

ALASKA POST FREE

an edition of the
DAILY NEWS - MINER

The Interior Military News Connection

Vol. 12, No. 15

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

April 23, 2021

176th Wing prepares mobile rescue operations center for ARCTIC ACE

David Bedard
176th Wing Public Affairs

Alaska Air National Guardsmen of 176th Communications Flight, 210th Rescue Squadron, 211th Rescue Squadron, and 176th Operations Support Squadron Intelligence partnered with associated contractors March 22 to validate the rapid employment of a mobile rescue operations center tailor made for Agile Combat Employment training in Alaska and operations throughout the Indo-Pacific Command area of operations.

The MROC is a command-and-control suite comprising radios, computers, amplifiers, and antennas that is specially packaged to rapidly deploy in order to establish combat search and rescue operations at remote and often-austere airfields.

Wing members huddled on the loading dock of JBER's Hangar 18 where they rapidly put together the MROC's components and demonstrated it could ably perform all necessary mission functions.

Alaska Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Dustin Hayden, 176th Communications Flight Agile Communications Systems supervisor, said the hallmark of the MROC is its capability despite fitting in a lightweight package.



Alaska Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Preston Fernandez, a radio frequency transmission systems technician with 176th Communications Flight, installs a satellite communications antenna March 22, 2021, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The SATCOM antenna is part of the 176th Wing's Mobile Rescue Operations Center, a rapidly deployable command-and-control suite that supports rescue operations. (Photo by David Bedard, 176th Wing Public Affairs)

"The theory behind Agile Communications is to be able to go anywhere and set up an expeditionary communications system," he said. "We can load this equipment on an HC-130[J Combat King II], potentially an HH-60[G Pave Hawk], take it to the middle of nowhere, and bring in data and voice communications."

Alaska Air National Guard Maj. Allan Sain, 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 pilot, said the radios

can transmit line-of-sight or over satellite communications, supporting voice and data communications.

Sain said the MROC will deploy to Western Alaska in April where it will serve as the communications backbone for simulated CSAR operations during exercise ARCTIC ACE.

"We're setting up a forward location that isn't going to be a full-fledged base that we can maintain for an extended duration,"

he said. "It's going to be for a small amount of time, but it's long enough to where you still want maintenance operations and other support functions like [personnel] services, civil engineers, and the logistics readiness squadron to get equipment in and out, fuels, everything else that supports the operations location."

Sain said in addition to voice communications, data communications are

critical for Joint All-Doman Command and Control, which provides a common operating picture for all U.S. forces operating in an expeditionary area of operations.

"The standard issues moving away from the base are maintaining the communications chain, and that entails everything from daily status reports to information relay for a mission," he said. "In rescue, we're used to dealing with this challenge. This is something we have seen for years in a combat situation where we may have to move helicopters and HC-130s forward to get closer to facilitate quicker rescue."

Sain said the rapid move during ARCTIC ACE will pose unique challenges for wing support agencies who will have to balance agility with sustainability to see through the training operation.

Hayden said 176th Wing isn't tackling ACE alone and continues to work with mission partners to refine agile tactics and techniques.

"Everyone's key phrase lately is total force integration," he said. "We have a great relationship with the (regular Air Force's) 673d Communications Squadron, and they have a similar system, so we work together on setting these systems up and configuring them."

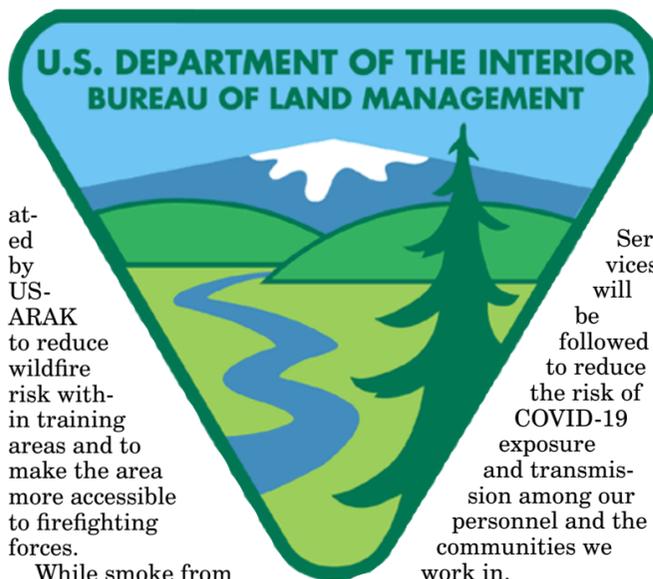
Burning operations planned for military training lands in Interior Alaska to reduce wildfire threat

Personnel could start ignitions as early as Thursday

Beth Ipsen
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska Fire Service Public Affairs

The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service and U.S. Army Alaska will soon implement multiple prescribed fires on military training lands in Interior Alaska. Burning could begin as early as Thursday, starting with woody debris piles and dead grass within the Donnelly Training Area East located on both sides of the Richardson Highway south of Delta Junction. As conditions allow, prescribed burning in the Donnelly Training Area near Delta Junction, the Yukon Training Area near Eielson Air Force Base, and on Fort Wainwright land near Fairbanks may continue throughout the spring.

Prescribed burns are fires that are intentionally set under controlled conditions to reduce dry and dead grass and lower the risk of wildfires that could impact nearby communities, resources, facilities, and military training. Removing hazardous fuels during the spring, when conditions are moderated, allows for the greatest degree of control and the lowest risk for negative impacts, such as smoke. The woody debris piles were cre-



ated by US-ARAK to reduce wildfire risk within training areas and to make the area more accessible to firefighting forces.

