

ARCTIC WARRIOR

February 26, 2016

www.jber.af.mil

Volume 7, No. 8

REMEMBRANCE

JBER honors Japanese held at internment facilities

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson hosted a Day of Remembrance ceremony Feb. 19, honoring the men, women and children of Japanese descent who were interned in camps during World War II.

Internment camps were locations where individuals suspected to be sympathizers to an enemy power were detained during times of war.

After the U.S. declared war on the Axis powers, thousands of German, Italian, and Japanese people were arrested and interned, suspected of being a threat to national security.

One such camp was recently found on JBER-Richardson, and JBER hosted a ceremony at the site honoring those held in the camps.

“Every part of our history is important, I think,” said Phyllis Callina, an archaeologist with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. “We either remember it to repeat it, if it’s good, or not repeat it if it’s not so good. We also need to understand the context of where we live today.

“The more we can understand the people around us, the more empathy and compassion we can have for them and the better we can work together.”

Background

“They were arrested under the Enemy Alien Act,” said Dr. Morgan Blanchard, a senior project archaeologist with Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC. “That [act] said if we go to war with a foreign power, the government has the power to interview people and decide whether or not they are a threat to national security. If they are, then they are arrested and interned.

“The difference was, Japanese were prohibited from becoming American citizens until the 1950s. So everybody born in Japan, at the start of the war, was – by definition – an alien enemy.”

Because of this, the majority of individuals interned at this time were Japanese foreign nationals.

“They interviewed Germans and Italians and let most of them go, but arrested virtually all of the Japanese,” Blanchard said. “There were Americans in these communities who were upset; they felt these people would be Americans if they could be.”

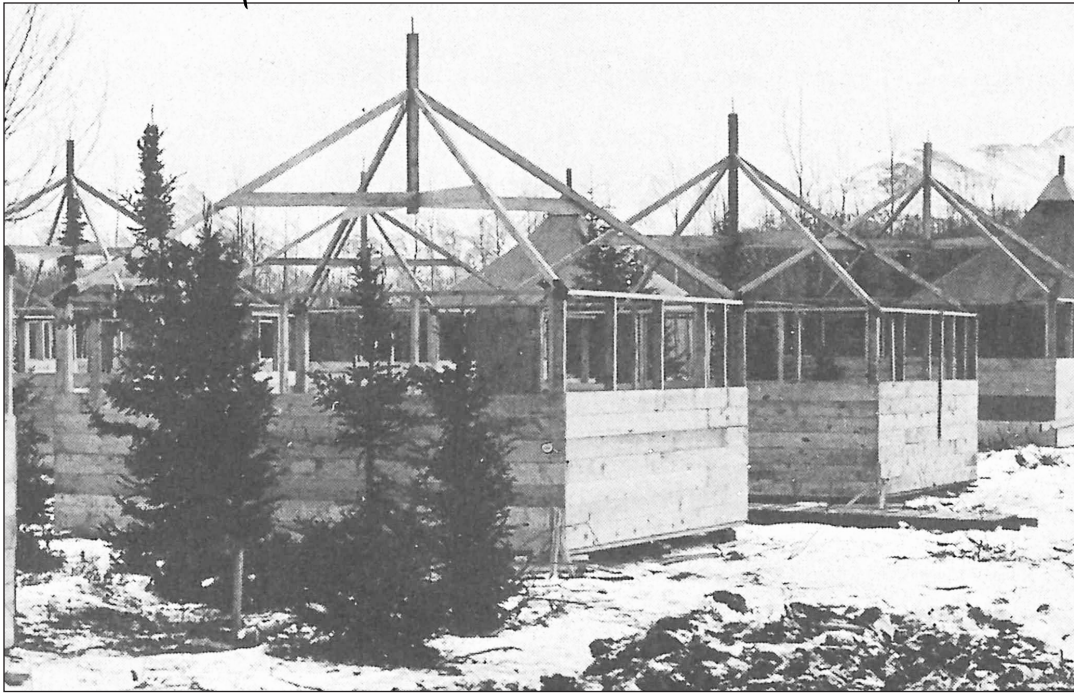
Discovery

“It was a total accident, really,” Blanchard said. “I was working on another project next door to the camp and as part of the survey, I was looking to see what was in the area. I found a map in a report by (Lt. Col.) James D. Bush in 1944. It was a narrative report of Alaska construction during the war.

It has information on everything the Army built throughout those years.

“The maps are great because it gives you a sense of what was there. One of the maps said ‘internment camp, see insert’.”

Blanchard began researching aerial photos from different time



Half-finished buildings stand in an internment camp which was on Fort Richardson in World War II. The Enemy Alien Act meant Japanese people living in the U.S. – who could not be American citizens – were arrested and interned in camps throughout the American West. Historians had known there was a camp on the installation, but the location was unknown until 2015, when it was found under the parking lot outside the Army Reserve building. (Courtesy photo)



Mary Abo, daughter of John Tanaka, who was arrested and interned out of Juneau, accepts tissues as she shares childhood memories at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Day of Remembrance ceremony, Feb. 19 at the Army Reserve Center. The ceremony highlighted findings on JBER-Richardson's internment camp and was held in honor of the men, women, and children of Japanese descent who were interned by the U.S. during World War II. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

periods and was able to verify the location of an internment camp during that time period.

He then took the old aerial images and georectified them – a process involving lining up photos from different time periods to see change – with the initial map he found in the old construction report, Blanchard said.

“We took it to Jon Scudder over at the 673d Wing and they immediately said they thought it was interesting and suggested we do something about it. I thought that was fantastic; everybody I’ve spoken to in the service has been really great about it.”

JBER reached out to Jacobs Engineering, with whom they have an ongoing business relationship, and Jacobs subcontracted Blanchard to do a full study on the camp.

