

ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHMOND AIR FORCE BASE

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LEVELING UP

Combatives Level II: disarming



ABOVE: Bell draws his weapon on an attacker during training Sept. 12. The training was the first day of a 40-hour training module for Level 2 of the Modern Army Combatives Program.

RIGHT: Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Jones, a native of DeWitt, Neb., grapples with Spc. Eric Haugh, a native of Graham, Wash., assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, while demonstrating a disarming technique. The MACP defines combatives as an engagement between two or more persons in an empty-handed struggle or with hand-held weapons such as knives, sticks or projectile weapons. Proficiency in hand-to-hand combat is one of the fundamental building blocks for training the modern U.S. Army Soldier.



Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Bell, a native of Fayetteville, NC, assigned to A Troop, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, lunges at a fellow Soldier during a Level 2 Modern Army Combatives Program task designed to enhance unit combat readiness by building personal courage, confidence, and resiliency as well as situational responsiveness to close-quarters threats in an operational environment. (U.S. Air Force photos/Justin Connaheer)



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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Apps can release sensitive information to the Web

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CRYTAL JENKINS**
JBER Public Affairs

Department of Defense personnel and families stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are being warned about new applications available for Apple and Android smart phones that can decode the 2D barcode on the common access card.

Scanning the barcode on the front of the card using the app reveals the individual's full name, full social security number, and DoD identification number, making it available to anyone via the Internet.

"It is very important that personnel and family members do not try these applications out," said Thomas L. Warren Jr., 673d Air Base Wing treaty compliance officer and Operations Security Program manager. "If this happens, service members need to understand that their

information is now discoverable on the web and this is considered a violation of federal law."

Photocopying of U.S. government identification is a violation of Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment.

"Both criminals and terrorists consider these images to be of high value when they are able to access a falsified ID," Warren said. "If a high-quality reproduction of a government ID falls into the hands of an organization wishing to do harm to a military installation or federal building, they could potentially gain access using your photocopied ID as the base for their counterfeit ID."

All DoD employees are reminded not to allow organizations or businesses to reproduce (photocopy, scan, or other means) an image copy of the member's CAC



Apps can decode information on your common access card; don't try these apps. (Courtesy illustration) or military ID.

While businesses may ask to see a government ID as a form of identification, they are not allowed to duplicate it in any shape or form. If copying a photo ID is necessary, it is recommended individuals provide their state-issued driver's license or some other form of photo identification as an alternative.

"If a company insists they

must have a photocopy of your federal ID remind them that it is illegal to do so," Warren said. "An exception to the rule would be medical providers; they are authorized to photocopy military IDs as proof of insurance when providing medical care to DoD beneficiaries."

A valid military ID card is proof of TRICARE eligibility and can be photocopied. Like everything else in a patient's record, it is protected by law.

Warren also added that DoD Instruction 1000.13 covers ID cards for members of the uniformed services, their dependents, and other eligible individuals; and Enclosure 3 of this instruction notes a few other limited examples of authorized photocopying.

"I would say technology is here and we need to embrace it," Warren said. "We have to be smart about it and think about our responsibilities

to the mission. Operational security is all about us being able to execute our mission."

Preventive actions include safeguarding your CAC at all times and not allowing businesses to reproduce it. If images exist request they be destroyed. Never attempt to use or test applications on mobile devices.

Whenever possible, it is strongly recommended to use a means of electronic authentication rather than photocopying an ID card.

"Should you notice any activity that may be criminal or terroristic in nature, immediately contact your local police department or security forces," Warren said. "OPSEC is everybody's business. It is vital for every person to pass-down this information to their loved ones and family members."

For information or to report OPSEC incidents, call: 551-2891/552-4503 or 384-2449/384-2142.

Fitness center to host 3-on-3 tourney

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
CAITLIN RUSSELL**
JBER Public Affairs

The Elmendorf Fitness Center is scheduled to host a three-on-three basketball tournament at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 28 at starting at 5 p.m.

“To participate, members must have a Department of Defense ID and must be 18 or older,” said Airman 1st Class Dantee Fearon, a 673d Force Support Squadron fitness specialist. “I’m excited about the event; it’s a fun way for people to get involved while also staying active.”