While smoke from prescribed fires may be visible from various points in the surrounding communities, their potential impact on the public is considered at all stages of prescribed fire planning. BLM AFS and USARAK work closely with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Air Quality and the National Weather Service to mitigate potential impacts. There are also procedures in place to halt ignitions if weather conditions, such as wind direction, become unfavorable.

Guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and the Alaska Department of Health and Human

Services will be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission among our personnel and the communities we work in.

The annual prescribed burning is planned at the following locations:

- DTA: Several locations between 25 miles west and 15 miles south of Delta Junction
- YTA: Several locations between 5 miles north and 20 miles east of Eielson Air Force Base
- FWA: Small Arms Complex, immediately southeast of Fairbanks

The exact timing of later prescribed burning will depend on the snow melting and weather conditions. Subsequent press releases specific to each area will provide more precise estimates of the time frames.



Results from a recent tenant survey show that overall customer satisfaction is improving, senior Army housing officials said, as the service continues to improve on-base living conditions. Privatized housing at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, New York, can be seen in this photo. (Courtesy photo by Fort Hamilton Family Homes)

Recent survey results show housing satisfaction on the rise

Thomas Brading
Army News Service

Results from a recent tenant survey show that overall customer satisfaction is improving, senior Army housing officials said, as the service continues to improve on-base living conditions.

For the first time, this year's Tenant Satisfaction Survey was standardized across all military branches following a change in the National Defense Authorization Act to help paint a clearer picture of the state of military housing.

Over 85,000 Army households took part in the anonymous questionnaire, an increase from previous years, said Kevin Drescher, Army Family Housing inventory program manager, adding it had an array of positive results.

The results provide

officials an idea of how to improve family quality of life on installations, he said. The survey also offers a snapshot of how families gauge recent changes.

At a glance, it seems "people are pleased with the changes made last year," said Shenise Foster, housing systems and privatized housing program manager, who added transparency between housing officials and residents has been the most striking improvement.

Foster credited several recent changes. Last year, the Army launched a hotline to help residents voice their concerns and unveiled a government-owned smartphone app to help schedule and monitor work orders, among other changes.

See SURVEY on page 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



Sunny. High: 60F.

Saturday



Sunny. High: 62F.

Sunday



Sunny. High: 59F.

IN BRIEF

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently established a permanent presence on the ground in Africa to oversee key U.S. Africa Command projects here.

Read more on page 6.

Nutrition Corner: Exploring new grains

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.

History Snapshot: CANOL Pipeline through Chilkoot Pass, 1955



The Canadian American Gas Oil, or CANOL, pipeline, was hastily authorized and engineered beginning in 1943. Worried about the unreliable and overburdened schedule of the Alaska Railroad, the government decided that a pipeline would be a more expedient and reliable means of moving fuel around Alaska. The Lend-Lease program and Alaska Highway construction strained existing fuel supplies, so another, more local fuel supply was sought.

The government settled on a pipeline system originating in the oil fields of Norman Wells, Northwest Territories. Crude oil was pumped to a refinery in Whitehorse and then on to Fairbanks, Skagway and Watson Lake. All in all, over 1,600 miles of pipeline were required and, at the peak of construction, over 10,600 civilians and 4,000 engineers worked on the project.

By April 1944, the pipeline was in full operation and ran at full capacity for the next 12 months. By April 1945, sections were shut down as the system became overwhelmingly plagued by leaks and spills; maintenance costs were prohibitive and the decision was made to shut down much of the pipeline. Oil development ceased at Norman Wells in 1945 and the refinery at Whitehorse was sold in 1947. The Skagway to Fairbanks section of pipeline remained in use, transporting oil delivered by tanker, until 1958.

(Photo courtesy National Archives)

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
MEDDAC-AK Website: www.bassett-wainwright.tricare.mil
MHS Patient Portal: https://my-access.dmdc.osd.mil/
Health Net: www.tricare-west.com, 1-844-8676-9378

COVID vaccination

All TRICARE beneficiaries over 18 who would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will soon have the opportunity. Bassett Army Community Hospital is expecting 1,000 doses of the vaccine in early March. Upon delivery, we will begin scheduling appointments online.

Patient advocate

The Medical Department Activity – Alaska Patient Advocate acts on behalf of all patients and the commander to resolve problems and implement necessary corrections. Beneficiaries needing assistance, or who have questions about

the care received at MEDDAC-AK, can contact our Patient Advocate at 361-5291.

Town hall

MEDDAC-AK will conduct a Facebook Live event Monday, March 1 at 6 p.m. to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine and answer questions from our beneficiaries.

Talk with a registered nurse

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).

Clean out your medicine cabinet

The new year is a great 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.

SURVEY

Continued from page 1

Besides transparency, Drescher said accessibility to housing officials has improved customer satisfaction. However, he said it is still too early to analyze how trends will inspire future changes.

"We've had multiple town halls that have been conducted quarterly," he said, across installations worldwide. "[The town halls] give tenants another voice to express their opinions or bring up problems they have been having. There is a lot more engagement from the chain of command and the housing offices with the residents."

How it worked

The survey was carried out by CEL & Associates Inc., an independent, third-party organization funded by the Defense Department. It was distributed to all privatized, government-owned and government-leased housing tenants to rate their satisfaction with services, property and the overall housing experience online.

