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ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

HELL'S HIGHWAY

**Security
Forces, MPs
bring home
win from Guam**

**Army National
Guard stands
up new unit**

OCTOBER 21, 2016 • VOLUME 7 • NO. 42

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WAITING FOR WINGS



Paratroopers with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, rigged up for a jump from a C-130 Hercules Oct. 12 as part of Red Flag Alaska 17-1 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. During the most recent iteration of the quarterly exercise, about 2,095 U.S. service members honed their skills. JBER troops joined approximately 1,295 personnel who were from outside Alaska; 203 of those were international visitors, representing the Republic of Korea and Royal New Zealand air forces. Red Flag continued this week. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Valerie Monroy)



**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/
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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Alaska Army National Guard stands up new unit

By **SGT. DAVID BEDARD**
134th PAD

The 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, activated during an Oct. 16 ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Roberts assumed command of the newly formed organization during the ceremony.

The 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Regiment, also deactivated during the proceedings.

Col. Moses Kaoiwi, commander of 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii Army National Guard, presided over the ceremony. The new battalion is tactically subordinate to the 29th IBCT, though it reports to the Alaska Army National Guard's 38th Troop Command.

Kaoiwi's brigade has units in three states and the territory of Guam, and the colonel spoke about his command's diversity.

"The 29th now is composed of you, the 1st of the 297th, with your unique Alaska frontier toughness, culture and heritage," Kaoiwi said. "You now will stand alongside the

Chamorro warriors of Guam, our American Southwestern warriors from Arizona, and our Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Asian warriors of Hawaii.

"We are bred for battle and bred for peace," Kaoiwi continued. "We are a clear representation of what the Army National Guard is all about. We are diverse, yet uniquely American. We are many, yet we are one in purpose and duty. We are loyal to our home states, yet maintain a strong sense of duty to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Lt. Col. Peter Mondelli, commander of the 1-297th Cavalry spoke about the prophet Isaiah's "send me" attitude.

"That embodies what we all do, what you all do on a daily basis," Mondelli said, pointing to the formation of Soldiers. "I salute you."

Roberts spoke about his expectations of the new battalion, beginning with defining an infantry unit's role.

"Our trade is to use fire and maneuver to close with and destroy the enemy," Roberts explained. "That is our job, and so we must start train-




Lt. Col. Peter Mondelli, commander of 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Regiment, and Sgt. Maj. James Nyquist, 1-297th Cavalry operations sergeant major, case the squadron colors Oct. 16. The unit transformed into the 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment during the ceremony. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Sgt. David Bedard)

ing to do that job now, for we do not know when the crucible of combat will be forced upon us. That must be your mindset as we conduct training, so we will be ready when our nation calls."

Roberts also laid out what 1-297th Infantry Soldiers can expect from him and Command Sergeant Maj. Donald Ramey.

"One thing that sets National

Guard Soldiers apart from all others is that you volunteered to serve our country and the great state of Alaska on your weekends," Roberts said. "Command Sergeant Major Ramey and I appreciate that, and we will honor that commitment by training you hard and not wasting your time. I am proud to be your commander, and I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish together." 

JBER Security Forces team brings home the win from Guam

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS VALERIE MONROY**
JBER Public Affairs

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Security Forces team brought home the win after the Pacific Air Forces Advanced Combat Skills Assessment in Guam, Sept. 25 to 29.

The team won first in the mental and physical challenge event and took home the overall win against 10 other teams throughout PACAF.

The competition incorporated various physical challenges as well as tactics, weapons, the Marine Corps combat fitness test, and a military working dog competition.

Training began 30 days prior to the competition and involved many hours of team bonding.

"I encouraged these folks to spend as much time together as possible," said Senior Master Sgt. Eric Hall, 673d Security Forces Squadron superintendent. "The more time spent together the more they could get to know each other before the competition."

The team consisted of Tech. Sgt. Barry Fairbanks, Tech. Sgt. Joshua

Heffley, Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Fredrick, Senior Airman Christopher Bonham, and Senior Airman Paige Goodrich, all assigned to the 673d SFS, and Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Mobley, assigned to the 545th Military Police Detachment, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, U.S. Army Alaska.

Team members agreed preparation and practice were key.