The tournament will feature prizes for the top three teams and refreshments for all participants.

“The rules for the game are simple. Respect each other’s foul calls; the tournament is single elimination;

and the first team to 10 points wins,” Fearon said.

Fearon mentioned his favorite part of the tournament is the competitiveness, as well as seeing people connect with others over similar interests.

“Last year the tournament had a great turnout and we’re hoping for the same this year,” Fearon said. “The goal is to have about eight to ten teams play.”


To sign up for the event, visit the front desk at the Elmendorf Fitness Center before the tournament

As a reminder, the 100-percent ID check which was implemented Sept. 1 at both the Elmendorf and Buckner fitness centers will be in effect.

All members will be asked to show identification on entering in an effort to increase security and accountability.



Soldiers compete in the intramural basketball championship at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson’s Buckner Physical Fitness Center in March 2018. The Elmendorf Fitness Center will host a three-on-three basketball tournament Sept. 28, open to all Department of Defense ID card holders 18 and older. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Valerie Monroy)

Personnel can bring up to two guests.	about the tournament or ID check, contact the Elmendorf Fitness Center at 552-5353.	For more about intramural sports, contact the Buckner PFC at 384-1304. 
For more information		

Service members get special pass at Denali

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CRYSTAL JENKINS**
JBER Public Affairs

Denali National Park and Preserve hosted the 11th annual Military Appreciation Day Sept. 15, which included 400 “road lottery” tickets given out to Alaska-based service members.

“Military Appreciation Day is one of many events in which Denali honors the long tradition of shared service between the U.S. military and national parks,” said Katherine Belcher, Denali’s public information officer. “We are proud and honored to host service members from all over Alaska during the park’s annual road lottery as well as [military] training and outreach activities throughout the year.”

On normal business days, the park only allows visitors to drive to Mile 15 of the Denali Park Road, but weather permitting, the “road lottery” winners are given vehicle permits allowing them to drive much farther, to near Wonder Lake. Winners can see wildlife, spectacular scenery and closer views of Denali.

Historically, the park hosted the U.S. Army Alaskan Test Expedition during World War II, with campsites at McGonagall Pass and at 19,000 feet on Harper Glacier. Soldiers tested food, tents, parachutes, clothing and other equipment under Alaska’s extreme conditions.

“Denali has remained an important training ground for the U.S. Army Alaska Northern Warfare Training Center [which tests Arctic equipment and skills],” Belcher said. “Military units also assist us with high-altitude rescues and the Alaska Air National Guard assists us with rescues in remote areas of the park.”

Currently, military teams have made more than 16 climbing expeditions to the summit of Denali since 1980. Each year, Fort Wainwright’s 52nd Aviation Regiment delivers thousands of pounds of supplies to base camp in support of mountaineering operations.

In addition to military training, testing and mountaineering, the Alaska District Veterinary Command helps care for the park’s canine rangers in exchange for cold weather animal care experience with the kennel’s staff.

Throughout the Military Appreciation Day, there were also several programs available to learn more about the park’s history, wildlife,



LEFT: Alaska-based service members discover the Eielson Visitor’s Center area during Military Appreciation Day at Mile 66, Denali National Park and Preserve Sep. 15. The annual event included 400 road lottery tickets for service members. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Crystal Jenkins) **ABOVE:** Air Force 1st Lt. John Innis, a 673d Medical Group perianesthesia nurse, and 1st Lt. Jacob Bowman, a Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., 99th Medical Group clinical nurse, use a map in the Main Visitor Center to plan a trip.



Two brown (grizzly) bears lie in the sun on a hillside during Military Appreciation Day at Mile 48, Denali National Park and Preserve Sept. 15. The 11th annual event included 400 “road lottery” tickets for service members. With the warm, dry weather conditions this year, recipients had the chance to drive out to the end of the park road at Mile 92.

backcountry backpacking and sled dogs.


