member’s freedoms. You’re not free to wear body piercings, hats are required outdoors while in uniform, and you are, technically speaking, on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are also limitations on free speech – and as elections draw closer, opinions can become a hot-button issue.

Service members in recent years have faced stiff penalties for speaking in uniform at political rallies for various candidates.

But what about Facebook? Twitter? What if your settings only allow friends and family to see your post – can you encourage people to feel the Bern, or stump for Trump?

In a word, carefully.

“You can express your personal opinion, as long as you’re not attributing it to the branch of service or the Department of Defense,” said Capt. Amanda Snipes, a Judge Advocate officer with the 673d Air Base Wing on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. “As long as you’re not implying that it’s policy (it’s OK).”

The Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, Political Activities By Members of the Armed Forces, has added regulations

about social media in the last couple of years; re-tweeting or sharing a candidate’s posts are a no-go.

“It’s OK, but be aware – if you’re posting political stuff, don’t use a profile photo of yourself in uniform. Be cognizant of how people can take it as a totality.”

If your page says you’re a DoD employee, the posting must note that it’s a personal opinion only. As with operational security matters, privacy settings can make a big difference, Snipes said.

The regulations state uniformed service members can join partisan or non-partisan political clubs as long as they don’t attend in uniform, so following, friending or liking a candidate’s page is fine – but again, don’t use a uniformed photo as a profile picture or include your work affiliation.

Civilian DoD employees cannot solicit donations at work and are otherwise subject to the Hatch Act for political activities, but with fewer restrictions than uniformed service members. (A few civilian employees, such as those in the Senior Executive Service, or in a few agencies, may have further restrictions; if in doubt, check the DoDD.)

Another case not covered in the regulation is commenting on news stories. Plenty of people weigh in on every news story imaginable. But should you bring your status

as a military member to bear? Commenting is fine, Snipes said, again with the caveat that posters be careful their words are not an endorsement – or even creating the perception of endorsement. And, of course, being mindful of OPSEC.

And what about chatting with co-workers about your political leanings?

“I advise against talking politics in the workplace,” Snipes said. “Talking in general is OK, but you can’t try to influence people. In a political discussion, things can get heated, and there could be undue influence or a perception of undue influence.”

And service members may not use contemptuous language about the commander-in-chief and other officials, as discussed in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

“The most important thing, I think, is to be cognizant of what people could hear or how they could take words,” Snipes said. “Things taken out of context can be bad, so be aware of who is listening.”

A bumper sticker for a political candidate, in good taste, is allowed on a personal vehicle, but for those in base housing, yard and window signs are not. In housing not on the installation, signs are fine – as long as they don’t imply military or DoD endorsement.

Displaying large signs in or on a vehicle

is not permitted to anyone on the installation, whether they’re service members, employees, or retirees using installation facilities, said Laura Patterson, an Administrative Law attorney with 673d ABW.

“(Retirees) can’t be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, obviously,” Patterson said. “But they can be escorted off base” for violations. Signs must be taken down before entering the gate and replaced upon leaving.

Service members can attend – but not participate in — fundraisers, as well.

“If you’re paying for a ticket, that’s allowed,” Snipes said. “Selling tickets, even off base or in civilian clothes, is not.”

Direct donations to candidates are forbidden, but donations to political action committees or party committees are acceptable. Violations of the regulations can lead to serious penalties, although Snipes said issues seldom go so far as to necessitate legal involvement.

The UCMJ, nonetheless, provides a maximum punishment of a court-martial, reduction in grade, dishonorable discharge, forfeitures and two years of confinement under Article 92.

Get involved; it’s a right and a responsibility granted by the Constitution. Just exercise your freedoms with good judgment.

Tax center to open

Active duty members, reservists, retirees, and their family members can receive free tax return assistance and preparation at JBER’s tax centers beginning Jan. 25 for single service members and Feb. 1 for all other non-complex returns.

Volunteers are trained to prepare 1040 EZ and 1040 tax returns, and can provide advice on military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of the Earned Income Credit. Volunteers are also trained on how to deal with the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend.

All tax returns done through the tax center are forwarded electronically to the IRS, and by selecting direct deposit, taxpayers can receive their refunds in as little as one week.

The JBER Tax Center is located on the third floor of Building 600 and will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday from 1 to 8 p.m.

Taxpayers will need proof of identity (military ID); social security cards and birth dates for all dependents; last year’s federal income tax return; wage and earning statements from W-2s, W-2Gs, and 1099-Rs; interest and dividend statements; bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit; amounts paid to day care providers; and day care providers’ tax identification numbers.