“The goals of this research were threefold; to establish a historic context for the site, write a history of the Fort Richardson Internment Camp, and to identify the persons interned there during World War II,” said Jon Scudder, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron cultural resource manager and native liaison.

Blanchard began trying to identify all the individuals held at the FRIC, but filing a Freedom of Information Act information request was difficult, as it is nearly impossible to request information about somebody without knowing who they are.

“The first thing I did is I went and talked to everybody I knew who was interested in the history of Japanese in Alaska,” Blanchard said.

Fortunately, there were some people who had already been able to secure some names with a FOIA request at the Empty Chair Project, an organization dedicated to honoring the interned Japanese community from that time period, Blanchard said.

The names they provided him kick-started his research and opened the doors for him to begin identifying the individuals interned, Blanchard said.

“We took that list and ran it through all the 1940s census records, which told us who they were, what they did, and whether they had families or not,” Blanchard said.

Through the census and other historical research – like their enemy alien cards – Blanchard was able to identify 16 of the 17 individuals held at FRIC as well as when they were arrested and what camps they went to, he said.

As part of the study, Blanchard, Callina, and students and a professor from the University of Alaska, Anchorage performed an archaeological survey of the area in an attempt to find artifacts from the internment camp.

“The survey was important, because no matter how much background information we have like maps or even old reports, we still need to go to the site and find out what’s there today,” Callina said. “Are there any material objects we can actually attribute to this site to backup and substantiate

See CAMP • A2

Putting a stop to trafficking in persons

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

Modern-day slavery is alive today and it’s called human trafficking.

It is a crime that defiles basic human rights and involves recruiting, transporting and harboring by means of force, fraud and coercion. Trafficking is just as much underground as it is right under our nose. Unchecked, it can fuel organized crime and other illegal activity.

Since 2007, the U.S. has had more than 24,000 cases of human trafficking. Of that, more than 5,500 cases were reported in 2015, according to traffickingresourcecenter.org.

The military resource combating these crimes is the Combating Trafficking in Persons program, which develops guidelines and training for general awareness, as well as law enforcement, senior leadership, contracting, acquisitions and legal counsel personnel.

The Department of Defense created the CTIP program in compliance with President George W. Bush’s 2002 signing of National Security Presidential Directive 22, mandating a zero-tolerance policy toward trafficking in persons for the U.S. armed services, civilian employees and civilian contractors.

The program has been successful thus far. The number of military members and DoD civilian employees trained rose from 72 percent in 2008 to 90 percent in 2015, thus increasing the awareness of these heinous crimes, according to ctip.defense.gov.

To train personnel on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the CTIP program presented ‘Stones in a Backpack: The Burden of Teen Prostitution,’ a documentary film about Alaska youth and sex trafficking.

According to the film, most Alaska sex trafficking victims were physically and sexually abused as children and lost trust in their family, leaving them susceptible to perpetrators and continued abuse.

Victims of sex trafficking may be in nightclubs, bars, massage parlors, spas, adult bookstores, modeling studios and on the streets. Some signs to look for are: malnourishment, bruises, exhaustion, withdrawals, owning very few possessions, withholding of passports, unreasonable working hours, sleeping at their workplace, fearfulness or anxiety near police, avoiding eye contact and – sometimes – being underage.

“In many instances they are running from something; by the time they are 13, 14, 15, they have run away from home and are out on the street to get recruited by a trafficker,” said Kyle Reardon, United States Department of Justice Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska.

There are many local resources to help endangered youth. ‘My House’ and ‘Covenant House’ offer a place to stay for at-risk and homeless youth, while also helping them get back on their feet.

‘Priceless’ is a program that offers female victims of sex trafficking the support they might need to navigate the other resources available and create a healthier life for themselves.

“It’s absolutely devastating what these women encounter, and we do everything we can do to help them on their way,” said Gwen Adams, Priceless executive director.

Sex trafficking isn’t the only kind of trafficking happening all over the world. Others include, forced labor, indentured servants, child soldiers and child prostitutes.

“If you see something unusual ... and it doesn’t look right, then it’s probably not right,” Adams said. “Always speak up.”

To report suspicious activity and trafficking of any kind, inform the local police, Federal Bureau of Investigation, provost marshal or inspector general.

Trafficking is not a developing-nation problem or any one person’s problem; it is a dilemma happening all over the world. It happens to children; little boys and girls, adults who are poor, foreign or Native. Anyone can be victimized through force, fraud and coercion.

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Dental health for children

673d Dental Squadron continues visiting CDCs, schools to teach dental hygiene, Page B4



Partnership program helps JBER build links with community

By Air Force Staff Sgt. William Banton
JBER Public Affairs
Additional Reporting by Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson leadership recently implemented an Air Force Headquarters-level program designed to foster community cooperation and advantageous business agreements.

The Air Force Community Partnership program provides increased opportunities for military installations and local communities to form mutually beneficial agreements which can help reduce operating costs and achieve common economic goals.

The process addresses the technical and social challenges associated with partnering between multiple public and private-sector entities by bringing individuals together to create a sense of ownership in the outcomes.

“What piqued my interest in the AFCP was that it has enabled ... through specific legislation, [bases] to enter into agreements with other governments; be it state, municipality, or whatever,” said Allan Lucht, 673d Civil Engineer Group deputy director.

The concept isn’t new, Lucht said. JBER has been working with the Municipality of Anchorage for years in the form of mutual aid agreements concerning the JBER and Anchorage fire departments; security forces and the Anchorage Police Department and the 673d Medical Group and civilian hospitals.

However, the AFCP makes it easier for JBER to seek out rela-

tionships like these.

