

ARCTIC WAR

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2018 key spouse speaks at JBER

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

Kristen Christy, the 2018 Air Force Key Spouse of the Year, toured Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 11 to 13, speaking to numerous members of the community.

During Christy's tour, the Military and Family Readiness Center hosted her as a guest speaker for more than 120 attendees at a military spouse town hall and luncheon with the theme "Taking Care of People."

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to share my story with the JBER spouse community, because I know all of us come from different places and each of us has our own unique story we bring to the table," Christy said. "The purpose in sharing mine is for you to leave here with an encouraged outlook, knowing we have each other and we can make a difference. I want to use my hindsight as someone's foresight."

Christy's speech recalled a number of trials she has faced throughout her life, emphasizing the importance of community and resilience in spite of the hardships endured.

"I was born into a military family and had flourished in that community," Christy said. "I was a competitive tennis player and golfer and had just won a high school golf tournament for Department of Defense students in Germany. Weeks later, I had a stroke, just days before my 16th birthday. Although my identity felt gone, my community was there."

Although partially paralyzed and unable to walk, within a year and a half, she taught herself to walk again and graduated from high school on time.

"I began attending college and felt a little out of place, but my military upbringing had taught me to start looking for my community," Christy said. "I started by hanging out where I felt most comfortable, ROTC gatherings. One night I was at an ROTC party when I met my first husband, a cadet named Don Christy. Although his first words to me were, 'I can never marry you because my last name is Christy,' it was not long after we fell in love and were married."

Despite a decorated career of military service, and being known by his peers to have outstanding leadership qualities, on April 21, 2008, Lt. Col. Don Christy took his life.

"Of course I was left feeling devastated, after 17 years of marriage and supporting each other through everything, I had lost my partner," Christy said. "I thought that he seemed withdrawn after coming home from his latest deployment, but we knew when to give each other sacred space. I would have never thought he was suffering that badly. During the overwhelming days that followed, my community showed up. I don't remember any of the conversations, but they were there and that's what matters."

After the loss of Don, Christy and her two sons, Ryan and Ben, mourned.

"Eight years following his



Kristen Christy, the 2018 Air Force key spouse of the year, speaks to spouses during a military spouse town hall and luncheon at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 12. The Military and Family Readiness Center-hosted event had more than 120 attendees with the theme "Taking Care of People." (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Crystal Jenkins)

father's death, Ben called me from college and left a tear-filled message," Christy said. "In the message he stated, 'I miss Dad so much. I can't live without him - I can't. I need him so much. I've been mourning eight years of my life. I'm not OK right now. I really need help.' I can tell you as a mother that is something you never want to hear."

Since then, Ben has gone on to graduate from college, but still struggles with his dad's death.

Kristen's older son Ryan has also struggled enormously with the death of his father, and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at the age of 16.

"Our family has experi-

enced the anguish suicide and its lasting effects have," Christy said. "The choice my husband made had rippling effects."

"Our oldest son Ryan, has now been missing since Sept. 20, 2015. I will hold out hope until I see him again."

Christy explained she wouldn't know where she would be today without her community and the friends and family she made through her work and volunteering. In addition to her story, Christy emphasized some key acronyms she uses, and for attendees to consider using, on a daily basis.

"Be sure to show up when you know someone needs you, do something no matter how small you think it is, and

be intentional and use your resources," Christy said. "I have a few words I use as a reminder; FAIL stands for 'first attempt in learning' and HOPE stands for 'hold on, pain eases'."

"My story has opened my eyes to the challenges others may be facing or have faced," Christy said. "I would encourage everyone to stay vigilant, reach out and do something for your community members who you might see struggling."

Christy has since remarried and has stepped into the role of key spouse for her husband's unit - still committed to supporting the Air Force community, as well as Airmen and families struggling with tragedy. 

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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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Keeping barracks, dorm parking lots clear

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JONATHAN VALDES**
JBER Public Affairs

Many Airmen at the dormitories and Soldiers at the barracks have encountered difficulties in parking lots because of snow.