Residents had 45 days to fill out the anonymous annual housing survey, which was released on a rolling schedule starting in early December, varied by service, and took roughly 10 minutes to complete.

"The more people we got to take the survey, the more accurate of a snapshot we got," Drescher said, adding it could help officials drive change, set goals, and understand what residents love about their communities or what to improve on.

"Every comment is read and reviewed to help make any improvements to the housing experience for tenants, but if people don't take the survey, then we don't know," he said.

Now with the survey concluded, the outside organization has analyzed the data and provided metrics to all military services.

Following a military review, non-personally identifiable results were shared with military housing offices and privatized housing landlords.

Military leaders will use the data to make strides toward near-term and future plans that will improve housing, resident service, community amenities and other decisions and investments regarding privatized housing, Foster said.

Tenant rights

The latest survey came on the heels of the Army addressing 15 of the 18 tenant rights outlined in last year's Military Housing Privatization Initiative, or MHPI, Tenant Bill of Rights. The three unaddressed rights did not have a unilateral action option by the Army.

Of the 18 rights, the Army implemented 14 since last September. The remaining rights, such as standard documentation on a universal lease, require the MHPI companies' voluntary agreement to implement, housing officials said.

Due to the working collaboration between the Army and its MHPI companies, the efforts to implement the remaining rights were successful, and the majority of the MHPI companies agreed to implement the outstanding housing rights by June 1.

From town halls held at local installations to adhering to guidance by lawmakers on Capitol Hill, the goal is the same: improving the quality of life for military families, Foster said.

Analyzing the results will be the next step in enhancing the trust and accountability in providing safe homes that take care of the Army's most valuable asset -- its Soldiers and their families, Foster said.

"Your voice matters and we're listening," she said.

April 2021

Month of the Military Child

ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

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The Chaplain's Corner

Meeting God in my depression

Chaplain (Maj.) Tony Cech
Community Pastor,
U.S. Army Garrison
Alaska, Fort Wainwright

I want to talk about Depression today. I'm not a doctor so I'm going to talk about it from a pastoral perspective. Some statistics say that as many as 40 million Americans suffer from some sort of depression. With the isolation of COVID over the last year, I would imagine that number has skyrocketed. On the most basic level, depression affects all of us at some time from loss of sleep, to fatigue, low energy, the inability to concentrate, loss of interest and pleasure, desire to just stay in bed to hopelessness.

Elijah was a spiri-

tual giant in the Bible (1 Kings 16-19). The kicker was that even though he had some incredible accomplishments, when he was down, he went low. Depression often follows not only sad events, but also great achievements. It can come with relational conflict, disappointments with people or life events or even after major achievements.

It takes a lot of energy to handle human conflict, and just as much energy to avoid it sometimes. I talk to people almost every day who feel like their lives are full of relationship-conflict; conflict with bosses, co-workers, kids, spouses... We get susceptible to depression when we live around conflict. Significant depression

can come after physical exhaustion. Hard work, not eating well, not sleeping well, and wrestling mentally to fix problems can wear us down from the inside out.

Surprisingly, depression is not only caused by conflict and struggle, but depression often follows major achievements. It's amazing how many athletes, after hard work and finally attaining their goal, sink low after victory. It is often described as an unsettling emptiness. Like riding a roller coaster one minute we are on top of the world and the next we are speeding toward the bottom.

When we get depressed, we strongly resist the idea that it's our fault. We often push people away who can actually help

us. We also can tend to stay focused on the negative things and overlook all the good; to forget where God has been good to us in the past is to forget joy and to forget enjoyment in life.

So how do we meet God in our depression? How do we get out? First, surround yourself with people. The first thing Elijah did was he found a place to be alone; don't do that. He had friends, but chose to be alone. We need to allow others into our lives. Find a friend, find an ear to listen, let them speak truth into your life. Find your friends and love ones and allow them to minister to your soul.

Two, don't focus on the negative. In everyone's life there is good and bad.



Pain tends to make us focus on the bad. The way depression works is that we get really focused on all the negative. Proverbs 4:23 says, "above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." This means we have to stop focusing only on the negative and force ourselves look for the positive. Look for what is good in life right now, make a list and rejoice in those things. Do not focus on the negative, look

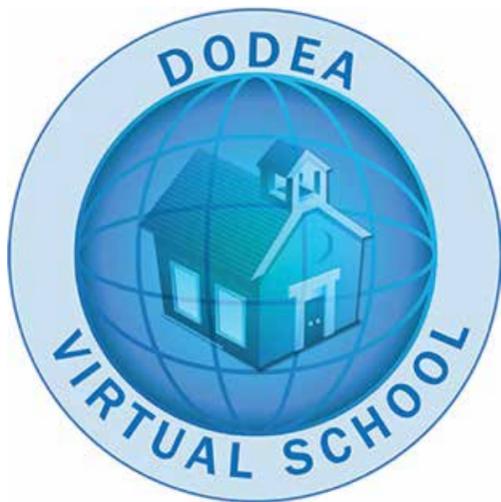
for God's graces. Three, don't forget God's provision. Elijah forgot how God had worked in his life. Where and when are those times and places you have seen his faithfulness, protection, help, provision and grace? Focus on those and thank Him. Let God confront you and comfort you in your depression. Talk to Him and remember where He has been and is still being good to you. God will meet us; will we meet him?