“The program has taken down some of the legal barriers allowing the base and local government to share or trade resources and directly pay each other for services,” Lucht said. “For example, in the past if we did something with the Municipality of Anchorage and they paid the Air Force for it, the base never saw any of that money.”

Previously, the money involved in these transactions would go straight to the U.S. Department of Treasury, creating less incentive for the parties involved to enter into partnerships.

“Now, that money comes back to the base,” Lucht said. “For example; if it’s a civil engineer function we are providing to the municipality, that money comes to our CE accounts.”

JBER has set goals for the program, which have allowed it to take off faster and bigger than other military bases have traditionally done.

“Typically, people start out with five or six [partnership] ideas; we are going after 13,” Lucht said. “I would attribute that to the fantastic relationship we already have with folks downtown. It’s a tight-knit community, and the municipality – with the new administration coming in from day one – has been highly interested in this whole process.”

The ideas are formed through working groups, which are organized based on types of possible partnerships, Lucht said. For example, an idea to work with the University of Alaska Anchorage to establish an apprentice program is currently being discussed with

the education and training working group.

“When we had our initial finding meeting, Chief Master Sgt. David Wolfe, the Elmendorf Professional Military Education Center commandant, came up with the idea of providing leadership training to the local community,” Lucht said, citing another example of AFCP programs at JBER.

Wolfe had previously engaged personal contacts throughout the community prior to hearing about AFCP. His idea was to provide free leadership training to nonprofits and other government entities – training which can be costly to the public. This training would have the added benefit of providing his staff with increased training and experience.

“The community partnership gave me a vehicle to do what I already wanted to do,” Wolfe said. “It legitimized something we were already working toward. This kind of threw gasoline on the fire and allowed us the opportunity to say ‘hey, look there is a program for this already, and we think this is a good way to apply it.’”

The AFCP is managed at the Air Force level by the office of the Assistant Secretary of Air Force Installations, Environment and Energy to help navigate the procedural process and provide oversight on types of partnerships which may have already been arranged at other installations.

This oversight has helped alleviate road blocks because processes are already in place to find solutions.

“What’s kind of cool about SAF overseeing this process is that

they have [set up] virtual teams in different areas that can reach out to experts and have legal counsel that’s really well-versed in these partnerships and can provide a solution,” Lucht said.

Higher headquarters assigns a liaison to each installation’s program who has the ability to see if any problems have already been solved at other installations.

The Air Force has also contracted Marstel-Day to provide additional professional contract support. According to Marstel-Day’s website, the company provides multiple services, including assisting clients to develop partnership solutions that address the local impacts of land-use issues.

“[Marstel-Day] helped us to go through the process of establishing work groups,” Lucht said. “The facilitators are very good at what they do. This has been an Air Force program since 2012 and a lot of them have been involved in this since [then]. They have a lot of skill and knowledge in establishing work groups and bringing people together without taking up an inordinate amount of time.”

The total process for the program consists of seven meetings, including a two-hour kick-off meeting, three half-day planning workshops, and smaller group meetings after each workshop. The meetings are designed to chart a way to sustain the momentum gained during the six-to-eight month initial process.

Since October 2012, the AFCP program has generated more than 1,000 initiatives – with a potential value/benefit of approximately \$160 million over the

next five years.

These partnerships are identifying new and innovative ways of supporting Airmen and their families. Current initiatives include medical, emergency response, grounds maintenance, shared-use firing ranges, joint fire/police training, and operations of installation services.

Several other AFCPs across America are already bearing fruit.:

At Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, officials leased underutilized facilities to a health care management firm with lease income equal to \$635,000 in June 2015. The total rentable space comprised 21,521 square feet, along with associated office equipment including desks, chairs, cubicles, tables, etc.

This partnership will provide well-paying jobs in western South Dakota, and income to offset base operating costs.

At Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, medical leaders realized renewal certification training for medical and dental doctors was available at local community hospitals around Houston County, Georgia.

Attending local training eliminated the need for military members to travel to other locations, saving more than \$434,000 for the Air Force and up to \$2 million for the community.

At Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, leadership signed a lease with a local medical center.

The lease, for a one-year period, will enable the 325th Medical Group to provide pediatric and minute-clinic type care to patients at the center two days per week.

Almost like flying again

A static C-130 Hercules at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Heritage Park is prepared to be transported to Hangar 21 for refurbishment by the 3rd Maintenance Squadron Thursday. Air Force heritage aircraft are inspected annually and required to receive restorative maintenance every 10 to 15 years. The refurbishment is projected to be complete by mid-April. There will be a power outage in the immediate vicinity of Heritage Park Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. due to the movement; the outage will not affect housing areas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaehr)

From **CAMP • A1**

those historical accounts? It also helps in determining whether or not that is a historical site that warrants any protection considerations.”

From the survey, they found 116 artifacts, many of which were consistent with the research they had done up to that point, but due to their generic nature, couldn’t be identified without doubt to have

been part of the internment camp, Blanchard said.

While conducting his research, Blanchard learned the daughters of John Tanaka, a Japanese Juneau resident who was arrested and held at an internment camp, would be in town, so he reached out to them to see if they’d be interested in visiting the site.

More people became involved as the project grew, and the process led to a ceremony honoring those

taken and their families – with Tanaka’s daughters, Alice Hikido and Mary Abo, as well as Patrick Regan, the grandson of an internee – as guest speakers, Blanchard said.

After being released from his internment camp, Tanaka volunteered to serve in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and though he never saw combat, did leave for Europe with the unit, Blanchard said.

Soon, the report will be sent to the state historic preservation officer, who will review the report and decide whether the site is of historical significance or not.

“We could potentially find the site to be eligible under a couple of categories,” Callina said. “If they determine it is historically significant, we’ll work with them further on whatever mitigation measures they think are appropriate.”