"We all had a pretty solid knowledge of what we had to do once we got out there and it was just a matter of sharpening the skills we already had," Heffley said. "We constantly looked for more [practice] with everything and every bit of downtime was used for more training."

During the competition everything was calculated and considered precisely before heading out for each event, Mobley said. After that, the team was well on the way to bringing home the win, he said.

Though the team practiced for many scenarios, there was one thing they couldn't prepare for.

"The biggest obstacle we had to overcome was the heat since we were coming from a northern base,"



Senior Airman Christopher Bonham, with the 673d Security Forces Squadron, holds a plank while training for the Advanced Combat Skills Assessment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Valerie Monroy)


Mobley said. "The competition was fun and we worked together really well but the heat was definitely a huge factor."

The team took home bragging rights for a year, but each member gained insight about themselves to last a lifetime.

"You have absolutely no idea what your body can do and your mind is your worst enemy when it comes to physically demanding

things," Hall said.

This experience taught the team to push themselves to the limit and go that extra mile, Hall continued.

"I learned to not underestimate the strengths of other people," Heffley said. "A lot of times you may find that you think you know all the answers and you can do everything yourself but when you learn to rely on your team it starts to relieve a lot of stress." 

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, and must be approved before the service member begins participating in the Air Force Reserve, which may mean a break in service.

Even if you’re unsure about transitioning, the 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. Other requests will be tracked by 773d CES. Take note of the location, including 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 for followup.

Weather and mission permitting, potholes will be repaired within 24 hours.

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 offender release.

Eligible clients include all active duty military of all branches of service, mobilized Reserve Component members, retirees (and the dependents of these sponsors) who report sexual assault.

For information, call 353-6507.

DLA Document Services

Defense Logistics Agency Document Services duplicates and prints documents, including 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.

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 documentservices.dla.mil, visit the office at 984 Warehouse Street, or call 384-2901.

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, allowing occupants to make minor improvements and repairs.

The JBER-E 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-R 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.

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 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 occasional care.

The Mission Support Group commander approves and monitors licensing and program requirements. 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.

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 whenever the shop is open; for information, call 384-7000.

Bargain shop

The JBER Bargain Shop, at 8515 Saville Ave. on JBER-E, is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the first Saturday of

the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Consignments are accepted Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers are welcome.

For information, call 753-6134.

Priority placement

The Priority Placement Program and Executive Order 13473 provide non-competitive appointment for spouses of active-duty service members, including full-time National Guard and Reservists, who are relocating to accompany their service member during a permanent change-of-station. The program allows spouses to register for Department of Defense positions and be considered for jobs offered internally.

Spouses are matched with jobs based on their qualifications and preferences. 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 either JBER personnel office.

For information or to register, call 552-9203.

Home-buying seminar

Volunteer realtors and mortgage lenders present an hour-long seminar every Wednesday at either Housing Management Office from 1 to 2 p.m., which covers all aspects of home-buying.

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.

'He got us out': Airman credits life to driver

By **SENIOR AIRMAN**
KYLE JOHNSON
JBER Public Affairs

A couple of milliseconds. That's how much time Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Wiedmer, lead vehicle commander, and his driver, then-Airman 1st Class Daniel Clark, had to react and get their convoy out of the killzone after an improvised explosive device detonated underneath them.

Fire filled the cab and everything went orange.

The crippled truck barely moved on its own; they had no idea how far they'd make it or how badly they or their truck was damaged. There would be time to find out later – when the convoy was safe.

Not his first rodeo

Before he was a vehicle commander leading convoys out of Iraq in 2011, Wiedmer was a driver, pulling cargo into Iraq in 2008.

"When I was coming up for my first deployment, [my noncommissioned officers] pulled me aside before I left," Wiedmer said. "They said, 'Treat it as if it's real, every day. Every time you're out there, make sure you're 100-percent in the game. That split second could be the end of it – for you, for your team.'"

That split second can be all the time in the world – it can reduce a lifespan from decades to minutes. It requires instant, decisive action.

Learning the ropes

Through that first deployment, Airman 1st Class Wiedmer was watching his LVC and other NCOs, learning, especially when the unexpected occurred.

He was with the 70th Medium Truck Detachment for nine and a half months, stationed in Kuwait but nearly always outside the wire in Iraq on 20-day road trips that were anything but fun.

