

# RED LEGS

PFAR cannoneers  
perfect their craft  
Page 2

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# ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

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# TIME ON TARGET



**ABOVE:** Paratroopers assigned to A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, fire a M119A2 105-mm howitzer during airborne and live-fire training at Malemute Drop Zone, Nov. 22. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)  
**LEFT:** Paratroopers assigned to A/2-377th PFAR, work together to move a M119A2 before a live-fire on Malemute drop zone, Nov. 22. USARAK is home to the Army's only Pacific airborne brigade combat team, and maintains the only airborne rapid-response capacity within the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)

**RIGHT:** Paratroopers of A/2-377th PFAR, descend over Malemute drop zone, Nov. 22 as cannoneers work to place their M119A2 howitzer into action. The M119A2 has a range of 19,500 meters. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)



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# CSAF discusses changing face of war

By **JIM GARAMON**  
*Defense Media Activity*

WASHINGTON — New technologies, new tactics, new threats, limited budgets – all these have combined to change the face of warfare in the 21st century, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein is among the leaders sorting out just what that will mean.

Goldfein spoke with Defense One’s Marcus Weisgerber here Nov. 17 and gave the reasoning behind the changes being contemplated for the future of defense. In addition to being responsible for the “man, train and equip” mission for the Air Force, the chief of staff is also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Goldfein said he wants to have a conversation about the future of combined arms and joint warfare. He also wants to talk about what has changed and what remains constant.

“What hasn’t changed over time is the idea of trust and confidence,” he said. “This is a foundation of doing joint warfare.”

The U.S. military is the most joint

force on earth, he said, a fact that has been proven over the past 15 years of warfare.

“We actually have trust and confidence that is built to the level that has set the table for us to do some really evolutionary work in the future,” the general said.

### Information age

The military is now in the age of information warfare, Goldfein said, and the question now is what does the future look like?

“It’s going to be far more about networks,” he said. “It’s going to be far more about how you take all the information you collect and turn that into decision-quality information faster than any adversary could ever counter.”

It also will entail creating effects across all domains to create operational agility, which, he said, when combined with decision speed, creates a deterrent that no one can counter.

The United States probably makes decisions faster than any other country, but it will not be fast enough for

the future, Goldfein said.

### Common systems

The future must be a common operating system, the general said. The proprietary systems that exist now are separate and require another system to amalgamate the information and assess it. The current system does not give leaders the situational awareness they need fast enough.

Some of this will be dependent on new technologies or advances in current technologies. Intelligence analysis today is too dependent on “industrial age” procedures, in which humans do much of the assessments that could be done faster and more accurately by computers.

“We got to get into the next stage, which is machine-to-machine, human/machine teaming, and artificial intelligence – to turn all that data into decision-quality information and then you act,” he said.

The Air Force is already experimenting with the process, Goldfein said. Called Data to Decision, the experiment takes information from


all domains and places it into one common operating system, he said.

This could help the Air Force in many ways, the general said.

### Airstrikes

Americans see the results of airstrikes on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Mosul almost every night, he said, as they see footage of bombs or missiles going exactly where intended. “Sometimes we tend to focus on the end game, which is a bomb that goes into its intended location,” Goldfein said.

People need to understand what happens before the boom and limit the exposure of any innocent civilians, the general said.

“When I grew up flying F-16 (Falcons), the pilot’s prayer was, ‘Please God, let me find my target and not let my buddies down,’” Goldfein said. “It’s changed. In precision warfare and the information age, it’s ‘Please God, let me hit the right target, and not let my buddies down.’ Because I am going to hit what I aim at, with 98 percent accuracy.” 

# SMA talks about the Army's future

By **ARMY STAFF SGT. LANCE POUNDS**

*Defense Media Activity*

The 15th Sergeant Major of the Army visited Soldiers and senior enlisted leaders, assigned to U.S. Army Garrison-Italy tenant units, to discuss his Army-wide leader development initiatives, Nov. 16 to 18.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey hosted two town hall meetings during his visit. The intent was to share with them the changes that have been made, how it affects their careers, and finally the future of the profession.