Whether walking to their cars or towards the buildings, everyone should be cautious, and pay attention to residents parking their cars which can slide in snow.

The 773d Civil Engineer Squadron for the Elmendorf side and Western Company snow removal contractor for the Richardson side have implemented a plowing schedule to keep lots clear and safe.

“We have specific days to work on each parking lot,” said Gary Sliwa, 773d CES snow barn lead civilian. “Our goal is to maintain safety for pedestrians and vehicles. We work to ensure most of the snow and ice is removed, and use sand to provide vehicles

with better traction.”

Informing dormitory and barracks residents how the schedule will work is crucial.

For the Elmendorf side, “Each Airman Dormitory Leader has a listing of every Airman in their facility and if their parking lot is going to be closed, the ADL will send out an email 72 hours prior, regarding closures,” said Senior Master Sgt. Lee Pentimone, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron unaccompanied housing superintendent.

Pentimone said signs are displayed in the parking lot 72 hours before closures. Residents are also informed by signs on doors and bulletin boards of facilities. Most recently the ADLs have spoken with the first sergeants, to help spread the word to Airmen.

Without plowing, parking lots can be hazardous.

Airman 1st Class Angelica Higuera, 301st Intelligence Squadron signal in-



Abandoned vehicles sit in a dormitory parking lot at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 7. Some of these vehicles have created hazardous conditions by obstructing the path for snow plows. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Valdes)

telligence discovery analyst, said that although she owns an all-wheel drive vehicle, when spaces are not plowed it can be difficult to park.

“I don’t want to hit another car or one of the plug outlets, let alone get stuck,” Higuera said.

Furthermore, it can impact JBER’s mission in a negative way.

“If someone’s car gets

stuck, it will affect the time they arrive to work, not to mention if someone gets injured it would prevent them from doing their job,” Sliwa said.

All the planning and hard work are for naught if residents don’t play their part.

“It is paramount that Airman and Soldiers help us help them by moving their cars from the parking lots,

Sliwa said. “If they follow the schedule, we can ensure clear parking lots.”

There are consequences for those who do not follow the schedule.

“[There are] potential tickets and even towing of vehicles,” Pentimone said. “We reach out to residents before taking action, but some of them don’t give us any choice.” 

100% military housing inspections coming

By **CHARLIE POPE**
SECAF Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — Responding to reports of poorly maintained and unsafe housing across several installations, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein on Feb. 19 directed commanders at every base worldwide to conduct a “100-percent review” of the condition and safety of all military housing by March 1.

On joint installations, like Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the Department of Defense push means all housing – occupied by Army or Air Force personnel – will be checked.

Asserting that the housing conditions reported Feb. 13 during a Senate Armed Services Committee and in media reports “are not accept-

able,” the Air Force’s two leading officials took steps to ensure senior commanders are personally aware of the conditions that exist in military housing at their bases.

The effort, which begins immediately, will be the housing equivalent of a safety stand down. The goal over the next 10 days is to conduct a 100-percent in-person health and safety check of all 74,500 family housing units in the Air Force, including housing on both sides of JBER, which is administered by Aurora Military Housing.

The results will give senior civilian and military leaders a more thorough understanding of the extent and severity of the problems and help inform responsive solutions.

In addition to walk-throughs with residents that

“will document any health or safety risks,” the directive requires command teams to “solicit feedback from their Airmen [and Soldiers] about any health or safety issues in the housing they occupy.”

While witnesses at the Feb. 13 Senate hearing told senators of appalling conditions that went unaddressed, Wilson and Goldfein also directly confronted comments about instances where the on-site management responsible for the housing ignored valid complaints.

“Most troubling was the concern some families had that, if they reported a problem, they would face retaliation for speaking up,” Wilson and Goldfein wrote in a message to wing commanders.

“The health and safety of our Airmen and their families is commander business,”

Wilson and Goldfein bluntly wrote, adding that a “standard checklist” will be used to ensure consistency across the Air Force’s sprawling operation and to provide a blueprint for addressing the problems.