Filers can make appointments beginning Jan. 21 by calling 384-1040. Alternatively, customers can make an appointment with one of the unit tax advisors, who may be able to complete tax returns at his or her workplace and forward it to the tax center.

Legal services available

The Anchorage team of the Army’s 6th Legal Operations Detachment will offer legal services for eligible members of the JBER community beginning Saturday. Services are hosted once a month at the USARAK legal office; for appointments, call 384-0371.

Those eligible are retirees (medical or full term), active duty, and reservists, plus their family

members who have a valid ID card.

Attorneys can help with will preparation, estate planning, divorce and separation issues, child custody or support issues, adoption, landlord/tenant issues, and debt.

Volunteer submissions

Volunteer coordinators urge volunteers to ensure all hours for December 2015 and January 2016 are submitted to Unit Volunteer Coordinators or organizational points of contact by Feb. 9 for eligibility at the April awards ceremony. For more information, call 384-1517 or 552-4943.

Pothole repair

The 773d Civil Engineer Squadron encourages all Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson personnel to report potholes. In housing areas, contact Aurora Housing at 753-1051/1091. All other requests will be tracked by 773d CES.

Take note of the location – including street and cross-street names or building numbers. Then email 773CES.CEOH.PotHoleRepair@us.af.mil or call 552-2994 or 552-2995. Include your name and contact information so crews can follow up about location or the severity.

Weather and mission permitting, potholes are repaired within 24 hours of reporting.

M&FRC relocation

The Military and Family Readiness Center (Log Cabin), located in Building 8535 Wewak Drive temporarily relocated recently to Building 8124 Doolittle Avenue (near the Polar Bowl) to allow for renovation for the next 10 weeks.

The temporary location will be open Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For information, call 552-4943 or visit jber.af.mil/mfrc/index.asp.

Exchange return policy

The Exchange extends its return policy for items purchased through Thursday. Holiday return/exchange policy changes the standard 90 days to the end of January 2016, with sales receipt. For information, call 753-0232.

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. The seminar covers loan pre-qualifications, offers and acceptance, inspections, title searches, types of loans, and the closure process.

For information or to sign up, contact the 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 information, call 353-6507.

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.

Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program at JBER is available to all eligible active-duty members and consists of two options.

The first option, RPP Plus, includes utility and sometimes cable costs, providing an easier budget with a set payment year round.

The other option, RPP 5 Percent below market, saves the member five percent off the rental fee other tenants pay; however, utilities are paid for by the tenant.

Both options are available with no deposits or fees to the member except pet fees as applicable.

This program provides active-duty military personnel, enlisted and officers, accompanied and unaccompanied with affordable off-base housing.

An allotment must be executed under either option of the RPP for the rental payments, made directly to the landlord resulting in a more trouble free transactions.

JBER-Elmendorf members can see RPP officials at the Capital Asset Management Office, Building 6346, Arctic Warrior Drive, or call at 552-4328 or 552-4374 for further information and assistance regarding this program.

At JBER-Richardson, visit the Housing Management Office, Building 600, Richardson Drive, or call 384-3088 or 384-7632.

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 policy is in place with the priority going to military members PCSing.

For more information, call 375-5540.

Priority placement

The Priority Placement Program and Executive Order 13473 provide non-competitive appointment for spouses of active duty service members, including full-time National Guard and Reservists, who are relocating to accompany their service member during a permanent change of station.

The program allows spouses to register for Department of Defense positions and be considered for jobs offered internally.

Spouses are matched with jobs 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, even those who have never filled a federal position, can now register at either JBER personnel office.

For more information about the program or to register, call 552-9203.

ARMY BEATS AIR FORCE IN SHOOTOUT



The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Army hockey team celebrates with their newly awarded trophy at the Sullivan Arena Jan. 9 after winning JBER's Air Force vs. Army hockey match. The Army came back from a 4-1 point deficit to win the game in a shootout with a final score of 7-6. (Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

Army and Air Force face off for 3rd time

By Staff Sgt. William Banton
JBER Public Affairs

For three periods, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson service members were modern-day gladiators on ice, fighting through exhaustion, sweat and consternation for the glory, honor and year's worth of bragging rights at the third annual Army vs. Air Force hockey game.

The two teams had been playing ping-pong with the score since the second period. The Air Force had taken an early lead only to lose momentum, in large part due to a penalty-shot score, allowing the Army to overtake them 6-5 by the third period.

