

ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

The **CHIEF** of Staff of the Air Force visits JBER Airmen *Page 3*

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Page 11

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Community ceremonies honor those who serve

By **AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. WILLIAM BANTON**
JBER Public Affairs

The Alaska National Guard and the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs hosted their annual Veterans Day ceremony at the National Guard Armory, on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, in coordination with the Royal Canadian Armed Forces Remembrance Day ceremony at Fort Richardson National Cemetery, Nov. 11.

Hundreds of veterans and their families attended the ceremonies, which included music, speeches, and presentations of awards, wreath-laying and readings of proclamations from President Barack Obama.

“America has long stood as a beacon of hope and opportunity, and few embody that spirit here at home and beyond our borders more than the members of our armed forces. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are part of an unbroken chain of brave patriots who have served our country with honor and made tremendous sacrifices so that we may live free,” Obama wrote in his proclamation. “On Veterans Day, we salute the women and men who have proudly worn the uniform of the United States of America and the families who have served alongside them, and we affirm our sacred duty as citizens to express our enduring gratitude, both in words and in actions, for their service.”

Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, Alaska National Guard adjutant general, addressed the increased importance of remembering and honoring our nation’s veterans during a period of political polarization and transition.

“In these divisive and uncertain times, it is more important than ever that we come together to recognize and celebrate what constitutional democracy provides us,” Hummel said. “The rule of law is the peaceful transition of power with the principle that we are all people with rights, dignity, freedom of worship and freedom of expression. If we respect and cherish these values, we must be prepared to defend them.”

The Veterans Day ceremony concluded with a fallen-Soldier ceremony and wreath layings in honor of military personnel who have sacrificed their lives while serving.

Brig. Gen. J.R.P. Laroche, North American Aerospace Defense Command Alaska



ABOVE: The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Honor Guard perform a salute salvo during the Royal Canadian Armed Forces Remembrance Day Ceremony at Fort Richardson National Cemetery on JBER, Nov. 11. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. William Banton) **LEFT:** U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens, U.S. Army Alaska commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Ferrusi, USARAK command sargent major, prepare to lay a wreath the Alaska National Guard and Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veterans Day ceremony, on JBER.

Region deputy commander, spoke about the significance of honoring those who have laid down their lives in defense of the values shared by the United States and Canada.


In Canada, Remembrance Day celebrates Canadians who died in the first and second World Wars, Korean War, Afghanistan and

peacekeeping duties.

“To those serving members and our veterans, when I think of your service, I think back to the poem written long ago by Canadian service member Maj. John McCrae titled ‘In Flanders Fields,’” Laroche said.

The poem recalls the poppies of the fields

near Flanders, Belgium, the site of some of the greatest losses of life in World War I.

The day’s events concluded at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery with JBER leadership honoring Canadian service members with a moment of silence and the laying of wreaths. 

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Air Force Chief of Staff visits JBER

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

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and his spouse, Dawn, visited Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson at the tail end of a two-week trip to various Pacific Air Forces installations, Nov. 10.

“[The trip] was an opportunity to not only get out and see Airmen, but also make international connections, and reinforce our commitment to our alliances and our partnerships in the region,” Goldfein said.

This was Goldfein’s first visit to the Last Frontier as Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

“The spirit you see here at team JBER is alive and well,” he said. “We have a great joint team up here, doing the nation’s business in the northern tier.”

It was standing room only, as Airmen of all ranks attentively listened to Goldfein at an All Call hosted at JBER’s Hangar 1.

“To stand there on the stage and represent the Airmen who signed up to serve is a real honor and privi-

lege,” Goldfein said. There were myriad topics discussed during the all call. One in particular was the revitalization of Air Force squadrons.

“The squadron, I believe is the heartbeat of the Air Force,” Goldfein said. “It’s where Airmen and families thrive. It’s where we actually inculcate the culture of being an Airman. It’s where we succeed or fail in the mission.”

Words of the late Army Air Corps Gen. William “Billy” Mitchell, cited by some as the father of the Air Force, came to Goldfein’s mind when discussing Alaska’s geographic importance.

“This is some of the most strategic landscape on the planet,” Goldfein said. “Whether you want to talk about its location relative to all the challenges that we face as a nation – or the global challenges we need to be thinking about as a military, or whether you want to talk about this incredible natural treasure called JPARC (Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex), the largest range we have for the business of doing



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein speaks to exemplary Airmen after presenting them with his coin at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Nov. 10. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)


live training ... Alaska matters.” Goldfein went on to express his gratitude for all Alaskans, not just service members.

