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Fort Wainwright, Alaska

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USAG Alaska Hero of the Month



Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Preusser (left), U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright command sergeant major, congratulates Sgt. Joseph McClure (right), USAG Alaska's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers vice president. McClure is recognized as Hero of the Month for his hard work and dedication to the B.O.S.S. program through his role as vice president, coordinating event and volunteer work and his consistent work assisting the Soldiers Against Drunk Driving program. McClure actively volunteers to drive the SADD van to ensure Soldiers have a safe ride home at the end of a weekend night out.

(Photo by Daniel Nelson, USAG Alaska, Fort Wainwright Public Affairs)

Right: Col. Christopher Ruga (left), U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright commander, presents a command coin to Sgt. Joseph McClure (right), USAG Alaska's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers vice president. McClure is recognized as Hero of the Month for his hard work and dedication to the B.O.S.S. program through his role as vice president, coordinating event and volunteer work and his consistent work assisting the Soldiers Against Drunk Driving program. McClure actively



volunteers to drive the SADD van to ensure Soldiers have a safe ride home at the end of a weekend night out. Ruga thanked McClure for not just saving lives by driving the SADD van, but by also saving those

who receive a ride from potential career, legal, financial or even family problems. (Photo by Daniel Nelson, USAG Alaska, Fort Wainwright Public Affairs)

AutoBears Assemble: 2/8 Field Artillery Hero of the Week



Although the majority of 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment is deployed in Iraq, and more supporting the Joint Readiness Training Center, the workload for the reserve force at Fort Wainwright has not decreased. Many Soldiers have felt the strain of the low manpower and stepped up to accomplish more than their share of tasks. One of these Soldiers is Spc. Thomas Wasesa, chemical biological radiological nuclear noncommissioned

officer in charge for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2/8 FA. Wasesa has held his position for nearly three years, a timeframe, which has allowed him to master equipment accountability. Recently, his duties have centered on getting Soldiers the right protective gear and training to deploy them quickly and safely. Wasesa prides himself on the timeliness with which he's able to get the correct gear to our deploying Soldiers, and under-

stands the importance of his work. Along with managing and providing protective gear, he also runs CBRN safety courses for 2/8 FA and oversees decontamination and gas chamber operations during unit field training exercises. Recently, Wasesa's leaders have taken note of his property accountability skills and assigned him to manage the arms room, which he will handle simultaneously with his CBRN responsibilities. The new job will test his multi-tasking skill-set, but ultimately Wasesa believes it will be a valuable experience, preparing him for his next position.

Spc. Wasesa, a chemical biological radiological nuclear noncommissioned officer in charge with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, conducts preventative maintenance checks on Joint Chemical Agent Detectors. (Courtesy photo)

Government-to-government relationships between Alaska tribes, Army

Col. Christopher Ruga, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Preusser, USAG Alaska command sergeant major, met with representatives of neighboring Alaska Native tribal governments Friday, Jan. 10. These

biannual meetings support the government-to-government relationships between the tribes and the Army, and ensure the trust responsibility is being met by the federal government to Alaska's indigenous people. Garrison subject matter experts and guests from Alaskan

command presented information on numerous topics. Open discussion among tribes and the command group provided time to voice concerns and discuss issues of concern to both parties. Staff and leadership representatives from the consulting tribal governments includ-

ed Bertha Rickman (Healy Lake Village), Donald Charlie (Nenana Native Association), Darrell Kaase (Northway Village), and Chris Denny (Native Village of Tanacross). (Photo by Daniel Nelson, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright Public Affairs)



WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



Sunny, with a high near -19. Wind chill values as low as -40.

Saturday



Sunny, with a high near -19. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday



Mostly sunny, with a high near -20.

CELEBRATE MLK ON ICE

January 18
1:30-4 p.m.

Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr on Ice! Bring a friend or family member for a buy one admission, get one admission for free deal! Physical Fitness Center, Bldg 3709
Call 353-7223

Nutrition Corner: Food Safety at Home

These days it may seem too cold for anything to grow anywhere in Alaska, but microscopic bacteria on our food needs only a short period of time with the right combination of heat and moisture in order to multiply and potentially cause illness to you or your loved ones. Because of this, it is important that we remain vigilant in taking measures to promote food safety during the winter, especially when we are often indoors more than out, and enjoying gatherings that involve food.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that foodborne illness directly impacts

about one in six Americans each year, leading in some cases to hospitalizations and, in rare cases, even death.

The most common culprits of foodborne illnesses include:

Salmonella: Most often found in beef, poultry, milk and eggs. Less commonly found in produce.

Campylobacter: Found in poultry, meat, eggs, unpasteurized dairy, raw produce.

Listeria: Found in raw and/or unpasteurized dairy, cold cuts/pre-cooked meats and raw produce.

E. coli: Found in undercooked meat, unpasteurized dairy and raw

produce.