DoDEA launches Expanded Eligibility Pilot Program

Aaron Talley
DVS PAO

The Department of Defense Education Activity is launching a new program aimed at expanding eligibility for dependents of active-duty members of the armed forces to register for the DoDEA Virtual High School. The Expanded Eligibility Pilot Program, which will begin in school year 2021-22, was authorized as part of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, providing expansion of eligibility for DVHS to stateside active-duty military dependents in grades 9-12 who are currently ineligible for the DVHS.

In order to be eligible for the pilot program, students must be the dependents of active-duty military members who are serving in remote locations that do not have a DoDEA brick-and-mortar school. The program will be limited to 400 enrollments, split evenly among the four military Services,



with priority given to students in the 12th grade. Students who participate in the pilot program can take up to two courses per academic year.

The initial pilot program will target school districts serving select remote installations in stateside locations. Students registering in the DVHS as part of the pilot program must obtain the approval of their local school system.

DoDEA Chief of Technology and Innovation, C. Michael Kline, said that the Expanded Eligibility

Pilot Program is designed to supplement educational opportunities for stateside military-connected students in remote locations. "We think this program will help students by allowing them to take courses that might not be offered at their local schools and will be of great value as they pursue future educational opportunities," said Kline.

During the first year, the pilot program will be offered at selected military installations that represent all the Services (see below). These

installations were chosen based on their remote locations.

Eligible Installations:

Service Installation
Air Force
Beale, Edwards, Eielson, Ellsworth, Grand Forks, Hill, McConnell, Minot, Mt. Home, Tinker, Travis, Vandenburg, Warren, Whiteman
Army
Fort Greely, Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Polk, Fort Sill, Fort Riley, Fort Wainwright
Navy
Lemoore, Moffett Field, China Lake, Fallon, Meridian
Marine Corps
Albany, Barstow, Bridgeport, 29 Palms

See DoDEA on page 5

Worship Services on Fort Wainwright

Good Shepherd Catholic Community
Mass: Sundays, 9 a.m., SLC
Holy Hour Adoration: Thursdays, 6 p.m., SLC
Catholic Women of the Chapel: Wednesdays, 9 a.m., SLC

St. George Anglican Parish
Holy Communion: Sundays, 11 a.m., SLC
Mid-Week Holy Communion: Wednesdays, noon, BACH

Cornerstone Protestant Community
Worship Service: Sundays, 11 a.m., NLC
Protestant Women of the Chapel, Wednesdays, 6 p.m., NLC
Cornerstone Youth, Sundays, 1 p.m., NLC

Congregación Protestante Piedra Angular
Servicio de adoración: Domingos, 1 p.m., SLC
Northern Lights Chapel Nov. 22, 2020

Fort Wainwright Religious Support Office, 353-6112
1051 Gaffney, Unit 10
Southern Lights Chapel (SLC), 8th St & Neely Rd.
Northern Lights Chapel (NLC), Luzon & Rhineland Avenues

Now hiring! Career opportunities available at Fort Wainwright PX

Carina DeCino
Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

The Exchange is where heroes work, and the Fort Wainwright Exchange is looking to expand its ranks at the Main store, Express and food facilities.

"The PX offers training, competitive pay and great benefits, as well as a rewarding atmosphere," said Fort Wainwright Exchange general manager Gloria Sylvia. "The Exchange is family serving family, and

we are looking forward to growing that family with those who have a passion for serving Soldiers and the Fort Wainwright community."

Benefits for regular full-time and part-time Exchange associates include paid vacation and sick leave. Additionally, the Exchange's associate transfer program helps military spouses retain employment during PCS's, allowing them to keep their benefits and build toward retirement.

The team's deep passion

for serving sets the Exchange apart. Associates share a special bond with service members—85 percent have a military connection. They have served in the Armed Forces or are the parent, spouse or extended family member of someone who is wearing or has worn the country's uniform.

At the Exchange, 45 percent of the U.S. workforce is made up of Veterans, military spouses or dependents, and the Exchange is closing in on its goal of hiring 50,000



Veterans and military spouses.

Anyone interested in an exciting career with the Exchange can visit

ApplyMyExchange.com or contact the Fort Wainwright Exchange Human Resources office at 907-356-2705 to find out more.

Army aviation undergoing changes to meet MDO requirements

Devon Suits
Army News Service

Army aviation leaders are evaluating a series of fundamental changes to collective training, leadership, and doctrine to ensure the enduring fleet and future vertical lift platforms remain competitive within a multi-domain operational environment.

"We are in the process of transforming Army aviation from fighting (counterinsurgency) operations to a focus on future peer threats," said Maj. Gen. David Francis, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

Army aviation serves as the aerial maneuver arm of combined arms maneuver in support of the ground force commanders, Francis said. Continued modernization is



Soldiers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division visit Bell's flight facility in Arlington, Texas, Oct. 28, 2020. The Soldiers provided feedback on the V-280 Valor cabin configuration that will inform Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft requirements from a user's perspective. (Photo by Luke Allen)

critical to achieve necessary transformational capabilities as the Army prepares for large-scale combat operations.

As the MDO concept shifts to doctrine and then FVL platforms and other new aviation capabilities take off, the Army's aerial-maneuver element

will need to evolve, Francis said during the Association of the U.S. Army's Global Force Next virtual conference Wednesday.

Francis said changes to Army Aviation Field Manual 3-04 and all other associated materials could happen sooner than expected as the service

moves to support joint combined arms and maneuver operations.

Army aviation is currently transforming organizations to move beyond a modular brigade-centric operations approach to support division and corps-sized operations. This change will also prepare the Army for rapid integration of FVL capabilities as they come online, he said.

