

# ALASKA POST FREE

an edition of the  
**DAILY NEWS - MINER**

## The Interior Military News Connection

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Fort Wainwright, Alaska

April 19, 2019

### Army artist position open to all career fields

**Joe Lacdan**  
Army News Service

A dim, 120,000-square-foot vault within Fort Belvoir houses a vast collection of art, pieces of Soldiers' lives and exploits on the battlefield. The pieces have been stacked on thin metal walls featuring scenes from both World Wars, Operation Desert Storm and the Iraq invasion.

Located in the bowels of Belvoir's Army Museum Support Center, the pieces contained there capture candid moments often unseen by the public eye – embers of war that would otherwise remain lost in history.

See **ARTIST** on page 6



This watercolor and ink work titled "Johnny," by Master Sgt. Juan Munoz shows an Army Special Forces operator engaging targets while conducting bilateral advanced combat marksmanship training in Southeast Asia. (Courtesy photo)

### 1/52nd AV earns silver in Philip A. Connelly Competition



Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade earn silver in the Phillip A. Connelly Competition, U.S. Army Pacific Field Kitchen Category. The competition, named after the former president of the International Food Service Executives Association, celebrates culinary excellence in both field and garrison environments while providing training opportunities. (Photo by Daniel Nelson, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Public Affairs)

### Army Guard missile brigade executes unique mission

**Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy**  
National Guard Bureau

The mission of the Colorado Army National Guard's 100th Missile Defense Brigade is unique, but, for some brigade Soldiers, also fairly straightforward.

"To me, it's very simple," said Army Maj. Jason Brewer, the chief of missile defense operations with the brigade. "If a rogue nation or other entity shoots an ICBM, intercontinental ballistic missile, at us, we intercept it."

It's a mission the brigade – the only unit of its type in the Army National Guard and one staffed with both active component and Army Guard Soldiers – has been doing since 2003 when it was activated. It's also a mission that isn't quite as simple as it may sound.

"You've got to



A ground-based interceptor missile launched by the Colorado Army National Guard's 100th Missile Defense Brigade heads skyward to intercept an incoming target missile during a training mission at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, in 2008. Based at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, the brigade is the only unit of its type in the National Guard and has a detachment at Vandenberg and subordinate units at Fort Greely, Alaska. (Photo by U.S. Army)

think on your feet, and you've got to look at things with a different lens," said Brewer. "In this mission, everybody has to be a subject matter expert because there is so much you have to learn. This is really an outside-the-box mission."

Relying on a network of satellites and radar systems to detect and track potential ballistic missile launches, the job requires both technical and technological mastery, but also an analytical approach, said Brewer, adding that the mission training standards are high.

"We're held to a 90 percent standard," he said. If [the teams] don't get 90 percent on their [training] then they fail and have to do it all over again. It's a no-fail mission."

See **GUARD** on page 3

### Deadline to transfer GI Bill benefits coming this July

**Devon L. Suits**  
Army News Service

Soldiers with over 16 years of service who want to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill to a dependent must do so before July 12, or risk losing the ability to transfer education benefits.

Last year, the Department of Defense implemented a new Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits, or TEB, eligibility requirement, which instituted a "six- to 16-year cutoff rule," said

until they are found fit for duty under the new DOD policy.

"For Purple Heart recipients, [all] these rules do not apply," Godinez said.

Prior to the new policy, there were no restrictions on when a Soldier could transfer their education benefits.

Since 2009, over 1 million Soldiers have transferred their GI Bill benefits, Godinez said. "To transfer their GI Bill, Soldiers have to go into milConnect website, login with their Common Access Card, then select the tab



Soldiers with over 16 years of service who want to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill to a dependent must do so before July 12, or risk losing the ability to transfer education benefits. (Photo by Pat Molnar)

### Incentives proposed to reduce Army pilot shortage



Army aviation leaders have proposed a boost to aviation career incentive pay, or flight pay, and other measures to retain more qualified aviators amid a pilot shortage. (Photo by Tad Browning)

**Sean Kimmons**  
Army News Service

With nearly 10 percent of aviators now leaving the Army, many of them for commercial airline jobs, the general in charge of the aviation branch said adjustments are needed to reduce the historic attrition rate.

"We have a commercial airline industry that needs pilots," said Maj. Gen. William Gayler, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence. "All of our [military] services have seen aircrew members migrate out to the commercial

world."

On top of that, almost 30 percent of Army warrant officer crew members are eligible to retire, while more than 40 percent of all warrant officers have over 17 years of service.

"That's alarming," Gayler said Monday during a conference hosted by the Army Aviation Association of America, or Quad A.

#### INCENTIVE PAY BOOST

One way to keep pilots in the Army has been bonuses, but Gayler argues that is only a short-term fix.

See **PILOT** on page 2

Master Sgt. Gerardo T. Godinez, senior Army retention operations NCO with Army G-1.

Further, Soldiers who want to transfer their education entitlement must have at least six years of service, he said. All Soldiers must commit to an additional four years of service to transfer their GI Bill.

However, Soldiers who are currently going through the medical evaluation board process cannot transfer GI Bill benefits

there that talks about the transfer education benefits," Godinez said.