Foods can be contaminated with these microbes because of improper refrigeration or storage, poor personal hygiene, cross-contamination, food source contamination, undercooking, or other time/temperature mistakes.

If the body's immune defenses are overwhelmed by a large number of these microbes, infection and illness can occur. Common symptoms of FI are nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. Individuals with previously compromised immune systems, very young children, the elderly and pregnant women are at particularly

higher risk for infection.

The most important steps to take to maintain optimal food safety in your home are the following:

- Wash hands often – it is estimated that effective handwashing can prevent half of all FI cases.
- Kitchen surface safety – ensure cleanliness of all countertops, tables, appliances, tools, sponges/dish towels, reusable grocery bags.
- Prevent cross contamination – separate raw and ready-to-eat foods by using predesignated areas in the refrigerator, freezer and other storage; use separate storage containers, prep tools and cutting boards

and properly sanitize all surfaces; develop a plan that can be upheld by the whole family.

- Cook foods to proper temperatures – use a calibrated food thermometer; if you are unsure about appropriate temperatures, sanitation or other details on safe food handling, ask your local dietitian for more information. And remember, when in doubt throw it out!

For more great strategies and resources regarding food safety, check out this page from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: <http://www.eat-right.org/resources/home-foodsafety>

History Snapshot: Mount McKinley U.S. Army Recreation Camp

From April 10, 1942 until March 1, 1945 Denali National Park also served as the Mount McKinley U.S. Army Recreation Camp. It was created as a joint endeavor by the National Park Service and the U.S. Army to serve as a place for troops to rest and recuperate after duty in the Aleutians and other Alaskan theaters. It also benefited the National Park Service whose visitation numbers had, unsurprisingly, dropped off during the war. By welcoming

troops to the park, unused buildings and infrastructure could be utilized and maintained. This venture, and others like it, were immensely popular.

The Mount McKinley Hotel was utilized as the jumping off point for a variety of recreational activities including skiing, skating, tobogganing and dog mushing in the winter and hiking, camping, swimming and fishing in the summer. The hotel also offered many appealing amenities such as a movie



theater, barber shop, library and recreation room with ping-pong,

billiards and room for dancing. As stated by an enlisted man

in a “Special Service Bulletin” put out by the Soldiers at the

recreation camp, “The glass enclosed lobby is strictly Fifth Avenue. It is beautifully designed, with modern furniture, big, thick rugs, comfortable easy chairs, oil paintings, shining chrome, and a hotel desk of Ritz Carlton caliber... The game room is a knockout. It is one of the most completely equipped you ever saw. And the bedrooms will really slay you. Each has brand new twin beds and inner spring mattresses.”

Photo courtesy of Levi Ballard

Fort Wainwright: winter wonderland



With ample snow coverage from about mid-October through much of April, Fort Wainwright is a winter lover's playground. This image was captured from a groomed cross-country ski trail at the Chena Bend Golf Course on post. (Photo by Eve Baker, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright Public Affairs)

MEDDAC Minute

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency: 911
24 Hour Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-874-2273 Opt. 1
Appointment Line: 361-4000
Behavioral Health: 361-6059
Benefits Advisor: 361-5656
Immunizations: 361-5456
Information Desk: 361-5172
Patient Advocate: 361-5291
Pharmacy Refills: 361-5803
Tricare On-Line: www.tricare-online.com
United Health Care: uhcmilitarywest.com, 877-988-9378

Walk-In Clinic

Beneficiaries 18 and older- can utilize the Walk-in Clinic Nurse option when needing to be seen for strep throat screening, urinary tract infection screening, pregnancy testing, blood pressure monitoring, suture removal, wart removal and sexually transmitted disease checks. The clinic is open 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday and Friday. Hours for Thursdays are 1 to 3:30 p.m. For more information call 361-5833.

Pediatric House Call

Virtual visit with a pediatric expert from the comfort of your home 24/7/365. Visits are covered in network by TRICARE, no pre-authorizations required. Download

the PMP Anywhere app or visit pmpediatricanywhere.com.

Help Us Help You

Your feedback helps us to improve service. The Joint Outpatient Evaluation System is randomly mailed to beneficiaries, and emailed to active duty, after appointments. Your response assists MEDDAC-AK leadership to improve your overall experience. Look for your envelope in the mail!

Stressed? Depressed?

The Bassett Army Community Hospital primary care clinic offers internal behavioral health consultations. Assistance with concerns such as stress, chronic pain, tobacco dependency, weight loss, depression, diabetes and more is being offered without the need of a referral. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 361-5670.

Breast Pumps

Do you, or will you soon, have a breastfeeding child at home? TRICARE Covers breast pumps and breast pump supplies at no cost to you. To receive your benefit, you must have a prescription from your provider and state which type of breast pump you need. For more information on coverage, go to www.tricare.mil/breastpumps.

CSA: Strength, innovation essential to National Defense Strategy

David Vergun
Defense.gov

The National Defense Strategy describes how the Defense Department will be postured to be successful in the great power competition with Russia and China, the Army chief of staff said.