Mitigation measures can range

from doing further historic reports and educational components such as compiling information for schools, to an interpretive panel or further historical research, Callina said.

JBER is currently interested in the possibility of establishing a memorial at the site of the internment camp, in honor of the individuals held and the impact to their families, but no concrete plans have been established as yet.

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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. 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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PATHOLOGICAL PROFICIENCY



LEFT: A specialist with the Alaska National Guard's 103d Civil Support Team marks the entrance of a building during the team's technical proficiency evaluation test for federal recognition as a regional chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response unit in Anchorage Feb. 16. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)
BELOW: A specialist with the Alaska National Guard's 103d Civil Support Team places samples on a sanitation sheet as part of the proficiency evaluation. A CST can provide an array of support to civil authorities in the case of emergencies or natural disasters.



An Alaska National Guard 103d Civil Support Team chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist scans a teammate for contamination before exiting a building.



Team members remove their suits after decontamination during their technical proficiency evaluation test.

JBER’s dirtiest jobs: Fleet Services Airmen keep it clean

By Airman Valerie Monroy
JBER Public Affairs

Walking down the spotless hallways of the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron Fleet Services building, you wouldn’t guess they have one of the dirtiest jobs in the Air Force.

Fleet services ensure all aircraft that come through Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are clean and serviceable for aircrew and passengers.

Fleet services is comprised of two sections: clean and dirty, and both are vital to complete the mission. The services provided by clean fleet depend on the needs of the aircraft. They can stock aircraft with water coolers, toiletries, pillows, blankets, supply coffee, ice and meals or anything else the passengers might need.

Dirty fleet is responsible for disposing of any waste or trash of military and civilian passenger or cargo aircraft that arrive at JBER.

“The first thing we do is take care of the international garbage,” said Jeffrey Zook, 732nd Air Mobility Squadron vehicle operator for Fleet Services.

All garbage coming from overseas is considered international garbage or regulated garbage, and must be taken care of first because of the possible contamination it could pose to agriculture here at home, Zook said. Dirty fleet removes the garbage from the aircraft and incinerates it within 72 hours.

Depending on the aircraft and their needs, dirty fleet might also need to service the lavatory.

When that call comes in – regardless of time or temperature – they quickly don their personal protective equipment and head out to the flight line with one of the latrine servicing trucks.

Always working in teams, they back the truck in next to the aircraft and prepare to open the lavatory servicing panel, or the “hatch”.

“Once the hatch is opened, we hook up and drain the hose with all of the lavatory’s waste; then refill it with ‘blue juice’,” Zook said.

Blue juice is a mixed solution of deodorizer, water, and an anti-ice solution which is used in the sanitation of the latrines.

The entire process is clean and efficient; within a few minutes it’s over and done with.

“Everybody has a perception of us as just the guys cleaning the toilets and it being a messy job, but the chances of it actually getting messy are slim to none,” Zook said. “It’s all fairly clean and we take pride in our equipment and maintain a very high standard of cleanliness.”

Each time they service an aircraft, a specific technical order is followed to ensure the process is done correctly and to minimize the chances of accidents happening. Unfor-



ABOVE: Jeffrey Zook, left, and Lewis Come attach a drainage tube to a C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, to remove waste from the aircraft’s lavatory. The 732nd Air Mobility Squadron’s Fleet services Airmen not only clean and empty lavatories, they remove trash and prepare outbound aircraft with pillows, blankets and other items. Zook is a fleet services vehicle operator and Come is the fleet services supervisor. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman Valerie Monroy)
LEFT: Jeffrey Zook, 732nd Air Mobility Squadron fleet services vehicle operator, assists with the draining of the lavatory on a C-17 Globemaster III. The service provided by fleet services varies by aircraft.

tunately, not all accidents can be prevented.

Lewis Come, 732nd AMS Fleet Services supervisor, was a victim in one of these accidents.

“There was an issue with the [lavatory], and I went over to assess it but when [the hatch] opened it popped out and I got dumped on,” Come said.

“It was like Niagara Falls out there,” Zook said.

Zook and Come joke about it now, but the potential health risks are serious.

If anyone gets ‘dumped on’, the health precautions involve washing their eyes out, showering to remove all the waste, and a trip to the hospital for the necessary immunizations, Come explained.

“Depending on the severity of the situation, they might go straight to the hospital,” Come said. “The main concern at that point is inhalation or absorption into the skin.”

The members of the Fleet Services are continuously on the frontlines against diseases. During the Ebola outbreak, they were responsible for providing Ebola decontamination kits to all aircraft transiting areas where the Ebola infection was most common. Unfortunately, none of the kits existed at the time.

“Knowing that these planes had to fly, we took it upon ourselves to do the research, and find the required items for the kit,” Zook said. “After that, we started the process of putting the package together and sent it to Air Mobility Command.”

Their Ebola kit was taken and used as a benchmark for all Ebola decontamination kits within the 515th Air Mobility Wing, Zook said.

This job may be dirty, difficult or dangerous to some, but to the members of the 732nd AMS fleet services, the family-like

atmosphere makes it all worth it.

“My team is great. We all get along really well and we pick on each other to make it fun,” Zook said. “We make the best of the situation.”

It might not be the most glamorous, or the most noticed work, but it is vital to daily missions arriving and departing from JBER.

“We’re not just the people who empty the toilets; there is so much more to it,” Zook said. “A lot of people don’t pay attention to us and for some reason people don’t really want to talk to you when you’re in this suit.”

“I think this is an unsung job,” Come said. “People don’t realize what goes on behind the scenes, before they board the plane.”

They might not be the most-known, but when aboard a JBER aircraft– either as aircrew members or passengers – remember the vital role fleet services played in making the trip just a little more comfortable.