Mark Milley's number one priority. Dailey said noncommissioned officer-led, individual and collective training is vital to the responsible drawdown of the force.

## **Sustain and retain the best**

Dailey said the way to sustain and retain the best enlisted Soldiers is through NCO professional development schools. Currently, he said, changes are being made to ensure NCOs throughout the Army receive

the training opportunities for career advancement.

Dailey said there are plans to increase the level of accreditation of all professional development schools. He added that in order to develop leaders "we must take opportunities to invest in the person."

## **Investing in the person**

"Someone saw the potential in me," Dailey said.

According to Dailey, in order to maintain the stewardship of the profession, leaders must invest in their Soldiers. He added it is for this reason the Army is changing how leaders are evaluated.

On Jan. 1, the Army released a revised version of the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report intended to better assess the performance and future potential of enlisted leaders.

Dailey said the new evaluation will help restore balance to the reporting system. He added that previous reports indicated approximately 80 percent of NCOs were evaluated

as, "among the best". Dailey indicated how that system took away from those who truly earned top marks on their evaluations.

## **America's perception**

According to Dailey, last month was the first time in 20 years the Army ranked as a No. 1 choice for civilians seeking a career in the military.

Dailey credited this to the ongoing efforts to change the way Americans perceive the Army.

Dailey explained the American perception of pride.

"All Marines – even those kicked out of service – if asked, proudly say they are 'Marines for life'," Dailey said.

Dailey further explained perception with word-cloud graphics depicting words associated with each service. "Educated" was a word associated with both the Air Force and Navy, while "Dangerous" associated to the Marines and Army. The most disheartening word Dailey said was "Average", which was only associated with the Army.

"That is not like a C average either," he said.

He added that was not a word he felt should be associated to the Army.


Other words associated with the Army were "ordinary" and "low skill", which led Dailey to ask attendees, "Why is it less than other services?"

One attendee stated that while serving as a recruiter, he noticed people's perception of the services began the moment they enter a recruiter's office. Dailey agreed.

Dailey reiterated his point about perception, stewardship, and personnel investment and how these factors contributed to the Army's less-than-desirable status among the American population.

"It is a tough business, getting young men and women to join the Army," Dailey said.

Dailey's discussion with Soldiers was open and candid, yet served as an opportunity for him to drive home one important message.

"We have a responsibility to preserve the Army," Dailey said. 



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](mailto: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.

Priority placement

The Priority Placement Program and Executive Order 13473 provide appointment for spouses of active-duty service members, including full-time National Guard and Reservists, who are relocating to accompany their service member. 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, can register at either personnel office. For information call 552-9203.

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/JBER-Pharmacy](http://www.facebook.com/JBER-Pharmacy).

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.

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.









Alaska Gov. Bill Walker and his wife, Alaska First Lady Donna Walker, give a goodbye hug to Togiak School secretary Margie Frost at the airstrip in Togiak Nov. 15. The Walkers visited as part of Operation Santa Claus, an Alaska National Guard-led program that delivers toys, school supplies and other gifts to children in Alaska's remote villages. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Maj. John Callahan)

# Operation Santa Claus begins in Togiak

By **MAJ. JOHN CALLAHAN**  
176th Wing Public Affairs

**I**n a rare daytime appearance, Santa and about 50 of his elves – including Alaska Gov. Bill Walker and First Lady Donna Walker – came early this year to visit Christmas cheer upon the schoolchildren of Togiak, a remote village in Southwest Alaska.

The early visit was made possible by the Alaska National Guard's Operation Santa Claus, now in its 60th year. Each year since 1956, volunteers have come together to process and package donated Christmas toys, school supplies, books and staple foods.