In two words, the National Defense Strategy is to be strong and innovative in order to deter conflict or to win if diplomacy and deterrence fail, Army Gen. James C. McConville said.

McConville spoke about the great power competition yesterday at the Atlantic Council in Washington. Allies and partners, personnel and innovation were the general's discussed themes.

Allies and Partners

DOD relies heavily on allies and partners, McConville said, noting that he has personally met with 75 chiefs of staff from nations around the world over the course of the last year.

There aren't enough U.S. soldiers to be in all places in the world at one time where they're

needed, he said.

In order to have well-trained partners who can provide their own security, the Army has recently stood up security force assistance brigades, he said. They train and advise partner nations.

When they are all stood up there will be five active security force assistance brigades and one in the Army National Guard, he said.

In the area of communications, a future integrated command and control network will not only link sensor to shooters across the DOD, but will also be integrated with systems allies and partners use, he said.

The soldier is the Army's most important and potent weapon, McConville said. Having the right person in the right job is paramount. In order to do this, the Army is finalizing a new personnel system that looks at more than just two variables, which the current system uses: rank and job.

See CSA on page 3

ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

EDITORIAL STAFF

Garrison Commander

Col. Christopher Ruga

Fort Wainwright PAO

Grant Sattler

Command Information/

New Media

Brady Gross

Community Relations/

Media Relations

Eve Baker

Staff Writer/Editor

Daniel Nelson

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The Chaplain’s Corner

Chaplain Paul Fritts
U.S. Army Garrison
Alaska, Fort Greely

In Greek mythology, master craftsman Daedalus creates two pairs of wings made of wax and feathers that he and his son, Icarus, use to fly away from their captor, King Minos. Although he was warned not to do so by Daedalus, Icarus nevertheless flies too close to the sun. The wax holding his wings together melts from the heat, causing Icarus to fall into the sea and drown. For centuries, this myth has been used to warn against the hubris that caused Icarus to ignore his father’s warning. Falsely believing he could be more than just a boy with wings of wax and feathers, Icarus paid a terrible price.

Adam and Eve

falsely believed they could be like God: “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:5). In other words, like Icarus, Adam and Eve sought to be more than human - more than the image of God that they were created to be. Because of their pride, they ended up being diminished by sin, or less than fully human - less than the image of God.

British pop band The Human League recorded their hit “Human” in 1985. The chorus includes these lyrics: “I’m only human of flesh and blood I’m made. Human, born to make mistakes.” British pop tunes are known for their catchy melodies, not good theology.

Like much popular culture, the song promotes an enduring belief that we sin because we’re “only human.” This is an error. The Bible clearly shows that sin, by its dehumanizing nature, makes us less than human. In war, humans become targets. Many Soldiers learn to refer to the enemy with dehumanizing labels, such as “kraut,” “jap” or “raghead” (from my own experience of war). Furthermore, sexual lust transforms humans into objects of pleasure. Greed changes humans into commodities to be trafficked. Sin dehumanizes all humans.

Often, we excuse ourselves as being “only human” rather than “fully human.” Being fully human means reflecting the full representation of

God’s own image. We look to Jesus as our example of what it means to be fully human - fully indwelt by the Divine: “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). In the same way that Jesus urged his disciples to be one with him and one with God, Jesus continues to draw us in by his fully engaged relationship with the Father and gently instructs us to do likewise. We fail, of course, because of sin. But to justify our sin as the result of being “only human” is wrong. Our humanity is not the problem, because God created us to be fully human. Our problem is in sinfully shedding our full humanity by trying to be more than we were created to be, or by using our humanity as an excuse to be less than the fully human we ought to be.



Being fully human – as God created us to be in the beginning – is the goal toward which we strive rather than a convenient excuse for sin. It means that we humbly recognize, accept and encourage the full humanity of each other, despite our differences. Jesus embraced his humanity, and ours. Followers of Jesus

should do likewise. For God and Country! The Fort Greely Chapel community is a traditional, protestant Army chapel service meeting on Sundays at 10 a.m. with a weekly Communion observance. Interested? Please call 907-873-4397 or “Like” our chapel Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FGAChapel.

Welcome to Sergeant Salmon’s School of Environmental Basics!

Sergeant Salmon's School of ENVIRONMENTAL BASICS

NEPA & PLANNING, CULTURAL RESOURCES, NATURAL RESOURCES, AIR, WATER, SPILLS & P2, WASTE, RESTORATION

Brought to you by the USAG Alaska DPW Environmental Division Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Ida Petersen
U.S. Army Garrison
Alaska Department of
Public Works Environmental Water Program

Staff Sergeant Salmon is the official spokes-fish for the U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, and his primary objective is to provide environmental support to the Arctic

warriors, Families and Civilians at Fort Wainwright. To accomplish this mission, he is spearheading an educational outreach campaign. Each week, you can learn about how we all impact the environment, what resources Environmental Division provides and other neat topics from Sergeant Salmon.