“Our Airmen and their families should have military housing that will not adversely impact their health and safety,” Wilson and Goldfein wrote. “More importantly, they should have confidence that they can identify problems without retaliation or fear of reprisal.

“This is about taking care of our people.”

The directive also suggested senior Air Force leaders will be responsible for identifying and helping resolve a host of problems in on-installation housing where Airmen, Soldiers and families live.

As described during the Senate hearing, those problems include the presence of black mold, rodents, flooding, radon and lead paint, and faulty wiring.

In addition to the in-person reviews, Wilson directed the Air Force inspector general to review how the Air Force responds to complaints about conditions at base housing.

The Air Force is also conducting a policy review to identify any directives that impede commanders from appropriately responding.

“We are fully committed to providing a safe and secure environment on all of our installations,” said Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark Milley in a separate statement Feb. 13, calling for similar measures at Army installations. 

FROZEN **FURY**



An Air Force pararescueman rappels from the roof of the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage Feb. 16 before the hotly contested annual Air Force vs. Army hockey game. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Valdes)



ABOVE: Soldiers and Airmen participate in the annual Army vs. Air Force hockey game at the Sullivan Arena. The game is played annually between teams made of service members assigned to JBER, and promotes military esprit de corps and enhances the relationship between JBER and the Anchorage community.

LEFT: Rick Metcalf approaches Air Force defender Matthew Timmons during the Army vs. Air Force hockey game. The Air Force team won 4-3 after going to a shootout.

BELOW LEFT: The Army's Derek Zuchowski and John Lee celebrate a goal.

BELOW: Air Force team members celebrate a goal. The game was tied at 2-2 at the end of regular play and could've gone into overtime, but due to time constraints at the Sullivan Arena, the teams went directly to a shootout. The Army scored one, but the Air Force team managed two.

ON THE COVER: Army and Air Force players vie for the puck. (U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher)



Friday

ASL class

Join the Library for this class which teaches elementary school-aged children the basics of sign language from 2 to 3 p.m. It's an excellent opportunity for home schoolers. For information, call 384-1640.

Free movie night

Head to the Arctic Oasis for this showing of Small Foot. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the film starts at 6; concessions are cash only. For information, call 552-8529.

Dodgeball tournament

Get out of the way at Elmendorf Fitness Center starting at 5:30 p.m. with this tournament which includes prizes. For information, call 552-3624.

School's out bowling

Head to the Polar Bowl for some family bonding from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with deals on bowling and shoes. For information, call 753-7467.

Through March 3

Fur Rondy

Alaska's biggest winter festival kicks off the Iditarod, and includes carnival rides, races, auctions, contests and much, much more. For information, visit furrondy.net.

Saturday

Pool tournament

Compete to be the best at this tournament starting at 2 p.m. at the Warrior Zone. Prizes will be awarded for the top three places. For information, call 384-9006.

Sunday

Snowmachine ride

Snowmachine at Peters-

ville with this RecOn activity from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; location depends on weather, and the ride is open to ages 12 and older. For information, call 552-2023.

Nature's medicines

Learn how willow, cottonwood, devil's club and other Alaska plants are used medicinally with this class and demonstration at the Eagle River Nature Center starting at 2 p.m.

For information, visit ernc.org.

Wednesday

Spouse orientation

Learn how to make military life easier on you and your family, and learn about JBER and Alaska while making friends and meeting people who can help. This orientation is at Building 4986 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call 552-4943 or 384-1517.

March 1 and 2

Seawolves vs. UAF hockey

The Seawolves close out the season with a pair of games against their arch-rivals at Sullivan Arena both evenings at 7 p.m.

For information, visit go-seawolves.com

Ongoing

Evening hikes

Alaska Outdoors hosts weekly hikes Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday hikes are easy, 3.5 to 4.5 miles and perfect for beginners or families with kids. Thursday hikes are moderate difficulty. For information, visit alaska-outdoors.org.

Winter reading challenge

Adults can register to

win prizes in this JBER Library challenge through March 15. For information, call 384-1640.