Most of these “elves” are affiliated with the Alaska Army or Air National Guard; others step forward from local businesses and community groups. Alaska Air National Guard crews then fly the elves and their collected

goodies to a selected handful of villages each year.

Several Air Force Reservists on annual training from California were also able to participate in the unique Alaskan experience.

In the festive Togiak School gymnasium, small schoolchildren climbed onto Mr. and Mrs. Claus' laps to receive gifts. Others crowded around the visiting Guard members, peppering them with questions, later challenging their guests to push-ups and “Eskimo stick” contests.

“The children were really excited to learn they were coming,” said Sam Gosuk, principal of the Togiak School. “And so were the adults. I really want to thank the people here – not only students, but also teachers and some members of the community – who stayed up late decorating the gym. Everything was very organized.”

Locals said they were touched by

the visit.

“It was so amazing,” Margie Frost, the school's secretary, said to Walker as she drove the governor and first lady back to the Guard's waiting C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft afterwards. “I have a story I'd like to tell you,” she said.

“In 2000, my dad died near Bethel,” she continued. “He fell through the ice. That was Dec. 23. We got the news on Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – that he was missing.

“I didn't think I would ever feel the same about Christmas. But now I do, seeing how happy all the kids are. It is really special. I feel like that Christmas spirit is back.”

Three additional Operation Santa Claus missions are scheduled for 2016. The elves will visit Akiachak Dec. 3; Akiak and Tuluksak Dec. 14, and Grayling Dec. 15.


Altogether, Operation Santa Claus 2016 will deliver Christmas cheer to

about 1,800 children, said Op Santa volunteer coordinator April Gettys.

Operation Santa Claus began in 1956, when floods and a drought ruined the hunting and fishing season for residents in the Western Alaska village of St. Mary's.

With only enough money to pay to have food shipped in and nothing left over for Christmas, the mother superior of the village's Roman Catholic mission wrote a letter to the Alaska National Guard asking for help.

Radio and television stations and Anchorage's two newspapers spread the word and, within days, the Guard was inundated with donations of new and used toys.

The mission closed in the late 1980s, but the gift-giving effort continued to grow. Since then, tens of thousands of Alaska's schoolchildren have had their Christmas seasons brightened through Operation Santa Claus. 



### Thursday 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. 2 to Dec. 11 Film festival

The Anchorage International Film Festival showcases award-winning independent films from around the world. Events take place at varying locations.

For more information, visit [www.anchoragefilmfestival.org](http://www.anchoragefilmfestival.org).

### Dec. 3 and 4 Alaska Native Holiday Bazaar

The Alaska Native Heritage Center hosts a bazaar with more than 60 Alaska Native artist tables to explore. Beading, baskets, ornaments,

jewelry, regalia, carvings, outerwear and more will be available.

For more information, visit [www.alaskanative.net](http://www.alaskanative.net).

### Dec. 10 Santa 5K FunRun

Go for a 5K fun run at Christmas Towne on Camp Gorsuch Road in Chugiak. Start time is 10:30 a.m.

For information visit [christmastownealaska.com](http://christmastownealaska.com).

### Until 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](http://christmastownealaska.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 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](mailto: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 [alaskazoo.org](http://alaskazoo.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](mailto:jber.ak.pwoc@gmail.com).

### 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](http://alaska-outdoors.org).

### 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.

### 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](http://trainweb.org/msmrre).

## 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.

# How to budget for the holidays

## MILITARY ONE SOURCE News release

There's nothing quite like finding that perfect gift. From the purchase, to the unwrapping, to the look of happiness, gift giving is a wonderful way to show how much you appreciate the special people in your life.

However, gift giving shouldn't be at the expense of your own financial well-being.

Avoiding holiday debt will mean a lot less stress in the New Year. Luckily, with a little planning and creativity, you can reduce the pressure of gift giving and keep your finances in check.

You might even find that taking the focus away from gifts makes the holidays even more meaningful.