“I give a lot of credit to the local community who embraces Airmen and families and makes them feel part of the community.

“To all of the folks who live, and work and embrace our Airmen and

families – my message as chief is to say, ‘Thank you.’”

In closing, Goldfein reflected on the Air Force core value of service before self, and equated it to the military family.

“I think it applies as much to our families as it does to those of us who are privileged to wear the uniform. To all of our families – thank you.” 

Civilian appraisal system marks New Beginnings

By **AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. WES WRIGHT**
JBER Public Affairs

The 673d Force Support Squadron Civilian Personnel Office kicked off an educational campaign last month to inform Air Force civilian employees how the transition to the new Department of Defense-wide Performance Management and Appraisal Program will affect them.

A phased implementation of DP-MAP, part of the DoD's collaborative labor-management effort, New Beginnings, began in April 2016 with a limited number of Army, Navy and defense agency civilians.

Department of the Air Force civilians are part of the second phase with the first annual appraisal period beginning April 1, 2017, and closing March 31, 2018.

JBER hosted two town hall-style educational seminars last month and is offering weekly classes to bring JBER's civilian workforce up to speed.

"New Beginnings seeks to improve communication between supervisors and employees, provide

more transparent processes and improve recruiting, developing and rewarding DoD employees," said Paige Hinkle-Bowles, deputy assistant secretary of defense for civilian personnel policy.

The current Air Force civilian appraisal system is pass/fail. Under the new system, there will be a three-tiered rating scale: outstanding, fully successful and unacceptable, with ratings of five, three and one, respectively. All performance objective plans are written so that if met, all personnel will be "fully successful." To garner an "outstanding," an employee must exceed the standard.

"We want to make sure we are treating people equitably and fairly not only in their evaluation but in the awards that are distributed based on that," said Laura Hanks, 673d FSS civilian personnel officer.

Hanks said, that while it is not required, employees are highly encouraged to be a part of the construction of their performance objective plan, which happens at the beginning of their rating period.

"It gives employees more influence over their rating because the

employee has an opportunity, although not required, to participate in the creation of their performance plan objectives," Hanks said. "When that is being created, it should be a collaborative effort."

Air Force leaders have stressed increased communication as key to the program's success.

"Our Airmen, including our civilian Airmen, are critical to accomplishing the Air Force's mission," said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. "New Beginnings focuses on institutionalizing a culture of high performance through greater employee-supervisor communication and accountability, increased employee engagement, transparent processes, and improved capabilities in recruiting, developing and rewarding our workforce."

The new appraisal program "will provide for a fair, credible and transparent" process that links bonuses and other performance-based actions to employee performance, Hinkle-Bowles said. The goal is for the new appraisal program to be in place to cover the vast majority of the department's wage-grade and

General Schedule employees by October 2018.


Hinkle-Bowles said timely recognition and reward of employee contributions throughout the cycle, which runs annually from April 1 to March 31, is also key.

"Continuous feedback has to happen," she said. "This isn't about sitting down on the 365th day and giving feedback."

While change can often be daunting, Hanks said employee fears and concerns can be easily alleviated by educating themselves through the online or classroom-based courses being offered. The training is mandatory for civilian employees.

"I know it's going to be a successful program. It's going to be more time-consuming, but ultimately is well worth it. We offer classes every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday."

To access the online training, visit: <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/Atlas2/page/desktop/DesktopHome.jsf>.

To sign up for an in-person class, individuals should contact their unit training manager. 

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 Manage-

ment 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 items 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 more 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. The licensing process comes with benefits such as training and support, a 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. For information, call 753-6134.

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.



ABOVE: The Joint Services Color Guard presents the colors during an Alaska Aces game versus the Indianapolis Fuel at the Sullivan Arena, Nov. 11. The Alaska Aces honored veterans for their service with a military appreciation weekend Nov. 11 and 12. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

LEFT: Alaska Aces mascot Boomer approaches fans at a military appreciation game, Nov. 11. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)

BELOW: Air Force Lt. Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach, Alaskan Command commander, ceremonially drops the puck, Nov. 12, at the Sullivan Arena. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Sgt. David Bedard)



Friday Turkey shoot and movie

Celebrate the Month of the Military Family from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Two Rivers Youth Center.