"The Army did a really good job of making it a scrappy game, which is great but it took away from our skill level," said Air Force coach Steven Calvin. "We took way too many penalties; that killed us, and we could not get any type of flow going which really hurt us."

The penalty shot in the second period pushed the momentum in the Army's favor.

"It was 4-3 and then that penalty shot came, and I feel that that really swung the momentum when we tied it back up out of a 4-1 hole," said Joseph Campanelli, a center for the Army. "They got out in front quick, but it just proves and shows the character of the guys we have in this locker room."

For two years, the Air Force had battled the Army to two frustrating losses. Finally, with less than 40 seconds left in the final

period, a burst of energy and determination crossed the Army player's faces; victory was finally at hand. However, with only 38.3 seconds left in regulation play, Air Force tied the game forcing a three-man shootout.

They had their first-line on the ice when they pulled their goalie, allowing an additional offensive player onto the ice, said Army Coach Michael Banks.

"[The Army] had our first-line out but because of a glitch in the system we also had our third-line defense out there, which didn't click and they couldn't clear the zone, allowing [Air Force] to score the tying goal," Banks said.

With tension high, both teams stayed on their feet, poised to rush their goal in elated victory, as the shootout began.

"It's like in the NFL when people don't look at the winning field goal; I had to turn my back from the plays," Banks said. "I knew we had the skill to win it, but at the same time it's only one game and anything could happen."

With a two to zero shootout victory, the Army emerged victorious securing the exultation that had evaded them for two years.

"Coming from a hole and winning the game, we just fought till the end and skated hard and I'm proud of every single person on this team," Campanelli said.

The inter-service game, played for the past two years at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage, Alaska, was conceived by Army Maj. Gen. Michael Shields, former U.S. Army Alaska commanding general, as a way to foster esprit de corps between the two primary JBER military branches. The teams are composed of U.S. and Royal Canadian armed forces and feature active, Reserve and National Guard service members. Past teams have also included members of the Marine Corps Reserve.



Members of the U.S. Air Force and Army honor guard leave the ice after U.S. and Canadian national anthems just before the game. The Army came back from a 4-1 point deficit to win the game in a shootout with a final score of 7-6. (Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)



Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson service members participate in the JBER Army vs. Air Force hockey game. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Valerie Monroy)



Airmen from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska compete at the Arctic Warrior Challenge between periods. (Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

Everyone needs support at some point

Commentary by Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Hill
673d Air Base Wing Chaplain

As a seasoned veteran of the Alaska Highway, I was familiar with the risks inherent to the long cross-country journey. In the past 20 years of road trips up and down the highway, I have blown four tires, been sideswiped, dropped a transmission, and reduced the deer population in Alberta. I have learned over the years roadside assistance and towing insurance are not ‘optional’ suggestions.

While driving out of Alaska in 2012 an hour after crossing the border, my vehicle lost all power and proceeded to shut itself down.

We were stuck. Just inside the Yukon Territory, we were more than 350 miles from Whitehorse. The towing bill was \$3,446.00. Thanks to a comprehensive \$72.00 towing policy bought days earlier, we were totally covered.

I was reminded of this episode the other day while driving to work. I avoided the temptation to take a picture while driving, but the scene was priceless. An American Automobile Association associated tow truck was being towed by a much larger tow truck.

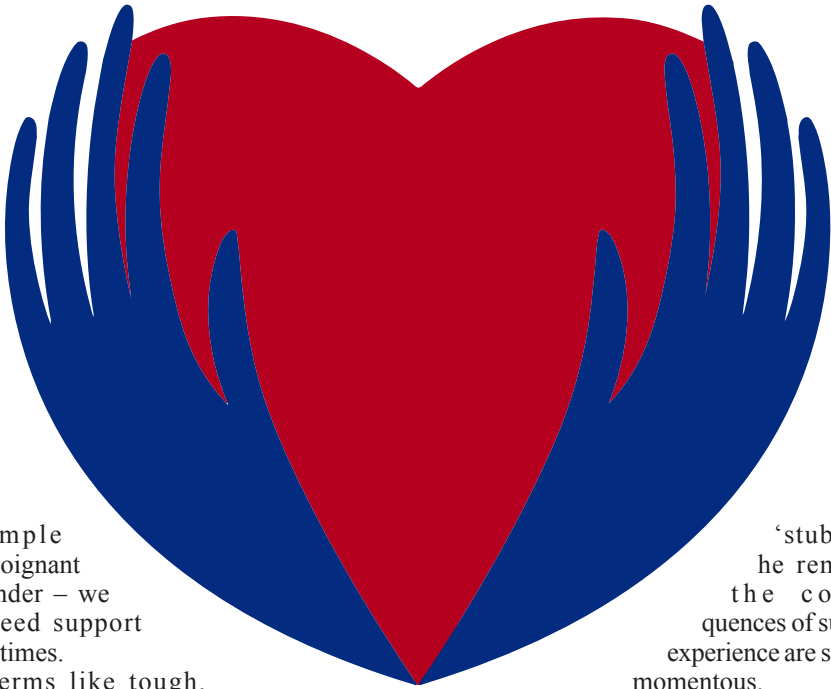
While at first the irony of the situation made me chuckle, the image was so stark that I began to consider the deeper meaning. I will never know the circumstances that brought about the tow truck itself needing a tow. What I saw in that moment, though, was

