

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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When
she talks,
everyone
listens ...

MA DEUCE

A Troop, 1-40th Cavalry trains with M2 machine gun



Spc. Dillon Weitzel, assigned to Apache Troop, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, fires at targets in the open during an M2 .50 caliber machine gun range on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Tuesday. (U.S. Air Force photos/Justin Connaheer)



A paratrooper assigned to A Trp., 1-40th CAV, steps over the gunner's hatch at the M2 machine gun range on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Tuesday. The M2, a heavy machine gun, was designed in 1918, has been in service since 1933, and is commonly referred to as "Ma Deuce." It has been in production longer than any other machine gun.



Army Staff Sgt. Brandon Herron, assigned to A Trp., 1-40th CAV, keeps an eye on one of his Soldiers who is firing an M2.



ABOVE: Fifty-caliber ammunition sits on a concrete berm, waiting for Soldiers of A Trp., 1-40th CAV to use it at the M2 range Tuesday.
RIGHT: Spc. Daniel Saenz, a paratrooper assigned to Apache Troop, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, scans his sector of fire Tuesday. The M2 heavy machine gun, affectionately called Ma Deuce, has been part of the Army's arsenal for nearly a century, and can be used mounted on a vehicle or on a tripod.



Fighter squadron deploys to Southwest Asia in support of Inherent Resolve

Staff report
JBER Public Affairs

More than 200 active-duty and Reserve Airmen from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson deployed March 30 to Southwest Asia, with F-22 Raptors from the 90th and 525th Fighter Squadrons.

The Airmen comprise a mixed group primarily from the 90th FS and supplemented with members of the 525th FS and the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Fighter Squadron.

"It's a constant rotation," said Lt. Col. Henry Schantz, 90th FS director of operations. "They're supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and being a regional presence."

After the 90th FS deployment, the 525th

FS will replace them a few months later.

Rather than taking all the aircraft and personnel from one of the squadrons, taking half from each allows normal missions to continue more effectively.

"The Alaska Raptors will partner with OIR coalition partners to strike ISIS," said Schantz. "The goal of the combined airstrikes is to take away their ability to command and control, project combat power, and sustain operations. It is a big mission that our pilots and maintainers have trained for and are ready to execute."

In November, the squadron went to Tyn-dall Air Force Base, Florida, for a weapons system evaluation. They've also conducted numerous exercises.

The JBER aircraft are the newest in the fleet, with the most updated software, and capable of launching the Air Intercept Missile 9X as well as the GBU 39 small-diameter bomb.

"It takes a lot of preparation," said Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Mahoney, the 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit lead production supervisor. "We did a lot of time changes and work. We updated the rails and did a lot of modifications – and all the stuff we did was on top of the usual missions, so the pilots could train on it. [We'd see] how quick we could give them the new toys."

Squadron members also had to complete all the standard pre-deployment training as well – about two weeks' worth of briefings,

combat-arms training and outprocessing before the deployment.

"There's a lot of stuff to manage when you're going out of town," Mahoney said.

Added to the task of packing tools and equipment, preparing for summer turnover and permanent-change-of-station season, and gearing up those left behind for Red Flag-Alaska this summer, the squadrons had their hands full for months.

But there won't be too much of a letup; regular local missions and training will continue, Schantz said.

"They're fired up, they're excited," Schantz said of those who deployed. "They're getting the job done with the ultimate professionalism."

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It's paint time

JBER is getting its road markings back – please use caution and do not pass striping trucks, See Page A4

DANGER

STAY BACK

100 FEET

Alaska marijuana laws don't affect those on JBER

By Detective Daniel Burruss
673d Security Forces Squadron

It's illegal to use, possess, grow, manufacture, or distribute marijuana on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

This applies to all people who live or work on, or visit, JBER.

While Alaska State law changed in February of 2016 to allow state residents over the age of 21 to possess up to an ounce of marijuana, this change does not apply to JBER – as federal law takes precedence over state law, and JBER is a federal installation.

The 673d Security Forces Squadron has received a number of questions regarding whether this change in state law has had or will have any impact on JBER.

Some of the more common questions include; Now that marijuana is legal in Alaska,

how does that apply to dependents or service members off base?

Can we smoke marijuana in on-base housing?

If a dependent or guest uses marijuana off base, and then comes on base, is that OK?

The armed forces have a zero-tolerance policy on illegal drugs, and using or possessing marijuana on- or off-base remains illegal.

It may subject active duty and reserve component members to penalties under Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Article 112a specifically prohibits service members from using, possessing, manufacturing, or distributing marijuana under any circumstances, in any location, and at any time.

Article 112a further prohibits the introduction of marijuana (along with all other

controlled substances) into an installation, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft used by or under the control of the U.S. armed forces, regardless of state and local laws.

Commanders may take disciplinary action against service members for violating Article 112a, regardless of the legality of the behavior in the location in which the behavior occurs.

The UCMJ also accounts for the “plausible deniability” argument as it may apply to service members who are exposed to the drug by family members or friends. The UCMJ states, “deliberate ignorance by an accused who consciously avoids knowledge of the presence of a controlled substance or the contraband nature of the substance is subject to the same criminal liability as one who has actual knowledge.”

For federal employees, Executive Order

12564, the Drug-free Federal Workplace, states federal employees are not authorized to use illegal drugs on or off duty.

Further, the order states employees who choose to use illegal drugs are not suitable for federal employment.

Dependents, employees, contractors, and visitors will be subject to prosecution for marijuana-related offenses occurring anywhere on JBER, in accordance with federal law.

It is also illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana or to drive impaired by any prescription or illegal drug.

Anyone driving impaired may be charged with operating under the influence by the Anchorage Police Department or in U.S. Federal Court.

In short, JBER is a federal installation governed by federal laws and regulations.

Education center helps Soldiers, Airmen continue learning

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

The Air Force urges Airmen to enroll in the Community College of the Air Force, and provides many other avenues to earn degrees.

The CCAF degree is an Associate of Applied Science degree based on an Air Force Specialty Code. Basic Military Training, technical school, Professional Military Education, Airman Leadership School and the Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy offer credits toward this degree, but the majority must be done on one's own.