"Anytime you go outside the wire, you're going to have something occur," Wiedmer said. "Sometimes it's just little stuff; they'll be out there watching, videotaping you, kids throwing rocks, stuff getting stolen off of trucks. That's pretty much your average trip. Throughout the deployment, we also had complex attacks – IEDs in conjunction with a ground assault from insurgents. We had small-arms fire, snip-



Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Wiedmer, a vehicle operator assigned to the 773rd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, poses for a portrait Oct. 5. Wiedmer received the Purple Heart after he was wounded by an improvised explosive device, and suffered a traumatic brain injury and severe burns, in Iraq during his 2011 deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. Wiedmer served as a convoy commander with the 424th Medium Truck Detachment; he stresses how important resiliency was to his recovery. Wiedmer said he finds fulfillment in mentoring young Airmen, and strives to live up to the noncommissioned officer standards he was shown as a junior Airman. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

ers, mortars, rocket attacks, mortar attacks and landmines."

There no free time, he said. There was just sleeping, eating, getting cleaned up, or getting back on the road.

Nothing and everything

In 2011, Wiedmer deployed again, this time with now-Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Clark, as part of Operation New Dawn with the 424th Medium Truck Detachment.

Clark, a vehicle operator with the 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., equated the experience to serving time. Crammed in close quarters for so long, there's nothing to do but make friends.

"You're pretty much stuck with each other," Clark said. "So we build very strong bonds, a brotherhood."

In addition to building a respect for each other during their 2011 deployment, Clark said he developed a respect for his own mortality.

Nearly the entire tour was spent outside the wire, and he had to accept every day could be his last.

"You become numb to it," he said, "going outside the wire every day. We had to fall back on our training. It's hard to stay sharp, stay focused and keep your head in the

game when you're sitting in the truck for 18, 20, 30 hours.

"For 19 hours nothing happens. Then for five minutes, everything happens. It's the strangest experience. That's when we rely on our training; those five minutes. It all boils down to reacting to the situation. Don't think, just do. Get your people out of it. Get your equipment out of it – if you can."

They were in good company, working with Army units who provided additional security.

"It was a different Army team almost every mission we went on," Clark said. "So there was an unspoken respect for one another. We knew they knew their jobs, and they were there to protect us."

"There's nothing like a bunch of Army guys with .50-cals to make you feel safe," Clark said with a smile that didn't quite reach his eyes. "As safe as you can be out there, anyway."

Operation New Dawn was largely the same as Wiedmer's previous deployment, he said.

"I didn't notice a big shift in the mission," Wiedmer said. "We were still doing convoys, the tactics were pretty much the same; the only thing that changed is we were driving empty up and full back instead of

full up and empty back.

"I thought it would be safer."

He was wrong.

'Get us out of here!'

Generally, Clark drove; Wiedmer monitored maps and the radio.

On the last load out of a forward operating base called Warrior, just north of Tikrit, Wiedmer said, it happened.

Five miles from the FOB, fire filled the cab, setting the dashboard alight. The smell of his ceramic body armor heating up, burning his chest, flooded his nose. Then the dirt blocked everything out, leaving only its grit.

The smell of his ceramic body armor heating up, burning his chest, flooded his nose.

Then the dirt, filling the cab and his mouth with dirt and screaming.

Advances in vehicle armor mean enemy combatants rely less on attempts to penetrate the vehicle, and more on generating a concussive wave to kill Americans.

"I remember the noise the bulletproof glass made when it went," Wiedmer said. "The sound the armor made as the fire was cooking it. I was able to appreciate every

See **HIGHWAY**, page 8

Matters of Faith: Spiritual fitness requires pushing through tough workouts

By **AIR FORCE
CHAPLAIN (CAPT.)
JESSICA PROPHITT**
673d ABW Chaplain

All branches of the armed services have, in some form, agreed there are four components of strength, for a resilient war fighter: mental, physical, social and spiritual.

Most of us know how to stay mentally, physically, and socially strong, but how do we maintain our spiritual fitness? Before we can figure out the how, we must figure out the why. Why do we need faith?

As a person of the Christian faith and as a chaplain, I get the impression many people feel faith will solve their problems. If life is giving you lemons, faith is the proverbial sugar that will help you make lemonade.

If I just pray harder, things will get better. If I go to church more, my marriage will find healing.