a simple but poignant reminder – we all need support sometimes.

Terms like tough, strong, independent, warrior, resilient, and war-fighter are all important characterizations of who we are as military personnel and family members. Unfortunately, many folks become so entrenched in an identity, they fail to recognize their need for support.

One of the last things many of us want to do is admit we need help.

Consider the classic scene of the man driving around aimlessly because he’s lost. While that might result in some wasted fuel and potentially another fight about how



(Courtesy graphic)

‘stubborn’ he remains, the consequences of such an experience are seldom momentous.

In our lives, the ramifications of putting off getting help can be much more serious. Whether it’s the relationship with our spouse, children, parents, or co-workers – when the relationship is strained or damaged, it is important to recognize and admit when we may need some support.

As a college student I found myself struggling in algebra. Once I began visiting a tutor each week, my test scores went up and my grades started improving. Was it a sign of weakness or strength that I sought out

tutoring? I assert that admitting my need for assistance was a reflection of self-awareness, self-care, and a positive step toward achieving my goals. My algebra skills may have been weak, but my asking for help was a sign of strength.

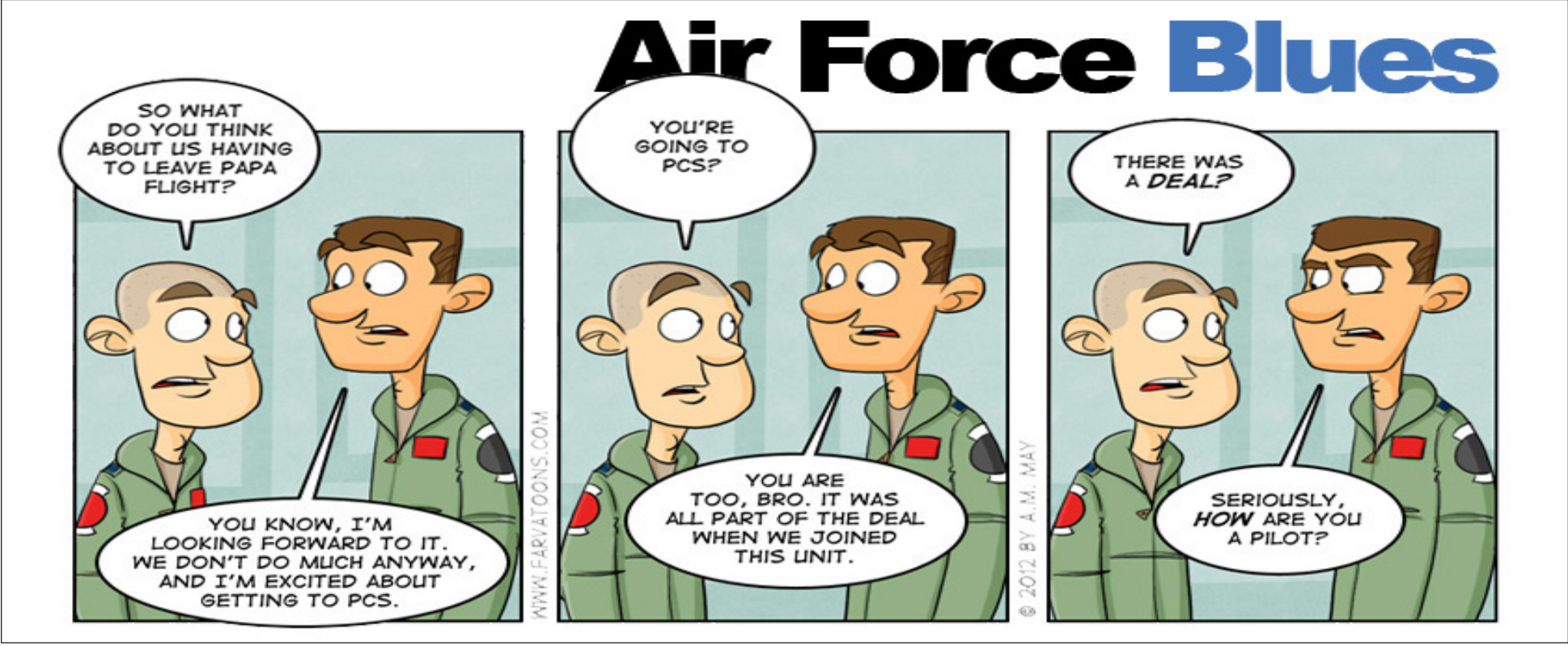
While we are still learning what this specific winter will entail, winters in Alaska are famous for limited daylight, long stretches of cold, and some deep snow. These challenges can present an extra challenge to already strained circumstances and relationships – especially if these are not part of your normal winter experiences.