Munitions inventory

The 3rd Munitions Squadron will conduct a semi-annual inventory of the munitions stockpile March 18 through 25. During the inventory, only emergency requests will be processed. Requests during that time must be submitted in writing and approved by the group commander or equivalent.

For information, call 552-3098 or email jber.fv5000@elmendorf.af.mil.

Express Closure

The JBER-Elmendorf Express on 9th St. will close for renovation March 11 and will re-open at 8 a.m. March 26. The gas station will remain open for fueling. The 24-hour Express at the Joint Military Mall and the JBER-Richardson Express will remain open.

For information, call 753-0232.

JBER-E power outage

There will be a short power outage Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m on a small part of JBER-Elmendorf. The power outage will only affect 21 facilities surrounding the Heritage Park aircraft static display site (no housing units). The outage, coordinated with all facility managers, is necessary to temporarily remove the C-130 static display for refurbishment).

Corrective maintenance

A new contract for preventive and corrective maintenance for facilities is in effect. Wolf Creek Federal Services will assist the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron to clear the backlog of high-priority corrective maintenance work and provide robust preventive maintenance. To submit a new work request, contact the 773d CES at 773ces.csu@us.af.mil. In case of emergencies, call 552-3727.

JBER Tax Center open

Active duty members, Reserve component 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. Volun-

teers are also trained to deal with Permanent Fund Dividends.

All tax returns 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 10 days.

The 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 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.

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.

Walk-ins are welcome; to make an appointment, call 384-1040.

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, adoption, landlord/tenant issues, and debt.

Volunteer submissions

Volunteer of the Year and Volunteer Excellence Award nomi-

nations 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, Department of Defense civilians and retirees, and families. Awards will be presented at a ceremony April 19. Download forms from www.jber.af.mil/jbervolunteers.asp. For 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 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), has relocated to Building 8124 Doolittle Avenue for renovation. The temporary location is 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.

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 do 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 Pro-

gram is available to all eligible active-duty members. 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 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; priority goes to those PCSing.

COMMUNITY

February 26, 2016

ARCTIC WARRIOR

Volume 7, No. 8



Snowmachine racers shake hands with fans as they ride through trails on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during the Iron Dog snowmachine race. Iron Dog is a long-distance snow mobile race that covers over 2000 miles in Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman James Richardson)

COMES THROUGH
JBER



A snowmachine racer rides through the trails on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.



A girl waves to a racer as he rides. This is the second year the race has come through JBER.



Snowmachine racers shake hands with fans as they ride through trails on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during the Iron Dog snowmachine race. Many JBER residents turned out to watch the race.



Snowmachine racers ride through trails on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. This year's race has 41 teams and riders from throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Racers shake hands with fans as they ride through trails.

True greatness is attained through serving others

Commentary by Air Force Chaplain
(Maj.) John Min
673d Medical Group Chaplain

How many people enter the Army and forever remain at the rank of private, thinking, “My whole career I want nothing more than to take orders from someone else?” How many workers take a job with the desire to stay at the bottom of the totem pole, never to receive a promotion or pay raise, and will exclaim “I’d love to do this my whole life?”

We live in a world that seems to worship its own kind of greatness and produce its own kind of heroes. Popular television shows like American Idol, Hogan Knows Best, The Bachelor, and reality television shows that are anything but reality, capitalize on this exact thing. Oprah Winfrey needs only mention a product on her "Favorite Things" list and the sales skyrocket. Athletes are paid exorbitant amounts of money while teachers struggle on fixed incomes. We have video games like Guitar Hero and World of WarCraft, where one becomes a “hero” by beating the game. It makes one wonder at our standard of measurement when it comes to greatness.

Would you like to achieve true greatness in your life? Most people think they could never become great, but they are mistaken. Everyone can be great. Would you like to learn how? Most people think in order to be



“You use your talents and abilities to earn a living to support your family and give joyfully and generously to your community. That is service and that service is great.” (Courtesy Image)

great, they must be wealthy or popular or famous. Others think they must have great talent in athletics or business. Still others think in terms of political power. But did you know that you could have all these things and still not attain greatness? Even more

important, did you know you can be great, even if you don't have any of these things?