If I read my scriptures more, I'll find the answer to all my problems.

While these practices may help you find guidance and direction, they will not, in and of themselves, fix your problems.

A voice quickly emerging on both the self-help and progressive Christian stage is that of Brene Brown. She has become known for her work and study in the areas of vulnerability, courage, worthiness and shame.



Staff Sgt. Samuel Salgadovalle, 593rd Sustainment Brigade, practices "Warrior Yoga" during the Soldier 360 course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., in 2013. Spiritual fitness is important, too. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Jennifer Spradlin, 19th PAD)

Recently I watched a video she did with a film group called The Work of the People. In a short film titled "Jesus Wept," she discusses her journey back to church.

She openly confesses that she went back to church in hopes of fixing parts of her life that she felt were unraveling.

Her impression of faith was that more interaction with the things that were "spiritual" would help take away her pain. She likens it to an epidural. So often, this is how we want our faith to function.

We want faith to take away our discomfort and

give us the strength we need to push through the hurt without feeling the pain. Faith, however – as Brene so eloquently puts it – is more like a midwife who sits beside you and tells you to push.

For you fellas, a better image might be of a good friend or coach who encourages you to push through the pain of a tough workout.

So, back to our question of why faith? Faith is not a cure-all. Faith will not take away the difficult circumstances we face in life.

Faith, however, in its most simplistic form, provides us with an assurance that we are not alone.

Brene, in her confession, states, "I thought faith would say, I'll take away the pain and discomfort, but what it ended up saying was, I'll sit with you."

Pain and discomfort are never feelings we welcome.

In most cases, we look for ways to dismiss those feelings as quickly as possible.

However, in many instances, there is something on the other end of that pain that makes the hardship worth enduring.

The faith we grew up with can sometimes leave us feeling empty or alone because our experiences have taught us that, per-

haps our faith needed a little tweaking.

If this sounds like you, I encourage you to lean into your curiosity and find a place you can openly discuss your questions.

Seeking a community of faith is one of the ways we keep ourselves spiritually fit.

No one is meant to make the faith journey alone and so often, it is within community that we are able to make sense of our faith and grow as spiritual beings.


Sometimes, it is the flesh and bones of another person, sitting with us in our discomfort that is the greatest reminder of God's love for us.

As a chaplain, one of the greatest joys of my job is helping people explore their faith. Over time, your faith might change and evolve. Go with it.

As we grow and mature, change is inevitable and it can be a sign of maturity. None of us are the same at 35 as we were at 15 – thanks be to God.

This goes for our faith as well; however, it might leave us feeling a little out-of-sorts as we struggle to make sense of so many questions.

Don't give up – lean into that discomfort and know you are not alone.

No doubt, there is a great gift waiting for you on the other side of your struggle. Have faith. 

From **HIGHWAY**, page 7

moment of it as it was happening. I always envisioned it would be super-slow motion, that everything would just crank down. I'd had them go off pretty close to me before, right in front of me, or the truck behind me or something like that. I always envisioned if I actually struck one head-on, time would slow down.

"It didn't. It all sped up – much, much faster – but I saw every single detail."

"What do I do?" Clark yelled.

"Get us out of here!" Wiedmer screamed almost simultaneously.

They'd had their 19 hours of nothing; now it was time for five

minutes of everything, and fortunately the truck could still move on its own – somewhat. Their training paid off.

"He got us out of the killzone," Wiedmer said. "You never want to linger ... they could have had guys waiting to jump us, or snipers waiting for us to get out and see what happened, they could have had [rocket-propelled-grenades] waiting for us to stop – everything's bad if you stop in that situation."

Wiedmer radioed the convoy commander to let him know they'd been hit, but everyone already knew. They'd lit up the sky.

As the convoy limped to an area they could secure, the Airmen gave

each other a quick once-over for obvious wounds; both seemed OK.

Once they could stop, the rest of the vehicles providing bristling defense, they evaluated the damage to the vehicles – and to themselves.

"I had burns on my chest from the ceramic plate heating up in the fire. I didn't notice my ears bleeding or any other problems I was having until I got back.

"I was just so thrilled at the way Clark reacted to the situation, how quickly he got us out of the killzone. He saved our lives – guaranteed."