Adjustments to training are also being addressed to incorporate how aviators and maintainers will fight or support operations across all domains -- land, maritime, air, space, and cyberspace.

"We are changing the way we address emergency procedures at low altitudes, and we are training our aviation forces to fly low once again," Francis said. "This is not new to Army aviation, but it is relatively new to this generation."

Pilots proficient at flying in terrain-height altitudes can stay below a radar threat and "survive, fight and win" on a future battlefield, he added.

Another aspect of training includes the proper on-boarding of the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft and Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft. As the Army introduces its newest aerial capability, collective training will be necessary to ensure mission readiness as more FVL units materialize across the force.

Leadership development is also under

revision as the Army shifts its focus to large-scale operations, Francis said. Personnel will need to learn how to operate and sustain aviation capabilities throughout a dispersed environment and converge effects when called upon by ground force commanders.

"This is going to cause leaders to think differently -- or maintainers to maintain differently," Francis said, adding that aviation training requirements and airframe designs must be able to support a distributed operation.

EDGE 21

In May, Army aviation will also move forward with its first Experimental Demonstration Gateway Exercise 2021 at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, said Maj. Gen. Walter Rugen, FVL Cross-Functional Team director.

With the recent success of Project Convergence 20, EDGE 21 will use aviation, network, and space capabilities to advance combined joint all-domain command and control efforts, or CJADC2, across the lower-tier air domain.

"We are going to take our high-fidelity modeling, these 100,000 engineered runs that we've done in a physics-based modeling with the (Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft) ecosystem, and fight that in a scenario where we use joint long-range fires," he said.

The exercise will show the progression of sensor-to-shooter systems, as the Army looks to close joint kill chains in an agile and effective manner, Rugen added. EDGE 21 will also include an electronic warfare element to create a realistic MDO scenario against an Integrated Visual Augmentation System-enabled aircraft.

MOSA

A modular open systems approach, or MOSA, is also needed to bridge the capability gap between current and future aerial systems, Rugen said. An industry partner's willingness to adopt MOSA, along with other government-defined interfaces and standards, will be critical to the way ahead.

"MOSA, in general, specifically applies to the (cross-functional team's) line of effort, but we are trying to bring it across our entire fleet of aircraft. It goes to that second priority of ensuring readiness and relevance of our enduring fleet," said Brig. Gen. Robert L. Barrie Jr., head of Program Executive Office-Aviation.

As the Army continues to prioritize the need for FVL capabilities, targeted modernization efforts to the service's enduring airframes will require an open-system architecture to support. Aviation leaders must continue to explore all options to balance the Army's future mission, Barrie said.

Please Join Us!

Airport Way/Steese Expressway Reconstruction Project

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), under the Highway Safety Improvement Program, is pursuing safety improvements at the intersection of Gaffney Road, Airport Way, Richardson Highway, and the Steese Expressway (GARS) in Fairbanks, Alaska. This project is located at the front gate of Ft. Wainwright at the cross streets of Gaffney Road and the Richardson Highway.

You are invited to attend an online public meeting to learn about project updates. Upon completion of the online public meeting, head over to the online open house to learn more about the project! We've selected our preferred design and now we want to hear what you think about it!

Arctic Community Information Exchange

- **Time and Date:** 6:00 pm Tuesday, May 11, 2021
- **Location:** Tune in to the livestream on Fort Wainwright's Facebook page

Online Public Meeting

- **Tuesday, April 27, 2021** from 4:00 pm–6:00 pm
- **Project Presentation:** 4:30 pm–5:00 pm
- **WebEx Event Link:** <https://meetdr.webex.com/meethdr/onstage/g.php?MTID=e896bc1148d0f4631773c7172565db0ea>
- **Access Code:** 187 803 9575

Online Open House

- **April 20–May 25, 2021**
- www.GARSreconstructiononline.com

Visit www.GARSreconstruction.com for project information. If you require additional information or have questions about the virtual public meeting or online open house, please contact Josie Wilson, Public Involvement Lead, at (907) 644-2000 or info@garsreconstruction.com.

Project Number: 0002385/NFHWY00245 Airport Way/Steese Expressway Reconstruction Project

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2007, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

The DOT&PF operates Federal Programs without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: dot.alaska.gov/tvi_statement.shtml. To file a complaint go to dot.alaska.gov/civrights/tvirev.shtml.

The DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this Online Open House and Online Public Meeting should contact Josie Wilson, (907) 644-2000 or TDD number 711. Requests should be made at least 5 days before the accommodation is needed to make any necessary arrangements.

DODEA

Continued from page 3

Homeschooled students who are compliant with state laws and assigned to a pilot site installation can also register for the Expanded Eligibility Pilot Program. The program will offer students the chance to take up to two courses from a selection of more than 30 courses already offered by the DVHS. These courses include Advanced Placement courses, world languages, and career and technical education.

“For many of our new students, access to Advanced Placement courses may help them gain college credits,” said Kline. “Our world language classes will allow students who have started a foreign language program to continue, even if their parents or guardians move to a school that doesn’t offer that language. It can also be used to supplement a homeschool program. We think this will be a great benefit to all students who take advantage of this program.”

Kline further added that while the initial pilot program authorization is for four years, if there is enough interest, it may become a permanent part of the DVHS. “We look forward to developing partnerships with local schools who support our military-connected students,” Kline said.

Registration for the Expanded Eligibility Pilot Program will start on April 28, 2021. Applications will be accepted until the program fills or the new school year starts, whichever comes first.