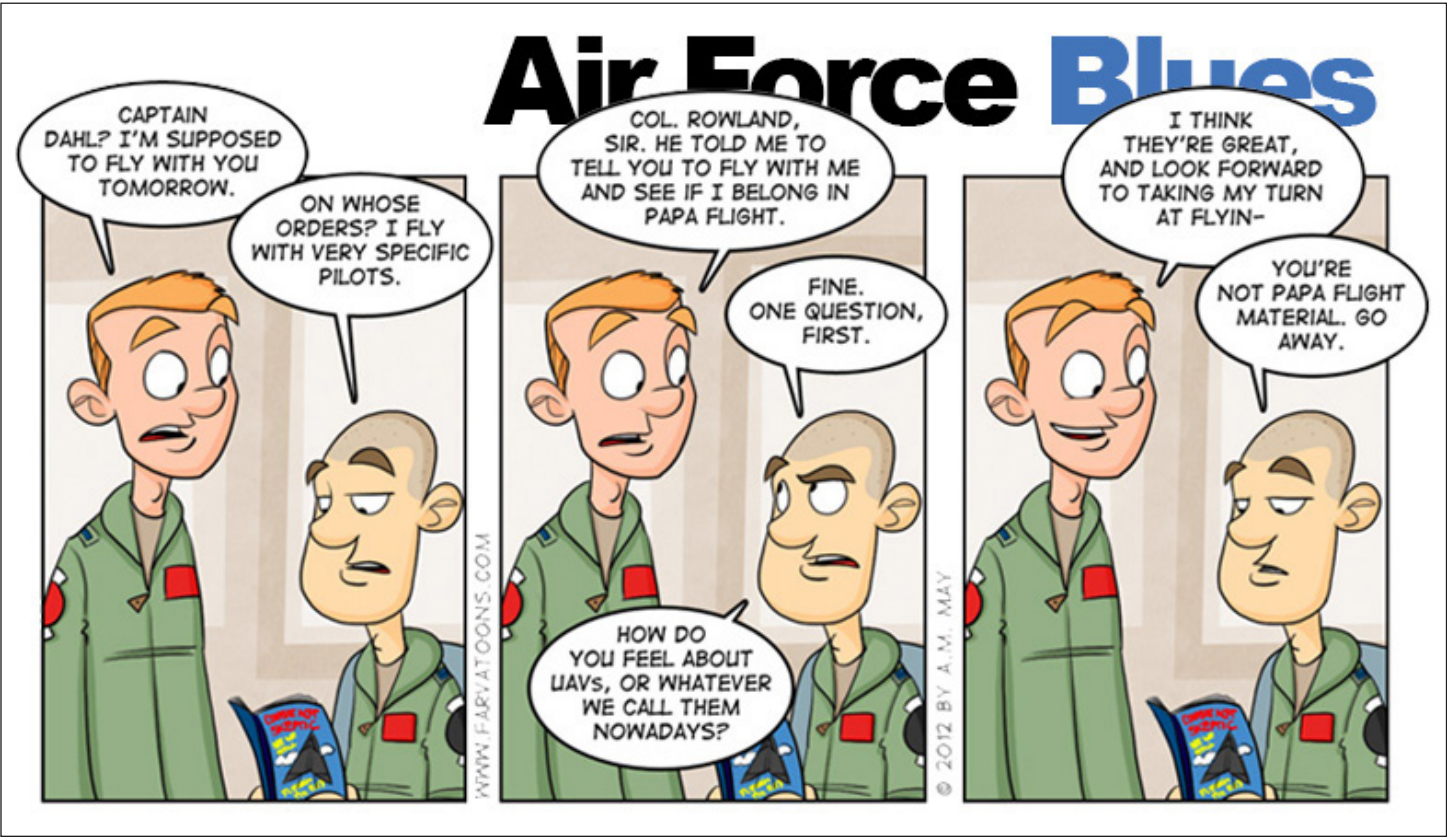
Here is how. In Matthew 20:26 and 27, Jesus said: “... whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let

him be your slave.” Now, most people do not think of servants as being very great. And that's just the problem: they aren't thinking right!

James and John were Jesus’ disciples and were looking for an elevated status among their peers. However, Jesus knew he had to teach them a life lesson. He talked about having to drink the cup. “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” (Matthew, 20:22). Jesus brought them back to reality. Can you drink the cup of suffering to its dregs like I am going to do? If you want to be close to me, then realize it won’t be easy. You can expect to suffer as I do. James and John replied, “We can.” They didn’t get it. They didn’t understand what Jesus was talking about. They were focused on their own agenda, their own desires, and their own wants instead of what God wanted for them.

That great service, that great ministry, which he rendered in giving his life for us, is not merely a model of humility, but the motivation, the energy source for our ministry, for our serving God and others – in whatever station in life God has positioned us. Jesus’ service to us is the reason we are not going to be lowered down a thin rope into the fires of hell but raised in the palm of God’s hand to the heights of heaven and are positioned right now to make a difference in the lives of others with our ministry, our service to them. Because Jesus went low and elevated us, we are thrilled to put the needs of others ahead of our own and serve them. That is ministry, and that ministry is great.

A dad is willing to give up personal leisure time to listen to his children and become a genuine part of their lives. That is service, and that service is great. A mom gets up with her child at night, and does all the unpleasant things that need to be done, as though it were a privilege to do them. That is service, and that is great. A woman looks at her role in life as a worker as an opportunity to tell her children, friends, and co-workers the truths she has learned about Jesus. That is service, and that service is great. A man serves God’s people as an elder of the church, and concerns himself with the welfare of the congregation. That is service, and that service is great. The student faithfully completes the assignments and diligently works in the classroom. There are plenty of challenges ahead. But even when the days get long and the student struggles to balance time in homework and time with family, that service is great. You use your talents and abilities to earn a living to support your family and give joyfully and generously to your community. That is service and that service is great.



The Arctic Warrior Chapel will undergo a renovation 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
Snowmachine ride
This weather-dependent ride takes place in Petersville/Parks. Minimum and maximum sign-up numbers apply to all trips and classes. Meet at the Elmendorf Outdoor Recreation Center at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m.
For more information call 552-4599 or 522-2023.

Corn Hole tournament
Have fun and win some cash at this free tournament, which begins at 2 p.m. at the Warrior Zone. Cash prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Must be 18 to participate.
For more information call 552-9006.

Fat tire snow biking
Meet up at the Outdoor Adventure Program Building for this weather-dependent ride from 12 to 4 p.m. along the Anchorage coastline.
For more information or to register call 552-4599 or 522-2023.

Iditarod Trail Program
Come to the JBER library to learn about the Iditarod and the star performing dogs and mushers at this free, family fun, all ages event. There will be Balto bingo and a scavenger hunt with prizes awarded.
For more information or to register call 384-1640.

TUESDAY
Dr. Seuss week
Come to the JBER library for free special story times to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday.
For more information call 384-1640.

Snowmachine Safety
This class covering snow machine safety at Eagle Glen Fitness Park takes place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
For more information or to sign

up, call 522-4599 or 522-2023.

WEDNESDAY
Intramural Skeet deadline
Last day to sign up for intramural skeet competitions taking place March 6th through May 13th. An organizational meeting will be held March 4th at the Buckner Fitness Center at 1 p.m.
For more information call 384-1308.