The truth is that life can be very difficult. We can be lonely, frustrated, or discouraged no matter what the weather is doing outside. Life is hard and we were never intended to go it alone.

In the book of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, we find these words: “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

If you have ever been on the receiving end of your battery being jump-started, a locked door being jimmied open, or your car being pulled out of the ditch (all of which I have experienced), you know how valuable it is to have the tow truck guy provide his expertise. As the AAA tow truck being pulled along the highway demonstrated, we all need support sometimes.

Please do not struggle alone. The JBBER chaplain corps team is ready to support you.



SATURDAY
Snow-machine ride

This weather-dependent ride takes place at Petersville/Parks. Minimum and maximum sign-up numbers apply to all trips and classes. Meet at the Outdoor Adventure Program Building at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m.

For more information call 552-4599 or 522-2023.

SUNDAY
New Year's Odds and Evens Bowling Tournament

Based on 'no tap' rules with a twist, this tournament takes place at 6 p.m. at Polar Bowl. Scores for even rolls will be recorded as a strike or spare, and odd rolls will keep the score as is.

For more information call 753-7467.

MONDAY
Ice fishing tournament

Bring your own fishing poles for this weather-dependent tournament located at Hillberg Ski Area from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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

THURSDAY
Cabin Fever Reliever

Service members, spouses and their families are invited to Cabin Fever Reliever Night in the basement of Building 600. Enjoy free sandwiches and learn resiliency tactics and suicide prevention techniques from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information call 306-3442.

JANUARY 22
Movie night

The Minions are the feature film at 6:30 p.m. for this free movie night at the Talkeetna Theatre, building 7122. Concessions will be available and a drawing offers a chance to get the Minions DVD. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

For more information call 552-8529.

JANUARY 28
JBER Spouse Orientation

Make new friends, meet people who can help you, and enjoy free lunch and prizes during this event at the Army Reserve Center, Building 45580 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call ahead to make reservations.

For more information call 384-1517 or 552-4943.

FEBRUARY 23
Blood Drive

Make a difference and donate with a friend in the Blood Bank of Alaska's LIFEmobile at the corner of 20th Street and Pease Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Eat well the day of the blood drive, stay hydrated, and bring a photo ID. To make an appointment, visit tinyurl.com/zrszwpf.

For more information call 580-2060, or 580-6353.

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.

Wildlife Wednesday

Stay warm and scientifically enriched this winter with the this free science lecture series on the second Wednesday of each month at the Alaska Zoo Gateway Lecture Hall. Each lecture begins at 7 p.m. and covers a different topic focused on wildlife research in Alaska.

For information, visit alaska-zoo.org.

Military Children Program scholarship

Scholarships for Military Children Program is accepting applications from eligible students at commissaries or online at militaryscholar.org.

For more information call 856-616-9311.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is taking applications for scholarships. Scholarships are available for children, spouses and other dependents of active, retired and deceased Soldiers. Applications and instructions are available at aerhq.org. Submission deadline is May 1.

For information, call 384-7478.

Richardson Spouses' Club scholarship opportunity

Applications are being accepted for the Richardson Spouses' Club Scholarship. Applicants must be military dependents, either graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled college students pursuing full time undergraduate studies. Visit richardsonspouses-club.com/scholarship to download

full eligibility requirements along with the application.