The DPW Environmental Division

manages a broad net of environmental programs. The main categories are: National Environmental Policy Act and Planning, Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, Air Quality, Water Quality, Spills and Pollution Prevention, Waste and Restoration.

Additional information can be found on the Environmental Division webpage,

The USAG Alaska, DPW Environmental Division is tasked with providing support for the complex environmental requirements - including numerous Federal, State, and local rules and regulations, as well as Department of Defense (DoD) and Army regulations, policies, and directives.

The Environmental Division's responsibilities are part of the USAG Alaska mission to enable readiness and enhance the quality of life for Arctic Warriors, Families, Civilians, and Community.

NEPA & PLANNING

The NEPA & Planning program provides information to leaders so they understand the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of actions before a decision is made to make them happen.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires every project with a federal nexus to take the environment into consideration when making decisions.

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources manages the archaeological and architectural history of Fort Wainwright's land and buildings, from pre-history to the Cold War and everything in between.

The Native Liaison Officer helps to maintain open communication and consultation for the government-to-government relationship the Army has with Alaska Native tribal governments.

or at the Fort Wainwright Environmental Division Facebook page. Anyone is welcome to call at (907) 361-9686, or

stop in and visit us at Building 3023 Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. located on the corner of Engineer Place and

Neely Road. <https://home.army.mil/alaska/index.php/fort-wainwright/garrison/public-works/environmental>

CSA: Essential to National Defense Strategy

Continued from page 2

This new system will consider 25 variables that include a range of knowledge, skills and even soldier preference.

Perhaps the most important and influential persons in the Army are battalion commanders, he said. A good commander not only knows how to command well, but also influences whether or not soldiers reenlist due to the command climate that commander brings.

Therefore, the Army has developed a new command assessment program for these commanders to ensure only the best are selected. He said physical fitness, leadership, peer and subordinate reviews are some of the selection variables.

Also, NCOs are no longer selected based solely on time in grade. Now, only the most qualified get



promoted, he said.

Innovation will require a lot of experimentation and testing of leap-ahead technology systems, McConville said.

Among two of the Army's priorities are long-range precision fires, and air and missile defense, he said.

A near-peer competitor like Russia or China could make it difficult to enter an area through their advanced standoff weaponry, he said.

In order to overcome that obstacle,

the Army is experimenting with advanced weapons that use directed energy and microwaves, he said, adding that in two to three years, he expects the Army

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville, speaks about great power competition at the Atlantic Council in Washington, Jan. 14, 2020. (Photo by David Vergun, DOD)

to begin fielding new precision strike missiles and extended-range cannons.

Another way to penetrate an enemy's defenses, he said, is with aircraft that have much greater range and speed than the current fleet. Some of those aircraft could even be unmanned, he said.

Unmanned ground vehicles are also being developed. It would make sense to have them take the lead in

areas that are heavily mined or full of improvised explosive devices, he said.

Also, future tanks might just have one

person in the vehicle instead of four. Artificial intelligence and robotics could take the place of some of the crew.

Cadet achieves max grade in total body fitness test

Brandon OConnor

Partway up the rope that marks the end of the ground-phase of the Indoor Obstacle Course Test, Class of 2021 Cadet Sophia Suri began to feel lightheaded.

She had slipped on an early apparatus during her run of the course and for the next few stages she felt "spooked," but kept going. Then, halfway up the rope the dizzy spell hit, so she climbed down and once her feet hit the ground she fainted.

Completing the course in a passing time is a graduation requirement at the U.S. Military Academy and that is difficult to do when you are out cold on the floor before the finish line, so, like it or not, Suri was going to have to return and run the course again.

"I went into it again a month later thinking, I can't really do any worse than that because I didn't finish it," Suri said. "I was like, I've got this like. I just need to finish it."

Finish it she did, racing her way through the course in a time fast enough to earn a tab as a top IOCT finisher, which requires female cadets to finish the course in under three minutes and 35 seconds. After proving to herself that she could finish the course, Suri refused to be satisfied with just tabbing it.

She returned to the course in November determined to get an A-plus. Racing from the start line she made her way through



Class of 2021 Cadet Sophia Suri ran the IOCT twice in one day in November in order to get the highest grade possible on the women's scale at the U.S. Military Academy. (Photo by Brandon OConnor)

the obstacles she had trained on, over the pommel horse, across the bars and eventually up the rope that had thwarted her before and finishing with sprints around the indoor track.

Then, her final time flashed on the board, showing she had run in the high 3:20s, when a 3:14 was required for an A-plus. The course had beaten her once before leaving her passed out at the bottom of the rope, but this time, with motivation from her dad in the back of her mind after she'd taken him along on one of her training runs, she refused to be beaten by the IOCT.