If a Soldier needs additional help, they can visit their installation's service and career, or education counselors. In July, the new rules will be in effect and those Soldiers with more than 16 years of service will not be eligible to transfer education benefits.

"Soldiers need to [review this benefit] to make an educated decision," he said.

#### WEEKEND WEATHER

**Friday**



Snow showers, with a high of 41 and a low of 27 degrees

**Saturday**



Partly cloudy, with a high of 46 and a low of 29 degrees.

**Sunday**



Partly cloudy, with a high of 54 and a low of 35 degree.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH THROUGH SEPTEMBER

APRIL 20TH JULY 20TH  
MAY 18TH AUG 17TH  
JUNE 15TH SEP 21ST

**FORT WAINWRIGHT  
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**YARD  
SALE**

# Nutrition Corner: Exploring new grains

**Aimee Duncan**

Medical Department Activity – Alaska Registered Dietician

Stuck in a rut with grains? Many people get used to cooking meals using the classics like pasta or rice. When it comes to dinner, most Americans choose a refined grain to add with their meat and veggies, like white rice or pasta. In reality, brown rice and whole wheat pasta provide many more nutrients including fiber and B vitamins. But what happens when brown rice and whole wheat pasta get boring? Switching up the grain routine can bring a wider variety of nutrients to the diet and keep meals interesting.

White rice and pasta both undergo processing before hitting the grocery shelves. The processing strips away nutrients and fiber to create a different flavor and texture than whole grains. This is why

some people really despise the consistency of brown rice or the nutty flavor of whole wheat pasta. There are so many types of whole grains available that even if brown rice isn't on the table, a more adventurous grain could be.

Many other types of grains are similar to wheat or rice and have mild tastes and textures even the pickiest eaters will like them. Some alternative grains are: amaranth, kamut, freekeh, buckwheat and quinoa.

Although the names can sound quite odd, these grains pack a nutritional punch into the diet. Amaranth, for example, provides a source of protein, iron, magnesium, and is the only known grain to contain vitamin C. Kamut and freekeh are actually strains of wheat that contain higher levels of antioxidants than traditional wheat. They are also higher in protein similar to quinoa. Buckwheat is not actually related to wheat despite its name. The

high fiber content of buckwheat can help lower cholesterol levels in the body. Most people have heard of quinoa; it is another grain alternative that provides a high protein content and boost of fiber as well. Amaranth, buckwheat and quinoa are also gluten-free for those who have celiac disease.

Most of these grains can be found in the natural section of the grocery store and sometimes bulk bins. Bulk buying is a great way to purchase a small serving size to test the flavor and texture before committing to a large bag. These new grains can be cooked in the morning as an alternative to oatmeal, tossed in to soups or salads in the afternoon, or scooped on a typical dinner plate. Since these products are whole grains, expect them to take longer to cook than traditional white rice or pasta. Using a pressure cooker can cut down on cooking time. Explore a new grain and add more nutrition to your diet by simply swapping the boring old rice or pasta.

## MEDDAC Minute

**Brandy Ostanik**

Medical Department Activity – Alaska, Public Affairs

### PATIENT FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Are you interested in having input into the operations at Medical Department Activity – Alaska? We are looking for Soldiers, Family members and retirees who are interested in having a voice by sitting on the Patient Family Partnership Council. Applicants must be willing to show concern for more than one issue or agenda and to be supportive of the mission of the hospital. Applications can be picked up at the front info desk at Bassett Army Community Hospital or Kamish Soldier Medical Clinic and must be returned by April 28. Please contact the patient advocate at 361-5291 for more information.

### CHANGE OF LOCATION

The patient travel department has moved to a new location within Bassett ACH. Patients can now find the office in the patient administration department located next to lab and pharmacy services.

### NEVER FORGET

Never forget another appointment!!! TRICARE makes it easy for you to receive a reminder for upcoming appointments. By inputting your cell number in your TRICARE profile, you will receive text reminders 48 hours and two hours prior to your appointment.

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Think you should go the emergency room but aren't sure? Wondering if you need an

appointment? A registered nurse is standing by 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help. Call the Nurse Advice Line for your immediate health care needs. The nurse can even book you an appointment if necessary. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273.)

### THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

Do you have insurance other than TRICARE? Guaranteed no extra cost to the beneficiary, Bassett ACH is required to obtain a copy of private health insurance coverage from all non-active duty beneficiaries. To provide us with this information, beneficiaries will be asked to complete a DD Form 2569 annually.

### CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET

It's time to check your medicine cabinets for expired prescription and over the counter medications. A MedSafe box, located inside the main entrance of Bassett ACH across from the information desk, is in place to securely receive your expired or no longer needed medications.

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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Behavioral Health: 361-6059  
Benefits Advisor: 361-5656  
Immunizations: 361-5456  
Information Desk: 361-5172  
Patient Advocate: 361-5291  
Pharmacy Refills: 361-5803  
Referral Center: 361-1810  
Tricare On-Line: [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com)  
United Health Care: [uhcmilitarywest.com](http://uhcmilitarywest.com)  
1-800-988-9378

## PILOT

Continued from page 1

Instead, the aviation branch has proposed to boost aviation career incentive pay, or flight pay, which can retain more qualified aviators, he said.