### How to set a holiday budget

The first step in reining in holiday

expenses is deciding how much you can afford to spend. There are four main areas in which most people spend:

- Gifts: In addition to the actual price, you also need to consider wrapping and shipping costs if you aren't able to deliver presents in person.

- Entertaining: If you're having people over for the holidays, you'll need to consider food and drink costs to accommodate your guests.

- Travel: If you're the one doing the visiting, you'll need to factor in travel costs, like gas money, plane tickets or hotels.

- Decorating: This can be a significant expense if you do a lot of decorating.

Think about your plans for this holiday season and estimate an af-

fordable budget for each category. Then, think about how you can get creative to spend less.



### How to spend less

Once you figure out where you'll be spending the most money, you can begin to reduce your budget. Here are a few ideas to help cut costs:

- Go in on a gift with a friend, family member or group to minimize your portion.

- Suggest a gift swap and draw names out of a hat instead of buying presents for everyone.

- Set a price limit for each person so you'll be forced to get creative and won't get carried away. You can ask your friends and family to take part in a price limit to make sure everyone is on the same page.

- Consider making a charitable

donation as a group instead of exchanging gifts.


- Get crafty with a thoughtful and homemade gift like baked treats, a photo album or coupons promising child care or a date night.

- Watch for sales and shop around for the best deal on specific items you know you want to purchase.

- Use your Exchange for tax savings, price-matching and special holiday discounts.

- Mail gifts early so you don't have to pay extra for rush shipping, or consider sending items that are less expensive to mail, like gift certificates.

- Make your holiday travel plans early so you can get the best deal.

Above all, remember you don't have to spend a lot of money to show the people in your life you care about them. When it comes to gift giving, it truly is the thought that counts. 



# Logistics Airmen ensure mission readiness

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

A team of Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, weighed and measured equipment to be shipped to Fort Irwin, California.

Humvees and light medium tactical vehicles are all part of the freight processed at the 773d Logistics Readiness Squadron Movement Control Center.

In three days, 33 pieces of rolling stock and 20 shipping containers moved through the MCC en route to the Port of Anchorage – with train and tractor-trailer as the last two vessels needed before the equipment reaches its final destination.

Efforts to ship the cargo predate the 7:30 a.m. reporting time, said Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Steffen, 773d Logistics Readiness Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of mobility. More than six months of planning and groundwork has been done since the first Humvee rolled in through the shop doors.

The magnitude of shipments pro-



**Vehicles sit behind the 773d Logistics Readiness Squadron Movement Control Center, Nov. 15. Cargo processed through the MCC will be shipped through the Port of Anchorage to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Javier Alvarez)**

cessed by the Arctic Warriors at the MCC is ever-changing, Steffen said. What and how much is shipped depends on the customer – at the MCC it’s primarily the Army.

It was around this time last year the team was preparing more than 670 total pieces to be shipped for the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Steffen said.

Soldiers ensured the serviceability of the items moved through the building as they prepared it for transportation.

Since part of the shipment includes hazardous material and all

cargo processed at the MCC is transported by boat, Coast Guardsmen ensure proper packing and shipping procedures are followed.

It is likely there is no other place on the installation which encapsulates joint service efforts better than the 773d LRS MCC.

Satellite tracking tags are placed on all items shipped, Steffen said.

“The work done [here] is important, because it helps make sure everything is tracked and has the proper marking to keep accountability of the equipment,” said Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bonds, 2nd Battalion, 377th

Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, unit movement officer.


Mission success depends on getting the equipment to its destination, he said.

“We have to get everything on the boat the most efficient way possible,” Steffen said. “We’re paying for all these spaces on the boat and it’s cost effective to make sure everything is correct.

Rain or shine – sleet or snow, the work goes on.”

It was past 4 p.m., and the doors to the MCC began to close. Shadows extended toward the horizon and the rhythmic pattern of vehicles entering the building had reached a near halt.

Outside, still waiting for inspection sat a Humvee and a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck. As the temperature dipped closer to 30 degrees, Soldiers continued to work on their vehicles.