“Once someone has finished their CCAF [degree], they have satisfied their first level of education,” said Desiré Thomas, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Education Center specialist. “You want three different degrees; your associate, your bachelor's and your master's. It makes you more marketable on the outside and a well-rounded individual.”

The education center offers specialists to help active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Airmen plan their education because not everyone knows of the programs available and some degree requirements.

“A lot of young Airmen who don't like their AFSC say ‘I don't want this degree,’ and I tell them ‘Yes, you do, and here's why,’” Thomas said. “It is a stepping stone



Desiré Thomas, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Education Center specialist, explains the credits earned through an Airman's Basic Military Training and technical school towards a Community College of the Air Force degree at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson education center, Alaska, April 20, 2016. The JBER Education Center counsels individuals looking to advance their education through classes and available programs. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Morales)

to a bachelor's degree and the bachelor's degree doesn't have to be in your career field.”

Airman 1st Class Aysia Sauer, 673d Air Base Wing Command Post emergency

actions controller, plans to go through the Physician's Assistant program and learned from the education center that the Air Force's tuition assistance should cover all the pre-

requisite classes once she finishes her Career Development Course and ALS.

“I know with this program, if I am able to put [in] enough effort, I should be able to get in,” Saur said. “This would get me up there much faster than what I had planned, which was to start with a nursing program.”

Students have a few options to acquire the necessary credits, such as the College Level Examination Program and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support. The CCAF can take up to 30 hours of CLEP and DANTES credit.

“It's something I push, especially for those who finished up their CDCs, but [are] not yet ready to take classes,” Thomas said. “We have study guides on all of our tests and the [JBER Consolidated] library has study guides as well.”

The CCAF class of 2015 for JBER consisted of a total of 331 active duty, 52 National Guard and 30 Reserve graduates.

Thomas said Airmen can continue their education after an associate degree.

“You have so much money at your fingertips with the tuition assistance, the GI Bill, [scholarships] and grants galore – so just get those degrees,” Thomas said. “There are a lot of schools that will accept up to 60 hours from your CCAF degree and apply it towards your bachelor's. Instead of the normal 120 hours, they would only need 60 hours or less.”

Dailey talks deployability, education, Army University at Bragg

By Timothy Hale
Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey told a gathering of U.S. Army Reserve senior leaders they must execute the Army's core mission of fighting and winning. To do that, Dailey said leaders must maintain readiness, look to the future of the Army, and take of Soldiers and their families.

He shared his initiatives that echo the priorities of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, at the U.S. Army Reserve Senior Leader Conference April 25 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“At the end of the day, if we fail to do anything else, if we fight and win, we have accomplished our mission for the taxpayers of the United States of America and have done our part for the joint force of the Department of Defense,” Dailey said.

Dailey said that readiness is the number one in priority in the Army.

“As the Sergeant Major of the Army, our number one Soldier

problem across the total force is personal readiness,” he said. “I know we all have different [Military Occupational Specialties] and we all are in different roles, but at the end of the day, the first and the last Soldier in the United States Army will be behind the trigger. And every Soldier has to get on the line and fight.”

He said America hasn't played a “home game” since World War II, when the Aleutians were invaded.

“We have no intention of playing a ‘home game,’ so if you're not on the ‘away bus’ you're not on the team,” he said. “We pay Soldiers to do one thing – fight and win.”

Dailey said leaders should do a better job of addressing the issue of Soldiers who are non-deployable.

He said the secretary of the Army recently signed a memo stating Soldiers are either deployable or non-deployable, and leaders should not go to a unit if they are not fully able to deploy.

“We have to take a hard look at this,” he said. “We have to look internally at whether or not we are ready to fight and win and what we

are projecting to our Soldiers as a readiness model to ensure we are successful in the future.”

For the reserve components, Dailey said he and the chief have to look at how to raise the number of training days, saying it was a tough subject.

“We are looking at some creative ways. We have to reduce the mandatory training tasks. That has a huge effect on the reserve component,” he said. “They come in for their training cycles and they spend a lot of that time just doing a list of things that we (the Army) says they have to do that at are more important. But so is fighting and winning. We are looking at that very hard. ... The good news is the Chief of Staff of the Army has given commanders authority to use mission command to delegate authority down to be able to say, ‘You need to focus on those things that are most important to your organization.’”

When looking to the future of the Army, Dailey said he looks to people, not gadgets. He cited initiatives in enlisted and NCO

professional development, talent management, and establishing Army University.

“We are not the only trained and educated enlisted force in the world anymore,” he said. China and Russia began to focus on educating officers and enlisted a decade ago, he said.

“So we've got to continue to focus on this. Not just focus on it but figure out how we maintain pace on our adversaries as we professionally educate and train our force.

“For many years we've been training and educating our Soldiers with world-class capabilities but not giving them any (college) credit for it for whatsoever,” Dailey continued. “If we don't give ourselves academic credit, nobody is ever going to do it.

“With Army University, it would combine all of our academic resources into one homogenous organization and give us the ability to issue the degree,” he said. “That's the power that we don't have over our academic partners.”

He said the Army can “stake

claims on things like leadership. Many of these (academic) organizations have come to us to use our curriculum and then turn around and give credit for training that we're giving every single day.”

Dailey said he would meet with the Department of Education officials to further discuss making Army University a reality.

His final initiative is taking care of Soldiers and their families. He said he tells young Soldiers that we owe it to Americans to give them a better chance at life.

“So it requires everyone one of us to be deployable. It requires everyone of us to get behind a rifle and selflessly serve,” he said. “It requires the same motivation of those individuals approaching Omaha Beach and waiting for therap to go down on Wave 1 on D-Day.

“... We engage in the crucible of ground combat with the enemy and it is a nasty, dirty business,” he said. “And sometimes we forget that. And that is why we are here – to preserve that – to take care of people.”

JBER, Municipality of Anchorage sign formal partnership agreement

By Staff Sgt. William Banton
JBER Public Affairs

Air Force Col. Brian Bruckbauer, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander, and Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz came together at the Municipality of Anchorage City Hall to sign formal agreements formed through the Air Force Community Partnership program April 22.

The AFCP program increases opportunities for military installations and local communities to form mutually beneficial agreements, which can help reduce operating costs – as well as achieve common economic goals.