The nearest medical facility was 150 miles away with no alternatives; they were out of options and it would be hours of pain for

the wounded Wiedmer before they could find relief. But he was still a vehicle commander, responsible for the convoy. In the damaged truck, he kept an uncomfortable vigil as Clark drove.

"I do live in regret," Clark said. "Sometimes I ask myself, could I have done something? Could I have seen something? Maybe there's something I missed."

Wiedmer has a different view.

"Daniel Clark was an amazing Airman, now he's an amazing NCO," Wiedmer said. "No doubt about it, he saved my life that day. I would gladly go into combat with him again.

"I trust him with my life." 

**Through Oct. 31
Fright Night haunted house**
This 10,000 square-foot haunted house at Northway Mall is in its 31st year. The maze takes 15 to 20 minutes, and is guaranteed to give you chills.

**Oct. 21 and 22
Trick-or-Treat Town**
The 25th annual indoor event provides a safe, warm place to enjoy tradition. Trick-or-treat through replicas of historic Anchorage and maybe meet the Alaska Aces.

There are multiple sessions; for information visit *Trickortreat-town.org*.

**Oct. 22
BOSS laser tag**
Head to the Warrior Zone from 1 to 4 p.m. for free laser tag, ages 18 and up.
For information call 384-9023.

**Oct. 26
Pumpkin carving**
Carve pumpkins for the Halloween Dance at the Kennecott Youth Center starting at 4:30 p.m.
For information, call 552-2266.

**Oct. 28 through 30
Alaska Aces hockey**
The Aces take on the Rapid City Rush in the 2016 ECHL season opener. Games start at 7:15 p.m. at the Sullivan Arena.
For information, visit *alaskaaces.com*.

**Oct. 31
Zoo Boo**
The whole zoo is decorated for a spooky good time, and there’s a

bonfire for warming up. Come in costume! For information, visit *alaskazoo.com*.

**Nov. 5
Country Fair**
The Richardson Spouses’ Club hosts their annual Country Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center. Handmade crafts, photography, knives, food and much more are on the table.
For information, call (571) 606-6955.

**Nov. 5 and 6
Holiday gift festival**
Looking for something Alaskan to send home as gifts? The Dena’ina Center hosts the 29th annual Holiday Food and Gift Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, featuring unique gifts, handmade arts and crafts, and much more.
Santa and his elves will be on hand for photos. For information, visit *anchoragemarkets.com*.

**Nov. 9 through 12
Alaska Aces hockey**
The Aces take on the Indianapolis Fuel at Sullivan Arena. Games start at 7:15 p.m.; for information visit *alaskaaces.com*.

**Nov. 17 - Dec. 18
Christmas Towne**
Visit Christmas Towne on Camp Gorsuch Road in Chugiak. Lit walking trails, holiday decorations and music and Santa bring the smells and tastes of the holidays early.
Visit Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
For information visit *christ-*

mastownealaska.com.

**Nov. 19 and 20
Crafts Emporium**
The Dena’ina Center hosts the 38th annual Arts and Crafts Emporium, with a huge selection of handmade art, crafts, foods and one-of-a-kind gifts. Santa will be in attendance with his elf; events run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.
For information, visit *anchoragemarkets.com*.

**Nov. 22 through 26
Great Alaska Shootout**
The University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves take on their top foes at this long-running tournament at the Alaska Airlines Center. For information, visit *goseawolves.com*.

**Ongoing
Fitness skills: Sit-up and Push-up clinics**
Every first and third Wednesday of the month, the Elmendorf Fitness Center hosts these clinics designed to teach proper sit-up and push-up techniques.
Enhance your performance and raise your fitness test scores.
For more information, call 552-5353.

JBER Wildlife Education Center activities
Learn about Alaska’s amazing wildlife and natural resources at this free museum, with interactive displays for kids too.
The center, at Building 8481, is open Monday through Friday, from noon to 4 p.m. subject to staff availability.
For more information, call

552-0310 or email *jberwildlife@gmail.com*.

Wildlife Wednesday
Stay scientifically enriched with this free 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.
For information, visit *alaska-zoo.org*.

Library Story Times
Evening Story Time: Tuesdays 6:30 to 7 p.m.
Toddler Tales: Wednesdays 10 to 11 a.m.
Preschool Story Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 11 a.m.
Surprising Science: Thursdays 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Weekly hikes
The Alaska Outdoors host easy to moderate hikes every Monday and Thursday throughout the year. Monday hikes are easy and suitable for parents with children; Thursdays are for more moderate hikers. For information, visit *alaska-outdoors.org*.