“I am so grateful for the National Park Service offering service members, including myself, the opportunity to have a Denali Park Road pass,” said U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Swain Spearman, a 673d Inpatient Squadron multi-service unit clinical nurse. “The entire drive was phenomenal. Not only was it beautiful, but we

were continuously thanked for our service by all the park rangers we met. This was the most incredible, once-in-a-lifetime trip with the most amazing weather and views.”

With the warm, dry weather conditions this year, road lottery recipients were given the chance to drive out to the end of the park road (Mile 92).

National Park Service rangers

made themselves available to answer questions and point out wildlife to recipients throughout the entire drive.

“While many service members may have visited the park before, either for fun or as part of a training mission, I hope each person was able to enjoy this special day,” Belcher said. “We sincerely thank each one of you for your service, sacrifice and dedication to a great nation.” 

Friday

Free movie night

The Talkeetna Theater hosts this showing of Ocean's 8. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the film starts at 6; concessions are cash-only. For more information, call 552-8529.

Ladies' Night at the Range

Women of all experience levels are welcome at the Skeet and Trap Range from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for this event on the basics of shooting and safety, hosted by Women in the Wilderness. For information, call 384-1480.

Singles bowling

Head to the Polar Bowl for a night of free games and shoes from 8 p.m. to midnight for all single service members. For more information, call 753-7467.

Sunday

Eklutna ATV trip

Women in the Wilderness hosts this ATV trip for women from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the remote areas around Eklutna. For more information or to register, call 552-2023.

Moose processing

Learn to process your game after it's been field-dressed with this class at Building 7301 from noon to 4 p.m. From sausage to burger, you'll get a hands-on demonstration. For information or to register, call 552-2023.

Leaf printing class

Make a unique silk scarf using the natural plant pigments at the Eagle River Nature Center from 1 to 3 p.m. For information, visit ernc.org.

Monday

Adult/child swim lessons

Sign up for September's swim lessons at the Elmen-dorf Fitness Center pool. For information or to register, call 552-5353.

Tuesday

Holiday spending

The holidays are coming, and for many, financial stress. Learn practical tips for spending wisely and eliminating excessive credit card debt with this class from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Building 600.

To register, call 384-1517 or 552-4943.

Tuesday - Wednesday Entrepreneurship

Looking to start your own business? Learn about financial resources, developing marketing and business plans, and much more from the Small Business Administration at this class at the Air Force Transition Assistance Program office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

For more information, call 552-6619 or 552-4943.

Wednesday

Indoor rock climbing

Scale the wall at the Outdoor Adventure Program from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and get a belay certificate to use at Buckner Physical Fitness Center. For information, call 552-2023.

Thursday

Singles ATV trip

Explore JBER's backyard on an ATV with this trip from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for all single service members. Equipment – ATV, boots and helmet- are provided, but dress for the weather. For information or to register, call 552-2023.

Ongoing

Civil Air Patrol

Adult members of the Civil Air Patrol meet at the Aero Club Hangar the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Cadets meet every Saturday. For information or to join, call 350-7951.

Thursday science club

Youth are invited to the JBER Library to experiment and think about science from 6:30 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 384-1640.

Library story times

The JBER Library hosts Preschool story times Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m.; Toddler Tales is Wednesdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m. All-ages story time is Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7 p.m. For information, call 384-1640.

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. Anyone interested in model railroading is invited.

For more information, call 552-4353 or visit facebook.com/msmrre.

Hatchery tours

Learn about the life cycle of salmon, trout and Arctic char, and how they're raised in and released from the William Jack Hernandez Hatchery on Post Road. Guided tours are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, call 269-2000.

Aurora

Want to check out the Northern Lights?

The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts brings you this show every hour from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily in high-definition.

For more information, call 263-2993.

Chapel services

Catholic Mass

Sunday
9 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Monday and Wednesday
11:40 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Tuesday
Noon – JBER Hospital Chapel
Friday
Noon – JBER Hospital Chapel

Confession

Confessions are available anytime by appointment or after any mass. Call 552-5762.

