

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

February 5, 2016

www.jber.af.mil

Volume 7, No. 5

## USARAK'S WINTER GAMES

A competitor tackles the downhill ski event of the USARAK Winter Games from the top of Fort Wainwright's Birch Hill Jan. 27. As America's arctic warriors, USARAK Soldiers train hard to cultivate the knowledge and experience necessary to survive, train, operate, fight and win in extreme cold-weather and high-altitude environments. The games are an annual opportunity for USARAK units to test their skills, validate their expertise and set a benchmark of excellence. Battalions from both Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Fort Wainwright were represented by 10-man teams for a total of 210 competing Soldiers in this year's games. (U.S. Army photos/John Pennell)

### Wainwright, JBER troops battle in 7-event contest

By Army Staff Sgt. Brian Ragin  
4-25 IBCT Public Affairs

FORT WAINWRIGHT, Alaska — Arctic Warriors from Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson brought an early spring to Fairbanks in exchange for use of the ample snow. Though the competition was heated, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division teams emerged victorious in the U.S. Army Alaska Winter Games January 25 through 27. All battalions from both JBER and Fort Wainwright were represented in 10-man teams for a total of 210 competitors in the games. Some battalions chose to have a second team compete in the games as well.

The annual USARAK Winter Games, held this year at Fort Wainwright's Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area, ended with an awards ceremony at the Physical Fitness Center. This year's events included a written test, downhill ski racing, live-fire biathlon range, two-mile snowshoe ahkio sled pull, skijoring, setting up the arctic 10-man tent and stove correctly, and evaluating and treating a casualty in the extreme cold. The intent of the competition was to encourage esprit de corps, test the physical and mental stamina of teams, and validate the arctic war-fighting skills of Soldiers from across Alaska, said Capt. Javoria Collier, a 32-year old Moss Point, Mississippi native, 5th Squadron,



Soldiers use teamwork to drag an ahkio sled loaded with 300-plus pounds of gear during the Winter Games at Fort Wainwright Jan. 27.

1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st SBCT operations chief and competition coordinator. "We're arctic warriors," said Collier. "We need to refine our skills and see how everybody [else] is competing and training." As America's arctic warriors and the U.S. Army's experts in surviving, operating, fighting and winning in extreme cold weather and high altitude environments, proficiency in all of the skills tested during the games are critical for all USARAK Soldiers. These games validate their expertise and set a benchmark of excellence for all arctic warriors. "We started training for the event a little before Christmas,"

said Sgt. Matthew Moses, a 26-year-old Loveland, Colorado native and team leader in a sniper company with 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. "In the Army you don't get to choose when you get to do things; being a paratrooper, you have to step up and rise to the occasion." Moses said that he felt his team did well, but there were some events that they had difficulty training for on JBER due to the lack of snow. "We don't have a lot of ski slopes," said Moses. "Anytime that we couldn't directly train for arctic-related events the focus was

physical fitness, because the less smoked you are the more advantage you have." Moses added they went through a lot of physical training, arctic training, studying and adding to their arctic knowledge. The ahkio sled pull was his team's hardest challenge. "It was the most physically demanding event," said Moses. "It was rough, and I'm a winter-sports type of guy." Moses' team ended up with an honorable mention and placing 4th in the competition. "1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team swept the competition placing 1st and 2nd place," said Collier, referring to the two teams competing

from the Bobcat battalion. "The life lessons and the experiences they learned they should pass on to all battalions across the board. Next year it will be a lot more fun and interesting." At the end of the day we [USARAK] are still one team, one fight, even though 1st SBCT now has the bragging rights, Collier said. The awards ceremony ended after Commanding General Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry D. Gardner awarded Team 706 of 1-5 IN, led by 2nd Lt. Mark Hillis, Army Commendation Medals. Their final score was 130 out of a possible 147.

### Election correction

JBER Public Affairs

The JBER Public Affairs staff regrets the repetition of errors concerning "Election year etiquette for the armed forces" in two articles published January 15 and

January 29 under that title.

The requirements of Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces, make it clear that the directive's restrictions on political activity do not apply to retirees. Our careful readers noted the discrepancy immediately, and we apologize for failing to make the correction in the print edition. The second item of concern for some readers related to defining service members

on full-time National Guard duty status as "active duty" personnel. For the purposes of DoD Directive 1344.10 and its regulations concerning political activity only, this definition is correct. The paragraph in question should read: "Active duty" status for the purposes of DoD Directive 1344.10 includes full-time duty in the active military service of the United States regardless of duration or purpose. Active duty includes full-time training duty;

annual training duty; and attendance, while in the active military service, at a school designated as a service school by law or by the secretary concerned. For the purposes of DoD Directive 1344.10 only, active duty also includes full-time National Guard duty. These restrictions on "active duty" personnel do not apply to retirees. We apologize for our error, and we thank our readers for their diligence.

#### Inside Spouse's orientation: B-5

- Carter talks FY2017 budget ..... A-2
- Airmen turn out for homeless survey..... A-4
- Matters of Faith: For someone else's stats.....B-2
- MCHH offers a home away from home.....B-4
- Couple's Communication classes .....B-6

#### Learned in blood



**EOD Airmen – the troops you want never to need – train for real-world missions with F6 robot, Page A3**

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# Carter talks major challenges in budget request preview

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Addressing diverse global challenges requires new thinking, new postures in some regions and new and enhanced capabilities, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Tuesday morning during a preview of the Pentagon’s fiscal year 2017 budget request.

Speaking at the Economic Club of Washington, D.C., Carter said the \$582.7 billion defense budget – to be released next week as part of the administration’s fiscal year 2017 budget request – marks a major inflection point for the department.

“In this budget we’re taking the long view,” the secretary said. “We have to. Even as we fight today’s fights, we must also be prepared for the fights that might come 10, 20 or 30 years down the road.”

Five evolving challenges drive the department’s planning, he said, including Russian aggression in Europe, the rise of China in the Asia-Pacific region, North Korea, Iran, and the ongoing fight against terrorism, especially the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

### Five challenges

The department must and will address all five challenges and across all domains, Carter said.

“Not just the usual air, land and sea, but also particularly in the areas of cyber, space and electronic warfare, where our reliance on technology has given us great strengths but also led to vulnerabilities adversaries are eager to exploit,” he added.

Highlighting new investments in the budget to deal with the accelerated military

campaign against ISIL, Carter said the department is requesting \$7.5 billion, 50 percent more than in 2016.

Of that, he said \$1.8 billion will go to buy more than 45,000 GPS-guided smart bombs and laser-guided rockets.

The budget request also defers the A-10 Thunderbolt II’s final retirement until 2022, replacing it with F-35 Joint Strike Fighters squadron by squadron.

### Strategic capabilities

To support the European Reassurance Initiative, the Pentagon is requesting \$3.4 billion in 2017, quadrupling the fiscal 2016 amount, the secretary said, to fund more rotational U.S. forces in Europe, more training and exercising with allies, and more prepositioned fighting gear and supporting infrastructure.