"We probably need to look at it and adjust it a little bit if we're having to throw bonus money to keep people," he said.

While the figures have yet to be determined, today's aviators can earn up to \$840 per month for active flight pay – a rate that has not changed in more than a decade.

"It's time for an adjustment again," the general said.

For aviators who achieve a significant milestone, such as becoming a pilot in command, instructor pilot or test pilot, for example, they could also receive additional incentive money, called pro-pay, short for professional pay.

"We need to look at paying folks for what their skills require," he said.

In another effort to keep more aviators, the branch has recommended to increase its active-duty service obligation for new aviators from six to eight years, similar to what other services do, he said.

It also dropped the active federal service maximum to eight years for enlisted Soldiers, an important step since about 75 percent of warrant officers were once enlisted. Before, an enlisted Soldier could convert to warrant having already served up to 12 years, shortening their aviation service if retiring at 20 years.

"All of these are just levers to try to retain people," he said. "The single most important will probably be to pay them for what their skills require. That's a tough thing to do right now when money is a challenge and we have to prioritize for other things, but we've got to find ways to keep them."

The general also mentioned a budding Captain Intermission Program, which handpicks newly promoted captains in the aviation branch to stay at Fort Rucker, Alabama, as an instructor pilot,

pushing their year group two years so they'll remain competitive for future commands and promotion.

"This young group of officers want to be experts in their branch," he said.

The program even frees up some warrant officer talent to fill holes in the field as the selected captains stay behind to train future aviators.

"We have to start thinking differently about how we manage talent and how we increase expertise and capability back in the formations," Gayler said.

### VR TRAINING

Starting this summer, the aviation branch will also start virtual reality training, called Aviator Training Next, to give future pilots more repetition on basic skills.

Fort Rucker will receive 30 VR simulators based on the UH-72 Lakota, a light utility helicopter currently used as a trainer in flight school. The trainers also include artificial intelligence and cognitive assessment tools.

The goal, Gayler said, is to produce better aviators while also progressing them through flight school faster based on individual proficiency.

"If you can train tasks with more frequency and repetition, the learning process improves quicker," he said, adding about 1,300 aviator students cycle through Fort Rucker each year.

At a time of shortages in the career field, positive leadership is another way to retain more experienced Soldiers.

When the general speaks to graduates of leadership courses at Rucker, he often makes it a point to tell them to smile more.

Smiling is not a sign of weakness, he said, adding it's important to have fun and be approachable.

"Make a Soldier look at you and say, 'I want to be that person,'" he said. "Because if you're not demonstrating positive leadership, I guarantee you they don't want to replace you."

## Army and Air Force Exchange Service salutes cutest military pets with Patriot Pet Photo Contest

**Katarayna Flatt**

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

Fort Wainwright – Smile big and show off your canines—or felines, rabbits, birds or any pet!

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, along with Blue Buffalo pet food, is once again hosting the Patriot Pet Just Say "Treat" Photo Contest. From May 1 to May 31, Fort Wainwright shoppers can submit a patriotically-themed photo of their furry friends at [ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes](http://ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes) for a chance to win. One grand-prize winner will receive a \$1,000 Exchange gift card, while four first-place winners will receive \$500 Exchange gift cards.

"Most pet owners love posting pictures of their fur-babies," said Fort Wainwright Exchange general manager Gloria Sylvia. "With this Exchange contest, service members and their families can win great prizes by doing just that. We're hoping a Fort Wainwright pet takes the top prize."

All authorized Exchange shoppers 18 years or older can enter, including honorably discharged veterans who have verified their eligibility to shop the Exchange online. Veterans can visit <http://bit.ly/VetForLife> for more information. Complete contest rules can be found at [ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes](http://ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes). Winners will be selected on or around June 6.

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2018 First Prize Winner

2018 First Prize Winner

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## ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

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# The Chaplain's Corner

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Fritts**  
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Greely

In January of 1993, an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation titled "Ship in a Bottle" presents Captain Picard with an existential threat to the Enterprise and her crew that essentially asks the question, "What is real?" The plot turns into a holodeck ruse within a ruse that concludes when the villain is tricked into leaving the Enterprise, but in reality, is safely contained in an endlessly running holodeck program, which allows him to explore a virtual reality universe forever. The episode concludes with Captain Picard ruminating on whether their reality is actually a simulation within "a little device sitting on someone's table."

Plato's allegory of the cave also wrestles with the question, "What is real?" Drawing a distinction between the true, but unseen, realm of forms and the everyday shared reality we experience, Plato describes humanity

as prisoners in a cave. The prisoners are chained in such a way that they can only see the cave wall straight in front of them. Behind them, puppeteers parade along a roadway and cast shadows on the wall in front of the prisoners. If all these prisoners ever knew from birth were the shadows seen on the wall, this would be their reality.

So... "What is real?" Are we living in an elaborate computer simulation? Is our reality merely shadows projected on a cave wall? More to the point, how do Christians know that God is real? Students in philosophy and theology courses spend months, or even lifetimes, studying questions like these. Since humanity continues to wrestle with fundamental questions of "what is real" and "how do we know" shows that certain, easy answers don't exist.