Applications must be postmarked by February 28.

NAF jobs

Looking for a fun job? Check out nafjobs.org for fun and exciting positions within the JBER Force Support Squadron. FSS is an equal opportunity employer.

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.

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.

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 552-5762.

Model railroading

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

For information, call 552-4353, or visit trainweb.org/msmrre.

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., Monday, Thursday, or Friday 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.

Library Story Times

Family Homecare Series: Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Toddler Tales: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Preschool Story Time: Thursdays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Surprising Science: Tuesdays 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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.

673d FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON



Snow Machine Ride
January 16 • \$149
7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet up at OAP, Bldg. 7301
weather dependent



ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM
Adventure. Explore. Live. Thrive.



Ice Fishing Tournament
weather dependent
January 17
12 - 3 p.m.
Located at Hillberg
FREE



OAP, bldg. 7301
552.4599/2023



Ice Fishing Special!
January - March
Rent at least 3 items and we will add 2 ice fishing poles, 2 chairs, and an ice scoop for FREE!
Also, save 10% on all other purchases!



JBER-ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON
OUTDOOR RECREATION
JBER, ALASKA



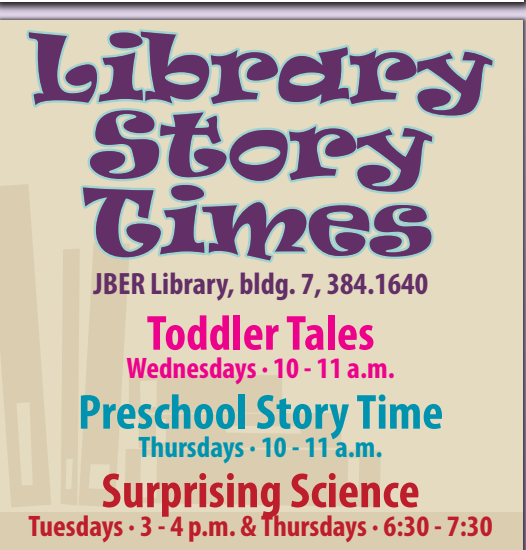
ORC-E
FISHING GEAR (regular pricing)
1 small ice tent (2 person) • \$15
1 medium ice tent (2 person) • \$20
1 large ice tent (4 - 6 person) • \$25
Ice fishing pole • \$3
Ice scoop • \$1
Manual Auger • \$5
Gas Auger • \$20
Small cargo sled • \$8
Medium cargo sled • \$12
Mr. Heater • \$5
Camp chair • \$1



FREE MOVIE NIGHT!
minions
@ Talkeetna Theater
Building 7122
January 22
Movie starts 6:30 p.m.
doors open 5:30 p.m.
Cash only concessions!
Call 552.8529 for more info.
No outside food or drinks, please.



Arctic Oasis
Brought to you by
COMMUNITY CENTER



Library Story Times
JBER Library, bldg. 7, 384.1640
Toddler Tales
Wednesdays • 10 - 11 a.m.
Preschool Story Time
Thursdays • 10 - 11 a.m.
Surprising Science
Tuesdays • 3 - 4 p.m. & Thursdays • 6:30 - 7:30

FSS:SMWR



Stop by and see us!
www.facebook.com/JBERLife
www.jberlife.com

JBER-wide school volunteer partnership benefits all

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

Ursa Major Elementary School on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson hosted their spelling bee Jan. 7 with Soldiers from the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion as the judges and Alaska Representative Dan Saddler as the announcer.

The Soldiers have an ongoing relationship with Ursa Major Elementary as part of the JBER Anchorage School District and partnership program, and the spelling bee is but one of the many ways the 17th CSSB is involved in the school.

“The goal of the SPP is to improve citizenship and the educational experience of students through exposure to positive role models, support of the academic studies and school activities, and support unit sponsorship and mentorship,” said Adele Daniels, JBER School Liaison Officer.

“It’s really about supporting a community that supports us,” Daniels said.

The SPP began with U.S. Army Alaska in 2009, and spread throughout the entire installation when JBER became a joint base, Daniels said.

Now, there are 28 units or squadrons partnered with 29 different schools in the Anchorage School District.