Family skate series

Skate at the Westchester Lagoon every Saturday through the end of February with warming barrels, free hot chocolate, and music from 3 to 5 p.m.

Fit to Fight skiing

Cross-country skiing at Eagleglen Fitness Park is open every day except federal holidays. Bring your own gear or check out free equipment from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 552-2023.

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 Saturdays. For more 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 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 Wednesdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m., and all-ages story time Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 384-1640.

Model railroading

The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 1 p.m. Saturdays in the basement of Matanuska Hall. They host an open house every third Saturday through April; everyone is invited. For information, call 552-5234, e-mail msmrre@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/msmrre.

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.

By the dawn's early light



An Army Special Forces Soldier with 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) begins to pack his parachute after a night high-altitude high-opening jump Jan. 25 during a three-week training exercise at Yuma, Ariz. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Ian Ives)

A short story with large lessons

By **ARMY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) GREG THOGMARTIN**
JBER Deputy Chaplain

In the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to lead a discussion about the book of Ruth with some young men and women here on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Ruth is one of the shortest books in the Bible in the Hebrew scriptures or what many would call the Old Testament.

Despite its brevity, it is rich with themes about faith and faithfulness, character and virtue, the uplifting and sustaining power of kindness and mercy, and the movement from despair to hope.

Within the framework of that beautiful story and our discussions about it, we identified three principles about how we live in relationship to one another.

The first principle is “words matter.” This is seen in how words have to the power to shape us for good or for evil.

On the positive side, words at their

best can create a road from despair to hope.

The second principle is “character matters.” This part of the discussion is a little less clear. Do words help mold character? Are they an expression of character? Perhaps a bit of both.

And the third principle is “relationships matter.” Who we are in our relationships and how we are in those relationships matter.

Most of us would agree good relationships can be powerfully life-sustaining in the midst of hard times.

It is a precious thing to have someone you know you can trust, can depend on, and can lean on.

Fast-forward to last week; on Valentine’s Day, I was out at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery to participate in the committal service of an unaccompanied Air Force veteran of the Vietnam era.

In the stillness of the cemetery, I tried to apply those principles and let them speak to who we are as a band of brothers and sisters which covers all branches of the armed forces and

spans the decades as we laid that Airman to rest.

Principle 1 – Words matter. We are a community formed by a promise – to support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

The words of this promise unite us across our differences, and focus our efforts and energy toward a common goal.

Principle 2 – Character matters. Our character is expressed in keeping that promise and being people of character as we serve and as we rub shoulders with others from diverse backgrounds in the course of our service.

Concepts like integrity and duty and honor take on flesh in our service and become part of our DNA if you will.

We may say that we bleed green or blue – but I trust we all bleed character.

Principle 3 – Relationships matter. These are relationships with the

persons on our right and our left, the ones to the front and the rear within our formations.

Many of us can say these folks have enriched our lives as we served together, and hopefully we are the better for these relationships – stronger, more resilient, and quite possibly more caring and compassionate, too.

At the same time, we also recognize that people matter because of the pain and the scars some of us carry from those whom we have lost in the midst of our service – our battle buddies and our wingmen who are lost to our formations on this side of eternity.

If you have never read the book of Ruth, then let me suggest you invest the 15 minutes it takes to read the short story.

Please pay close attention to the power of words and character and relationships as expressed there.

Be reminded that who you are – and how you are – matters.

May God grant us all grace to care and invest deeply in others. 

Hospital Family Day hours

The 673d Medical Group is open on Pacific Air Forces family days to ensure patients have access to acute care and several other services. Specialty care, surgical services, the laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be open on a limited basis. For information, call 580-2778.

Firewood permits

Firewood is \$35 per cord or \$17.50 per half-cord. To receive a permit, an iSportsman permit is required. For information, visit <https://jber.isportsman.net>.

Main Pharmacy hours

The main JBER pharmacy, on the first floor of the JBER hospital, 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 rec-

reate 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-Richardson personnel to report potholes. For holes in housing areas, contact Aurora Housing at 753-1051. Other requests are 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 for crews.