Investments in new technologies include projects being developed by the Department of Defense’s Strategic Capabilities Office, which Carter created in 2012 when he was deputy defense secretary, “to reimagine existing DoD, intelligence community and commercial systems by giving them new roles and game-changing capabilities,” he said.

To drive such innovation forward, the 2017 budget request for research and development accounts is \$71.4 billion.

Carter said the Strategic Capabilities Office’s efforts include projects involving advanced navigation, swarming autonomous vehicles for use in different ways and domains, self-driving networked boats, gun-based missile defense, and an arsenal plane that turns one of the department’s older planes into a flying launch pad for a range of conventional payloads.



Defense Secretary Ash Carter previews the 2017 defense budget in Washington, D.C. Tuesday. Carter discussed the evolving challenges that drive the department’s planning. (U.S. Army photo/ Army Sgt. 1st Class Ciydell Kinchen)

### Investing in innovation

The budget request also drives smart and essential technological innovation, the secretary added, noting that one area is undersea capabilities for an \$8.1 billion investment in 2017 and more than \$40 billion over the next five years, Carter said, “to give us the most lethal undersea and anti-submarine force in the world.”

The Pentagon also is investing in cyber, he said, requesting \$7 billion in 2017 and nearly \$35 billion over the next five years.

“Among other things,” Carter said, “this will help further improve DoD’s network defenses, which is critical, build more training ranges for our cyber warriors, and develop cyber tools and infrastructure needed to provide offensive cyber options.”

### Cyber, space, people

The Pentagon’s investment in space last year added more than \$5 billion in new investments, and this year the department will enhance its ability to identify, attribute and negate all threatening actions in space, the secretary said.

“With so many commercial space endeavors, he added, “we want this domain to be just like the oceans and the Internet: free and safe for all.”

Carter said the Pentagon also is investing to build the force of the future.

He specifically highlighted plans for opening all remaining combat positions to women, as well as strengthening support to military families to improve their quality of life.

# Wherever you’re stationed, your vote can still have a big effect

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The primaries are already underway and the general election will be held Nov. 8, but it’s not too late for Soldiers to participate and make their voices heard.

During this election season, the focus has been on the presidential race, but there are other important issues that will be decided in November as well, said Rachel Gilman, Army voting action officer, serving with U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

All 435 seats of the House of Representatives, 34 Senate seats and 14 governor races are in play this year, she said.

Add to that referendums, initiatives, propositions and local issues like school boards and mayors that could have a big impact in communities, where Soldiers live or plan to live once they separate or retire.

### Where to get assistance

Fortunately, almost everything Soldiers need to vote, whether they’re at home or deployed, can be found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website.

The site is easy to use, Gilman said.

Simply click on the appropriate state and everything is there, from requesting ballots, return deadlines, absentee voting guid-



(Courtesy graphic)

ance, forms and other important information.

Some things like explanations of the local issues and candidate positions on issues might not be on that site, she said. They’re most likely to be on state and county websites.

The FVAP site has points of contact for state and local voting officials and websites.

If Soldiers still can’t find what they need, such as acceptable forms of voter identification, Gilman encouraged them to see their unit voting assistance officer. Requirements vary by state. Addition-

ally, there are installation voting assistance offices worldwide where help can be found.

### Biggest problem

Procrastination is the biggest problem for voters not getting their votes counted, Gilman said.

She recommended that Soldiers register and request ballots now and return them as soon as possible. This is particularly important for Soldiers and their spouses stationed overseas, where mailing delays make procrastination even riskier, she said.

Gilman said the Army’s goal

is “to make it as easy for Soldiers to vote anywhere as if they were living and voting in their hometowns.”

Voting is especially important for Soldiers, she added. “It’s the freedom for which they’re defending.”

### Voting data

While voter trends and statistics are compiled, the Army and commanders do not track and do not have knowledge of who voted and who did not. That would be a Title 10 violation, she said.

While Gilman said she believes

it’s important for Soldiers to vote, she added the decision whether or not to vote “is a very personal choice.”

FVAP’s “2014 Post-Election Report to Congress,” published military and civilian voting data, controlling for age and gender between the two groups.

The report noted that in the 2014 mid-term election, 70 percent of active-duty military registered to vote, compared to 65 percent of civilian voters who were eligible.

Broken down by service, the Coast Guard had the highest voter registration in 2014 at 79 percent. The other services were:

- Air Force, 73 percent
- Navy, 70 percent
- Army, 69 percent
- Marine Corps, 65 percent

Reports for this year’s election cycle are still being compiled, but Gilman said voter turnout in a presidential election year is usually greater than during a mid-term or off-year cycle.

The report also notes why seeking help from the FVAP website or unit voting officer is so important.

Of all active-duty military who needed assistance and reported seeking assistance with their 2014 absentee ballot, 81 percent returned their absentee ballot and successfully voted.

Those needing but not seeking assistance only returned 46 percent of their ballots, she said.

# Army Airborne Board discusses several issues at inaugural meeting

By Geneve Mankel  
Fort Bragg Paraglide

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The newly formed Army Airborne Board held its inaugural meeting on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Jan. 28.

Chaired by Lt. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg commanding general, the board, designated by the Army secretary, provides conventional airborne forces the ability to create unity of effort in addressing concerns related to doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities.

“I’m told this is only the second secretary of the Army-designated board to bring coherence to a topic,” Townsend said. “That’s what our mission is, we’re supposed to speak with one voice for the Army to bring coherence to the topic of conventional airborne operations.”

Bruce Parker, Army Airborne Board secretary, said the formation of the board was a long time coming.

For at least 10 years, the airborne com-

munity has asked to have a lead who can act as a spokesperson and speak for all conventional airborne forces.

“Commanding generals throughout the force sent requests through Forces Command up to the Department of the Army and the board was approved in August by the secretary of the Army,” Parker said.

Army directive 2015-33 designates an Army lead for conventional airborne forces. “That [designation] is by position. It will always be the XVIII Airborne Corps commander. He is the senior paratrooper for conventional airborne forces,” Parker said.

The board is made up of 10 voting members – all two- or three-star generals – including the chairman, and 71 non-voting members, made up mostly of colonel or colonel equivalents.

“Most Army major commands are represented on this Army Airborne Board as voting members,” Townsend said.

Within the board, six committees, each led by a general officer, take on issues and provide recommendations that are briefed to the board and opened to a vote, Parker said.

“We created these committees ... where

we’ll farm these issues out for study. Those committees will be in power to bring solutions and issues to the board,” Townsend said.

Once recommendations are voted on, the board will present them through the appropriate Army command, agency or organization to the Department of the Army for review, disposition and implementation.

During the first meeting, the board’s governing documents were approved and the following four issues were presented:

Topic 1: T11 parachute revision/improvement. Since its fielding, concerns with the parachute have been identified. Modifications to the parachute system have been recommended.

Topic 2: C-17 formation spacing reduction. Current spacing geometry and load restrictions hinder operational employment of airborne forces in the amount and timing desired. Funding and continued testing are recommended.