PWOC meetings
The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Arctic Warrior Chapel. For information, email *jber.ak.pwoc@gmail.com*.

MCCW/CWOC
The Military Council of Catholic Women and Catholic Women of the Chapel meet Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Arctic Warrior Chapel.
For information call 552-5762.

Chapel services
Catholic Mass
Sunday
8:30 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
11:30 a.m. – Midnight Sun Chapel
Monday and Wednesday
11:40 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Tuesday and Friday
11:30 a.m. – Midnight Sun Chapel
Thursday
12:00 p.m. – Hospital Chapel
Confession
Confessions are available anytime by appointment or after any mass. Call 552-5762.

Protestant Sunday Services
Liturgical Service
9 a.m. – Heritage Chapel
Gospel Service
9:30 a.m. – Midnight Sun Chapel
Community Service
10:30 a.m. – Heritage Chapel
Collective Service
11 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Chapel Next
5 p.m. – Chaplain Family Life Center

Jewish Services
Call 384-0456 or 552-5762.

Religious Education
For schedules, call the Religious Operations Center at 552-5762.

Paws to Read celebrates one-year anniversary at JBER library

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAVIER ALVAREZ**
JBER Public Affairs

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson library hosted a celebration to commemorate the one-year mark of the Paws to Read program at JBER Oct. 15.

“Paws to Read offers a comfortable environment for kids to practice their reading aloud without anything or anybody to judge or correct them,” said Phyllis Talas, 673d Force Support Squadron library technician.

Attendees were greeted by two service dogs, eager to listen to stories.

Also in attendance was Gleeson Odin, an electronic-storage-device detection dog with the Anchorage Police Department.

Coloring tables were set up with an overabundance of crayons and doggie pictures, and free dog books were provided by Blue Star Families.

Abby Kruzel, the JBER Library story-time artist, read dog-related books and led the children in songs.

Up to three working dogs can be at any given Paws to Read session, and can listen to up to 15 children for 20 minute intervals, Talas said.

Library staff hope to one day be able to host five dogs, allowing for more children to participate.

“This program is not unique to us,” said Pamela Medolo, 673d FSS library director. “Libraries have



Leland Erker, 2, reads to Sheila Barrett, a therapy dog handler, and Swivel Shot, a therapy dog with Midnight Sun Service Dogs, at the Paws to Read one-year celebration at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson library Oct. 15. Up to three working dogs can be at any given Paws to Read session and can sit with up to 15 children in 20 minute intervals. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

been doing this, and schools have been doing this for quite a while – at least 10 years, maybe a little more. But it’s new to our base, and I think it’s been very well received. We’ve been very happy with the response. We hope that it continues to be popular.”

Paws to Read continues to have the overwhelming support of library patrons, Talas said.

Reading sessions, hosted the

third Saturday of every month, provide full use of the working dog’s time.

“A dog doesn’t know if you mess up,” said Aiden Patterson, 8. “They’re just there to be loved. To be close to you, and get attention from you.”


Aiden marks his calendar every month.

Eagerly, as his mother describes, he prepares the nights leading up to

Paws to Read by reading to the family dog.

Before Paws to Read, Aiden was scared of dogs and being bitten, said Jade Patterson.

Interactions with the service and therapy dogs at Paws to Read have helped calm Aiden down and have taught him how to enjoy interacting with a dog.

To schedule a Paws to Read session call the library at 384-1640. 



TRANSPORTATION PARADE

Participants of the Transportation Parade at Sitka Child Development Center parking lot float past spectators, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Oct. 14. October is transportation month at Sitka CDC, so students designed floats to highlight different types of transportation. All the floats were built at home to encourage parental participation. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)



Sept. 2

A daughter, Sadie Mae Muncy, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 8:02 a.m. to Nicole Leann Muncy and Air Force Staff Sgt. Cory Gilbery Muncy of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron.

Sept. 4

A son, Jacob Barrett Fountain, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 5:37 a.m. to Jessica Ann Fountain and Air Force Capt. Ryan Paul Fountain of the 673d Contracting Squadron.