“It's extremely beneficial for both the mayor and myself because we are both operating in a fiscally restrained environment right now,” Bruckbauer said. “Every dollar

matters, so if we can save money by exploring joint programs, or the joint procurement of items, it just makes policy sense to do so.”

An example of a cost-saving measure JBER has been exploring with the municipality is joint training programs, which will help augment training that can benefit both organizations.

In the past, JBER would have to bring trainers in, or send Soldiers or Airmen to the Lower 48.

The program is also pursuing agreements to coordinate notification system upgrades between the base and municipality fire departments and ways to utilize JBER's disposable materials, such as old asphalt, in the community.

The new partnerships are truly a win-win situation because the base can now work with the municipality to save money, Bruckbauer said.

“We live in a time where money is scarce and when we can find ways of working together and breaking down [barriers] we can make sure that tax dollars are spent in the best possible way,” Berkowitz said. “The partnership is providing a service not just to the taxpayers, but is making sure the base can focus on its mission and the municipality can do the job it's supposed to.”

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 that may have already been arranged at other installations.

This helps alleviate road blocks because processes are already in place to find solutions.

The process is set up to help address technical and social challenges associated

with partnering between multiple public and private-sector entities.

“What is great is that we have a database of ideas,” said Air Force Lt. Col. James Tehero, Air Force Community Partnership program broker. “The challenge is getting those ideas to the people who are already absorbing the information so they can [say], ‘let's just take that agreement [from another base] and plug it in here and change the names to JBER and Anchorage.’”

Bruckbauer said the day, and the program, helped formally validate a working relationship which has existed between the base and the community for some time now.

“It's a very important day,” Bruckbauer said. “We were already doing this, but this formalizes an already strong relationship that we have with Mayor Berkowitz and his team, and I'm just proud to be a part of that.”

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/ 673d Air Base Wing Commander Col. Brian R. Bruckbauer (USAF)	<h1>ARCTIC WARRIOR</h1>	JBER Public Affairs Chief Maj. Angela Webb (USAF)
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En-route patient staging prepares medical Airmen for contingencies

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

Airmen from the 673d Medical Group staged their first localized en route patient staging system exercise at the Elmendorf Fitness Center, April 21.

The ERPSS is designed to act as a transition period and staging facility for air evacuation patients, said 1st Lt. Matthew Steele, director of plans and programs for the 673d Medical Readiness Office.

“This could be used in a major contingency,” Steele said. “Whether it’s war or an earthquake, if a lot of people have been injured or killed, this could be set up.

“We would stand up the hospital to 170 beds at full-function and we would set up additional beds here as a staging facility for people who need to be moved. Patients would be ... kept here as they are staged and prepared to be sent to the Lower 48.”

ERPSS training has already been an established part of 673d MDG training, but this particular training is unique in that it is the first time it’s been locally staged, Steele said.

“I’ve been [on a temporary duty assignment] to do this exercise where we did it for a whole week,” said Senior Airman Natasha Mullins from the Women’s Health Center. “Today we did it in a day, and it went great.”

A local staging allows Airmen who may be called on to work a local ERPSS to get a hands-on feel for where the patients would be going and how they will get patients onto an aircraft.

Mullins said the exercise taught her a lot about patient staging and how to effectively



673d Medical Group personnel prepare to load patients onto a waiting bus outside the 673d MDG for their first localized en-route patient staging system training at the Elmendorf Physical Fitness Center April 21. The ERPSS is designed to act as a temporary location for patients after a major incident when the hospital does not have enough room. Patients would then be flown to hospitals out of the area. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

load them onto an aircraft, and thinks exercises like this would definitely help them operate with an increased effectiveness in the future.

If a catastrophe like the Great Alaska Earthquake were to happen again, exercises like this will ensure Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson can move into action and mitigate the damage.

Airmen, Soldiers jump from C-17s, Black Hawks during JBER Jump Week

By Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez
JBER Public Affairs

It’s not a bird; it’s not Superman. It’s even better.

Airmen and Soldiers parachuted out of UH-60 Black Hawks and C-17 Globemaster IIIs, as part of Jump Week, a training exercise, on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson April 18 to 22.

The goal of the training is to increase jump proficiency, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Lombard, 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of the Tactical Air Control Party that works with the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.

“They’ll jump one lift after another,” Lombard said. “If there are any mistakes, the jumpmaster will point it out. If they have a bad jump – maybe they landed wrong, or exited the aircraft a little sloppy – they’ll clean it up for the next jump.”

The 64 participants – from JBER; Hurlburt Field, Florida; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and Fort Benning, Georgia – jumped all four days, and some jumped multiple times per day, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Ryan Saltzgaber, the 3rd ASOS personal parachute program manager.

Three of the jumpers performed their first jump out of training.



Airmen and Soldiers fall on Malemute Drop Zone, on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson April 18 during Jump Week. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

“They’re called a ‘cherry jumper’ if they have not had a jump outside Airborne School,” he said.

All the others have had at least six jumps, including the five performed in school.

While the training encompasses many self-improvement aspects, it also allows for service members to build community among the other special operations units, Saltzgaber said.

“We’re the primary jump unit in [Pacific Air Forces],” he said.

“Some of our standard operating procedures differ from other units. With the training, we can [compare and critique each other.]”

The training also ensures deployability.

“We support the [4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division],” Saltzgaber said. “We train up here in Alaska to meet that mission. We have to train in airborne operations, so when we deploy with them, we will be able to conduct our job.”

STAY BACK: IT'S ROAD-STRIPING SEASON

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
JBER Public Affairs

The snow’s melted and the ice is gone – and so are the markings on the road. Anyone who’s been stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson after a spring breakup knows what’s coming next: the paint trucks.

This means JBER motorists may find themselves trapped behind a slow-moving paint truck for part of their commute.

The striping truck may seem like nothing more than a \$500,000 obstacle between point A and point B, but the team that operates it is anything but; they’re people trying to create a safe road system.

“We’ll come in and do the center lines on the roads, then come in and do the dashed lines,” said Jon Murdock, supervisor for the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron paint shop. “Then follow up with the fog lines and crosswalks while prioritizing the school crosswalks. Then we do the intersections and directional arrows.”

They have 15,500 gallons of paint to put out and the process can take all summer, said David Hummel, painter for the 773rd CES.