Christians often begin the discussion with the Bible. In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus schools the Pharisees who tried to trick

him by explaining that the greatest commandment is to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. Other verses in the Bible, such as 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, describe how we should love. In Romans 13:10, Paul goes so far as to declare that loving our neighbors actually fulfills the (Mosaic) law.

So, is God real? My best proof to you of God's existence is to use the mind, body and will God has given me in order to love God by loving my neighbor. That can be hard to do, especially when my neighbor differs from how I appear, believe and act. It can seem impossible when my neighbor next door, across town or around the world seems more like my enemy! Nevertheless, I emphasize loving God and loving my neighbor as the foundation on which Christians build their reality. How we accomplish this greatest commandment during our lives is the only reality of ultimate significance.



**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Fritts**

The Fort Greely Chapel community is open and accessible to everyone in the Delta Junction/Fort Greely community – even non-military. We are a traditional, protestant Army chapel service meeting on Sundays at 10 a.m. with a weekly Communion observance. Interested? Please call 907-873-4397 to arrange for gate access. "Like" our chapel Facebook page by searching "Fort Greely Chapel" or use your web browser to go to <https://www.facebook.com/FGAChapel>.

For God and Country,  
Chaplain Fritts

## GUARD

Continued from page 1

Brewer and many other brigade Soldiers take the no-fail creed to heart.

"We can intercept missiles that are inbound to the United States, and it doesn't get any more important than that," he said, describing the mission as being "deployed in place."

"When you're deployed, you're on that mission every day," said Brewer. "You're really thinking about that mission, you're studying that mission. When you're sitting at the console, it's the same thing."

That mission also takes place around the clock.

"We fight 24/7, 365 days a year," said Brewer. "If we get an alert that something is coming to the continental United States or Hawaii, we track it. We find out where the threat is, what the threat is doing and then we allocate ground-based interceptors [missiles] toward that threat."

If needed, those missiles are then launched to defeat the threat, said Brewer.

Based at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, the brigade has subordinate units at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, and Fort Greely, Alaska – all working together to track and, if needed, eliminate any incoming threats.

The Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Missile

Defense Battalion, based at Fort Greely, is the brigade element that Brewer described as being "at the tip of the spear."

"They are the tactical fight, and we [the brigade] are the future fight," he said. "When you get a threat, you have that tactical side of we've got to knock it out of the sky. Then you have that future element: what if this happens? What if there are more launches? How are we going to negate these?"

Negating those threats means both constant training, as well as ensuring radar systems and other equipment are up to date.

"We've done multiple upgrades to our systems, both hardware and software," said Brewer. "It's upgrading everything from our eyes [radar] to how we actually intercept an incoming threat."

A lot has changed since the brigade's 2003 activation. "Technology, the threat and threat models have changed," said Brewer. "Our techniques and tactics have grown as the threat has grown and changed."

Growing and evolving is integral to staying ahead of the threat, said Brewer.

"We have to expand with it," he said. "We try to get ahead of the game and I feel we do a phenomenal job."

Some of that ability to get ahead of the game comes with longevity, said Brewer. Many brigade Soldiers have been with the unit for years, some since the brigade's inception.

"We have people here now who were here in 2003 [when the brigade activated], so we keep that historical background," said Brewer, adding it also means greater continuity of operations.

"Most of the people I serve with, I've served with for eight to 10 years," he said.

That has allowed brigade members to build greater relationships with entities outside the unit, including U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Northern Command, as well as partner nations where forward-based radar sites are located.

"That's where the National Guard is more than just homeland [response] and warfight," said Brewer. "We've branched out to help create those partnerships globally."

That all comes together to make the brigade, and the Guard as a whole, a formidable force, Brewer said.

"I think a lot of Guard members bring a lot of worldly experience to what we do," he said. "I think the Guard brings that to the fight with everything we do."

For Brewer, his work at the brigade has been rewarding, even though he'd rather not have to execute a missile launch.

"I hope we never have to use it," he said, of the threat response.

Still, he said he's glad to be serving where he is.

"It's the best Army mission or the best mission I've ever been on in my life," he said.

## Fort Greely Military Youth of the Year competes at state competition

**Amber Martinez**  
U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Youth Center Technician

write four essays, participate in a 15 minute interview and write, memorize and recite a three minute speech, which she then delivered to an audience of 50 spectators.

Fort Greely's Boys and Girls Club of America Military Youth of the Year, Jordyn Hill competed at the Alaska BGCA Military Youth of the Year competition March 21 to 23 at Fort Wainwright.

While Hill did not take home state recognition, she did tell everyone that they would see her again, "be ready because I am going to win next year," said Hill.

Hill, a student at Delta Junior High School, was required to obtain three letters of recommendation,

BGCA Youth of the Year honors and celebrates the nation's most inspiring teens and their incredible journeys. Stories of outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle have made Youth of the Year America's premier leadership and recognition program for teens. These amazing young people represent the voice and spirit of hope for America inspiring all kids to lead, to succeed, to inspire.