"(My dad) went through and ran it with me and he told me that he could beat my score," Suri said. "It kind of pissed me off, like you're a 50-year-old man, you're not going to beat my score. He was basically like, 'How long does it take you to run it?' I said, 'Three minutes, but it hurts. It's a painful three minutes.' He said, 'I can do anything for three minutes.'"

She took that mindset with her into Hayes Gymnasium where the test is held, and then standing at the finish line of the IOCT having not met her goal, she had a

choice to make. Walk-away with her tab, but short of an A-plus and return during the spring semester. Or, she could walk downstairs, get back in line and run the course a second time. Three minutes, that is all it would take, and with her dad's message inspiring her she chose to run the course again on the same day.

"I was like, 'Well, I'm here. I'm capable. I'm running it right now,'" Suri said. "I just got back in line. At the start of the test, I just told myself I'm not going to waste my time. I'm going to get an A-plus right now and I'm never going to run it again."

She stood again at the starting line and took off on the course through the tire swing, across the balance beam and up the wall. Racing through the sprints at the top, the clock flashed three minutes as she started her final lap, Suri said, and at that point she knew she was going to hit her mark.

Her official time from the Department of Physical Education for that final run was three minutes and 14 seconds, the exact time need for an A-plus. Reaching the time meant she never had to run the course again as she had the maximum grade she could obtain on the

female cadet grading scale.

Since accomplishing her goal of an A-plus, the fact that it was only on the female scale has motivated her to maybe change her mind about never doing the course again. On the men's scale, her time is a C-minus, and after proving to herself that she can do the course, that just might not be good enough.

"My long-term goal if I decide to run it again next year, even though I don't have to, is I want to get a better grade on the guys' scale," Suri said. "This is one of the only tests now that is divided by gender."

More deployments, stronger presence set for Pacific, says SecArmy

Thomas Brading
Army News Service

Later this year, Soldiers will initiate five-month extended rotations to countries like Thailand, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy said at the Brookings Institution Friday.

The Indo-Pacific region is home to half the world's population – including several of the world's largest militaries – so a key to realizing the vision

set in the National Defense Strategy is to bolster alliances there, he said.

Soldiers will do more than provide a steady security presence with foreign allies though, he said. At this moment, U.S. troops are assisting the Royal Thai Army stand up new Stryker units after that foreign military secured 15 Infantry Carrier Vehicles.

The Philippines recently requested help training 72 infantry battalions after they upgraded their equip-

ment, McCarthy said. Additional deployments and exercises in the region are being planned through 2022, he said.

Role In The Pacific Beyond South Korea

When many think of the Army's presence in the Indo-Pacific, they think of troops in South Korea, said Michael O'Hanlon, Brookings Institution director of research, foreign policy. However, there's

an increased emphasis in other parts of the combatant command that goes all the way to the India-Pakistan border, he added.

"Having our forces in the region reinforces the American alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative," McCarthy said, regarding the Chinese government's 2013 global development strategy. "In order to be competitive and gain an advantage, we must have a continuous presence."

Allies understand how partnering with

the United States means having modern and interoperable equipment, training on a continuous basis, and a commitment that should deterrence fail – the U.S. is a present partner and the world's best fighting force, McCarthy said.

"There is an ongoing fight for influence in the region, making our presence critical," McCarthy said. "Partners matter, but the type of partner is paramount."

China has a history of coercive economics, and many nations partner with them out of necessity, McCarthy said, adding, "And in this, lies a great deal of vulnerability."

Having the U.S. Army in the region – with its modernized weaponry – nested alongside allies "changes the calculus and creates dilemmas for potential adversaries," McCarthy said. Having the U.S. Army in the region also strengthens America's position to conduct commerce and compete economically, he added.

"China may be a partner of necessity," he said, "but the U.S. Army is the partner of choice."

Multi-Domain

See DEPLOY on page 6

Have a home business?

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hilldani@aafes.com or phillipsjen@aafes.com

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January 17, 2020

Army Housing Summit set to forge path forward in housing reinvestment

Kari Hawkins
AMC

Nearly a year after assuming responsibility for all Army housing, Army Materiel Command will host a comprehensive review of the sweeping reforms and improvements made across the enterprise to ensure Soldiers and families have access to high quality on-post housing.

During a Housing Summit set for Jan. 14 to 16 at AMC Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, representatives of the Army's seven privatized housing companies and Army leaders from 34 installations will review strategies and programs to provide the best options for Soldiers, Civilians and their families.

"We are absolutely committed to provide safe and secure housing on every installation, and making every installation an installation of choice for our Soldiers and families" said Gen. Gus Perna, commander of Army Materiel Command. "The summit is another step in our commitment to hold ourselves and privatized housing companies accountable to provide a high-quality standard of living and to earn back the trust of our housing



Construction workers install new windows in a Fort Benning, Georgia, historic home as part of a broader effort to improve overall housing at the installation. Major improvements have been ongoing at Army installations worldwide as senior Army leaders work with privatized housing companies to re-invest in housing properties. Reinvestments will be discussed during a Housing Summit at Army Materiel Command from Jan. 14 to 16, 2020. (Photo by Patrick Albright Benning)

residents."