Commuters should plan accordingly when leaving for work



Airman 1st Class Nicholas McGee, a 773rd Civil Engineering Squadron structural apprentice augmenting the paint shop, walks behind a striping truck, placing cones to show motorists where paint is wet. When driving near or by a paint team, motorists should exercise caution so as to not damage their vehicles or place workers at risk. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson)

in case their commute is affected.

Often, when faced with a working vehicle on the road, one might be inclined to look for an opportunity to pass, but in this case, that

could be a costly mistake.

“Unless they are an emergency vehicle, nobody is authorized to pass us while we are out there,” Hummel said. “People really need

to slow down when they get around the people out there painting.

“Some of them are really good, but others are dangerous.”

Additionally, crossing wet

paint can very easily fling paint onto a vehicle, damaging the paint job, not to mention the additional costs for the crew to re-paint damaged lines.

Then there’s the bigger risk.

By passing the truck, motorists also endanger the lives of workers.

Behind the paint truck, there will be another vehicle placing flags or cones to indicate where paint is wet and should not be crossed, Murdock said.

“The cones aren’t on every wet stripe,” Hummel said. “So going between the cones doesn’t mean you’re not crossing wet paint.”

To accommodate smooth traffic, the paint team will leave breaks in the lines so traffic can continue to operate smoothly and with minimal delay, said Senior Airman Austin Huestis, a structural maintenance apprentice with the 773rd CES who augments the paint shop.

With a bit of patience, someone who may be considering crossing wet paint can instead cross at a break – without risking damage to their vehicle or to the personnel of the paint team.

“Getting paint on a car is no big deal,” Hummel explained. “But getting somebody hurt – that’s completely unacceptable.”

USARAK AVIATION TASK FORCE: DAUNTLESS ON DENALI



ABOVE: National Park Service personnel and Soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment offload equipment and supplies from a CH-47F Chinook helicopter after landing on Kahiltna Glacier April 24. Three crews from the U.S. Army Alaska Aviation Task Force spent the week in Talkeetna, training in high altitude flying. The mission continued a longstanding partnership with the NPS to shuttle equipment and supplies for the climbing season to the Denali base camp on the glacier. (U.S. Army photos/John Pennell)

RIGHT: Spc. Jorge Altamirano, B Company, 1-52 AVN uses a plastic sled to move equipment.



Exchange pet contest

The JBER Exchange hosts the Patriot Pet contest May 14.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., customers may bring their pet. Prizes will be awarded for best-dressed pet, pet/owner look alike, and best trick. Each category will have a winner and a runner up awarded a \$50 and \$25 gift card respectively. There will also be a drawing for a \$25 gift card.

From May 6 through June 2, shoppers can upload a photo of their pet at www.shopmyexchange.com/sweepstakes.

One grand-prize winner receives a \$1,000 Exchange gift card; two first-place winners will each receive \$500 gift cards. Four third-place winners will nab \$250 gift cards.

OTC pharmacy counter

The main pharmacy at the JBER hospital has opened an over-the-counter medication clinic for DoD beneficiaries, open from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. Select “over the counter drug needs” at the kiosk.

This is not meant to replace a visit with a provider.

Flyers and patients who are on personnel reliability program status, pregnant, or under the age of 2 are not eligible due to special needs.

The clinic offers basic pain relievers, cough, cold and allergy medications and nasal sprays, ointments, and constipation and diarrhea medications.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/JBERPharmacy.

In-Home child care

Providing child care in your on-base housing comes with many responsibilities. The licensing process applies to anyone regularly caring for other families’ children more than 10 hours a week. It does not apply to those providing care in another family’s home or for occasional care. The Mission Support Group commander approves and monitors licensing and program requirements.

The commander may revoke the housing privileges of those who refuse to become licensed or continue to provide care after their license has been suspended or revoked.

The licensing process comes with benefits such as training and support, a lending library of books, toys and supplies, and reimbursement for food costs.

To become a Family Child Care provider, call the FCC Office at 552-3995.

Reserve ‘Scroll’

Officers wanting to transition to the Air Force Reserve must have their commission transferred to a list called “the Scroll” and approved by the Secretary of Defense. The process averages 120 days, but can take longer. This must be approved before you can begin participating in the Air Force Reserve, which may mean a break in service. Even if you’re unsure about transitioning to the Reserve, the Scroll process can be initiated.

For information, call 552-3595.

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.

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.

Rental Partnership

The Rental Partnership Program 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 information and assistance.

At JBER-Richardson, visit the

Housing Management Office in Building 600, or call 384-3088 or 384-7632.

U-Fix-It Store

The U-Fix-it stores, open to all Aurora Military Housing tenants, issue home maintenance items.

Availability is subject to change and limits; some may have a cost. American flag kits and fire extinguishers are available.

U-Fix-It work includes all home maintenance activities, allowing occupants to make minor improvements and repairs and cut down on 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 office 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.

For information, call 375-5540.

Giant Voice testing

Giant Voice mass notification system testing occurs Wednesdays at noon.

If the announcement is difficult to hear or understand, please call 552-3000.

If it is difficult to hear or understand in housing areas, contact JBER at [Facebook.com/JBERAK](https://www.facebook.com/JBERAK).

Priority placement

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

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

Spouses are matched with jobs based on their qualifications and preferences.

Spouses are eligible for up to two years from the date of the PCS orders and are in the program for

one year.

Spouses, even those who have never filled a federal position, can now register at the either of the JBER personnel offices.

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

Richardson Thrift Shop

The JBER-Richardson Thrift Shop, in Building 724 on Quartermaster Drive, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m., and first and third Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Consignments are accepted anytime the shop is open.

For information, call 384-7000.

Quartermaster Laundry

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

Veterinary hours

Though the JBER Veterinary Treatment Facility primarily works on JBER’s military working dogs, the facility also provides services for pets of active duty service members, retirees, National Guard and Reserve service members on active orders (greater than 30 days), and their dependents.

The facility can provide most routine services, including vaccination and sick call. amd is open Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For information or to make an appointment, call 384-2865.

Legal services available

The Anchorage team of the 6th Legal Operations Detachment offers legal services for eligible members of the JBER community.

Services are hosted monthly at the USARAK legal office.

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.

For information or appointments, call 384-0371.