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. The JBER-E location, at 6350 Arctic Warrior Drive, 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.

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. A blind-cleaning machine is

available at the JBER-E location; priority goes to those PCSing. For information, call 375-5540.

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, and provides maintenance and 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 JBERPharmacy on Facebook.

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.

Air National Guard welcomes new commander

By **AIR FORCE LT. COL. CANDIS OLMSTEAD**
AKANG Public Affairs

Alaska Air National Guard Col. Scott Howard was recently selected to be the assistant adjutant general and commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, and began his new role Feb. 1.

In his capacity as assistant adjutant general-Air and commander, Howard is responsible for the development and implementation of strategy, policy, plans, and initiatives for the Alaska Air National Guard.

As commander, Howard ensures over 2,300 Air Guardsmen in the Joint Forces Headquarters Air staff and at two wings – located at JBER and Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks – are organized, trained, and equipped to support state and federal missions world-wide.

Missions include airlift, aerial refueling, search and rescue, air control, and space

warning and surveillance capabilities in support of peacetime and contingency operations.

“I am truly humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead the highly professional, disciplined, and dedicated members of the Alaska Air National Guard,” said Howard. “It’s a real privilege to serve alongside such an amazing team, and I look forward to continuing with this team in my new role.”

Howard most recently served as director of staff for the Alaska Air National Guard and was chosen by Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Torrence Saxe for the increased responsibility of being the Alaska Air Guard’s top leader.

“Colonel Howard has commanded at the flight,

squadron and group levels, and his leadership and air defense experience make him uniquely qualified to lead the AKNG into the future,” said Saxe in a commander’s note to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Alaska National Guard personnel.

Howard enlisted in the Air Force in 1991 as an airborne warning and control systems journeyman.

He received his commission in 1998 as a graduate of Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He joined the Alaska Air National Guard in May of 2003.

Prior to his current appointment, he served as director of staff, Alaska Air National Guard at JBER; commander of the 168th Mission Support Group at



Col. Scott Howard, the assistant adjutant general and commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, began his new role Feb. 1. (Courtesy photo)

Eielson Air Force Base; and commander of the 176th Air Defense Squadron at JBER, in addition to other command and leadership assignments with operations and support functions.

Howard’s selection to

replace him in the director of staff role is Alaska Air National Guard Col. John Oberst, who is currently vice commander at the 168th Wing.

Oberst is expected to assume his role in April. 

JIPT shifts focus from response to prevention

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

Beginning in January 2019, the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Joint Installation Prevention Team shifted its focus from response to prevention when it comes to families in crisis.

The JIPT has been working with commanders across the base to provide solution-driven prevention seminars for the community. Through the strengthening of local, private, state and community partnerships, the JIPT offers various methods of counseling, financial services, child care, employment workshops, parenting classes, school liaison services and education analysis, etc.

“To sustain a stable and resilient community, Airmen and Soldiers must ask themselves what they are doing to contribute, whether positively or negatively in when it comes to violence and suicide prevention,” Mary Jernigan, JBER Violence

Prevention integrator and Green Dot Program manager. “This is as personal and close to home as it gets. When it comes to violence prevention, as helping agencies, the need is to shift our way of thinking. Now that we know the kind of influence and power we have as bystanders, let’s take it one step further and be proactive.”

To change this focus, a clear distinction between response and prevention must be made.

Even though the four bystander steps are considered proactive – recognizing the warning signs, understanding the barriers to intervening, intervening by directing, delegating or distracting, and strengthening the protective factors associated with sexual assault and suicide prevention – they are by nature reactive, said Jernigan.

Two guest speakers from Alteristic provided attendees an opportunity to learn ways of shifting the response paradigm to a prevention paradigm. Alteristic is a social accelerator organization



Attendees participate in a solution-driven Green Dot violence prevention seminar at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 14. The Joint Installation Prevention Team has shifted its focus from response to prevention when it comes to families in crisis. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Crystal A. Jenkins)

tackling societal issues at local, national, and global levels.