In three days, the cargo would be on a boat. And with blips on a map, the logisticians can identify when and where an item is located and ensure mission readiness. 



# Special Olympics athletes host bowling tournament on JBER

By **TECH. SGT. VERNON CUNNINGHAM**  
JBER Public Affairs

**M**ore than 300 Special Olympics Alaska athletes partnered with Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to host a bowling tournament at the Polar Bowl over the weekend beginning Nov 18, 2016.

The athletes were joined by 130 JBER volunteers who supported the event as lane monitors, motor coach escorts, awards volunteers and helped load, unload and set up operations.

Special Olympics Alaska provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness to demonstrate courage, to experience joy, and to participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

"They are excited to be here," said Air Force Col. Dan Knight, 673d Mission Support Group commander and Special Olympics Alaska volunteer. "One of our special olympians came up to one of our volunteers and just gave him a big hug."

He also said watching the athletes compete and all the strikes that were thrown was inspirational.

"They are great bowlers, great competitors and

cheer each other on," Knight said. "It's amazing to see."


The athletes competed for personal bests as pin after pin was knocked down, and the spirit of competition was celebrated by everyone present.

"It unites us as a family when we have JBER volunteers and people from the community coming together for a cause," said Jim Balamaci, Special Olympics Alaska president.

The Alaska Special Olympics Bowling Tournament was not hosted at the Polar Bowl the past two years due to renovations. However, the return to the popular JBER bowling alley has allowed more service members an opportunity to connect and identify with the athletes who represent more than just their districts in the tournament.

"I think Special Olympics stands for many of the same things that JBER and the military stand for," Knight said. "There is a lot of perseverance. There is a lot of hard work. There is competition and then there is teamwork. We are people of the same type of creed."

The special olympians knocked down 196,817 pins during the weekend-long tournament as they were supported by volunteers from both JBER and the community.

"That's what it's all about," Balamaci said. "[It's about] sports, fun, camaraderie, friendships, and uniting against more than you can possibly imagine." 

## USAF promotions eliminates time-in-grade, time-in-service points

By **KAT BAILEY**  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

Time-in-grade and time-in-service points in active duty enlisted promotion consideration will be eliminated beginning with the 17E7 master sergeant promotion cycle, and all future promotion cycles, the Air Force recently announced.

This is the final step in a gradual reduction of points for TIG/TIS that occurred one-third at a time over three years as part of the new enlisted evaluation and promotion systems employed in 2015.

In order to create a framework that effectively encourages and captures performance-based service, overall enlisted performance report points for the Weighted Airman Promotion System increased while TIG/TIS points


were reduced gradually with the goal to remove them completely.

The changes to the enlisted evaluation and promotion systems are intended to ensure performance carries the most weight when calculating points for promotion selection.

Airmen will continue to complete their WAPS testing and have their test scores combined with their other weighted factors.

The elimination of TIG/TIS points is effective with 17E7, 17E6, 17E5 and 17E9 promotion cycles.

Additional details regarding WAPS and enlisted promotions are available on myPers. Click the Promotion link from the active duty enlisted landing page or select "Active Duty AF Enlisted" from the dropdown menu and search "WAPS."

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit <https://mypers.af.mil>. 







Alaska Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Mac Spurlock, an aerospace propulsion mechanic assigned to the 176th Maintenance Squadron, inspects an HC-130 Hercules engine at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Nov. 16. The HC-130s is undergoing an isochronal inspection to ensure the aircraft is safe and remains mission ready. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Pena)



ABOVE: 176th MXS Airmen perform an isochronal inspection of a HC-130, Nov. 16. LEFT and RIGHT: Alaska Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Rafie Baez, a helicopter maintenance mechanic assigned to the 176th Maintenance Squadron, services a HH-60 Pave Hawk, Nov. 16. The Pave Hawk is undergoing a phase inspection to ensure the aircraft is safe and remains mission ready.





