Topic 3: Rigging manuals. Manual updates were not keeping pace with user demands. Continue collaborating with agencies to prioritize and identify operational equip-

ment variant requirements for development of technical manuals.

Topic 4: Update NATO standard agreements and Air Force “approved for use list” for allied partner nation airdrop. The prolonged approval process for airborne interoperability with NATO and allied-partner nations is negatively impacting training and readiness. Partner with Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Air Transportability Test Loading Activity to expand “approved for use” list and work to streamline approval processes.

The topics discussed at the meeting were among more than 20 others the board has collected. Throughout the next two years – the length the board is chartered – members will meet as a whole body twice a year. The next meeting will be in May.

Once the charter expires, the Army will evaluate the board and determine if it will be continued.

“I look forward to many years of this board serving the interest of the Army. We have a two-year charter right now to show it will bring value to the Army and I think that will be easy to do,” Townsend said.

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Editorial office and mailing address: JBER Public Affairs, 10480 Sijan Ave., Suite 123, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506; telephone (907) 552-8918.

Send emails about news stories and story submissions to [arcticwarrioreditor@gmail.com](mailto:arcticwarrioreditor@gmail.com). Deadline for article and photos is 4:30 p.m., Monday, for the week of publication. Articles and photos will be published on a space-available basis and are subject to editing by the *Arctic Warrior* staff. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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# EOD Airmen train for the job no one wants to need them for

*Delicacy of defusing devices makes every mission count*

By Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez  
JBER Public Affairs

If a person yells “bomb” in a crowded theater, most of the audience will disperse.

As chaos ensues, they will run for the exits with little in mind but to get as far away as possible.

While everyone flees, the explosive ordnance disposal technician approaches the site.

What proved to be a hazard and cause panic among so many is an opportunity for the EOD technician to put into play countless hours of training.

Members of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight train tirelessly and are always on call to serve Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the surrounding community.

“When some sort of emergency response goes on – [whether it be an] issue with [hung] ordnance on an aircraft; or a suspect package at one of the gates; [or] explosive hazards found – during duty hours, or outside of duty hours, we’ll respond,” said Tech. Sgt. Jason Halgren, an EOD Craftsman.

EOD is a career field full of hazards that have the potential for loss of life and property.

There is no simple mistake for an EOD technician. Attention to



**Airmen prepare an F6 robotic platform as part of a training exercise on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 27. The F6 has a wide range of capabilities for many types of explosive ordnance disposal missions. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)**

detail is just as necessary a tool as the bomb suits or robotics utilized.

“There’s a sense of urgency

because there is something that’s dangerous and could potentially hurt people,” said Halgren. “That’s

where the training kicks in and you’re in that mindset and getting the job done.”

Aside from responding to unexploded ordnance, an improvised explosive device or weapons of mass destruction, some EOD missions include providing Defense Support to Civil Authorities for explosive hazards found off the installation. EOD will also provide support to ensure safety during high-profile events and will assist the Secret Service to ensure the safety of the president, vice president and other heads of state.

Technical training for EOD is tough and demanding, where attrition rates are high, said Senior Airman Joshua Harris, an EOD journeyman.

“[It] was about 10 months long,” Harris said. “It’s designed to be stressful to help deal with those situations that you are going to be facing out in the real world – in a deployed environment [like] in combat downrange.”

But the missions can present themselves at anytime and anywhere.

In 2011, Airmen disposed of a sea mine that washed up on the Alaska shore, north of Sitka.

After X-raying the mine, EOD technicians could see where the explosive material inside was. They then placed plastic explosive to destroy it.

In 2012, JBER Airmen traveled to the island of Adak in the Aleutian island chain to dispose of three World War II-era bombs. The mission spanned several months due to complications with weather. But ultimately three bombs were

excavated and disposed of.

But learning continues all the time. There are also opportunities for EOD technicians to learn from the actions of Airmen past and present, Halgren said.

“We keep the skill sets we learned through blood from Iraq and Afghanistan,” Halgren said. “We’ve had a lot of people put up on the EOD memorial during the wars. That’s what we refer to as ‘learned through blood.’ We learn from what’s happened that got people killed as well as remember their life because they were all skilled, knowledgeable people. And [knowing they were] killed by a device proves that it can happen [to anyone].”

EOD technicians work in a unique field in that their service is not used on a daily basis. And while it is a necessary profession, nobody wants to need them – it means bad things were intended to, or could potentially, happen.

“[We] train near-daily to defeat explosive items, and we trust in our training that we are going to use that skill set to assess the situation and take care of it,” Halgren said.

Should they do their job right, countless lives will be saved. Yet, EOD technicians remain faceless figures to the people they protect.

“Some of us get a sense of accomplishment whenever we get a call and prevent something from blowing up because we’ve protected people,” Halgren said. “Not in the way doctors or police officers or medics do, but we’ve protected life – we’ve saved life – and people can go about their daily business afterwards.”

## Privately owned weapons on installation must be registered, secured

By Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez  
JBER Public Affairs

Recently, 673d Security Forces Squadron provided guidance for privately owned weapon registration, storage and transportation to ensure the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson community remains compliant with current regulation.

On base, JBER Instruction 31-107, Weapons Registration and Child Access Prevention Policy, dictates proper weapon registration, transportation and storage.

“People with unregistered weapons on base, once discovered, will be detained and charged with an Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, failure to obey order or regulation,” said Tech. Sgt. Jose Ramirez, 673d Security Forces Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of reports and analysis. “Civilians are charged with carrying on federal property and [Anchorage Police Department] will be called in for that.”

“Weapons will be confiscated ... [and] punishment will be given by the unit commander,” he said. “It can ... [be any] form of non-judicial punishment.”

“Part of what drives weapon registration on base is the need for full accountability,” said Tech. Sgt. Matthew Barrey, 673d Security Forces Squadron NCOIC of base access.

“This allows first responders to know they are going to a location that has weapons and can take the proper precautions when reporting to a scene.”

Units have a POW monitor/armorer assigned by the commander. POW monitors are in charge of ensuring all weapons owned by assigned troops living on base are in compliance.

“Those who wish to bring weapons on base are required to declare and register their POWs at the visitor control center, at either Richardson or Boniface gate, prior to entering base,” Barrey said

He said, registrants will fill out AF Form 1314 [Firearms Registration] at the VCC and the information will be put into [the Security Forces Management Information System].