Sept. 6

A son, Lucas Henry Wellnitz, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces at 3:38 p.m. to Air Force Capt. Kelly K. Wellnitz of the 673d Inpatient Squadron and Justin D. Wellnitz.

Sept. 8

A daughter, Elain Paris Williams, was born 19 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 5:23 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Erica Joyce Williams of the 673d Force Support Squadron and London Guy Williams.

Sept. 9

A son, Wyatt James Warren, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 6:24 a.m. to Jessica Chantel Warren and Air Force Staff Sgt. Brooks William Warren of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Sept. 10

A daughter, Sophie Grace Fleener, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 8:24 a.m. to Karrin Monique Fleener and Spc. Connor Patrick McLean Fleener of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

A daughter, Leila Grace McDonald, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 3:29 p.m. to Jeramae Hall McDonald and Senior Airman Matthew Steven McDonald of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron.

A son, Tripp Jessie Finn, was born 22 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 6:40 p.m. to Bobbi J. Finn and Tech. Sgt. Jonathan M. Finn of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron.

Sept. 12

A daughter, Arya Monroe Pugsley, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 5:44 p.m. to Heather Nichole Pugsley and Sgt. Adam Harry Pugsley of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

Sept. 13

A daughter, Jamilya Maie Men-

doza, was born 20 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 6 ounces at 8:39 a.m. to Katerine Joie Mendoza and Spc. Joab Tan Mendoza of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

A son, Kolten Michael Smith, was born 23 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 12 ounces at 9:59 a.m. to Robyn Ann Smith and Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Michael Smith of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

A son, Kalel Oliver, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces at 7:11 p.m. to Joann Oliver and Spc. Dahi Oliver of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

Sept. 14

A daughter, Hailee Grace Martin, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 1:30 a.m. to Nicole Ruth Martin and Senior Airman Matthew Lee Martin of the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron.

A son, Thorsten Joseph Garner, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces at 3:14 a.m. to Katrina Faye Garner and Joseph Gary Garner, Jr.

Sept. 16

A daughter, Caroline Leigh Cullman, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces at 4:21 p.m. to Leigh Ann Cullman and Army Staff Sgt. Wesley James Cullman of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Sept. 17

A son, Declan Wade McEneany, was born 21 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 13 ounces at 1:10 p.m. to Amber Dee McEneany and Air Force Staff Sgt. James Timothy McEneany of the 673d Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Sept. 18

A daughter, Lillian April Schrock, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 7:32 a.m. to Brianna Lee Norris and Sgt. Dustin William Schrock of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

A son, Bentley Alijah Pandes, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 6:01 p.m. to Aiza Marie Pandes and Air Force Staff Sgt. Jesse Valencia Pandes of the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron.

Sept. 20

A daughter, Kinsley Rose Gibson, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8

ounces at 1:03 a.m. to Delight Lendora Sprinkle and Spc. Anthony Frederick Gibson of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

A son, Samuel Ray Davis was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 8:23 p.m. to Regina Marie Davis and Air Force Master Sgt. Ryan Michael Davis of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.

A daughter, Ashlyn Ann Marie Schaefer, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 10:58 p.m. to Air Force 1st Lt. Renee Ann Schaefer of the 168th Air Refueling Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Cory John Schaefer of the 211th Rescue Squadron.

Sept. 22

A daughter, Mariah Laraina Weary, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces at 11:28 p.m. to Spc. Jasmine Latrell Weary of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and Spc. Marcus Lee Weary of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

Sept. 23

A son, Alexander Richard Aurilio, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 10:56 p.m. to Kate Aurilio and Air Force Maj. Marc Aurilio of the 673d Communications Squadron.

Sept. 25

A daughter, Nylah Marie Level, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces at 3:28 p.m. to Alexis Marie Level and Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Jhron Level of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Sept. 28

A son, Michael James Murphy, was born 22 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 12:12 a.m. to Amanda K.L. Murphy and Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony R. Murphy of the 3rd Operations Support Squadron.

A son, Ayden Levi Rogers, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 4:14 a.m. to Kandice Devin Rogers and Tech. Sgt. Travis Levi Rogers of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Sept. 30

A daughter, Evelyn Louise Cobb, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces at 2:11 p.m. to Marissa Celesse Cobb and Sgt. Christopher Jon Cobb of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