The training was both influential and essential because it is important for key leaders in the community to work cohesively to bring about the necessary change, said Frederica Norman, seminar attendee and 673d Force Support Squadron community readiness consultant

and Key Spouse Program manager.

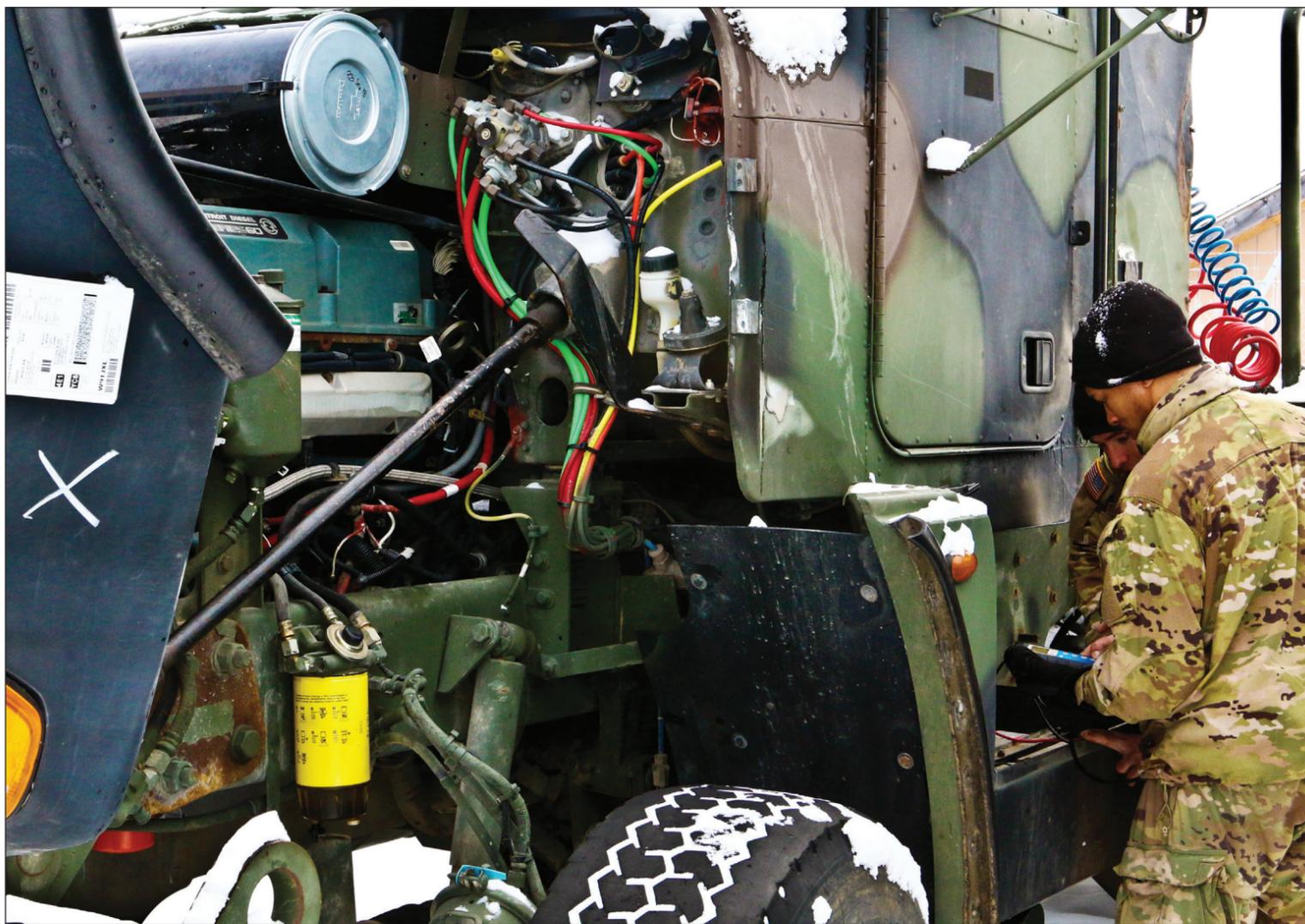
“The hope we have is for JBER’s community members to access and benefit from its community partners and in turn, directly influence positive change both in and outside the gates,” Jernigan said. “As leaders and supervisors, we need to address problems with our subordinates when we see