“It’s extremely helpful; we don’t always have consistent parent volunteers available,” said



Sgt. Andrew Csog, a squad leader with the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (left), 2nd Lt. Kenneth Canali, (center) a platoon leader with the 17th CSSB and school partnership representative for the 17th CSSB, and Lt. Col. John Gavin, 17th CSSB commander listen to a student spell “arch” as part of Ursa Major’s spelling bee Jan. 7 at the school. Volunteers from the 17th CSSB served as judges as part of the school partnership program Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has with 29 Anchorage School District locations. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

Helen Harmon, a primary resource teacher and this year’s spelling

bee coordinator. “We have a lot of dual-working families, so having an extra body in the classroom is a phenomenal help.”

Depending on the school, the volunteers may be doing anything from sitting and listening to first grade children read to them, to sprinting down the track with high school students as a mentor in a running club.

“A lot of elementary schools have a fall carnival or a holiday family night,” Daniels said.

“Troops will help the staff members plan, set up, and attend the event. Volunteers might run a game or a booth. From planning to the very end, they are involved in the

whole thing.”

JBER service members serve as mentors to young adults all

students of all ages in after school clubs, family days, and the Junior ROTC. The benefits aren’t just to the students, though.

“It’s a very positive experience to give back in such a way,” Daniels said.

“I think it’s very empowering for our service members, because it’s not meaningless; they are sitting with a student, mentoring them, watching their face light up when they master a new concept. To see they can have that level of impact is very empowering.”

For more information on the SPP, contact your unit SPP representative or the School Liaison Office at 250-3265.



Soldiers of the 17th CSSB prepare for Ursa Major’s spelling bee to begin Jan. 7 at the school.

“It’s really about supporting a community that supports us”

Pico ‘n Salsa spices up dining options on JBER

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

Pico ‘n Salsa is the new Mexican-themed restaurant introduced to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 11, as part of the Food Transformation Initiative.

“Pico ‘n Salsa is basically an additional food option requested by the customers on base from a survey about what they would like to see,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kaema Desouza, 673d Force Support Squadron food service superintendent. “It’s open to everyone, [but] only active-duty Air Force essential station messing (meal card) customers are allowed to utilize this facility as part of the campus-dining experience.”

The restaurant, on the corner of Sijan Avenue and Arctic Warrior Drive, follows the create-your-own entrée concept by providing the ingredients like meat, rice, vegetables, tortillas, chips, sauces and more.

“It was really good, everything was very fresh; like the salsa,” said Airman 1st Class Bret Chamblee, 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit F-22 Raptor crew chief. “All around it’s a really good place; [I] was really amazed.”

The FTI is an Air Force program to offer more dining options than just the dining facility.

“The FTI is the new concept the Air Force is [establishing] for dining facilities,” Desouza said. “This came about in 2010; JBER was one of the first test bases, and one of six, to kick off the concept.

“Basically it wanted to improve the dining experience for

all ESM card members and patrons on base,” Desouza said. “It offers the Airmen living in the dorm the opportunity to eat anywhere they want that’s operated within the [installation].”

The restaurant was conceived after a survey last year showed the JBER populace wanted a Mexican-themed restaurant.

“What makes Pico ‘n Salsa unique is that the people chose this option, so this is what they want,” said Capt. Rebecca Nolasco, 673d Force Support Squadron food operations chief.

“This is the first base at which the Aramark Corporation is introducing the Pico ‘n Salsa brand, so we are the test base for this concept and if it really kicks off, this concept will be introduced to other installations.”

Aramark is contracted to manage many food establishments on JBER such as the Iditarod Dining Facility, Topio’s and Ten Pins, Paradise Café, Flight Kitchen and now Pico ‘n Salsa.

Contracted Aramark food workers are cross-trained to work at any of the restaurants on base.

“Everybody who [cooks] will process through [Pico ‘n Salsa] so everybody has the opportunity to do something different and learn a new skill,” said Martin Alletson, JBER Aramark general manager. “We try to do as much cross-training not only for their education, but also to give us more flexibility in scheduling.”

The new restaurant is going through a six-month trial period, open to constructive criticism. It is open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., for the time being.



Pico ‘n Salsa, a new Mexican-themed restaurant located in the Kenai Dining Facility building on JBER, serves burritos, tacos, nachos, salads and more. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)

“We are getting [an Interactive Customer Evaluation page] set up for Pico ‘n Salsa so customers can give their additional feedback on their dining experience,” Nolasco said. “We can use that to expand the menu, help us figure out what are the preferred hours, or fine-tune some of the menu items as we go along with this trial period.

“We’re excited this restaurant finally became a reality and are looking forward to customers enjoying their experience here,” Nolasco said.



Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson service members and Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets present the garrison flag during a University of Alaska Anchorage military appreciation hockey game at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage Jan. 9. The university coordinated the military appreciation game to coincide with the annual Army vs. Air Force hockey game. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Valerie Monroy)

Airman keeps serving after overcoming rare cancer

By Airman 1st Class Cassandra Whitman
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

“Death smiles at us all. All a man can do is smile back.”— Maximus

This quote from the movie “Gladiator” rings powerful and true to Tech. Sgt. LaPaul Williams, who said, “I don't believe death is to be feared.”

Williams, a 5th Air Support Operations Squadron fighter duty technician stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer. Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans affects the lower back and is typically seen in people under the age of 18 and over the age of 45. Williams was 29.

Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans looks like a bump on the back, then it grows and starts to get taller and pink at the top, Williams explained.

“I thought it was nothing,” he said. “I thought it was just a bump.”

Williams returned from temporary duty to Hawaii and went to the doctor to check on the growing bump. The doctor informed him there was nothing he could do and sent him to a dermatologist. The dermatologist decided surgery to remove the bump would be best.

On October 17, 2014, Williams headed in for surgery. His wife, Chineka, was with him the entire time. Everything was going as planned. He was making light of the situation, joking with the intern who was learning how to cut a person’s back open, commenting on the giant needle they used to numb him.

Williams said once they cut most of it out, the doctor stopped and said there was something wrong.

“Its tumors,” the doctor said. “I don't know what kind, but there are tumors deeper in your back.”

They had to have the tumors X-rayed and looked at, so they sewed Williams up and went from there.

Once they confirmed the dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, Williams told his family.

“The afternoon I told my parents, as most mothers would be, she was freaked out,” Williams said. “We're a very close-knit Christian family. They asked if I was alright, if I needed them here.”

Williams’ wife was there supporting him every step of the way.

“I don't sit down,” Williams said. “She would tell me to rest, but I was a pain in the butt.”

Williams said he wasn't scared with his diagnosis. He was a little shocked, but he



Tech. Sgt. LaPaul Williams, a 5th Air Support Operations Squadron fighter duty technician from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., stands with his friends and fellow Airmen behind him. These are the Airmen who were there for Williams during his treatment and surgeries while battling a rare cancer, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Timothy Chacon)

wanted to know what he did to cause it and how he could fix it. The doctor told Williams there was nothing he could have done to prevent it. Williams was extremely hopeful during the entire ordeal.

In November, Williams said, they needed to remove more of the tumors. They cut a diamond shape out of his back to remove them.

For six weeks, he had a tube from his back to his chest for the fluid that was being drained. He healed quicker than normal.

Because of the nature of William's job, he was immediately moved off duty and sent to see if he was allowed to stay in the Air Force. But Williams said he had an extremely supportive Air Force family.

His supervisor, peers and commander were all hopeful for him, offering their support through it all. They let him know if there was anything he needed, he just had to ask.

“They didn't bother me or limit me,” Williams said of his chain of command.

“They watched my back and let me take care of myself.”

During his diagnosis, Williams said his family helped him most. They never looked at Williams with sad eyes, or blamed anything or anyone for what happened. They told him they would help him get through it, if he needed anything to call and they would stop and make time for him.

“There are a lot of things you can buy and replace,” Williams said. “But time spent with a person is something you can't. When people decide to use some of their time for you, it's humbling.”

Williams also said a positive attitude was key to facing this type of diagnosis.

“Positive thoughts have absolute results when it comes to healing,” Williams said. “Those who are hopeful and have positive thoughts regardless of the situation, they turn out the best.”

In December, Williams was in remission.

He said there is always a chance for the cancer to come back, and if it does, it will

be worse and more aggressive. He still goes to the doctor every six months to make sure it hasn't returned, and that will continue for the rest of his life.

“I understand I am playing on borrowed time,” Williams said. “I'm still able to serve, and I'm thankful for that. I'm still ranking up and making friends. Anything that's worth it is worth the effort.”

Williams' advice to those who are still battling is to do whatever it takes to get positive, because it can change your reality.

“I have your back,” he said. “If you need to call me, call me. We'll talk about life. Even if that means talking at 1, 2 or 3 in the morning, I'll be up. I'll make some tea and we'll sit down and talk about it.”

Williams said to those who are supporting someone fighting this battle, encourage them. Encouragement will make the difference.

“The most important thing is it's not about the condition, it's about the people around you,” he said.