The DVHS is a fully accredited high school providing supplemental courses for DoDEA eligible high school students in grades 9-12. DVHS averages 2,500 course registrations per semester, with the majority of students taking either one or two courses per semester.

For more information on the Expanded Eligibility Pilot Program, please visit: www.dodea.edu/dvs/e2p2.cfm.

Calling young artists! Hands-on fun! Exchange hosting Play-Doh Sculpt Contest for Fort Wainwright kids

Carina DeCino
Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is inviting Fort Wainwright kids to enter the Play-Doh Sculpt Contest for hands-on fun as part of the Department of Defense retailer’s celebration of the Month of the Military Child.

From April 23 through April 29, military kids 17 and younger can sculpt a Play-Doh masterpiece, take a photo of their creation and submit their entry at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes for a chance to win a prize. One grand-prize winner will receive a \$50 Exchange gift card, while three runners-up will each receive a Play-Doh Flip ‘n Pancakes playset.

“Military kids serve, too,” said Fort Wainwright Exchange general manager Gloria Sylvia. “This Play-Doh contest, along with other Month

of the Military Child activities and events, is the Exchange’s way of saluting our youngest heroes and thanking them for their service.”

Military families can visit ShopMyExchange.com/momc for contest details and Month of the Military Child activities,

including sweepstakes, coloring pages and more. Month of the Military Child contests are open to kids 17 years and younger, but a parent or authorized shopper 18 years or older must submit the completed creation at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes.

Army CID cautions rise in QR code scams

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

Behavior changes this past year to reduce the spread of COVID-19 has not been lost on criminals. The Army Criminal Investigation Command’s Major Cybercrime Unit is cautioning users to be wary of suspicious quick response codes, known as QR codes.

According to the Major Cybercrime Unit, QR code usage increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While QR codes have been around for years, COVID-19 has led to a more touch-free interaction environment and people are seeing QR codes used more frequently and in new ways, such as in restaurants. The QR code printed on a single-use paper or on a table stand is scanned with a smart phone and replaces the multiple-use paper menu, wine list, or drink menu. With a quick scan, you can pull up a restaurant menu, make a payment, or jump right to a website URL.

Originally developed in the mid-1990s for manufacturing and inventory control, QR codes are seen in many places and used for many reasons. Most often, a QR



code looks like randomly placed small black squares arranged in a borderless square. However, QR Codes can be customized with different colors and different backgrounds.

Regardless of how the QR code is deployed, the patron frames it in a smart phone camera to read it. The cameras on up-to-date smart phones read QR codes natively and open documents. Making this technique fast and effective. However, cybercriminals can misuse QR codes. Although not rampant, QR code frauds and thefts are on the rise and developing in numerous ways, according to ThreatPost.com, a website about cyber security.

QR codes can:
• Add nefarious contacts to the contact list.

See QR on page 7

APRIL 2021

...is the Month of the Military Child
Grit — Determination — Perseverance
Military Kids — Tomorrow’s Trailblazers



Ready Army invites children and teens to join in, learn about emergency preparedness, and inspire Army Families all over the world to get ready for emergencies.

Prepare Strong!



As emergencies affect the entire Family, make your children a part of preparedness planning.

For more information visit www.ready.gov/kids and www.militarychild.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fort Wainwright Family & MWR

Weekly Events

April 24 - May 1

24

UFC
April 24
Doors open at 3 p.m.

Come out to the Zone for all big ticket UFC fights! Must be 18+ to enter the Warrior Zone. Capacity is limited, reservations are strongly encouraged.

Warrior Zone, Bldg 3205
Call 353-1087, reservation encouraged

24

Month of the Military Child: Family Time Bingo
April 24 - 30
During Normal Business Hours

Celebrate Month of the Military Child! Participate in a variety of events, take a photo, and get a bingo! Submit your completed Family Time Bingo card to a CYS facility. Find more details on the web: wainwright.armymwr.com.

School Age Center, Bldg 4166
Call 353-4166, Bingo Completion required

24

Blueberry Pancake Kit Pick Up
April 24
Starts at 10 a.m.

Support Child Abuse Prevention Month with ACS! Pick up a blueberry pancake kit from the USO. No registration required. Kits are available on a first come, first serve basis.

USO, Bldg 3727
First Come, First Serve; Drive Thru

26

Youth Sports Registration
April 26 - May 14
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Register for this sport season! Weeball, Baseball, and Track & Field for ages 3 - 18 years old. Must have a current sports physical on file.

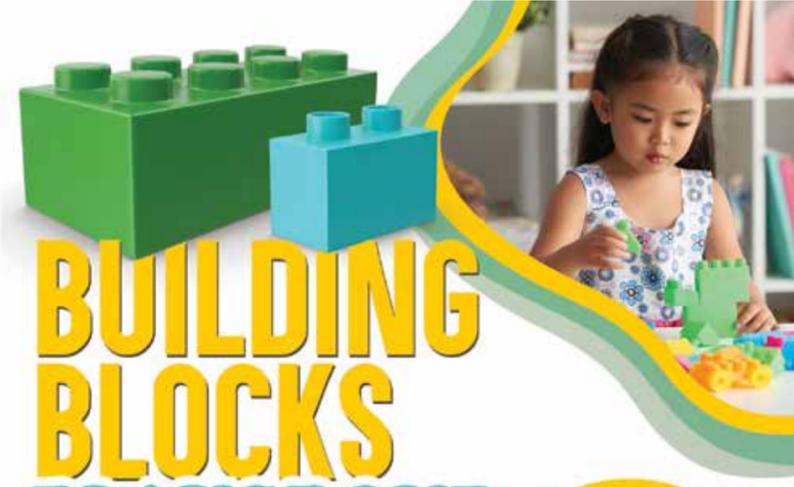
Youth Sports & Fitness, Bldg 3414
Call 353-7713, registration required

1

Fitness Bingo
May 1 - 31
During Normal Business Hours

Pick up a Fitness Bingo card, complete the workouts, & be entered to win a Fitbit or TRX kit! Workouts tailored to Beginners, Intermediate, and Expert levels.