Jordyn Hill, a student at Delta Junior High School studies for a speech during the Alaska Boys and Girls Club of America Military Youth of the Year competition March 21 to 23 at Fort Wainwright. (Photo by Amber Martinez, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Youth Center Technician)

**SM-1A Deactivated Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning Public Information Sessions**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Fort Greely would like to share the following on- and off-post opportunities for the public to learn more about the ongoing planning process for the decommissioning of the SM-1A deactivated nuclear power plant on Fort Greely

<p><b>As a reminder, the SM-1A deactivated nuclear power plant on Fort Greely has been deactivated since the early 1970s and its initial decommissioning involved the removal of a majority of the radioactivity from the site.</b></p> <p>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, working closely with Fort Greely, is in the planning stages for the final decommissioning and dismantling of the facility, which is expected to begin in 2022 or 2023 at the earliest.</p>	<p><b>On-Post</b></p> <p>Where: Community Activity Center When: Tuesday 23 APR 2019 Details: Posters/Open House - 6:30pm to 7pm - Formal Presentation at 7pm - Followed by Qs and As and Posters.</p> <p><b>Off-Post</b></p> <p>(Fort Greely Restoration Advisory Board)</p> <p>Where: Delta Junction City Hall 2288 Deborah Street, Delta Junction When: Wednesday 24 APR 2019 Details: RAB begins at 6pm. SM-1A presentation, with Qs and As and posters, will immediately follow the RAB.</p>
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For more information, please visit the SM-1A project website: [www.nab.usace.army.mil/SM-1A/](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/SM-1A/)

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**ESTATE NOTICE**

Kyle Holman Sr. passed away in Fairbanks on April 08, 2019. Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Kyle Holman Sr., of U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright Department of Public Works, Business Operations Division, may contact Capt. Filiberto Martinez, USAG Alaska DPTMS, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703, email [Filiberto.martinez.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Filiberto.martinez.mil@mail.mil).

# BGCA State of Alaska Youth of the Year 2019

## Staff Report

The Boys and Girls Club of Alaska held its 2019 State of Alaska Youth of the Year competition March 22 on Fort Wainwright where two winners received \$6,000 in scholarships.

All of the BGCA's throughout Alaska submitted a youth candidate to compete for the scholarships. Selections to represent each club

were made based on displaying a high academic standing as well as their community service projects for their clubs and their surrounding communities.

Each of the youth went through a series of interviews, essays and speeches with a three-member panel of judges selected for their positions within the Fairbanks, Alaska, community.

At the end of the competition, Samantha

Perry, from the Kenai Peninsula, was selected as the 2019 Boys and Girls Club of America State of Alaska Non-Military Youth of the Year, and Adeline Knavel, of Fort Wainwright, as the 2019 Boys and Girls Club of America State of Alaska Military Youth of the Year.

Each winner received a \$5,000 scholarship sponsored by Toyota and Disney, and a \$1,000 scholarship from the University of Alaska College Savings Fund.



Robert "Chico" Medina (far left), U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Child and Youth Services division chief; Allison Long (left), USAG Alaska Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare & Recreation director; Adeline Knavel (center), Fort Wainwright, Boys and Girls Club of America State of Alaska Military Youth of the Year; Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Cornett (right), USAG Alaska command sergeant major; and Lucky Harris (far right), a representative with BGCA; award Knavel with a \$5,000 scholarship check March 22. Knavel was selected as the BCGA Military Youth of the Year for 2019. (Photo by DFMWR marketing)



Allison Long (far left), U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare & Recreation director; Samantha Perry (left), Kenai Peninsula, Boys and Girls Club of America State of Alaska Non-Military Youth of the Year; Robert "Chico" Medina (center), USAG Alaska Child and Youth Services division chief; Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Cornett (right), USAG Alaska command sergeant major; and Lucky Harris (far right), a representative with BGCA; award Perry with a \$5,000 scholarship check March 22. Perry was selected as the BCGA Non-Military Youth of the Year for 2019. (Photo by DFMWR marketing)



Get your kids outside to explore rock climbing, archery, fishing, rafting and more!  
Find out more at [www.wainwright.armymwr.com](http://www.wainwright.armymwr.com)

## MEDDAC-AK capabilities tested with mass casualty event

**Brandy Ostanik**  
Medical Department Activity –  
Alaska Public Affairs

Medical Department Activity - Alaska participated in Alaska Shield 2019, an emergency management exercise conducted April 9 through 12, joining more than 11 communities, five state agencies, 12 federal entities and two non-profit organizations.

The halls of Bassett Army Community Hospital were quiet and the staff were preparing to open clinics for the day April 9, when the emergency department received six patients presenting with severe respiratory compromise, fever, coughing up blood and other flu like symptoms. A detailed history of the patient's recent activities revealed they could have been exposed to the pneumonic plague on a flight from Korea.

in testing protocols used to care for highly infectious patients when the on the last day of the exercise the hospital received a patient demonstrating signs and symptoms of Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome.

"The emergency department staff responded quickly and efficiently placing the patient in isolation within a negative pressure room," said Wineland. "After beginning treatment it was decided that the patient required protected transportation to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital."

To accomplish this feat, Fairbanks Fire Department was called to provide transport by ambulance in an isolation pod, a new training opportunity for both organizations.

At the end of the three day event the external evaluation team indicated that all critical tasks associated with the exercise were successfully completed.