MARCH 5
Blood Drive
Make a difference and donate with a friend in the Blood Bank of Alaska's LIFEmobile at the JBER joint military mall from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Eat well the day of the blood drive, stay hydrated, and bring a photo ID. To make an appointment, visit tinyurl.com/zrszwpw.
For more information call 222-5630.

ONGOING
Lunch at the Museum
Bring a sack lunch and check out the JBER Wildlife Education Center, Building 8141, 19th St., on March 24 and April 21. Kids are welcome and admission is free, with over 200 wildlife mounts, educational displays, and wildlife movies playing.
Open most Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons (subject to staffing availability). Visit the Facebook page at 'JBER Wildlife Education Center'.
For more information contact jberwildlife@gmail.com.

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 Tuesday.
For more information, visit asd.k12.org/visit.

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 more information, visit alaskazoo.org.

Military Children Program scholarship
The 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.

Sunday bowling bingo
Enjoy discounted bowling every Sunday 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? 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 Richardson Community Center.
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 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 any-time 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

Lunch and Learn
Fridays at 11:30 a.m.
Kosher lunch provided.
At the CFLTC
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

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT & GIVE PARENTS A BREAK

ONLY \$20 PER CHILD!
FREE FOR DEPLOYED ARMY FAMILIES WITH CURRENT DEPLOYMENT ORDERS & AIR FORCE FAMILIES WITH A REFERRAL CERTIFICATE FROM THE MILITARY & FAMILY READINESS CENTER JBER - E (552.4943).

SCHOOL AGE EDITION
FOR AGES K5 - 12 YEARS. CALL 552.5091 TO REGISTER.
• GAME ROOMS • YOUTH PROGRAM STAFF
• GYM • COMPUTER LAB & more!
A FUN-PACKED EVENT FOR THE KIDS WHILE YOU HAVE FUN TOO!
HELD AT KETCHIKAN SAC, BLDG. 7163

BABIES, TODDLERS & PRESCHOOLERS EDITION
FOR AGES 6 WEEKS TO 5 YEARS. CALL 552.5113 TO REGISTER.
• CDC-TRAINED CHILDCARE PROVIDERS
• LOTS OF TOYS & ACTIVITIES
• WE'LL DO THE ENTERTAINING FOR THE NIGHT!
HELD AT KATMAI CDC, BLDG. 7181

MARCH 4 • 6 - 10 P.M. DEADLINE: MARCH 2 AT 12 P.M.
MARCH 19 • 1 - 5 P.M. DEADLINE: MARCH 16 AT 12 P.M.

BLDG. 655 • 384.9006

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 27
2 P.M.
PRIZES:
1ST - \$100
2ND - \$75
3RD - \$50
DON'T BE LATE!

WARRIOR ZONE

JBER LIBRARY

bldg. 7, 384.1640

Dr. Seuss Week

March 1 - 3 • 10 - 11 a.m.
Special story times each day for toddlers and preschoolers to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday!

FSS & SMWR



JBER Life

ICE FISHING SPECIAL!

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

673d Dental Squadron promotes dental health for Children

By Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez
JBER Public Affairs

Members of the 673d Dental Squadron will visit Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson schools, child development centers and youth centers throughout the month of February as part of Children’s Dental Health Month.

Members of the dental squadron will also visit the Arctic Oasis Community Center Saturday, in a continued effort to encourage children to practice healthy oral hygiene routines.

“We encourage children to cut down on sugar, and to brush and floss daily,” said Tech. Sgt. Catherine Ramiso, 673d DS registered dental hygienist. “[We hope] to reach them when they’re young, so they can continue these healthy habits when they get older.”

During the presentations, a variety of tools and attention grabbing methods are used to appeal to the different age groups.

“We dress up like a toothbrush, or toothpaste and we try to make it a fun educational experience,” Ramiso said.

Poster boards illustrating healthy foods, and props like oversized dentures and puppets, are also used.

During a recent trip to the base library, service members read picture books on dental health to the attending audience.

“Most of the kids have a fear of the dentist and when we’re there we try to explain to them there’s nothing wrong with going to the dentist,” Ramiso said. “It’s actually a good thing to go on a regular basis.”

After meeting with the dental squadron children leave with a wealth of knowledge that can be important to their dental health. But the education doesn’t have to stop there – parents are also encouraged to take part in educating their kids about dental health.

“Talk to your child about dental health and why it’s important to keep their teeth clean and free of ‘sugar bugs,’” said Air Force Capt. Courtney Burrill, 673d DS general dentist.

Parents assume the premature loss of baby teeth is of little importance because they will fall out eventually, Burrill said.

But according to the American Dental Association, baby teeth hold places in the mouth for



Senior Airman Anthony Kolo, 673d Dental Squadron dental technician, demonstrates proper brushing techniques to Aubrie Eliza, 4, while Senior Airman Luis Montero, 673d DS dental technician, high-fives Paige Shepard, 4, at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Library Feb. 18. February is Children’s Dental Health Month, and members of 673d DS will visit different locations throughout base to encourage healthy dental hygiene. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

adult teeth. When a baby tooth is lost too early, the permanent teeth can drift into the empty space making it difficult for other adult teeth to find room when they come in. This can make teeth crooked or crowded.

“Avoid tooth decay by making healthy food choices,” Burrill said. Avoid sugary, starchy snacks and always drink lots of water.”

Ultimately, a healthy smile can lead to a positive outlook on life.

“Give your kid something to smile about,” Ramiso said. “A healthy smile equals a healthy body.”

RIGHT: Members of the dental squadron use a multitude of tools to engage and encourage children to continue healthy dental habits.

Additional tips provided by 673d Dental Squadron:

- Help your child brush their teeth for two minutes, two times per day with a small “smear” of fluoride containing toothpaste.
- For infants and toddlers, avoid bedtime bottles (milk, juice, etc.), and clean teeth and gums with a damp cloth after each feeding.
- Help your child learn to floss between teeth daily.