Physical Fitness Center, Bldg 3709
Call 353-7223



BUILDING BLOCKS PLAYGROUP

EVERY EVENT, ALL ATTENDING EFMP PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER USING NORTH HAVEN LINK:



EFMP FAMILIES, YOU ARE INVITED!

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY AT 10 A.M.
& 4TH TUESDAY AT 6 P.M.

JOIN EFMP AT NORTH HAVEN COMMUNITY CENTER FOR A PLAYGROUP WITH GUEST SPEAKERS, CRAFTS, & RESOURCES!



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Summer CONCERT

USAG ALASKA • FORT WAINWRIGHT

June.5.2021

Starting on May 5, you can reserve your pod for the Summer Concert! Find more details at wainwright.armymwr.com.

@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightMWR

USACE establishes permanent presence in Africa to support key missions

Alfredo Barraza

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently established a permanent presence on the ground in Africa to oversee key U.S. Africa Command projects here.

Europe District manages construction in both Europe and Africa and recently relocated a project engineer to Nigeria on a permanent basis to primarily support the construction of new facilities for the A-29 Super Tucano wing at Kainji Airbase.

Project Engineer Adewale Adelakun began setting up his office in November 2020 and is now fully in place.

"To be there on the continent is a huge step forward in order to deliver high quality construction to our stakeholders," Adelakun said.

While Europe District has supported AFRICOM missions on the continent for years, this move to establish a permanent presence is an important step as

the mission's support and partnership with the Nigerian military grows and includes AFRICOM's work to promote regional security, stability and prosperity.

"We recognize the growing significance our work in Africa has on achieving our national security goals," said Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner, USACE North Atlantic Division Commander. "Having a permanent presence on the continent allows us to better leverage our capabilities to support AFRICOM's and the State Department's desired objectives by building partner capacity and sustaining host nation relationships."

Now with the consolidation of U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa into one command, the placement of a Europe District employee in Africa is more important than ever.

"Not only will this move benefit our A-29 project in Nigeria, but it will facilitate efforts on dozens of smaller military and human-

itarian projects like schools, clinics, training ranges and more that we deliver to our partners on the continent," said Europe District Commander Col. Patrick Dagon.

Now stationed in Nigeria, Adelakun directly supports the A-29 Super Tucano project, delivering a light attack, combat and reconnaissance aircraft storage facility for the Nigerian Air Force. The project consists of a \$36.1 million contract for facilities to support a dozen A-29 aircraft. The work involves the construction of a new airfield hot cargo pad, perimeter and security fencing, munitions assembly and storage, small arms storage, a flight annex wing building for simulator training, airfield lights, and various airfield apron, parking, hangar and entry control point enhancements.

The A-29 project is one of several Europe District has in Africa. While Adelakun is a "forward-deployed" member of the A-29



An aerial photo of a school renovation conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Lesotho, Jan. 29, 2019. The project is being executed through the Department of Defense's AFRICOM humanitarian assistance program to improve future prospects for the children of Lesotho. (Courtesy photo)

Project Delivery Team, he is part of a larger Europe District team that oversees construction in Africa in support of various other strategic initiatives, including Humanitarian Assistance, Foreign Military Sales, Counter Narcotics and Trafficking, Building Partnership Capacity, Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative and more.

Current projects un-

der construction within these programs include new primary and secondary schools in Niger, Senegal, Benin, Togo and the Nyanga Province that will provide a safe educational environment for thousands of children living in extremely remote areas. Also included is a key boat ramp in Benin that will aid Beninese authorities in the fight against illicit

trafficking of narcotics, and multiple vehicle maintenance facilities in Senegal and Chad.

Overall, Europe District has nearly 20 active humanitarian assistance construction projects Europe and Africa worth more than \$9 million in 10 different countries. Dozens more similar projects are in the planning and scoping phases.

Army female leaders of past and present stress importance of mentorship

Joseph Lacdan
Army News Service

Anne Macdonald blazed trails for female Soldiers as one of the first women to graduate from West Point and as the first woman to command a battalion in the storied 101st Airborne Division.

But she noted one regret she had during her 30-year Army career during a discussion panel Tuesday to recognize Women's History Month.

"As I was coming along, I did not take the time to mentor others behind me," said Macdonald, who retired as a brigadier general.

"In all honesty, I was trying to make my way forward. But if I had to do anything over, I wish that I had reached out, had extended a hand and let someone know the going is going to be tough, but we can do it together.

"I heard it from women who had come behind us at West Point, who had said that first class never reached out. And I'm sorry that I didn't do that. Today, I did to do that."

Macdonald has recently spent more time advising and coaching female Soldiers. After her retirement nearly 10 years ago, she has since advocated for advising women in the Army as the president of the Army Women's Foundation.