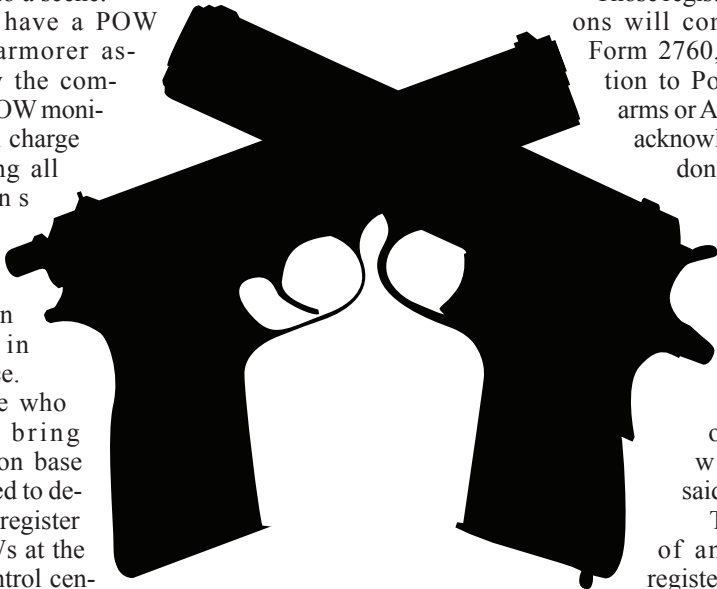
“[On JBER, it is] not allowed to carry

concealed [weapons], with the exception of designated local, state and federal law enforcement personnel.” Barrey said.

Those registering weapons will complete DD Form 2760, Qualification to Possess Firearms or Ammunition, acknowledging they don’t have any prior convictions or anything on their record that restricts them from owning a weapon, he said.

The sale of any weapon registered on base must be reported within 48 hours from the point of sale, Barrey said.

“[673 SFS] Form 0107 can be picked up at a VCC or the People Center,” Ramirez said. “The wallet-sized form serves as proof of registration and allows individuals to transport their POWs on base.”



“POWs will only be transported to and from their place of storage or purchase, to authorized sporting events or activities on or off the installation,” he said. “Weapons are not allowed to be stored in vehicles.”

Weapons of any kind are not allowed in the dormitories, barracks, temporary housing, billeting or any government-owned building on JBER, except for storage in security forces, Marine Corps and Army armories, Barrey said.

During transport, the weapon cannot be loaded, and the ammunition and weapon have to be separated, he said.

In base housing, similar rules apply.

“The weapon will be unloaded while in the residence and the weapons will be locked up,” Barrey said. “Ammunition can be stored in the same locked container, if the container cannot be easily penetrated or located in a spot where kids can get to it and put the two together.”

Each military sponsor is responsible to ensure all weapons are registered, stored unloaded and secured in a locked container with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock or other safety devices.

“This is a big base, and you trust your neighbors are doing the right thing,” Barrey said. “The biggest thing to remember is anything that you are allowed to have on the installation is a privilege.”



# Service members turn out in force to assist with homeless survey

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson  
JBER Public Affairs

More than 80 service members from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson helped conduct a survey of Anchorage’s homeless population Jan. 27, making up two-thirds of the total volunteers for the event.

The survey tries to account for the total number of Anchorage’s homeless population and their medical needs to the highest degree of accuracy possible.

As word got out about the survey, Chief Master Sgt. David Wolfe, commandant of the Professional Military Education Center, and Tech. Sgt. Callie Lewis, a PME instructor with the 673d Wing Staff Agency, caught wind of it and extended the offer to their Noncommissioned Officer Academy and the JBER community as a whole.

JBER responded in force. “We presented it to the class because the city does a lot to help with the base, and we want to try to give back to them,” Wolfe said. “I hope people come back and say, ‘Wow, what I saw has now changed my viewpoint on a problem I didn’t understand before in some way.’ Everybody comes from a different perspective, but it’s going to open up people’s eyes.”

“They took it on and said they could bring us about 80 volunteers,” said Nancy Burke, coordinator for the Municipality of Anchorage’s housing and homeless services. “I was ... OK! How does that even work? We were at 35 at the time, which we would have considered a really great number, because usually it’s a dozen or so outreach workers taking it on and they’d have to do it over a couple of days.

“Then we brought [the nonprofit which



**Airmen discuss which homeless communities they will survey during a briefing at the Elmendorf Professional Military Education Center Jan. 21. During the training, Airmen also learned how to download the mobile application they would use to record data on the Anchorage homeless population and their medical needs. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)**

administers the survey] 120 additional people!”

Because accuracy is critical, they had to conduct the survey when most individuals would be in their campsites, Burke said.

“People will typically find less visible, wooded areas near the amenities they need,” Burke said. “They’ll either panhandle during the day, or catch the bus down to Bean’s for a meal before coming back to the wooded areas. That’s how they survive.”

JBER members met at the PME Center at 3:15 a.m. and left to meet with other volunteers at 4 a.m. to begin the survey.

“There is funding that comes to every

community from one of the federal agencies, and it provides resources for things like shelter and emergency housing, et cetera,” Burke said. “It provides roughly \$3 million for the community across a number of providers. One of the requirements for that funding is that we conduct this annual count of how many homeless people there are.

“Without this survey, we would not be in compliance with our agreement for the funding and would potentially jeopardize that \$3 million.”

Three million dollars may seem like a large amount of money, but those funds are essentially the Anchorage homeless commu-

nity’s main hope for a future off the streets.

“If we only survey a portion of them, if we’re not able to go out and cover the entire landmass we need to cover, then it will only reflect a portion of the homeless community and impact those needed funds,” Lewis said.

Often, volunteering affects volunteers as much as the recipients. Therein lies the value of community service.

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity,” said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Olson, a budget analyst with the 354th Comptroller Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base. “The basic fundamentals of life are food, water and shelter. A lot of these folks don’t have that.”

## Legislation aims to increase rural Guard participation, eliminate cost factors

Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
Press Release

Alaska Congressman Don Young has introduced legislation to eliminate barriers facing members and potential members of the National Guard and Reserves living in rural areas.

The Rural Guard and Reserve Act of 2016, introduced Monday and sponsored by Young and Representative Mark Takai of Hawaii, seeks to increase rural participation and remove cost-prohibitive factors in the National Guard and Reserves by changing a reimbursement cap for members traveling to training exercises and activities.

“When I first moved to Fort Yukon, the National Guard played a huge role in the community. Unfortunately, since then, rural participation has dramatically decreased,” Young said. “While the

current reimbursement system may seem equitable, it fails to recognize the unique geography and distances people in my state and across the country face. As a strong advocate of the National Guard, I hope to increase participation by leveling the playing field for rural Americans looking to serve their nation in the Guard or Reserves.”

Specifically, the Rural Guard Act of 2016 modifies existing law by removing a \$300 reimbursement cap, on a case by case basis, if the National Guard or Reserve member 1) lives in the state in which the training occurs, 2) lives in a rural area, and 3) travels to Guard or Reserve training using a boat or aircraft because of limited or nonexistent vehicular routes, or from a permanent residence located more than 75 miles from



**Many Reservists and Guardsmen in rural Alaska face prohibitive travel costs to get to a drill location; proposed legislation would change a cap on travel reimbursement to eliminate barriers facing members. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)**

the training location.

For example, a junior enlisted Guard member holding the grade

of E-4 (specialist or senior Airman) will earn approximately \$300 for training during one drill weekend

and is eligible to receive up to \$300 in travel reimbursement.

However, if that Guard member lives in Point Hope and drills in Anchorage, the flight alone costs more than \$900.