APRIL 5K RUN OBSERVANCES

Participants begin a multiagency observance 5k run at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson April 22. The 5k highlighted awareness and prevention of sexual assault, child abuse and substance abuse. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman Valerie Monroy)



Runners sprint to the finish line during a 5K run April 22. The Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office, the Family Advocacy Program, the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention office and the Army Substance Abuse Program sponsored the 5K run for several April observances.



The top male runner is presented with a prize after a multiagency observance 5K run April 22 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The first 100 participants received free T-shirts and the top three male and female finishers received prizes.



Participants cool down after a multiagency observance 5K run at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.



Participants begin a multiagency observance 5k run at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The 5k highlighted awareness and prevention of sexual assault, child abuse and substance abuse.



Runners sprint to the finish line during a 5K run April 22 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Passover: 4,000 years of Jewish spring-cleaning tradition

Commentary by Chris McCann
JBER Public Affairs

“And this day shall become a memorial for you, and you shall observe it as a festival for the Lord, for your generations, as an eternal decree shall you observe it. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove the leaven from your homes ... you shall guard the unleavened bread, because on this very day I will take you out of the land of Egypt; you shall observe this day for your generations as an eternal decree.” - Exodus 12:14-17

Passover, or Pesach, is one of the most commonly observed Jewish holidays, even by those who aren’t very active in their Judaism.

The holiday, which begins on the 15th day of the month of Nisan, celebrates the beginning of the harvest season in Israel. However, it has a much deeper meaning.

When the Jews were slaves in Egypt and preparing to leave, Moses passed along instructions from God that they should roast a whole lamb or kid goat, and eat it with herbs.

There were to be no leftovers. Bread dough would be carried out before it had time to bake, so the people would eat unleavened bread, called matzah.

For the eight days of the Feast of Matzah, commonly called Passover, Jews are to eat nothing that could be leavened.

Anything made of wheat, rye, barley, oats or spelt that hasn’t been completely cooked within 18 minutes of coming in contact with water is considered leavened.

Ashkenazi Jews (from eastern Europe) also avoid rice, corn, peanuts, beans and

legumes, because those items can be used to make bread also. All of these items are referred to as chometz (leavened).

All dishes and utensils used with chometz throughout the year are locked up; pets get chometz-free food since we cannot derive benefit from the chometz at all.

Jewish families spend weeks cleaning and scrubbing all food preparation surfaces, replacing cabinet liners, and covering countertops with foil.

The morning before the holiday, a final check is made, and any remaining chometz is burned.

The firstborn in any family often fast the day before Passover, in memory of the fact that firstborns among the Egyptians were struck down in the final plague before Pharaoh agreed to let the Jews leave the country.

Symbolically, leavening represents pride – being arrogant or puffed up.

We are to carefully examine ourselves for any “chometz,” and take stock of our lives, then remove the pride and destroy it.

Passover can be a difficult holiday – even if you don’t normally like cake, a cake in the store is suddenly tempting.

But it’s a very real and physical reminder to stay humble and remember who we are as a people.

During the holiday, we eat matzah, which has been prepared carefully to make sure it isn’t leavened.

Matzah meal (finely ground matzah) is used to make delicious pastries that use egg whites to get a bit of loft.

Crumbled matzah stands in for noodles, and matzah is soaked in egg and fried like

French toast.

On the first and second nights, Jews have a seder, a symbolic meal in which each item is eaten while we recite stories of the Passover and departure from Egypt, and sing songs.

It’s a highly interactive way to pass on the story of the Jewish people becoming free thanks to God’s redemption, and children are encouraged to participate in singing and games.

A seder can easily last two or three hours, and it’s followed with a traditional feast that includes soup, salads, fish, meat, matzah and wine.

As we conduct the seder, we start with the usual cup of wine with which we sanctify a holiday. We eat a vegetable – usually parsley – dipped in salt water which symbolizes the tears of the slaves.

Then we break the matzah and re-tell the story of the Passover.

We wash our hands and eat the first of the matzah, then eat bitter herbs, usually raw horseradish or romaine lettuce.

Since there is no Temple

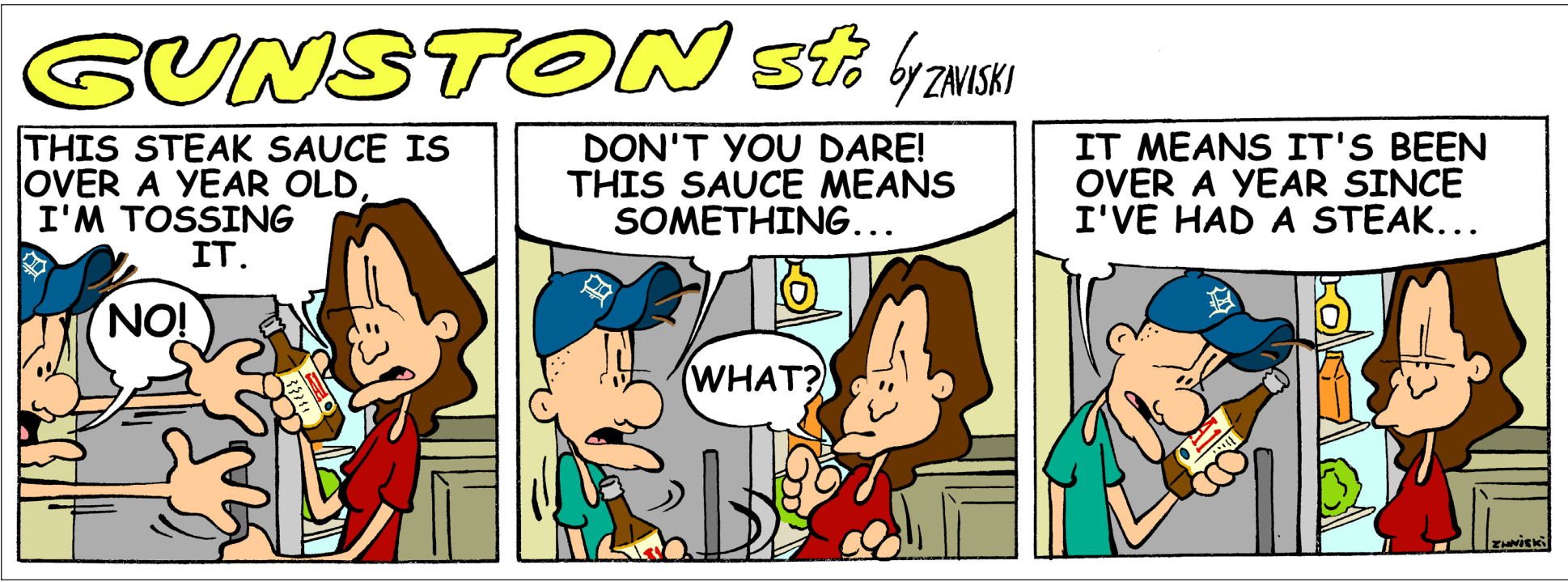
standing in which to actually sacrifice a lamb or kid, Jews don’t consume lamb or goat during the festive meal.