Anchorage Police Department reboots online safety knowledge

By Airman Valerie Monroy
JBER Public Affairs

On Feb. 9, Safer Internet Day was celebrated around the world with people coming together for different events in an effort to create a safer Internet. The observance gained official recognition in the U.S. in 2012, with a joint agreement between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the European Commission to work together to build a better internet for youth.

On Feb. 19, the Family Advocacy Program hosted an Internet safety class for teens and parents.

The Anchorage Police Department’s Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce gave a presentation they provide throughout the Anchorage community.

The presentation provided parents and other interested individuals a look at current applications and social media that children and teens are using to socialize and interact.

“The reason we’re here is because we know there’s a generation gap,” said APD Detective Mark Thomas. “As parents, we didn’t grow up with computers.”

Thomas explained the dangers of unmonitored online usage by children and suggested parents get more involved.

“There are dark corners where predators hang out, and they want to hurt our kids,” Thomas said. “Nationally, one in three children are exposed to unwanted sexual material online, and one in seven children have received a sexual solicitation.”

Children should always have someone they can talk to if they are caught in these situations, even if it’s not always the parents, Thomas said.

“Give them someone to talk to, whether it’s a friend or another family member,” Thomas said.

With the growth of the online community, bullying has also become more serious.

“Nowadays you can’t get away from the bullying,” said APD Sgt. Aaron Whitt. “People get courage because they’re behind a keyboard and nobody knows who they are.”

He explained cyber bullying can cause serious depression for a lot of children, which can lead to suicide.

APD Detective Monique Doll said a lot of teens can stop the bullying.

“One thing to do is not participate,” Doll said. “Don’t forward it and it won’t get bigger. You can save someone’s life by simply being kind.”

There was a separate presentation for teens, which allowed them to have a safe environment to hear similar information



Alaska Police Department Sgt. Aaron Whitt, left, and Detective Monique Doll, give a presentation during an Internet safety class for teens and parents at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Education Center Feb. 19. The class provided parents and other interested individuals a look at current applications and social media that children and teens are using to socialize and interact. Both Whitt and Doll are part of the APD’s Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce. (U.S Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

and to ask questions they may not have felt comfortable asking in front of their parents.

“This is the second year we’ve hosted this event on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and [we’ve] gotten great feedback that the JBER community would like to see this event happen each year,” said Sarah Blanning, Family Advocacy Program outreach manager.

It was a great opportunity for parents to get accurate and timely information so they can have proactive conversations with their children, rather than waiting until something unfortunate has happened, Blanning continued.

“Every year, our youth are becoming more and more tech savvy but still have trouble fully understanding the risks and consequences of their actions,” Blanning said. “This [class] served the dual purpose of helping teens recognize dangers, while also giving parents the necessary information to engage in much-needed conversation with their kids.”



Detective Mark Thomas speaks to parents during an Internet safety class for teens and parents. The Anchorage Police Department’s Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce gave a presentation they provide regularly throughout the Anchorage community.

JBER offers support to spouses of deployed service members

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

Aurora Military Housing offers new and old programs to spouses of deployed service members on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson that may increase overall quality of life.

Two in particular are the deployed spouse support program and the at-home refuse pickup service, both of which offer free assistance to military families.

The DSP is particular to spouses of deployed servicemembers, whereas the at-home refuse pickup is offered to all JBER residents, said Rachael Hodgson, AMH general manager.

“A lot of times people know they may be leaving, they don’t know when and then they get that last-minute notice,” said Chris Anderson, AMH tenant manager. “They panic and forget things.”

AMH’s goal is to raise awareness of these programs ahead of time, so the pre-deployment confusion – and the stress on the family – is reduced. Even if they don’t know about the program until crunch time, AMH can still help, Hodgson said.

Participants in the DSP have a variety of services available to them, from landscaping and snow removal to electronics assistance and moving heavy furniture, Hodgson said.

The lawn mowing and snow removal is the basis of the program, but AMH also offers an hour of nontraditional assistance a month.

“There was a gal that did ice sculptures, and her spouse must have been someone who deployed a lot because the first three years I was here, we would literally go find her snow, deliver it, and she would do ice sculptures,” Hodgson said. “That was how she utilized her hour of non-traditional support.”

“When I first joined the team, the [4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division] was gone, and we had more than 500 families who

“ The at-home refuse pickup service launched last year offers two annual junk-removal pickups for all AMH residents, not just those deployed. ”

could have been utilizing these services,” Hodgson said. “They just needed to sign up.”

To qualify for the DSP, the military member must be deployed for 90 or more days or be on a one-year dependent-restricted, unac-

panied tour. Additionally, one can contact AMH if

they feel circumstances necessitate special support.

The at-home refuse pickup service launched last year offers two annual junk-removal pickups for all AMH residents, not just those deployed, Hodgson said.

“So if you buy new furniture, or you decide to do a big clean and you have bags and bags of household trash or whatever it may be, we’ll send someone out there to pick that stuff up,” Hodgson said. “All that’s required is to call us to schedule it.”

“We will also do a pickup when someone is coming or going.”

A deployment affects the whole family, not just the service member, but there are programs that can help. Service members can prepare for a potential or imminent deployment by researching such options to give their families the smoothest deployment experience possible.

“We’d really like folks to help spread the word,” Hodgson said. “We have this program, please sign up for it. You can sign up on the website or contact one of our offices.

“We expect to – and want to – take care of the residents.”



Aurora Military Housing offers an assistance program to spouses of deployed service members on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson that may increase overall quality of life. Snow and lawn maintenance is a standard part of this service and they also offer nontraditional services like piano moving. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)