For that Guard member to serve, he could potentially incur a loss of more than \$300 per training period – or more than \$3,600 annually.

“Being able to reimburse rural Alaskans for their travel expenses would be a huge step forward in encouraging greater participation in the Guard,” said Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. “We appreciate Representative Young introducing this measure and wish him speedy success in convincing his Congressional colleagues to approve it.”



**Tax center now open**

Active duty members, Reserve Components members, retirees, and their family members can receive free tax return preparation and electronic filing at the JBER Tax Center.

Volunteers are trained to prepare Federal and state 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 seven to ten days.

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., Thursday from 1 to 8 p.m., and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Taxpayers will need their military ID; social security cards and birth dates for all dependents; last year's federal income tax return; wage and earning statement(s) from W-2s, W-2Gs, and 1099-Rs; any Forms 1098, interest and dividend statements; bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit; amounts paid to day care providers and the day care providers' tax identification numbers. To itemize deductions, bring evidence of the expenses.

New this year is IRS Form 1095. For 2015, the Affordable Care Act requires proof of essential health coverage. Your proof of coverage is the Internal Revenue Service Form 1095: Employer Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage. Active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retiree and civilian employees must bring this form, available in MyPay.

Both walk-ins and appointments are welcome; to make an appointment, call 384-1040.

**Legal services available**

The Anchorage team of the Army's 6th Legal Operations De-

tachment 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 of the Year and Volunteer Excellence Award nominations are due by March 8. Community members, commanders and agency leaders are encouraged to recognize individuals who made a positive difference in the community during 2015. There are categories for active-duty, youth, Dpartment of Defense civilians and retirees, and families. Awards will be presented at the annual ceremony April 19. Download forms from [www.jber.af.mil/jbervolunteers.asp](http://www.jber.af.mil/jbervolunteers.asp). 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. 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](mailto: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 has temporarily relocated to Building 8124 Doolittle Avenue (near the

Polar Bowl) to allow for renovation. 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](http://jber.af.mil/mfrc/index.asp).

**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 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](http://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.

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.

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 information, call 375-5540.

**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 it is difficult to hear or understand in any base housing area, please contact JBER at [Facebook.com/JBERAK](https://www.facebook.com/JBERAK).

**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.





The aurora borealis as seen on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (Courtsey photo/Marie Wiedenmann)

## Catching the aurora on JBER

By Senior Airman James Richardson  
JBER Public Affairs

**S**PIRITS TAKING YOUR soul or a natural scientific marvel produced by solar wind? According to some Alaska Native legends, the lights of the aurora borealis are believed to be the torches held in the hands of spirits seeking the souls of those who have just died, to lead them over the abyss terminating the edge of the world.

There are many different tales or legends as to what causes the aurora borealis but the scientific explanation is best left to the professionals.

Air Force Capt. Carl Densford, 3rd Operational Support Squadron Weather Flight commander described the aurora as “the visualization of the solar wind interacting with the Earth’s atmosphere.”

Although this explanation sounds simple, it gets much more complicated.

“The Earth’s magnetic shield, which protects us from space particles, has inlets around the northern and southern poles. As plasma is hurled into space from our sun (solar wind) it is brought into the atmosphere via the poles, where it ionizes and produces the auroras. As the solar activity increases, so do the intensity and geographical expanse of the auroras.”

The science behind the aurora borealis can be confusing to the average person whose weather knowledge comes from their local news channel, but it doesn’t hinder our ability to view one of nature’s most mesmerizing wonders.

Viewing the aurora in the city or a well-lit area is possible but not ideal. Optimal conditions, Densford said, are “Clear nights with cold air and low lighting from cities. Cold air holds less moisture, which inhibits your viewing ability.”

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has several locations where



A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III flies past the aurora borealis during Operation Cobra Gold 2014 in 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman James Richardson)

you can escape the city lights of Anchorage; Sixmile Lake is one of many areas where military families gather to view the aurora.

Air Force spouse Marie Wiedenmann, a photographer and mother of two, visits the lake as much as possible to take photos of the aurora.

“The camera picks up a lot more than you can see with the naked eye,” Wiedenmann said. “The stars and the colors in the aurora are much more visible when you get home and view them on your computer. It’s like you get to enjoy it all over again. The Alaska

landscape is amazing as well, so it makes for some of the best images you can take of the night sky; it really puts things into perspective.”

Viewing the aurora is a great family activity but it doesn’t come without a few problem areas. As we know, Alaska is a beautiful place but if nature’s potential is not respected it can be dangerous. Take precautions and dress warmly, make sure your vehicle is properly taken care of and if possible, let someone know where you will be.

Additionally, the aurora is most active late at night or very early in

the morning. Thus, it can be a difficult family outing for those with younger children. With two young daughters of her own, Wiedenmann wishes she had the ability to take her family out. “My husband [Capt. Chris Wiedenmann, C-17 Globemaster III pilot] stays home with our daughters and while I would love to take them out so they can have the full Alaskan experience, they’re just too young.”

The same doesn’t hold true for her husband. “My husband has witnessed the aurora through [night vision goggles] while in the air, so I don’t feel so bad leaving

him at home.”

To get the most out of your aurora viewing experience, the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska Fairbanks has an excellent, easy-to-navigate website that tells you the auroral activity and its projected viewing areas.

Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s website has a great OVATION Aurora Forecast Model that shows the intensity and location of the aurora during a given time period at [www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/aurora-30-minute-forecast](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/aurora-30-minute-forecast).



# Because of what someone else has done

Commentary by Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Musselman 673d ABW Chaplain

Shaun Brown of Newport News, Virginia, has a small collection of baseball cards. The card that is worth the most, he says, is called “Future Stars” and is valued at \$100. He writes, “There are three players on this card. The first is Jeff Schneider. Schneider played one year of professional baseball, pitched in 11 games, and gave up 13 earned runs in those 11 games. The second player is Bobby Bonner, who played four years of baseball but only appeared in 61 games, with eight runs batted in, and zero home runs. The third ‘Future Star’ played 21 years for the Baltimore Orioles and appeared in 3,001 games. He came to bat 11,551 times, collected 3,184 hits and 431 home runs, and batted in 1,695 runs. His name is Cal Ripken, Jr. Now imagine if you met Bobby Bonner, and he shook your hand and boasted, ‘Did you know that my baseball card is worth over \$100?’ You would laugh because you know the worth of the card has nothing to do with him.”

I’m nodding in agreement with Brown who continued by saying, “That’s how it was when I came to Christ and I pointed to my good works, my statistics, and asked, ‘Is this good enough?’”



“If you want to hold up your stats to God, you don’t have a chance. But when you put your faith in Christ, his statistics become yours, and your baseball card becomes worth a lot because of someone else’s stats.” (Courtesy Photo)

Brown made me feel humbled as a Christian when he said in this article, “If you want to hold up your stats to God, you don’t have a chance. But when you put your faith in Christ, his statistics become yours, and your baseball card becomes worth a lot because of someone else’s stats.” Shaun Brown finished his article by saying, “Bobby Bonner and Jeff Schneider’s baseball card is worth \$100, not because of their statistics, but because of what someone else has done.”