"Our participation in this statewide exercise provided the opportunity



A Medical Department Activity – Alaska nurse and two Fairbanks Fire Department personnel secure a patient suspected to have Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome in an isolation pod for transportation from Bassett Army Community Hospital to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital during Alaska Shield, an emergency management exercise April 12. (Photo by Brandy Ostanik, Medical Department Activity – Alaska Public Affairs)

An overhead page and mass notifications system message activated the Hospital Command Center, bringing together key leadership personnel to provide communication, command, control and logistical support to manage the potential public health emergency.

"The simulated events we receive mirror real-life situations that happen around the country and could just as easily happen here," says Ralph Wineland emergency manager for MEDDAC-AK. "We do this to ensure a safe environment of care and that we are prepared to take care of the community no matter what the emergency."

As part of the exercise Bassett ACH staff members initiated isolation protocol to provide medical care to the patients while ensuring the safety of other beneficiaries and staff members throughout the facility.

The exercise went a step further

to demonstrate our inter community cooperation with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the State of Alaska," said Wineland. "Community partnerships are critical to the success of emergency management response and recovery operations. We welcome every opportunity to exercise our plans with our civilian counterparts in the community."

MEDDAC-AK conducts large scale exercises two to four times a year as well as smaller monthly drills in different areas of the hospital.

"These exercises are imperative to the security and safety of the community and environment of care," said Wineland. "The teamwork built during these exercises, both internally and externally, allows us to maintain a high state of readiness to ensure we can support a globally ready force and provide safe, high-quality care not just during day-to-day operations, but also in large scale emergency situations."

# Fort Wainwright Family & MWR

## Weekly Events

### April 19 - 26

**19** **Training Holiday Hours**  
April 19  
6 a.m. to 12 a.m.

USAG Alaska Family and MWR facilities will have varying hours on April 19, 2019 for a DONSA. We thank you for your understanding. Please visit [wainwright.armymwr.com](http://wainwright.armymwr.com) to view a list of facilities that will be affected.

**20** **Easter Egg-stravaganza!**  
April 20  
2 to 5 p.m.

Join in on all of the Easter-themed events going on throughout the Last Frontier Community Activity Center, including an Easter egg hunt, a bounce house, an obstacle course, arts & crafts, face painting, free photos with the Easter Bunny, and more! Find a golden ticket hiding within some of the eggs and you could win a mega prize!

Last Frontier Activity Center, building 1044  
Call 353-7755

**20** **Easter Bunny Bowl**  
April 20  
6 to 10 p.m.

Munch on more than just rabbit food during this Easter Bunny Bowl event! Enjoy an unlimited ice cream bar with the Easter Bunny! Once you have finished your bowls of ice cream, burn up those calories with a game of Bow! Bowling is happening from 6 to 10 p.m. Each ice cream ticket sold goes into a raffle for a chance to win big!

Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, building 3702  
Call 353-2654, reservations recommended

**GALAXY BOWLING**

**MAY 4, NOON - MIDNIGHT**

HIT A STRIKE WHEN A RED PIN IS IN THE LINEUP AND YOU COULD WIN BIG!

**15/PERSON**  
**3 GAMES AND SHOE RENTAL**  
\*Prizes for qualifying contestants. Neednot be present to win

**LANE RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED!**  
Nugget Lanes Bowling Center  
3702 Santiago Avenue (907) 353-2654

[www.wainwright.armymwr.com](http://www.wainwright.armymwr.com)  
@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightBowling

# History Snapshot: Brig. Gen. Dale Gaffney

U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Cultural Resources Program

Col. (at the time) Dale V. Gaffney was personally involved in the development and refinement of an appropriate parka for the Cold Weather Test Detachment at Ladd Field. Many of the Soldiers working with the detachment spent a lot of time standing or sitting in planes in stationary positions, very quickly getting chilled to the bone in their standard issue parkas. Gaffney became involved once he became aware of the situation and worked with the detachment to create workable clothing for Soldiers in an Arctic environment. Over time, many different parkas and coats were developed and tested for various uses, but Gaffney's signature parka achieved a kind of

local celebrity and came to be closely identified with the charismatic Gaffney. As William Stroecker, a former Ladd Field personnel sergeant remembered in 2001 during the Ladd Field Oral History Project: "All of the original Ladd Fielders, before the 6th Air Depot got here, when there were just a few of us, wore what was called the DVG, it was a beautiful sheep-lined coat, parky, and it was called the DVG after Dale V. Gaffney, the colonel. Everybody was issued one of those DVGs plus the foot gear was a knee-length boot made of the same material, sheepskin, it had sheepskin outside. It was a common thing; I wish I had saved mine, it's a collector's item these days! But after [the] 6th ADG came, why then, all of that, that individuality of the old Ladd Field base just disappeared."



A Soldier of the Cold Weather Test Detachment wears a version of the DVG, 1941. (Image courtesy of the National Archives Bureau of Public Roads)

## Fort Greely rolls out the red carpet for volunteers



Fort Greely volunteers earn recognition during Volunteer of Year ceremony April 12 at the Aurora Community Activities Center. Fort Greely Volunteer of the Year went to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Russell Craig (second from left), with 648 volunteer hours. The Community Volunteer of the Year went to Danielle Montoya (third from right), with 364 volunteer hours, and the Youth Volunteer of the Year was a tie between sisters Brooklyn and Jordyn Hunter-Hill (far right), with 140 volunteer hours. (Photo by Chris Maestas, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Public Affairs)

**Chris Maestas**  
U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Public Affairs

Fort Greely celebrates military volunteers with a Volunteer Recognition ceremony April 12 at the Aurora Community Activities Center. Over 100 volunteers walked the red carpet receiving recognition for their volunteer contributions.