Protestant Sunday worship services

Gospel
9:30 a.m. – Midnight Sun Chapel
Contemporary
11 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Traditional
11 a.m. – Heritage Chapel

Religious Education

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

Flying to Florence



Alaska Army and Air National Guard Soldiers and Airmen load two 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters onto a 144th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III Sept. 17 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The helicopters and crews were bound for the East Coast to assist in Hurricane Florence humanitarian relief efforts. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/David Bedard)

Why we do what we do is important

By **ARMY CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) BRETT NEWMAN**
1-501 Infantry Chaplain

Here we find ourselves in the waning days of summer, and standing on the precipice of another Alaska winter.

Even though Labor Day (the “spiritual” end of summer) has already passed, I find myself reflecting on the various jobs we all assume in this adult world.

There are many things a person can do in life to earn an honest buck, but why do people do what they do?

Consider one of the questions we adults love to ask children – “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

Maybe they respond that they want to be a firefighter, a ballerina, or even the president of the United States.

Yet the truth is many of these children grow up to be our sanitation workers, fast-food attendants, janitors, and in similar jobs.

What happened to their childhood dreams? Often, these childhood

fantasies fade as the daily reality of having to put food on the table rises.

Even for those few who do make it to their dream jobs, what motivates them to wake up in the morning day after day? If our reward is purely financial, we may find our motivation waning as time goes on.

Having talked with many members of the armed forces, I find most people are attracted to the military because of their desire for meaning, purpose, and a sense of being a part of something larger than ourselves.

This feeling is often only heightened as we go out on various deployments, and we can see the positive impact our efforts have around the world.

Even though our service requires great sacrifice, most of us would not trade our experience for anything in the world because we know our labor is not in vain.

Interestingly, I find the same is often not true when it comes to our spiritual labors.

Many of the service members with whom I have interacted over the

years are either content with a vague sense of spirituality, or, perhaps, continue doing the same religious rituals of their families purely out of duty or guilt.

Upon reflection, it becomes obvious that such extremes will not provide any assurance of meaning or purpose, nor that such spiritual efforts will yield a bountiful harvest in our spiritual lives. What is the alternative?

The secret to a fulfilling and meaningful spirituality is to have a solid foundation and fixed point which guides our thoughts and action.

In the same way that a sea captain would be a fool to put his faith and hope in an anchor that is not firmly attached to the sea floor, so too is our spirituality or faith is in vain if it is not firmly fixed to an unchanging or solid truth.

As a Christian, my faith is rooted in what I see about Jesus Christ in the pages of scripture. What I read there gives me both motivation as well as perspective.

I find motivation to seek to be a


particular kind of person and to try to do the things that I believe are consistent with being that person.

And I find a perspective on my life that gives me courage to believe what I do matters and my labor is not in vain – on either a physical or spiritual plane.

I trust that you have something on which you base your life that gives you meaning and purpose. I hope that foundation helps you to build resilience. And my wish for you is that it affords a perspective on what you do and how you do it – in both the physical and spiritual aspects of your life – that says, “My labor is not in vain.”

An important question for all of us to ponder is: “Why do we do what we do?” A second important question would be: “What sources do we draw on to find meaning and purpose in the midst of all the doing?”

Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

May God grant us each the grace to find an ever richer and deeper sense of meaning and purpose. 

Disposition of effects

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Monique Robinson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Spc. Porfirio Gutierrez, 98th Maintenance Company, 17th CSSB, as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Robinson at 384-2598.

Main Pharmacy hours

The main JBER pharmacy, on the first floor of the JBER hospital near the Bear entrance, is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The pharmacy at the Exchange is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays for civilian prescriptions and refills, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for refills only.

iSportsman enrollment

Anyone choosing to recreate in JBER training areas

must obtain an iSportsman permit and sign in and out using the iSportsman system prior to recreating.

A pass costs \$10; \$5 for those 60 and older and disabled persons. Passholders may also need an installation access pass. For information, visit *isportsman.jber.net* or call 552-8609 or 384-6224.

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 participating in the Reserve, which may mean a break in service. Even if you’re unsure about transitioning to the Air Force Reserve, the process can be initiated. For information, call 552-3595.