As a Christian, my breath was

taken away as I realized that in a similar way, my face is on the same card as that of Jesus Christ. My worth, identity, and value come directly from his statistics, work, and sacrifice. That is something that Christians can hold onto when it may seem like we continue to strike out.

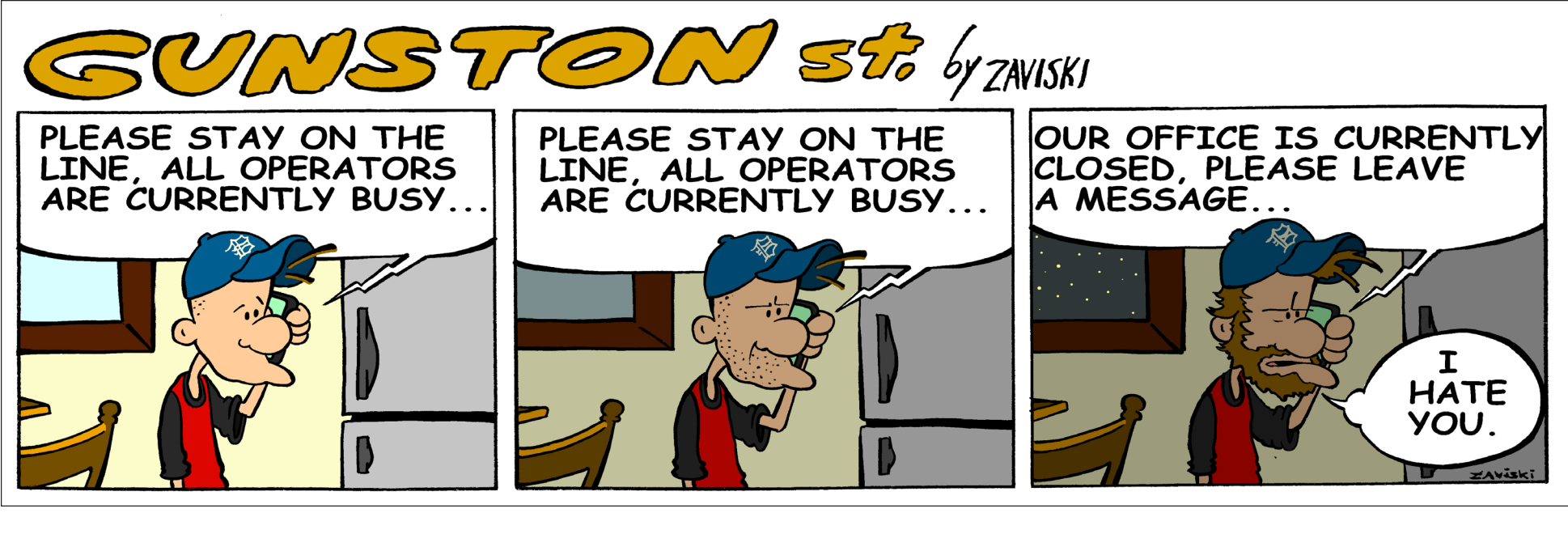
This principal, however, holds true for everyone, regardless of religious belief. Many times success in life is about getting credit for the work of someone else and leadership is often about making sure others get credit for the work

you may have done. In the military, most of us have experienced both aspects. The Air Force Core Value that comes to mind is service before self. In the countless times I have provided an invocation for a promotion ceremony, I’ve nearly heard every time from the promotee that credit should not go to the servicemember being promoted, rather, the credit belongs to the many people working behind the scenes to make the promotion possible. That’s humility. Vulnerability. It is the right thing to do as a leader.

As a Christian, my strength comes from knowing that God lavished love on me far before I ever knew – or understood – that a god existed. Personalizing the following verse a bit, a verse in the Bible demonstrates that my statistics will never compare to the one who loves me and I him when it says while [Chaplain Musselman] “was still powerless, Christ died” for [him] (Romans 5:6). The Apostle John says with excitement and urgency to “see what great love the father has lavished on us” (1 John 3:1). As I read these words, I sense God’s pursuit and initiation as an unmatched trait of his character. He built up his statistics, and essentially gave them to me.

How about you? Are you able to give, to be credited for your good deeds, yet divert the credit to another person? When I ponder my answer, I think of the 212th Rescue Squadron and other similar positions, whose motto or creed is “so that others may live.”

I believe that God has mapped out his plan for my life with this motto in mind. But whether you agree with me on that or not, I would encourage you to seek and find the joy that comes in highlighting others and giving value and credit to those who may not often receive that honor, especially when it means you place that service before your own self interests.





The Arctic Warrior Chapel will undergo a renovation from February through June. The 8:30 a.m. Catholic Mass and 11 a.m. Collective Chapel Services will meet at the Richardson Community Center on Hoonah Ave. during the renovation.

### SATURDAY Gettin' Steezy Ain't Easy

Show off your moves at this free terrain park contest from 2 to 4 p.m. at Hillberg Ski Area. Winners will be selected on style and tricks. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.  
For more information call 522-4838.

### Ice fishing Tournament

Bring your own fishing poles for this weather-dependent tournament at Hillberg Ski Area from noon to 3 p.m.  
For more information call 552-4599 or 552-2023.

### Fat Tire Snow Bike Ride

Take a ride at Hillberg Ski Area from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is weather-dependent and minimum and maximum sign-up numbers apply.  
For more information call 552-4599 or 522-2023.

### SUNDAY The Big Game Party

Watch the big game at Polar Bowl with prizes, beverages and bowling specials. Nine big screens with portable speakers are available to ensure you don't miss a minute of the game. Doors open one hour before kick-off.  
For more information call 753-7467.

### 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/zrszwph](http://tinyurl.com/zrszwph).  
For more information call 580-2060, or 580-6353.

### ONGOING Lunch at the Museum

Bring your own lunch to the JBER Wildlife Education Center,

building 8481, from noon to 2 p.m. on the second to last Thursday of each month. Learn about Alaska wildlife with over 200 mounts and displays.  
For more information call 384-1110.

**Visit Our Schools month**  
Parents, community members, and businesses are invited to visit any Anchorage School District school during February to learn more about the community's public schools. Visits take place each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. with an additional time of 6 p.m. on February 23rd.  
For more information, visit [asdk12.org/visit](http://asdk12.org/visit).

**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](http://alaska-zoo.org).

**Military Children Program scholarship**  
The scholarships for Military Children Program is accepting applications from eligible students at commissaries or online at [militaryscholar.org](http://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](http://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 [richardsonspousesclub.com/scholarship](http://richardsonspousesclub.com/scholarship) to download full eligibility requirements along with the application.  
Applications must be postmarked by February 26.

**NAF jobs**  
Looking for a fun job? Check out [nafjobs.org](http://nafjobs.org) for fun and exciting positions within the JBER Force Support Squadron. FSS is an equal opportunity employer.