The Fort Greely Volunteer of the Year went to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Russell Craig with 648 volunteer hours, the Community Volunteer of the Year went to Danielle Montoya with 364 volunteer hours, and the Youth Volunteer of the Year was a tie between sisters Brooklyn and Jordyn Hunter-Hill with 140 volunteer hours.

Overall, an estimated \$184,000 worth of work were volunteered based on a total of 8,050 volunteer hours.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week, April 15 to 21. National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world.

## ARTIST

Continued from page 1

Subjects could be a Soldier stopping to rest after a long day of marching through rough terrain. Another could show a Soldier in a poignant moment as the grief over losing a fallen comrade sinks in.

Some pieces depict startling battle scenes. Others portray raw human emotion such as "The Man without a Gun," an oil painting created by Lawrence Beall Smith, which shows a young Army medic during World War II. The piece exhibits the panic and fear of a non-combatant Soldier who cannot defend himself with a firearm. The Army's Center of Military History hosts the 16,000-piece collection whose subjects date as far back as the Revolutionary War.

Many of the works are inherently personal, with Soldiers – Army artists – documenting fellow Soldiers. And more often than not, the artists have experienced the trauma and emotions of their subjects firsthand.

Though, the subject matter of the works often extends beyond battlefield turmoil.

"Art is very relatable. A lot of times we are able to kind of humanize the art," said Master Sgt. Juan Munoz, the Army's current artist-in-residence. "We're not just capturing the cool Soldier repelling from the helicopter. We're also capturing the Soldier missing his family. We're capturing the Soldier being hot and tired and sleepy. So we're capturing all these common things as a Soldier we go through each and every single day."

Soldiers from all career fields now have the opportunity to apply for the unique position that allows a Soldier to empathize with his artistic subjects on the museum support center's staff.

"It is Soldiers writing their own history in creating these artworks,"

said Sarah Forgey, chief art curator for the U.S. Army museums. "They bring a little extra 'something' to it that you can't create in a studio as somebody who hasn't experienced it firsthand."

Artists could be tasked to create art of a career field such as military dog handlers or to document training of Special Forces units.

But the subject matter and creative parameters are left to the creators. Museum administrators give Army

Irma in the late summer of 2017.

The Soldier pulled out his phone and began to use the FaceTime app to talk to his wife.

"I saw him there and the expression on his face, to be able to reconnect with his wife," said Munoz, who has served as an Army artist for three years. "What it immediately reminded me of was a piece of art that we already have in the collection of a Soldier back in (the Korea War) where he received a letter



Master Sgt. Juan Munoz, the Army's artist-in-residence, displays one of his 24 pieces that he has contributed to the Army's collection of 30,000 art works. About 16,000 of that collection is housed at the Army's Museum Support Center in Fort Belvoir. (Photo by Joe Laddan)

artists nearly full creative freedom.

"The artist is first and foremost a Soldier," Forgey said. "He or she is documenting their own experience."

One night while on assignment in the Florida Keys, Munoz observed a tired Soldier sitting on a curbside. The Soldier looked visibly exhausted from 12 hours of delivering food and supplies to nearby residents, whose lives were ravaged by the devastation of Hurricane

and he had the same expression – the same emotion."

The art resonates across generations, even as technology changes. Munoz said that something as simple as a painting of pulling guard duty could connect a Soldier of today to a troop who served during Desert Storm or in Vietnam.

One of Munoz's favorite pieces features a junior Soldier serving as a security guard in Baghdad.

"It shows the timelessness of emotion that our Soldiers portray throughout the history of our Army," Munoz said.

The program originally began during World War I with eight Soldiers chosen as artists. During World War II the Army formed nine teams of artists. The service eventually narrowed the number to one artist beginning in 1993 with occasional Soldiers serving as apprentices to the primary artist.

In his tenure as the artist-in-residence, Munoz has contributed 24 artistic

creations to the collection stored within the climate-controlled vault. Across the Army's 47 museums worldwide, another 16,000 have been stored or displayed.

Eventually, several of the pieces will be featured in the Army's new 185,000-square-foot National Museum, a \$250 million project that broke ground at Belvoir in September 2016.

Army artists contributed the vast majority of the pieces in the collection, although the museum welcomes contributions from Soldiers who create their own art, as well as civilian artists who have traveled with military units during historical campaigns.

Munoz deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq to create his artistic works and also traveled to disaster areas after Hurricanes Irma and Maria documenting Soldiers during the relief efforts. Sgt. 1st Class Amy Brown, who served as the resident artist before Munoz, deployed to document Hurricane Maria recovery efforts in the Caribbean.

In his most recent assignment, the former drill sergeant embedded himself with Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq. There he noticed a young Soldier, Spc. Jose Perez, perched atop a watchtower in Baghdad. Inspired by the Soldier's dedication, Munoz crafted a pen and ink rendering of Perez on a wooden panel.