Pothole repair

The 773d Civil Engineer Squadron encourages all Joint Base Elmendorf-Rich-

ardson personnel to report potholes. For holes in housing areas, contact Aurora Housing at 753-1051. Other requests will be tracked by 773d CES. Note the location, including cross-streets or building numbers. Then email *773ces.ceoh.potholerepair@us.af.mil* or call 552-2994 or 552-2995. Include contact information in case crews need to follow up.

DLA Document Services

Defense Logistics Agency Document Services duplicates and prints documents, including color, large-format photos, engineering drawings, sensitive materials, manuals and training materials.

They design, print and distribute business cards, letterhead, invitations and programs, and provide devices to print, scan, copy and fax while providing maintenance and printer ink cartridges. They offer document automation and content services for building digital libraries.

To register, go to *https://*

www.dso.documentservices.dla.mil. For information visit *documentservices.dla.mil* or call (808) 473-1699 or (315) 473-1699.

OTC pharmacy counter

The pharmacy at the JBER hospital has over-the-counter medication for DoD beneficiaries from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. Flyers and those on personnel reliability program status, pregnant, or under the age of 2 are not eligible.

The clinic offers pain relievers; cough, cold and allergy medications; ointments; constipation and diarrhea medications, and others.

For information, visit *www.facebook.com/JBER-Pharmacy*.

ASYMCA Bargain shop

The ASYMCA Bargain Shop, 8515 Saville Ave. on JBER-E, is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 753-6134.

Richardson Thrift Shop

The JBER-Richardson Thrift Shop, Building 724 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.

For information, call 384-7000.

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.

Spouses can register for Department of Defense positions and be considered for jobs offered internally. Spouses are matched with jobs based on qualifications and preferences, are eligible for up to two years from the date of the PCS orders, and are in the program for a year. Register at either personnel office, or call 552-7588.



Worldwide USO

JBER joins live-streamed event

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson personnel gather to watch the live-stream USO tour at JBER Sept. 12. The event featured catering from Texas Roadhouse, a chili cook-off, homemade treats and more. Live performances included the band Florida Georgia Line, comedian and actor Adam Devine, and celebrity chef Robert Irvine. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell)

BELOW LEFT: Senior Airman Mia Stone, 773d Logistics Readiness Squadron operations manager, laughs while watching comedian and actor Adam Devine during the show. The event was the first tour to be livestreamed to service members and their families.

BELOW: Sarah Rankin, USO volunteer, samples homemade chili during the livestream USO tour at the USO on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Sep. 12, 2018. The livestream event was hosted alongside a chili cook-off, with more than eight different chilis featured.



Alaska Army, Air National Guardsmen to the rescue

By **DAVID BEDARD**
176th Wing Public Affairs

Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters of 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, boarded an Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III operated by 144th Airlift Squadron Airmen Sept. 17, 2018, bound for the Hurricane Florence humanitarian relief effort.

The C-17 left Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, for McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, to provide helicopter lift to the flooded region.

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker talked to Guardsmen before their departure.

“I think it’s unique we’re being asked to come down from Alaska – not only because we’re the best, but because we have unique equipment that can help out in this situation,” he said. “I just wanted to stop by personally and thank you.”

The Alaska Army National Guard state command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Marc Petersen, echoed



the governor’s words.

“This is a great opportunity being that we’re in Alaska there isn’t a whole lot of times that we travel to the Lower 48 for disaster response,” Petersen said.

Senior Airman Jacob Bartlemus, a 144th AS loadmaster, said he and his colleagues

are accustomed to the complex process of fitting multiple helicopters in the Globemaster’s cargo hold, where they have to be precisely arranged to ensure optimal center of balance.

“The center of balance of the load is important because if it’s off put enough, the pi-




Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 176th Wing’s 211th Rescue Squadron scan the horizon looking for isolated flood survivors aboard an HC-130J Combat King II aircraft while assisting with hurricane relief operations in North Carolina Sept. 17. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Balinda O’Neal Dresel) **LEFT:** Guardsmen from the 176th Wing’s 212th Rescue Squadron assist with recovering isolated flood survivors via a California ANG’s 129th Wing HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crewed by members of the 210th RQS near Sampson County, N.C., Sept. 17. (Courtesy photo)

lots can notice dramatically,” Bartlemus said. “If it’s too far aft, it affects the control of the aircraft very substantially.”