**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](mailto: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/msmre](http://trainweb.org/msmre).

**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 to 11 a.m.  
Toddler Tales: Wednesdays 10 to 11 a.m.  
Preschool Story Time: Thursdays 10 to 11 a.m.  
Surprising Science: Tuesdays 3 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

## Chapel services

### Catholic Mass

**Sunday**  
**8:30 a.m.** – Richardson Community Center  
**11:30 a.m.** – Midnight Sun Chapel

**Monday and Wednesday**  
**11:40 a.m.** – Richardson Community Center  
**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

**THE BIG GAME PARTY**



**IN THE IGLOO LOUNGE**  
**DOORS OPEN 1 HOUR BEFORE KICK-OFF**  
**Prizes! Drink Specials! Bowling Specials!**  
**9 Big Screen HD TVs!**  
**Portable speakers ensure you won't miss a minute of the game!**  
**Call 753.PINS for more information.**



**PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD PLACE!**

**Bldg. 23400, 552.4838**

## Gettin' Steezy Ain't Easy

# TERRAIN PARK CONTEST

## FEBRUARY 6 • 2 - 4 P.M.

**COMPETITORS WILL SHOW US THEIR STEEZY MOVES IN THE TERRAIN PARK. WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED ON STYLE AND TRICKS**



**Now - March**  
**Rent at least 3 items from the list below and we will add 2 ice fishing poles, 2 chairs, and an ice scoop for FREE!**

## FISHING GEAR

(regular pricing)

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



**552.2023**  
**Bldg. 7307**

# FSSI SMWR

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



# Birth Announcements

ARCTIC WARRIOR

February 5, 2016 **B-4**

**JAN. 1**

A daughter, Robin Ashley Zarebski, was born 19 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 10:07 a.m. to Air Force Capt. Shenika Ashley Zarebski of the 673d Dental Squadron and George Thomas Zarebski, Jr.

A daughter, Aubrey Jordan Scott, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 10:31 p.m. to Taylor Scott and Spc. Xaviere Scott of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

**JAN. 2**

A son, Ryan Michael Manges, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 7:46 a.m. to Hattie Marie Manges and Spc. Seth Adam Manges of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

**JAN. 9**

A daughter, Kaia North Rosendahl, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 8:55 a.m. to Justine Leanne Rosendahl and Senior Airman Scott Andrew Rosendahl of the 673d Force Support Squadron.

A son, Eli Angel Marioni, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 9 ounces at 6:26 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Joelle Lani Marioni of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron and Air Force Staff Sgt. Emmanuel Marioni of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

A daughter, Eleanor Grace Donahue, was born 20 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces at 7:14 p.m. to Ashley Donahue and Senior Airman Brian Paul Donahue of the 673d Security Forces Squadron.

**JAN. 11**

A son, Oliver Akio Batten, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at 4:28 p.m. to Yuki Crystal Batten and Air Force Staff Sgt. Blake Wade Batten of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.

**JAN. 13**

A daughter, Cassandra Arabella Greene, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 11:40 p.m. to Janit Fermin Greene and Sgt. 1st Class Rick Jacob Greene of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

**JAN. 14**

A son, Hunter Joseph Conrad, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 12:27 a.m. to Kimberly Irene Conrad and Spc. Peter Anthony Conrad of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

**JAN. 16**

A son, Bronson Wesley Harris, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 2:30 a.m. to Shellie Lynn Reece and Pfc. Tyler Glen Harris of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.

**JAN. 19**

A son, Axton McCoy Mikesell, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 7:56 a.m. to Michellene J. Mikesell and Pfc. Orel Bryan Mikesell of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

**JAN. 20**

A daughter, Adelaide Rose Lane, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 1 ounce at 5:05 p.m. to Army 2nd Lt. Stephanie Catherine Lane of the 373rd Military Intelligence Battalion and

Army 2nd Lt. William Michael Lane of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

**JAN. 25**

A daughter, Roselyn Claire Knight, was born 19 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces at 7:44 a.m. to Senior Airman Raegan Lane Knight of the 301st Intelligence Squadron and Senior Airman Brandon Keith Knight of the 381st Intelligence Squadron.

**JAN. 26**

A daughter, Aria Lyn Cross, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 5:18 p.m. to Dana Nicole Cross and Air Force Staff Sgt. Austin Spencer Cross of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**JAN. 27**

A son, Leonato Eliot Noe Salazar, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces at 11:13 a.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Jillian Ann Noe Salazar and Air Force Staff Sgt. Richard Melchor Salazar II, both of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.

**JAN. 28**

A daughter, Riley Elizabeth Bituin, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 4:43 a.m. to Eleanor Preston Bituin and Air Force Capt. Karl Francis Bituin of the 673d Medical Support Squadron.



**JAN. 29**

A son, Oakley John-Charles Roederer, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds at 8:10 a.m. to Mariah Pabst Roederer and Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Jacob Roederer of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

## Spiritual resiliency: MCHH offers a home away from home

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

“It’s a home away from home.”  
Mountain Chapel Hospitality House is a place to kick off the shoes, hang up the jacket and feel accepted – where there is the freedom to be oneself, indulge in friendship, and create a community.  
“The MCHH is an awesome place where military families and singles come together and create a family away from home under the banner of Christ,” said Senior Airman Humberto Sanchez, 673d Comptroller Squadron financial management accountant. “I really enjoy the activities [they] put on – things from laid-back movie marathons, to week-long hunting trips, camping, kayaking, barbecues, and much more.”  
The MCHH works for the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Chapel leading the singles ministry. This is one of the many avenues available for spiritual fulfillment through the JBER Religious Operations Center.  
Spiritual resiliency is the ability to find hope, strength and courage to make it

through tough times with prayer, meditation and others, said Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Derek Marley, 673d Air Base Wing chaplain.  
“Your faith is only as good as what it is in,” said Stephanie Caudle, MCHH director. “If I have faith in a leaky boat, it won’t do me much good. Having faith in the right place [is what] gives us a hope and enough confidence to move forward, and that’s what resiliency is.”  
“Our entire goal is to minister to these people who have given up home and family to volunteer in our armed forces, so we have [offer] home and family to support them,” Caudle said.  
The Caudles’ home is open to everyone for Friday-night prayer, food, and games. They also host many outings and about four retreats throughout the year.  
Bob and Stephanie Caudle also participate at the JBER Sunday chapel services, at both the 11 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship service and the 5 p.m. Chapel Next modern young-adult worship service.  
“We encourage folks to find a troop someplace if you want to grow in [the] community,” Caudle said. “We have a really great core group of chaplains who really care about [military members].”  
JBER offers many chapel services from traditional to contemporary Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and community worship at the various chapels on the installation.  
“When folks have spiritual questions or



**Mountain Chapel Hospitality House participants play a team-based game of reverse-charades at Bob and Stephanie Caudle’s hospitality house in Eagle River, Jan. 22. Games are played to break the ice with light-hearted competition. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)**

issues the best place to go is the chapel for spiritual care,” Marley said. “Folks can come to us if they have spiritual questions, want spiritual counseling, or just need someone to talk to.”  
The chaplain corps is a resource to turn to for guidance and trusted counsel. The MCHH is an extension of their care outside of the chapel and church. Both sources work

together for family-fun events.  
Events like their 2015 New Year’s Eve party, and the April JBER Protestant retreats continuously build relationships with friends, God and the community.  
For more information on the JBER Chapel, call 552-5762; for the MCHH, call (715) 575-6244.