Usually, chicken, turkey or beef are the main course, along with more matzah, and finish with another cup of wine and the singing of psalms of praise. The prophet Elijah is symbolically invited into the home.

At the end, we close with a wish that next year we can celebrate Passover in Jerusalem – that the Messiah will come this year.



(Courtesy photo)



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.

FRIDAY

Lunch with a vendor

Get a discounted price on Phillips Cruises at Information, Tickets, and Travel, inside the Arctic Oasis building.

For more information, call 753-2378.

Spring Fashion Show

Come watch Ketchikan's Spring Fashion Show at Kennecott Youth Center from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, call 552-5091.

Operation Megaphone Youth Lock-in

Join military teens from around the world in the annual Operation Megaphone Worldwide Lock-In from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday at Kennecott Youth Center. For ages 13 to 18.

For more information, call 552-2266.

TUESDAY

Intramural Softball deadline

Deadline to sign up for men's and women's intramural softball. Letter of intent due to Bucknet Fitness Center, with an organizational meeting Thursday at 1 p.m.

For more information, call 384-1312.

WEDNESDAY

Mother's Day Craft Night

Enjoy a craft party, making Mother's Day gifts for children to give to their moms at the Arctic Oasis from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Cookies and drinks will be provided.

For more information, call 552-8529.

THURSDAY

Holocaust Remembrance

The 673d Logistics Readiness Group welcomes all to Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Arctic Warrior Event Center from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Susitna room with guest speakers Leslie Fried, curator of

the Alaska Jewish Museum, and Michelle Keller, granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor.

Military, civilians, and families are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call 552-4547.

MAY 6

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

Food, fun, and drink specials at the Perma Frost Club from 4 to 9 p.m. with food served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call 552-3669.

Combat Cross Country Series 5K trail run

This race, held at Otter Lake at 2 p.m. is conducted in five person teams, with a minimum of 35 pounds ruck, ACUs/ABUs, and combat boots.

Sign up from 1 to 1:30 p.m. and organizational meeting from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 384-1312.

MAY 12

Movie Night

Free Exceptional Family Member Program movie night at 6 p.m. at the Frontier Theatre. Open Season: Scared Silly will play with popcorn and drinks provided.

Seating is limited. Register prior to event.

For more information, call 384-0225, or 552-4943.

MAY 23 THROUGH 26

Vacation Bible School

From May 23 at 9 a.m. to noon and for the remainder of the week, the Midnight Sun Chapel hosts Vacation Bible School for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade.

This year's theme, 'Cave Quest' promises to be tons of fun. To register a child or to volunteer, visit <http://tinyurl.com/jkd78qw>.

For more information, call 552-5762.

ONGOING

CDC Parent Conferences

JBER Child Development Center parent conferences are being held during April. Contact your center for more information.

Contact Kodiak CDC at 384-1510, Talkeetna CDC at 384-0686, Denali CDC at 552-8304, Sitka CDC at 552-6403, and Katmai CDC at 552-5113.

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.

Wildlife Wednesday

Stay scientifically enriched this spring 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.

Zumba

Have fun with your fitness at the Arctic Oasis Community Center on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

For more information, call 552-8529.

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 more information, call 384-7478.

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.

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.

Lifeguards needed

The Buckner Fitness Center is hiring lifeguards.

Check out www.nafjobs.org for upcoming openings on JBER. The Buckner Fitness Center is an equal opportunity employer.

NAF jobs

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

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 more information, call 753-7467.

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

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



JBER Library • 384.1640

6th Annual Princess & Pirates Party MAY 6 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for our 6th Annual Princess & Pirate Party where we request the attendance of JBER's princesses & pirates for facepainting, crafts & much more! Costumes encouraged!

KETCHIKAN SAC BLDG. 7163 552.5091

KETCHIKAN SCHOOL AGE CENTER PRESENTS

APRIL 29TH 2016 SPRING FASHION SHOW

6 - 8 P.M.

Join us at the Kennecott Youth Center for the annual fashion show!

THE STAFF AND CHILDREN WORKED WITH THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES AROUND TOWN TO GATHER ARTICLES OF CLOTHING FOR THE FASHION SHOW - WHAT A SUCCESS IT WILL BE!

SENSING SESSION

for Buckner Aquatic Center

THURSDAY MAY 5 5 P.M. @ Buckner

Express your opinions in regard to fee structure, hours, usage & more!



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Colonel John W. Mitchell: Killing Yamamoto

By Robert Vanderpool
673d Air Base Wing historian

It was a few minutes past 7 a.m. on April 18, 1943, when 18 P-38 Lightning fighters of the 339th Fighter Squadron began to take off from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, led by their squadron commander Captain John W. Mitchell. It had only been roughly 18 hours since Mitchell had been given the task of choosing the pilots and finalizing the plan for what would become one of World War II’s most storied air-to-air attack operations. Mitchell’s mission was to kill the mastermind of the December 7, 1941 Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto.

Yamamoto was the highest-ranking officer in the Japanese Navy and was also considered to be their greatest military strategist. He has been described by many as the third-most important person in Japan during World War II, behind only Emperor Hirohito and Prime Minister Hideki Tojo.

Born July 14, 1915, John W. Mitchell enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1934 at the age of 19. After completing basic training, he served as an artilleryman in Hawaii for four years before being accepted into the Aviation Cadet Program. Mitchell earned his pilot wings and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps on July 26, 1940.