Hit the gym for archery and win a turkey, or head for a movie.

For information, call 384-1508.

Movie night: Finding Dory

The Talkeetna Theater hosts this free showing of Finding Dory. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; concessions are cash only.

For information, call 552-8529.

An Evening of Etiquette

Parents and children are invited to an elegant evening of friends, family and food at the Illa School Age Center from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

For information, call 384-1508.

Saturday and Sunday Model railroad expo

The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers hosts their annual Fall Expo from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Basement Room 35 of Matanuska Hall. Check out running trains, displays, swap tables, and plenty of ideas.

For information, call 952-4353 or email bjorgan@alaska.net.

Saturday Paws to Read

Youth in grades K-5 are invited to read with a service or therapy dog at the JBER Library from 10 a.m. to noon.

For information call 384-1480.

Turkey shoot

Get ready for Thanksgiving at the JBER Skeet and Trap range

from noon to 4 p.m. with traditional shooting games and a chance to win a turkey or ham.

For information, call 384-1480.

Ping-Pong tournament

Got game? Bring it to the Warrior Zone starting at 2 p.m. for this 18-and-up tournament.

For information, call 384-9006.

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.

Sunday Wingshooting instruction

Learn shotgun skills one-on-one with sessions Thursdays and Sundays; there are two packages available, depending on skill level.

For information, call 384-1480/552-3812.

Turkey Trot bowling

This nine-pin no-tap tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Polar Bowl.; there's a special prize for the first bowler to score a turkey.

For information, call 753-7467.

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 on the UAA campus.

For more information, visit goseawolves.com.

Thursday Madden tournament

Once you've chowed down, head to the Warrior Zone for this free football video game tournament starting at 2 p.m.

For information, call 384-9006.

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 test scores.

For more information, call 552-5353.

Dec. 1 JBER Holiday Tree Lighting

Come out for the JBER Holiday Tree Lighting in front of the Joint Military Mall, adjacent to the Commissary.

Music starts at 4:45 p.m. with the program beginning at 5. Children will have an opportunity to get a picture with Santa. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided.

For more information, please contact the Joint Religious Operation Center at 552-JROC (5762) or e-mail at 673abw.hc.1@us.af.mil.

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 christmastownealaska.com.

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.

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.

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.

Service members can get two Thanksgiving meals this year

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

Both the Wilderness Inn and Iditarod dining facilities are scheduling Thanksgiving meals, and if service members play their cards right, they can double-dip this year.

The Wilderness Inn is scheduled to have Thanksgiving on Nov. 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. while the Iditarod Dining Facility is to be on the holiday itself from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At both feasts, base leadership will be present to serve the service members who may be spending Thanksgiving away from their families this year.

"I'm hoping for a big turn-out," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mathis, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 725 Brigade Support Battalion, (Airborne), who serves as the Wilderness Inn Dining Facil-

ity manager. "This will be my first Thanksgiving as a dining facility manager here. I just want everybody to get fed and enjoy a home-cooked meal away from home."

Wilderness Inn will have a fixed meal price, while the Iditarod Dining Facility will serve the items a la carte, said Michael Thornton, assistant manager for the Iditarod Dining Facility.

"There's no change to meal card holders, and cost doesn't change," Thornton said. "The only reason our cost doesn't change and the Army's does is we are a la carte. Each item is priced

accordingly, whereas with them you're paying for the full meal; either way, it's a cost-effective meal."

Both facilities will be offering a continental breakfast to free staff up to prepare for the feast at lunch on their respective days.

At the Wilderness Inn, this will be from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and for the Iditarod, it will be during normal breakfast hours.

According to tradition, base leadership will be present for both Thanksgivings, serving the service


members, Thornton said.