C-17 pilot Capt. Zach Roberts said the mission highlighted the squadron’s ability to deploy state, country and worldwide for disaster-response and contin-

gency operations.

“It shows the capabilities and the reach of the Alaska National Guard, whether it’s Air Force or the Army,” Roberts said. “It speaks volumes about what we’re able to do and how quickly we’re able to mobilize to other states that need it.” 

Arduous team effort saves Air Force money

By **SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN VALDES**
JBER Public Affairs

Imagine having to make a difficult decision, which could result in either a costly outcome or saving a significant amount of money.

A group of Airmen from the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron encountered this scenario and in a combined effort, not only did they exceed team-effort efficiency, but they also completed a two-week-long arduous mission which saved the Air Force \$55,000.

It was supposed to be another normal work day at the shop, but that morning was different.

“We showed up Monday morning, and the fire truck was in our stall,” said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cade Browning, 673d LRS refueling maintenance section chief. “We made a few phone calls to get a rundown on what was going on with it.”

The fire truck, properly known as the Teledyne P-23 Crash Fire Truck, was having transmission problems.

“Every time they would try to shift into third gear, it just basically locked the transmission because it was trying to shift into two gears at once,” said Senior Airman Kory Krause, 673d LRS fire truck and refueling maintenance journeyman. “The problem was initially found by the firemen, who were on their way to train.”

Krause explained as the driver shifted gears, the transmission locked, stopping the truck as if someone had slammed the brakes.

The firefighters drove it slowly back for repair.

To find the cause of the problem, the mechanics needed to rule out possibilities – starting with the simplest ones first.

“Initially we were trying to rule out all the easy stuff,” Browning said. “Nobody wants to be the guy who takes a fire truck apart and then come to find out, it was just two wires not connected,



Airman 1st Class LaMonica Lauritzen, 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron fire truck and refueling mechanic, reviews the annual fire truck maintenance checklist at Fire Station 1 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sept. 17. Fire truck and refueling mechanics perform daily care on fire trucks while also following monthly and yearly maintenance checklists. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell)

or someone didn’t check one solenoid. So we did a lot of troubleshooting.”

Browning explained they eliminated options one by one. They knew it wasn’t an issue with the wiring harness or a solenoid. They also discarded problems with the fuses. Everything had power where it needed power and grounding where it should. The fluid looked okay, and the levels were fine. By the process of elimination, it had to be something internal.

Finally, there were only two options to choose from.

“We either buy a new transmission, which costs \$55,000 and takes approximately four weeks to get here, or we rebuild the transmission,” said Browning. “We did some research and decided rebuilding the transmission was our best option.”

With what was at stake, emotions built up. Empathy was one of the most noticeable of all.

“We needed to get the truck back as quickly as possible to the fire department

and our fellow firemen,” Krause said. “It’s a unique vehicle, and it’s special to the base and crucial for the mission.”

Having a clearer idea of the next steps to take, the group of Airmen formed by Tech. Sgt. Cade Browning, staff sergeants Taylor Lorts, John Johnson, Samuel Unke, James Hajek, Senior Airman Kory Krause, airmen first class Warren Norwood, Nicholas Johnston, Shane Ousdahl, LaMonica Lauritzen and Brendan Lupo, and two civilians – Robert Stewart and Guy Soliday – started the hardest part.

To work on the transmission, pulling it through the top was their best choice, since trying to get the transmission out from the bottom was not an option.

“It ultimately was a waste of time trying to get the transmission out from the bottom,” said Browning. “At the time we didn’t know if it was going to work, so we had to try it. Then we realize it had to come out from

the top.”

That direction wasn’t easy either.

Browning explained they started by draining the 3,000-gallon water tank. They removed the protective side panels, wiring, and hoses.