Since March 2019, the Army and AMC have set conditions for improvements, beginning with visits to 100 percent of housing units, the establishment of 24/7 housing hotlines at every installation, and quarterly town halls hosted by installation leadership. In July 2019, more than 25,000 residents provided input through the Resident Satisfaction Survey that gave the Army insight into housing experiences and further pinpointed issues that needed to be addressed. In addition,

an Army Inspector General report yielded feedback to improve housing.

"The steps we took in the spring and summer of 2019 improved our visibility of the housing landscape and allowed us to lay out a way ahead for course correction," Perna said.

Other significant initiatives in 2019 included:

- Hiring more than 100 additional staff at installation housing offices to provide quality assurance and control checks on work being done in homes, with the goal to have 100

percent of homes between occupancies, 100 percent of Life, Health and Safety work orders and five percent of all work orders checked;

- Revising the incentive fee structure with the housing companies to better account for resident and installation leadership feedback;
- Providing full access for Garrison commanders to housing work orders so they can execute the quality control measures needed to ensure issues are properly fixed the first time;
- Creating mobile

apps as an additional method for residents to submit and track work orders;

- Establishing a Housing Environmental Health Response Registry through the Army Medical Command to address housing health or safety concerns;
- Senior Army leaders meeting regularly with RCI company executives to review housing properties and provide oversight.

The Army also joined the Air Force and Navy to develop a Resident Bill of Rights, expected to be signed later this month that will empower service members and their families to hold housing providers accountable.

While these initiatives have yielded progress and improvements, Perna said it will take time to rebuild relationships with housing residents and develop a strategy to ensure quality reinvestment.

The Housing Summit will provide a forum for Army leaders and RCI companies to work together on determining the best way to re-invest more than \$500 million in funds from the companies and for the Army to develop a holistic investment strategy for

Army-owned housing and barracks that will prioritize resources across installations.

During the summit, Army leaders will review the current status of housing with representatives of RCI companies BBC, Hunt, Michaels, Lend Lease, Corvias, Lincoln and Clark. The seven companies have all signed 50-year agreements to maintain, manage and lease more than 87,000 houses at 44 U.S. and overseas installations, and re-invest in those properties to maintain safety and quality.

"We still have much work to do, and rest assured this is a continuing priority with Army senior leaders. We are in this for the long haul," Perna said. "We remain steadfast in holding ourselves and privatized housing companies accountable to provide safe and secure housing on our installations. We are investing in long-term planning for future oversight, and enacting a set of policies and programs that will improve residents' quality of life. At the end of the 50-year contracts, our expectation is that our housing units are in significantly better condition than they were at the beginning of the contracts, and better than they are today."



Youth Preparedness Camp

July 26 - 31, 2020 near Anchorage, AK

Applications due by 11:59pm PST on January 19, 2020





Empower Youth to Lead Preparedness Efforts in their Communities.

The second FEMA Region 10 Youth Preparedness Camp is accepting applications. Participating youth, ages 14-17, from WA, OR, ID, and AK, will complete Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training while building leadership skills and creating a plan for action in their communities.

Transportation, lodging and meal costs will be provided for those selected to attend.

APPLY TODAY! Application Information at: www.fema.gov/youthprep



• Learn life-saving skills for emergencies and disasters



• Campfires and group interactions with peers



• Participation in a disaster simulation exercise



• Receive a CERT backpack



• Hands-on experience with fire extinguishers, search and rescue equipment, and medical supplies



• Daily and weekly challenges to test and refine leadership, financial literacy, and action planning skills

We want to host a camp that is inclusive of all participants. Please contact us if you have questions or need additional information about disability access or specific disability accommodations.



For more information, contact FEMA Region 10

Email: fema-r10-youthprepcamp@fema.dhs.gov
Phone: (425) 487-4943
www.fema.gov/youthprep



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fort Wainwright Family & MWR

Weekly Events

January 18 - 25, 2020

11

Youth Sports Volleyball Registration

January 1 - February 29
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Get boys and girls ages 5 - 13 years old active with Volleyball Season! The season runs from March 17 - May 9. Cost is \$55. Registration deadline is February 29.

Parent Central Services, Bldg 3414
Call 353-7713, registration required

13

Celebrate MLK on Ice

January 18
1:30 - 4 p.m.

Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr on Ice! Bring a friend or family member for a buy one admission, get one admission for free deal!

Physical Fitness Center, Bldg 3709
Call 353-7223

15

Adult Craft Night

January 22
5 - 7 p.m.

Create a reverse canvas during a fun night of crafting! \$20 per person which includes craft supplies and instruction. Must be 18+ to attend this event. Must be 21+ to purchase or consume alcohol.

Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Bldg 1044
Call 353-7755, registration required

15

Parents' Day Out & Super Saturday

January 25
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sign up the kids for fun and professional childcare through Parent Central Services. Blue Star Community Members can use their childcare benefits for this event. Registration deadline is January 22.

Parent Central Services, Bldg 3414
Call 353-7713, registration required

16

B.O.S.S. Snowmachine Trip & Safety Course with ODR

February 1
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Join B.O.S.S. for a snowmachine trip and safety course! This trip is a Space - A trip which means if there are additional spots, those who are not B.O.S.S. eligible can go on the trip. Registration deadline is January 25.

B.O.S.S. Bldg 1045
Call 353-7648, registration required



ARMY Entertainment PRESENTS

Total Request Live Band Karaoke

USAG ALASKA

PICK YOUR FAVORITE SONG AND JOIN THE BAND!

FREE ADMISSION

AGES 18+

Jan. 24. 2020
FORT WAINWRIGHT
Warrior Zone, Bldg. 3205
• EVENT STARTS AT 8 P.M. •
Must be 18+ DoD ID Cardholder or Authorized Guests to enter the Warrior Zone
+1 (907) 353-1087

Jan. 25. 2020
USAG FORT GREELY
Aurora CAC, Bldg. 500
• EVENT STARTS AT 6 P.M. •
Open to Fort Greely Authorized Patrons & MWR Pass Holders
+1 (907) 873-4782

Must be 21+ to purchase or consume alcohol. Please drink responsibly.

Wainwright.ArmyMWR.com
#WainwrightMWR #WainwrightZone

Greely.ArmyMWR.com
#GreelyMWR #GreelyCAC

U.S. ARMY



Looking to make plans on Monday, January 20 for the MLK Holiday?
Join Birch Hill for a fun-filled day 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.!
For more information, call: (907) 353-1998. Find out more at www.wainwright.mwr.army.mil.
@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightMWR



Veterans Town Hall
with
Alaska VA Healthcare System Director
Dr. Timothy D. Ballard, MD
January 30, 2020,
from 5 - 6:30 p.m.
at the
National Guard Armory
202 Wien Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

POC: One Stop Shop at 907-257-5463 or Alaskaquery@va.gov

DEPLOY: Stronger presence in Pacific

Continued from page 4

Operations In The Pacific

"While we continue to do traditional security cooperation, we are also employing new capabilities and using the Indo-Pacific as grounds to test our new concept – known as Multi-Domain Operations," McCarthy said.

MDO is how the Army – as part of the joint force – can counter and defeat a near-peer adversary capable of contesting the U.S. in all domains such as air, land, maritime, space and cyberspace.

"Our closest allies and partners have invested more in building similar capabilities as us," McCarthy said. "For example, Japan, Thailand, Singapore all are developing MDO-like concepts in concert with us."

MDO task forces are set to train in the Indo-Pacific during the upcoming deployments.

The new concept was first tested in the region in 2018, months after

the National Defense Strategy was published and changed the Army's focus toward great power competition. The force conducted its first tests then with the Multi-Domain Task Force and Intelligence, Information, Cyber, Electronic Warfare and Space Units – known as I2CEWS.

Then in 2019, the Army tested MDO concepts again with exercises like Orient Shield, where American forces partnered with Japanese forces in the East China Sea. With its headquarters in Japan, the task force elements were distributed across the Senkaku Islands.

Since then, the task force has conducted multiple large-scale exercises with more scheduled.

Seeking to regain overmatch and a solution for converging all domains, MDO gives an asymmetrical advantage, he said. It sets the conditions in theater, while opening a window for the joint force.

They've got your back: A sniper's role is crucial

Katie Lange
Defense.gov

It was 2006, and Army Staff Sgt. Brett Johnson of the 1st Ranger Battalion peered through night-vision goggles, slowly moving with his squad toward a house in Iraq with a high-value target inside. They knew there were armed militants nearby, but they had no idea they were about to run into one.

"Right as we were about to break the corner of the building, a guy – unbeknownst to us – was literally coming around the corner with an AK-47," now-Sgt. Maj. Johnson of the 3rd Ranger Bat-

talion recalled 13 years later.

But the insurgent didn't make it, thanks to a sniper.

"As we broke the corner, he took the most perfect, well-aimed shot and put him down," Johnson recalled. "Had he not been there, that guy ... definitely would have shot one of us."

"It was pretty incredible for him to take that shot. An error of one foot to the right could have hit one of us," Johnson continued.

Things happen quickly in a firefight, and even the best technology can't always keep up with the changing battlefield environment. That's why the sniper's reconnaissance

skills and ability to relay intelligent information to the commander are crucial.

"We've got drones, we've got robots, we've got all kinds of stuff ... but we still need that real-time battlefield information that keeps soldiers safe," said Staff Sgt. Michael Turner, a sniper course instructor.