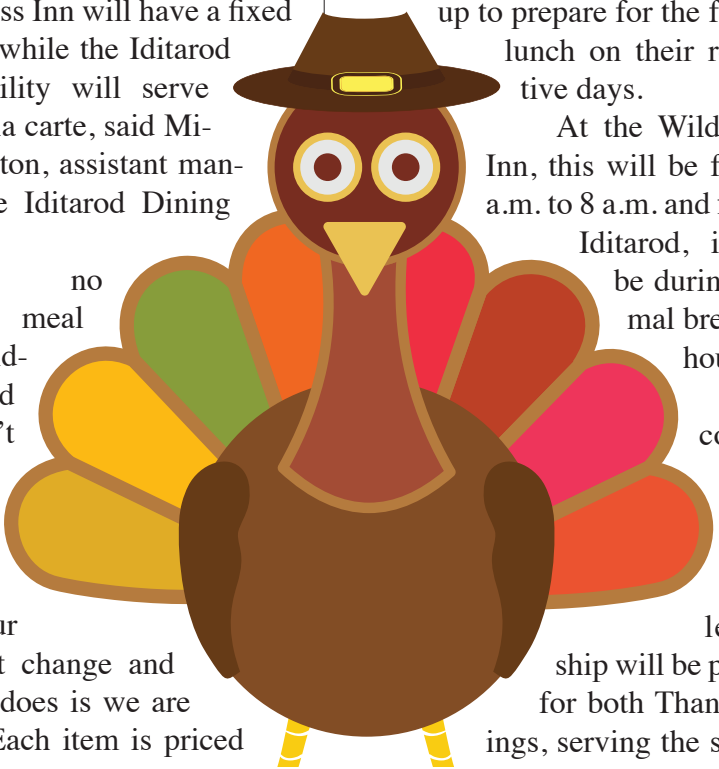
According to both managers, there's always a bit of friendly rivalry between the dining facilities and there are not many better opportunities for them to flex their culinary muscles than Thanksgiving.

"We work together quite well. We're both under the same leadership," Thornton said. "Their Thanksgiving is worth looking at. They really put on a big spread. I don't know what they're going to do this year, but I've seen what they do in previous years and they do a phenomenal job."

"There's always a difference though — we're better."

With the two meals happening on different days, perhaps JBER service members can judge for themselves this year.

"But you won't get lobster tail and crab legs over there," Mathis said. 



Perfect peace doesn't mean it looks peaceful

By **AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) D. SHANE MARLEY**

Have you ever found yourself saying, “I need peace or serenity now”?

It is easy to get overwhelmed with the demands of life, particularly if you throw the holidays into the mix.

The truth is, you can have peace even when things are crazy. You just have to look in the right place. It reminds me of a sermon illustration I have shared on a couple of occasions from the pulpit.

There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who could paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The king looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

The first picture was of a calm, clear lake. The lake reflected the image of the peaceful towering mountains all around it; overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought it was the perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains too. But they were rugged and

bare. Above was a stormy sky from which rain fell and lightning danced between the clouds. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall.

This did not look peaceful at all. But when the king looked closer, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect contentment.

Which picture do you think won the prize?

The king chose the second picture.

“Because,” explained the king, “peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace.”

We often think peace is something we get when we are on vacation, when we finally complete that huge project at work, or when the kids are in bed for the night. While that is partially true, I think there is more to it. Peace can be found when



A waterfall can be a torrent - but there can be peace, too. (Courtesy photo/Frank Kovalchek)

we get our heart in the right place, and when we rely on God’s grace and strength to get us through the tough times.

If we are not careful though, it is easy to become overwhelmed by worry, anxiety, stress, and fear.


Those things are not healthy, and distract us from the good things we have. God’s will for us is that we live a life of contentment, and not be tossed around by the storms of life.

Finding peace is also understanding God is on the side of those who serve him, and true peace comes from having a relationship with him. The psalmist David understood this when he proclaimed in Psalm 29:11 “The Lord gives strength to his people, and the Lord blesses his people with peace.”

It is the kind of peace that surpasses all understanding and puts joy in your heart even when it feels like the whole world is against you. Why? Because you know the God you serve is bigger than anything you are going through.

Some other ways to find peace in God are through prayer, reading scripture, being thankful (counting your blessings), and meditating on things that are good and holy.

At the end of the day, having peace in your life is possible in any circumstance.

It starts with the having the right perspective – and knowing how much God cares for you. 



File photo

Snow removal is painless – if everyone does their part

STAFF REPORT

773d Civil Engineer Squadron

After another amazing summer, we all know what follows – winter.

Over the past few years, winter has provided us some of the biggest surprises, like 2011's record 134.5 inches of snow, and last year's record low of 20.9 inches.

In short, we have to be ready for anything that winter throws our way. As we approach each new day with cautious anticipation of Mother Nature, we all know winter will create numerous obstacles to everyday operations, including icy road conditions and slower traffic. In response to these conditions, the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron's "Snow Team" will employ its fleet throughout Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's streets and airfields.