# Military and Family Readiness Center hosts spouse orientation

By Airman Valerie Monroy  
JBER Public Affairs

The Military and Family Readiness Centers hosted a quarterly Spouse Orientation at the Army Reserve Center at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 28.

The orientation is designed to expose military spouses to the opportunities, benefits, and resources available to them while at JBER.

The six-hour program involved a variety of briefings and activities to assure spouses of their importance to the military and to equip spouses with the tools needed to get accustomed to the new and unique environment JBER offers, said Jeri Romesha, 673d Force Support Squadron work-life consultant with the MFRC.

During the program spouses learned about finance and how to read Leave and Earnings Statements, along with where to go when adjustments are needed.

Romesha explained the spouses were also informed about deployment readiness, and resiliency to prepare for times when deployments come up.

The orientation is very interactive and is one of best ways to get connected to both the base and other spouses, Romesha said.

In an effort to present advice from past experiences, a panel made up of knowledgeable military spouses answered questions.

“Seasoned military spouses came in and shared experiences and answered questions about coping with changing duty stations, deployments and how to handle social media while remembering operational security,” said Romesha.

An information fair, with more than 30 agencies from around the community, followed the panel.

The fair is a way for spouses to learn about all the resources available and get answers directly from the source, said Romesha.

Participants were highly encouraged to visit as many booths as possible during the information fair. There were also questions posed to spouses concerning all of the information presented throughout the day.

Prizes were also given to those who visited the most booths and answered questions about information learned throughout the day.

“A lot of resources offered here have different names at other Air Force and Army installations which might make some spouses feel lost,” Romesha said. “This program allows them to understand that even though some organization names might be different, the same resources are available.”

JBER has a few unusual qualities; learn-

“JBER has a few unusual qualities; learning how to deal with darker times in the winter and wildlife encounters is vital for newcomers.”

ing how to deal with darker times in the winter and wildlife encounters is vital for newcomers.

“It’s Alaska and it’s dark,” said Airman 1st Class Rex Sharp, with the 176th Maintenance Squadron. “Learning how to cope and getting motivated to do things is great.”

Rex attended the orientation with his wife Stephanie Sharp. He explained he learned about a lot of different opportunities provided for outdoor recreation which can help him and his family get out and enjoy their time here.

“One of the most important things I’ve learned from this particular orientation is all the resources,” Rex said. “It gave my wife a feel for what to expect.”

Rex continued that many people who join the military spend a lot of time on getting themselves ready for their new life but spouses don’t always know how to do the same.

“I was prepared and ready to go but I didn’t even give a second thought what she needed,” Rex said. “It would have been a lot easier if we had done it sooner.”

Stephanie explained that once her husband joined the military she felt like



Participants were highly encouraged to visit as many booths as possible during the information fair. The six-hour program involved a variety of briefings and activities to assure spouses of their importance to the military.

she was in a new world and in new, bigger family.

“Were no longer in the civilian life,” Stephanie said. “We’re part of the military family and we have a new life.”

She said the orientation showed her the value of spouses and family throughout the military.

“There is a big emphasis on family and understanding that the foundation for [ev-

ery service member] starts at home,” said Stephanie. “My husband couldn’t be the Airman he is today if his life at home was falling apart.”

The quarterly spouse orientation is open to spouses from all military services on JBER.

The next orientation is scheduled for April 28. To register or for more information, call the MFRC at 552-4943 or 384-1517.



# Communication classes can benefit more than couples

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson  
JBER Public Affairs

The Family Advocacy Program on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is hosting its quarterly interactive couples’ communication classes this month at the JBER-Richardson Education Center. Interested parties can sign up any time for the next set of classes, scheduled to begin April 4.

“I would much rather not be the one doing the talking,” said Jennifer Frysz, Family Advocacy outreach manager. “Because those doing the talking are the ones doing the learning.”

The classes occur weekly and consist of four two-hour sessions.

In the class, participants talk about listening and speaking techniques. Students are also connected to helpful resources they can pursue outside of class, Frysz said.

In one such exercise, students practice active listening. Depending on the individuals’ background, this may not be a skill they are familiar with, Frysz said.

“It’s actually sitting and facing somebody,” Frysz said. “The phones are off, the distractions are not there. You’re squaring off shoulders, making eye contact. People learn about themselves. If someone grows up in a family where they don’t have family dinners, or eat in front of a [television], they may not know what active listening looks like. So these are some simple strategies to set yourself up to be in a listening position.”

“We can accommodate up to 20 people at a time, however, we’re happy to help people who can’t make it to the class,” Frysz said.

Couples’ communication classes are held quarterly and can prove valuable for anyone.

“The great thing about a couples’ communication class is, we have a couple that has not been married for very long, and we have another couple that has been married for quite some time,” Frysz said. “Any relationship can benefit from couples’ communication. Just because you’ve been with someone for a long period of time doesn’t mean you know everything about that relationship.”

In the current iteration of the class there is one couple who have been together for more than half a decade and another couple who have been married for less than



**Renee Geren, a mental health services coordinator at Day Break Mental Health Services, and Senior Master Sgt. Gene Geren, first sergeant for the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, speak to a Couples’ Communication class February 1 at the Richardson Education Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The married couple of 18 years laid bare the intricacies of their marriage to the class as an educational resource. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)**

four months.

“With a large class, someone may say they have a husband who forgets stuff all the time and there will be a bunch of people say something like ‘my husband does that too!’” Frysz said. “This can give validation and knowledge that other couples experience similar things and can show some dynamics in relationships are actually normal.”

“I like the class, we’re learning how to communicate with each other,” said Sgt. Trey Sanders, a motor transport operator with the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne), 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. “We are learning stuff about each other we

might have not known, even after seven years.”

The advantage of participating as group is there are a variety of perspectives available and students can learn from each other as much as from the instructor, Frysz said.

“It’s very personable. We all get a chance to be heard and ask questions on how we might be able to apply it to our specific situation,” said Senior Airman Samantha Schomaker, a mental health technician with the 673d Medical Group. “I like that there’s more than one perspective, they’ve been married for seven years and we’ve been married under a year. It’s nice to see if how I’m feeling at this point

is normal or not.”

Communication is not just valuable to couples, it can also be useful in business relationships, co-parenting and divorces, Frysz said.

“There are no limitations; you can bring your friend, you can bring your mom,” Frysz said. “I think couples communication does not just target married couples, but also people who are going through a divorce, or contemplating marriage. Effective communication skills goes a long way in a lot of areas.”

For more information on JBER couples’ communication classes or any other Family Advocacy program, call 552-5858.