them, attacking the problems when they are small instead of waiting for them to fester or grow larger. The future health and well-being of the person next to us affects all of our futures. If one person is down, we are all affected in some way.

“Yes, problems are out there in many different forms, but we want to change the focus to solutions.” 

PMCS

‘Motor Pool Monday’ is a long-standing Army tradition to keep vehicles ready



Paratroopers with 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, guide a vehicle into the garage to perform repairs at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 19. (U.S. Army photos/Sgt. Alex Skripnichuk)

ABOVE LEFT: A mechanic with the 6th BEB inspects the hydraulic system on a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle at JBER after the vehicle's operators reported a leak Feb. 19. Paratroopers conduct preventative maintenance checks on their vehicle weekly to ensure proper operation during Alaska winter environment.

ABOVE: A paratrooper of the 6th BEB replaces glow plugs in the diesel engine of a Humvee.

LEFT: Paratroopers of the 6th BEB test a vehicle's electrical system during Monday preventative maintenance checks and services. ‘Motor pool Monday’ has been a regular task since the Army mechanized and daily stable maintenance became a thing of the past.

732nd AMS takes home Air Force awards

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

The 732nd Air Mobility Squadron received several awards highlighting their outstanding performance at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson throughout 2018.

“Our unit was recently recognized with an Air Force-level unit and individual award,” said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bilbo, 732nd AMS passenger services section chief. “We were grateful for the award because it’s a testament to our Airmen’s success. They come in everyday, do the job to the best of their ability, and don’t ask for the recognition. The awards validate the impact our Airmen have on the mission.”

The 732nd AMS received the Air Force Small Terminal of the Year award while Senior Airman Dejanee Martin, 732nd AMS special handling

technician, was awarded with the Air Force Logistics Readiness Airman of the Year.

The Small Terminal of the Year award recognizes units who excel in providing direct mission support, innovative management and quality of life programs. The 732nd AMS also won the award in 2013.

The unit’s success was showcased when they executed more than 100 airlift missions and oversaw the movement of approximately 3,360 passengers and 1,472 tons of cargo in support of exercises Red Flag, Northern Edge, Predictable Iron and Vigilant Shield.

The 732nd AMS also scheduled 600 missions to nine radar sites, which provide airspace surveillance, intercept control, and navigational assistance to military and civilian aircraft.

The Logistics Readiness Airman of the Year award

follows the same guidelines by distinguishing individuals who excelled and made outstanding contributions to the Air Force or Department of Defense logistics readiness mission.

Martin earned the recognition in part because of her role as a multifaceted air advisor during Operation Inherent Resolve, where she helped guide 580 missions, and cleared 6,000 passengers and 2,000 tons of cargo.

“Martin’s hard work and constant dedication to the mission is why we hand-picked her as the air advisor during Operation Inherent Resolve,” said Air Force 1st Lt. Lawrence Lampkin, 732nd AMS aerial port flight commander. “She also trained in several other complex duties, where she is often the go-to Airman for short-notice taskings that impact several real-world mobility operations. All in



Senior Airman Uzziah Gilmore, passenger terminal service agent, reviews the schedule at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 19. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell)

all, we’re very proud of her as an Airman and for what she has achieved.”

Ray Ball, 732nd AMS passenger terminal dayshift supervisor, said both the Small Terminal of the Year award and the Logistics Readiness Airman of the

Year, are material representations of the teamwork and commitment the Airmen put into the mission.

“The awards give us a sense of pride, it’s something we strive for every year and to finally win, it’s amazing,” Ball said. 