Their mission is to keep the installation's runways, airdrome, roads and parking areas clear and safe so JBER personnel can maintain operational capability and tactical airdrop-training missions at all times.

Likewise, we must all do our part to prepare for winter's element of surprise.

It is a shared responsibility to ensure the safety of our installation family.

The Civil Engineer Squadron asks everyone to please keep the following important tips in mind to expedite snow removal operations, prevent accidents, and return the base to normal operations as quickly as possible.

- Pick up or remove items or debris that could impede or damage snow removal equipment around base facilities and parking areas.

- Use either airfield sand or sodium acetate for facilities on or within airfield parameters. Use of any other items (such as ice melt) for clearing snow/ice is forbidden in these areas.

- Facility managers should develop plans for vehicle consolidation or removal prior to arranging for parking lot snow-removal operations.

- Before using unit-owned truck-mounted plows, facility managers must contact the snow barn for instructions on plowing and snow removal strategies and where to stockpile snow. Doing so will eliminate wasted efforts.

- Facility managers should post parking lots as "closed" upon requesting snow removal operations.

ations. Parking lots with vehicles may receive reduced service or may not be cleared at all.

- Personnel going on temporary duty assignments should park in long-term "deployment" parking areas and make arrangements to have their vehicles moved as needed throughout the winter months.

Parents must instruct their children on the dangers associated with snow removal operations, especially within housing areas:

- Operators have narrowed fields of vision.
- Operators' hearing can be limited due to the equipment noise.

- Snow tunnels and forts can be unstable and collapse without warning.

- Playing near icy roads or snow-removal vehicles is a recipe for disaster.

- Maintain a 75-foot clearance from all snow-removal equipment.

- Yield right-of-way to snow-removal equipment.

- Slow down and drive according to road conditions – speed limits are reduced during snow and icy conditions.

Important numbers for the winter

For snow removal in housing areas, contact Aurora Military Housing; on JBER-E, call 753-1051/1091. On JBER-R, call 334-6000.

For base roads/facilities/parking lots, contact 773d CES at 552-3726/3727.


For airfield snow removal, contact base operations at 552-2107.

To check on delayed reporting or road conditions, call 552-INFO, or check the JBER official Facebook page.

The snow team will use all available resources to keep JBER running smoothly throughout the winter.

They have a priority schedule and will get to the problem areas as soon as possible.

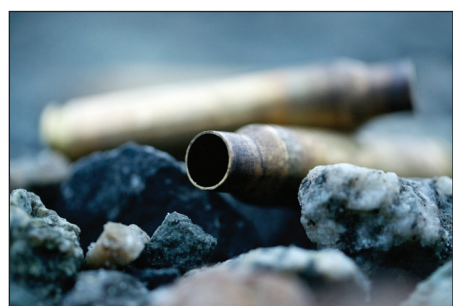
The snow team's capabilities would suffer but for the 673rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, whose efforts, including the summer rebuild program, ensure the snow team is ready before the first snowflake.

Their support throughout the season ensures the team's equipment stays on the flightline and thoroughfares, keeping all arctic warriors mission ready. 



UNDER PRESSURE

Airman 1st Class Alex Tuyul, from New York, and a member of 673d Security Forces Squadron, carries out dry-fire practice drills under a barricade Nov. 9, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Airmen of 673d SFS went to Statler/Newton Small Arms Range for M4 Carbine Proficiency Firing training, which teaches them to maneuver behind cover while accurately engaging targets. (U.S. Air Force photos/David Bedard)



ABOVE: Expended 5.56-mm ammunition shows a tight shot group. Airmen of 673d SFS participated in a number of stressful drills to get their heartrate up and still deliver accurate fire behind a barricade and a patrol car.

RIGHT: Tech. Sgt. Phillip Todd, a native of Rantoul, Ill., and a member of 673d Security Forces Squadron, instructs fellow Defender Senior Airman Ryan Treadwell of Concord, Calif., in how to engage targets using a patrol car as a barricade, Nov. 9, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Defenders are taught to use the engine block as effective cover from fire.

ON THE COVER: Airman 1st Class Jarrod Chastain, a native of Kingman, Ariz., and a member of 673d Security Forces Squadron, waits his turn to partake of barricade-fire training. The M4 Carbine has a maximum effective range of 500 meters against a single target.



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