Following the Pearl Harbor attack, Mitchell shipped overseas to Fiji in January 1942. Flying the P-39 Airacobra fighter, Mitchell earned his first aerial victory on October 10 that year, and assumed command of the 339th Fighter Squadron in November. Transitioning to flying the P-38, Mitchell earned his fifth and sixth aerial victories of World War II and status as an ace just three and a half months later, during a single mission flown January 27, 1943. Mitchell earned two more aerial victories within a week, bringing his total to eight enemy kills by early February. Although he continued to fly combat missions over the next two months, contact with the enemy was minimal. On the afternoon of April 17, 1943, however, whatever perceived lull in the battle rhythm may have set in with the 339th changed abruptly as Mitchell received a very special set of orders.

Three days earlier, on April 14, American codebreakers had intercepted a coded radio message sent to Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands which indicated Yamamoto would be making a personal visit to the forward operating base at Bougainville, landing precisely at 9:45 a.m. April 18. Unbeknownst to the Japanese, American codebreakers had broken the codes several years earlier and were easily able to decipher this message.

(The first major success using decoded Japanese messages occurred in June 1942, resulting in American victory at the Battle of Midway. After receiving this intercept, preparations for what would become the next major success were soon underway.)

Realizing that the Bougainville was close enough to Guadalcanal to afford a slim chance of intercepting Yamamoto’s aircraft,

American planners reacted immediately and began to formulate an idea for an attack mission with the hope that eliminating Yamamoto might shorten the war.

Yamamoto, who had served as the Japanese Naval Attaché in Washington D.C. on two previous occasions in addition to studying at Harvard University in the 1920s , was known to be a very punctual man – demanding no less from his subordinates – and as such would most likely adhere strictly to the decoded schedule. Not only did the Americans know the exact location and time that Yamamoto would likely be in the air, they also learned the number and types of aircraft which would transport and accompany him.

Ultimate approval authority for the mission came directly from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who upon learning of the details of the intercepted message, instructed Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox simply: “Get Yamamoto.”

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., commander in the South Pacific, assigned the mission to the U.S. Army Air Forces.

The P-38 Lightning fighters of the 339th Squadron were chosen to carry out the attack; it was the only type of fighter nearby which possessed the necessary range to intercept and engage Yamamoto’s convoy, more than 400 miles from Guadalcanal. As the squadron commander, Mitchell was chosen to lead the operation.

After finishing breakfast on the morning of April 18, 1943, Mitchell led a last-minute briefing for the pilots who would accompany him. Although he held serious doubts about the potential for the success of the mission, Mitchell exuded confidence as he interacted with the pilots and ground crews prior to takeoff.

Just as dawn was beginning to break on Guadalcanal, the pilots climbed into their fighters and took to the sky.

The mission began somewhat ominously – immediately after takeoff, two of the aircraft were forced to turn back. One had a malfunctioning drop tank, and the other had blown a tire on takeoff.

The remainder of the two-hour flight from Guadalcanal to Bougainville remained relatively uneventful.

With Mitchell in the lead as navigator, the P-38s flew at an altitude of just 30 feet in a circuitous route over the open ocean, avoiding contact with any land mass and maintaining complete radio silence. This was done in hopes of avoiding detection by Japanese coast watchers and listening stations. The only tools Mitchell had at his disposal to guide the fighters to Guadalcanal were a map, compass, wristwatch, and his flight speed gauge.

Just after 9:30 a.m., the mountains of Bougainville were spotted through the haze



Colonel John Mitchell during the Korean War (USAF Photo)

in front of the aircraft.

In an amazing feat of navigation, Mitchell had led his attack force directly on target within a few minutes of when Yamamoto’s plane was scheduled to arrive. The P-38s immediately began to climb to attack altitude.

At 9:34 a.m. the radio sounded: “Bogeys. Eleven o’clock. High.” The P-38s released their drop tanks and headed for the convoy of six Japanese A6M “Zero” fighters accompanied by two G4M “Betty” bombers.

The Japanese fighters engaged the attack flight and one Zero was immediately knocked out of the sky by the P-38s as the bombers took evasive action and scattered. Sighting one of the bombers flying just above the jungle below, the P-38s pounced and strafed the aircraft from above, sending a fusillade of bullets into the right engine. One P-38 pulled in behind the bomber and continued to pour fire into the right engine until it began to smoke, before strafing across the body of the aircraft and targeting the left engine. The bomber’s right wing lurched up before the aircraft turned over and spiraled into the jungle below. This was the aircraft which was transporting Yamamoto. Japan’s greatest military strategist was dead.

With another bomber still in the air, the P-38s shifted their attack, targeting the second Betty and sending it into the ocean. The fighters then regrouped and returned to Guadalcanal, where they were greeted by celebratory ground crews.

The wreckage of Yamamoto’s aircraft was found by the Japanese the following day in the jungle of Papua New Guinea. An autopsy revealed that Yamamoto had ultimately been killed as a result of two

.50-caliber bullet wounds. First Lt. Rex Barber is credited with firing the fatal shots that took down Yamamoto and his aircraft. Also credited with shooting down the second Japanese bomber in the formation, Barber earned his fourth and fifth aerial victories of the war and status as an ace during the operation.

“All of us trusted Mitchell and his planning,” Barber later said. “All of us knew of the various variables in the picture and we were apprehensive [whether] we would find the bomber or not. When we hit it right on the button, we could hardly believe it. We were elated.”

Shortly after completing the mission, Mitchell and the rest of the Yamamoto mission pilots were sent stateside as a precaution – lest they be shot down, captured, and forced to divulge how they knew when and where Yamamoto’s convoy would be.

Mitchell would serve in both the United States and in Europe before returning to the Pacific in May 1945. He would go on to earn another three aerial victories against the Japanese while assigned as the commander of the 15th Fighter Group between July and November of 1945.

“Our chance of completing this mission was really one in a million,” Mitchell said later. “We flew 435 miles over water without a checkpoint in sight from the time I took off until I got there. All I had was my air speed indicator, my compass, and my watch. I had no radio help at all. It turned out that I got us there exactly at the right time – exactly on the minute Yamamoto was supposed to be there. Fortunately for us but unfortunately for him, we said ‘good morning’ to each other about 15 minutes before he was going to land, and we shot him down.”

In the years following World War II, Mitchell served in a variety of staff and command positions in the United States in Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Texas, and Alaska.