Becoming A Sniper

Becoming a sniper isn't easy. The qualification course at the Army Sniper School in Fort Benning, Georgia, is seven weeks long, and any military branch or federal agency can send candidates. Instructors

say there's currently about a 60 percent attrition rate.

"As you go through it and see the maturity and discipline that it takes in order to take a shot and execute the orders ... that takes an emotional toll on you, Turner said. "That's why you need a more disciplined, intelligent soldier to process those emotions."

It takes someone who knows how to manage resources and someone with serious patience – there's a lot of observing and waiting for something to happen.

"They're some of the most patient people I've ever met in my life," Johnson said.

Take the stalking portion of the course. Using their homemade ghillie suits – camouflage uniforms they've personally retrofitted

for durability and protection in all sorts of weather conditions – the sniper candidates get to "veg out" by incorporating vegetation into those suits to blend in with their surroundings. They then spend the next couple of hours moving at a snail's pace through an area of woods. The goal – take a shot at the instructors who are looking for them in the brush, hoping to find them first.

But school instructors said a lot of candidates fail that part. When we visited, not a single sniper team got to take their shot.

"The hardest part about this school so far has been stalking for me, because I'm a big, gawky guy, so crawling through the woods is tough," explained Staff Sgt. Johnnie Newton, who passed the course.

Then there are the technical aspects. They're always refining their skills for every possible circumstance, like wind and distance.

"If I'm operating in a rural environment like Afghanistan, I have longer lines of sight and I'm at higher elevation. What that means is I'm able to extend the capability of my weapons system to a greater distance," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Rance, team leader of the Army sniper course. "In an urban environment, things are a lot quicker, a lot more dynamic, with shorter field of views."

Many of the soldiers we talked with at our visit to the Army Sniper School said they felt safer knowing a sniper was watching their backs. So did those who've been saved by them in the past.

In Honor of
Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Ft. Wainwright Exchange is having a
Coloring and Essay Contest.
Winners will receive an
Exchange Gift Card.

Coloring Page



Age Groups:
5-7 Years
8-11 Years
12 and up

Pick up your entries
and submissions of entries
will be at the front in
the Main Store.
Turn in entries
at Customer Service
by January 17, 2020.



Essay Contest
12 years old and up

We would like a
one page, short essay on what
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
means to you.

All entries will be posted in the front of the Main Store.
Winners will be announced January 21, 2020.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Serve



I WANT YOU
REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!

1-25 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion
and the
Fort Wainwright Equal Opportunity Office
welcome all to the

2020 *Martin Luther King Junior*
Birthday Celebration

Northern Lights Chapel
Date: 21 January 2020
Time: 1300-1430

1-25 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion
Observance Coordinators
2LT Mizla, Stephanie M. & SSG Jones, Gina I.
(907) 353-0531
stephanie.m.mizla.mil@mail.mil
gina.i.jones3.mil@mail.mil

USARAK and Fort Wainwright
Equal Opportunity Advisor
SFC Lare, Saibou N.
(907) 353-9234
saibou.n.lare.mil@mail.mil



NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday, January 30
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Alaska National Guard
Armory - Fairbanks**

202 Wien Street, Fairbanks, Alaska

Agenda:

- Welcome Laralee Walston, Fairbanks FAC Specialist
- Agency Spotlight (TBD)
- Networking Event Colette Moring, North Star/Chris Kyle
- Agency Spotlight (TBD)
- Closing Magen James Alaska Coalition for Veterans & Military Families

Topic: Networking with our community providers and getting to know the programs available in our communities. How to serve our clients most efficiently.

Target Audience: Open to all agencies and/or programs providing services in the region. We ask that agencies respectfully allow one or two representatives per agency (or 1 rep per program/department if a large agency). We encourage all helping agencies serving all populations to participate.

FUTURE EVENTS

To register:
North Star Behavioral Health
Events page:
<https://northstarbehavioral.com/events/>

Alaska Coalition for Veterans and
Military Families events:
<https://akcvmf.org/>

Questions?

Colette Moring, Military Liaison
Colette.Moring@uhsinc.com
907-317-6755
-or-
Laralee Walston
FairbanksFAC@gmail.com
Family Assistance Center Specialist
(Contractor)
(907) 459-8729
-or-
Magen James, Executive Director
Alaska Coalition for Veterans & Military
Families
(907) 334-0873

LUNCH

Light lunch will be provided for
those who pre-register.

JOB
*** NOW HIRING * NOW HIRING ***
OPENINGS



EXCHANGE

**We are Hiring in Food Facilities
at Ft. Wainwright and Eielson.**

FOOD SERVICE TEAM MEMBER BONUS
\$300 AFTER 6 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT
PLUS
\$200 AFTER 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT
Grand Total \$500 in addition to wages.

FOOD SERVICE FOREMAN BONUS
\$600 AFTER 6 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT
PLUS
\$400 AFTER 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT
Grand Total \$1000 in addition to wages.

APPLYMYEXCHANGE.COM