They had to take all the piping from the bottom of the tank off, and then some mounts on the back and front of the tank. Once everything was loose, they picked it up with a crane and set it on the ground.

But once the transmission was free, it only took an hour to figure out the problem.

“We took out the valve body, and right away we identified the broken spring,” Browning said. “We could fix it; we didn’t need a new transmission.”


After countless hours, all the dedication, research, and hard work put in to fix the transmission paid off.

The 673d LRS Commander, Lt. Col. Heather Mueller, expressed her pride in the Airmen’s resolve.

“The [vehicle maintenance] Airmen went above and beyond to resolve the fire truck issue for our civil engineer mission partners. They tackled the vehicle malfunction head-on, determined the transmission was faulty and started the daunting task of dismantling the truck’s transmission to get at the root of the problem,” Mueller said.

“Where some cautioned we should buy a new transmission up front, this junior mechanic crew wanted the opportunity to fix it themselves. They accomplished this herculean effort and the result was a mission capable fire truck and a savings to the Air Force of thousands of dollars.”

The work was hard, but left a lingering feeling of pride, one of the NCOs said.

“I felt relieved and proud of the team for coming together,” said Lorts, 673d LRS fire truck maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge. “Everyone’s effort made it possible, made it happen.” 

Conference to discuss family, unit readiness

By **JOSEPH TREBING**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Defining readiness for Soldiers can be a challenge for leaders, but how is it defined for their family members?

How do families influence unit readiness?

What develops, strengthens and sustains self-reliance and readiness?

Those topics will be center stage during Military Family Forum I Oct. 8 at the 2018 Association of the United States Army annual meeting and exposition in Washington, D.C.

The Army asked scientists at the Research Facilitation Laboratory in 2017 to build a new portrait of military family readiness by reviewing literature from the last 10 years related to family readiness. The Research Facilitation Laboratory is part of the Army Analytics Group.

Research Facilitation Laboratory scientists reviewed more than 400 studies on military family readiness which were published from 2007 to 2017.

Their summary and findings have been published in “What We Know About Military Family Readiness: A Decade of Research Evidence from 2007-2017.”

Their review identified 16 indicators of family readiness and presented the evidence base that described the effect of each indicator.

Dr. Stacy Hawkins, principal investigator at the Research Facilitation Laboratory, will open the forum with a presentation and discussion of the 16 indicators of military family readiness.

An expert panel will follow to discuss the importance of family readiness connections to adult functioning, relationships, deployment experiences, social connec-

tion and networking.

Vice Adm. Raquel “Rocky” Bono, director of the Defense Health Agency, also will present on TRICARE.

“What is clear to me from this report,” said Helen Roadarmel, Chief of the Soldier and Family Readiness Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, “is that Soldiers carry family responsibilities and issues – and sometimes problems – into the unit. Sixty percent of all Soldiers have a spouse or dependents, in addition to parents, siblings and others.”

“Soldiers and Families value support programs, they value consistency and predictability,” Roadarmel added. “Their trust in the Army and its leaders is influenced by their perception of the care and concern shown to them.

“The evidence supports continued investment in family programs and services.”

The Army, and the nature of military lifestyle, places many demands on its Soldiers and – inevitably – their families.

Two decades of conflict amidst a shifting political and cultural landscape have changed Army demographics, policies and culture. Soldiers and their Families have weathered changes while successfully sustaining readiness and lethality over the same period.

“Every Army family has unique needs,” said Dee Geise, acting deputy director of Installation Services for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. “Our job is to provide the programs and services that strengthen the self-reliance and personal readiness of Soldiers and families – to prepare them for the chal-

lenges they will face as a part of military life and to ensure they have skills and resources to successfully navigate and overcome those challenges.”

Previous research assessments on Army family readiness were published in 1993 and 2007, summarizing then-current information on Army families and their effect on Soldier and unit readiness.

When combined, these reports summarize 800 studies, surveys and analyses from 1983 to 2017 – over 35 years of data related to how families influence outcomes important to the Army – such as morale, retention and readiness.

The evidence presented will help military leaders make decisions about policies, programs and services that affect the readiness of military families, Soldiers and units. 