During the Korean War, Mitchell earned four aerial victories over North Korea against Communist MiG-15 fighters while piloting the F-86 Sabre. After Korea, Mitchell served in Hawaii and Michigan before retiring from the Air Force at the rank of colonel July 31, 1958.

Mitchell flew a total of 240 combat missions during World War II and Korea, earning 15 total aerial victories and status as a triple ace.

During his 23-year military career, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, the Legion of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, and a Bronze Star among many other decorations and awards. He is one of just 11 Airmen in American history to have been awarded the Navy Cross.

John W. Mitchell passed away on November 15, 1995 at the age of 80.

Month of the Military Child celebration recognizes children

By Airman Valerie Monroy
JBER Public Affairs

Military children grow up in an ever-changing environment. Whether it's moving to a new home every few years, constantly having to make new friends, or experiencing life without one or both parents for long periods of time, military children contribute a great deal to the military family.

On March 29, Alaska Gov. Bill Walker issued a proclamation declaring April 2016 the Month of the Military Child. The governor urged Americans to recognize military children for their commitment, sacrifices and unconditional support to the military, and to seize opportunities to support them.

“Currently in Alaska, there are 21,219 youth dependents of military members, many of whom have been directly impacted by the deployment of one or more parents on full-time duty status in military service of the United States,” Walker said.

“We see [service members] get awards all the time, but we need to realize kids serve too,” said Jennifer Frysz, Family Advocacy Program outreach manager. “Giving children their own special time as well lets them know they are appreciated.”

The Month of the Military Child was first established in 1986 and has been celebrated every year since then.

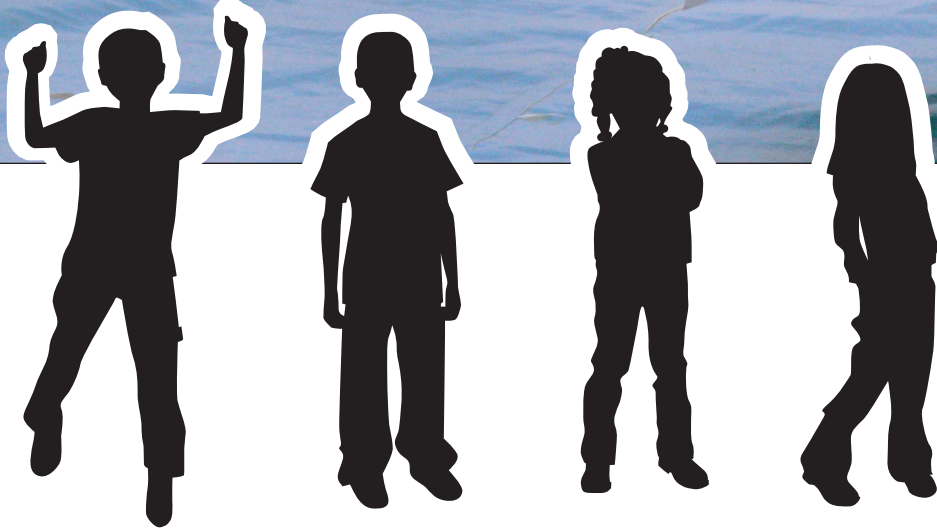
Children continue to have the opportunity every year to be recognized, Frysz explained. The base community should understand the unique challenges faced by children and appreciate their sacrifice, she continued.

In an effort to show appreciation, the Family Advocacy Program will host a Month of the Military Child celebration at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center April 30, from 9 a.m. to noon.

“The idea for this event is for all the booths to offer activities that families can do at home,” Frysz said. “There will be both indoor and outdoor activities for the whole family. It's springtime and people can use this as a way to get out and do something.”

The event will offer information booths from various groups, a child obstacle course, a child Zumba class, live demonstrations, crafts and much more, continued Frysz.

For more information about the event, call 384-2999.



Ashlynn Deer,7, waits for step-father Spc. William Goodwin, assigned to the 98th Maintenance Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, U.S. Army Alaska, during a redeployment ceremony at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. April is the Month of the Military Child, which recognizes military children for their commitment, sacrifices and support to the military. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Valerie Monroy)

New playground coming to Cottonwood Park

By Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez
JBER Public Affairs

Demolition of the playground at Cottonwood Park on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson began April 25.

According to current safety standards, the play area is unsafe for children, said Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Johnston, 773d Civil Engineer Squadron superintendent of heavy repair.

“It’s old and just not repairable,” he said. “We want to make sure our children are safe, and the best way to ensure this is to put a new playground in.”

Airmen assigned to the 773d CES took charge of the demolition, Johnston said. Airmen of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron will oversee the building of the new play area by Weldin Construction.

A big portion of the park will be closed off during the teardown as dump trucks and other heavy equipment remove the old play structures, Johnston said. Road closures are not anticipated.

The 15,000-square-foot cordon will continue to serve as a buffer as crews begin to build the new play area starting May 1, said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Faulkner, 673d CES project inspector.

The pea gravel on the ground of the playground will be replaced with a hard foam surface, he said.

Replacement play structures are military- and Alaska-inspired, and will provide learning opportunities for children.

“There are going to be nine different play structures, laid out in the shape of the Big Dipper,” Faulkner said. “Each station is going to have a sign with information



Jona Briggs, 773d Civil Engineer Squadron heavy equipment operator, sharpens the teeth on his chainsaw, at Cottonwood Park on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, April 25. Nine different play structures will be built following the removal of the current playground. Construction of the new playground is scheduled to begin May 1. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

about that particular star in the constellation, as well as information [about] the Alaska state flag.”

The play structures are divided to appeal to different age groups, he said. The target

age groups are children 2 to 5 and 5 to 12. One section is reserved for children 6 to 23 months.

Two zip-lines and two sets of swings will be constructed, Faulkner said. The different

play structures will be built in the shape of a tank, an F-22 Raptor, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and a king salmon.

The new Cottonwood playground is expected to open in late September.



Jona Briggs, 773d Civil Engineer Squadron heavy equipment operator, uses a chainsaw to cut down the fence at the playground at Cottonwood Park, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson April 25.



Heavy equipment is put in place as crews prepare for the demolition of the playground at Cottonwood Park April 25. Replacement play structures are military- and Alaska-inspired.