Munoz captures these moments either by taking a still photograph he will later pore over in his studio. Or, he will roughly sketch the piece at the same location.

Two-dimensional art mostly make up the 16,000-piece collection inside the warehouse that also includes commissioned and contributed works.

Munoz's pieces could be documenting ordinary or routine moments to Soldiers. But they could mark milestones in the Army's history.

Munoz has served as the Army artist at a pivotal time, during the Army's massive modernization overhaul. The next Army artist can look forward to possibly documenting new milestones.

Interested Soldiers in the ranks of staff sergeant to master sergeant can apply at the Center of Military History website: <https://history.army.mil/museums/artists/apply.html>.

"It's a very unique and a very rewarding position," Munoz said. "Your art will become a part of the history of our Army. And overall, you'll get to see our Army from a whole different perspective."

# EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE: Fort Greely tests capabilities in response to mock earthquake

**Chris Maestas**  
U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely conducted exercise Arctic Shield, a full scale exercise April 9 and 10 to validate the garrison's ability to handle a multi-scenario emergency situation.

As part of the exercise, Fort Greely's staff and tenant units responded to an earthquake scenario that tested the garrison's readiness and response to a collapsed building, casualty care, establishment of an Emergency Family Assistance Center and Safe Haven, response to a gate runner, and other emergency response events.

The biannual exercise gave the garrison an ability to test standard operating procedures and capabilities while having external evaluators observe and provide feedback improving safety for the garrison and the community.



U.S. Army Garrison Fort Greely conducted a full scale exercise April 9 and 10 to validate the garrison's ability to handle a multi-scenario emergency situation. The biannual event provided the garrison an ability to test standard operating procedures and capabilities while having external evaluators observe and provide feedback, improving safety for the garrison and the community. (Photo by Chris Maestas, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Public Affairs)



U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely garrison commander, Lt. Col. Michael Foote, responds to mock reporters at a press conference during the garrison's full scale exercise April 9. The biannual event provided an ability to test standard operating procedures and capabilities while having external evaluators observe and provide feedback, improving safety for the garrison and the community. (Photo by Chris Maestas, USAG Alaska, Fort Greely Public Affairs)



Fort Greely police respond to a "gate runner" scenario April 10 during the garrison's full scale exercise. The biannual event provided the garrison an ability to test standard operating procedures and capabilities while having external evaluators observe and provide feedback, improving safety for the garrison and the community. (Photo by Chris Maestas, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Public Affairs)

## Month of the Military Child Carnival



Ian Tassie (right), a member of U.S. Army Garrison Alaska's Directorate of Family and Moral, Welfare and Recreation, helps secure a mask for a child during the 2019 Month of the Military Child Carnival on April 13 at the installation's School Age Center. The event featured activities for military children such as obstacle courses, games and crafts. (Photo by Daniel Nelson, USAG Alaska Public Affairs)

## Aviation Day Camp at Delta Greely



Spc. Zachary Hladik, a military policeman with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion and president for Fort Greely's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program, spent the day volunteering at the Delta Greely RC Flyers Club Aviation Day Camp on April 13 at the Delta High School Gym. Sponsored through a Department of Defense science grant, the purpose behind Aviation Day Camp is to expose students, particularly the younger grades, to the joys of aviation and flight club. (Photo by Chris Maestas, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Greely Public Affairs)

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

# Army launches housing health registry to address housing health or safety concerns

**Douglas Holl**  
U.S. Army Public Health Center

The U.S. Army Medical Command is establishing a Housing Environmental Health Response Registry to address housing health or safety concerns of current or former Army housing residents.

The registry will allow the Army Public Health Center to provide current or former residents information on environmental health hazards, assist them in seeking medical care for any housing related illnesses or concerns, and serve as a two-way exchange of information for all potential enrollees.

Anyone interested in enrolling in the registry can call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-984-8523 where they will be able to voice their concerns. The registry will be manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additional registry numbers:

- Overseas: DSN (312) 421-3700
- Stateside: DSN 421-3700
- Stateside Commercial: 210-295-3700



Anyone interested in enrolling in the Housing Environmental health Response Registry can call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-984-8523 where they will be able to voice their concerns. The registry will be manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week (Photo illustration by U.S. Army)

"We have a team of trained professionals standing by to assist all callers," said John Resta, director of the U.S. Army Public Health Center and acting deputy chief of staff of Public Health for the U.S. Army Medical Command. "They will document the caller's concerns and assist them with access to medical care

if needed as well as referring any housing related concerns to the appropriate installation Department of Public Works. We want to hear all concerns so we can make sure they are properly addressed."

APHC provides continuously updated online health information and resources on mold and lead for service members, Families, Civilians, contractors and healthcare providers. The information includes background information on how these hazards can be introduced into the environment as well as strategies for prevention.

For information about the registry as well as links to community resource guides and housing hazard information, please visit the <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/housing/Pages/HEHRR.aspx>.

The Army Public Health Center focuses on promoting healthy people, communities, animals and workplaces through the prevention of disease, injury and disability of Soldiers, military retirees, their Families, veterans, Army Civilian employees, and animals through studies, surveys and technical consultations.