The foundation strives to recognize the achievements of women in the Army while promoting interest in the Army. According to the foundation's website, it has provided educational opportunities and offers scholarships to female Soldiers of up to \$2,500 and up to \$1,000 for community college or certificate programs. Currently, women comprise 14% of the Army's enlisted force and 19% of its officer corps.

Retired Col. Kirsten



Retired Brig. Gen. Anne Macdonald said that more women must be recruited into the Army during a panel recognizing Women's History Month on March 30, 2021. Macdonald is the president of the Army Women's Foundation, a volunteer organization created to honor women who served in the Army. (Photo courtesy of Markus Maier)

Brunson, the first African-American female judge in the Army, said females and Soldiers of color had approached her for advice numerous times in her career, simply due to her gender or race.

Brunson, as a member of the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, would conduct interviews during recruiting visits at law schools. There, female students asked her about her experiences in the JAG Corps.

"When you go to interview for any job ... one of the things you look at is your future," Brunson said. "And you look around to see if you think you will be successful there. And one of the things that we all look for is somebody who looks like us. Are there women at the highest levels? Are there people of color? Because if there aren't, what would make me think that I can be there?"

Col. Danielle Ngo, the executive officer to the Army's inspector general, said that she did not have many female role models in the military after she commissioned in 1995. She said that she wishes she had reached out for mentorship more often, but still had male mentors who

guided her career.

First Lt. Annalee Tokarsky, who commissioned as an armor officer in 2018 after graduating from West Point, said that she gravitates toward female leaders in dual roles at work and at home. Tokarsky was raised by a mother who attended law school and inspired her to join the Army.

"I personally don't have any children, but I greatly admire and respect [female leaders] especially women in higher levels of leadership that are able to do both: the supermom and the Soldier," Tokarsky said. "And they're everywhere."

Brunson said that she fortunately had female supervisors as she rose through the JAG Corps ranks. She acknowledged the importance of having female role models and how building relationships with them help a Soldier grow professionally. Brunson said that she plans to meet with several of her mentors from her career this Mother's Day.

"We have so much in common so that when one of us was going through [adversity], the others immediately knew what it was and could pick that one

back up," she said. "We babysat for each other. So find people that have something in common with you that you can rely on and who can rely on you. And it just makes the journey that much easier."

The Army has created more opportunities for females in recent years, opening its combat training schools to women.

Sgt. Rachel Sims said that she joined the Army because she saw a wealth of opportunities for women. She left her corporate job as a web developer and enlisted as a human intelligence collector. She serves as an Indonesian linguist at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

"I wanted the opportunity to be able to impact more than myself," Sims said. "I knew that [the Army] would give me the opportunity to be a part of whatever changes going forward will be in our country."

Macdonald said that she does not believe the Army has enough women within its ranks and she said that policies must be implemented to retain female Soldiers. She said the Army should first strive to increase the number of women in the total force to 25 percent.

Decisive Action Training Environment World: The Army's Authoritative Training Environment

Nina Borgeson
TRADOC Communication Directorate

In order to defeat America's enemies, the U.S. Army must have a way to train against them. Since the Army cannot train against the real thing, enemies must be simulated. Enter the Decisive Action Training Environment World, otherwise known as DATE World, a simulated web-based environment created and just released by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's Intelligence Directorate (G-2).

DATE World, which is the result of nearly a decade of work, was created to help anticipate and train the Army for the challenges of today and tomorrow; ensuring our forces remain as lethal and resilient as possible to prevail in all domains. The simulation ensures the Army is training in the most rigorous, adversary-informed conditions as possible.

"DATE World has been informed by user feedback to create an environment replete with competitors capable of challenging all U.S. Army tasks and conditions," stated Jennifer Dunn, Branch Chief of the TRADOC Operational Environment Integration Directorate. "[The simulation] enables large scale ground combat operations and allows for users to train for competition, conflict,

crisis, and change."

DATE World is comprised of four geographically unique regions across the globe: the Pacific, Europe, Caucasus, and Africa. The operational environments are representative of real-world conditions present in that region, with a complete force structure, along with a list of weapons and equipment available.

In an effort to enhance integration and coordination with DATE World users, TRADOC's G-2 also hosted its first annual DATE Users Conference, which was held Jan. 12-14. This virtual conference included eight separate working groups designed to give participants a chance to provide input and help build the foundation for future collaboration.

"We wanted to give our broad community of interest a voice in the DATE World development," Dunn said. "This training environment is for them, so we wanted to create a platform where users could tell us what they need and want, and where they could talk to their colleagues and learn best practices."

In the future, Dunn said the directorate is planning smaller, more frequent events with the community to continue to encourage DATE development priorities, as well as promote further networking connections outside of the conference.



QR

Continued from page 5

- Connect the device to a malicious network.
- Send text messages to one or all contacts in a user's address book.
- Complete a telephone call to a telephone number that imposes charges on the calling phone.
- Send a payment to a destination where it cannot be recovered.

The Major Cybercrime Unit warns a basic scam could be perpetrated by printing malicious QR codes on labels and sticking the labels to various publicly accessible surfaces. The curious passerby scans the code and is directed to a malicious website allowing damaging code to be downloaded to their computer or smart phone.

In a more complex scam, the QR codes can be used to make payments for goods and

to execute money transfers. This tactic works when a recipient scans a QR code, enters an amount to transfer, and then executes the transaction. The following day, the person making the payments discovers all their financial accounts have been compromised.

To protect against theft, many of the standard cautions apply:

- Be suspicious of unsolicited offers that seem too good to be true.
- Do not open emails from unknown senders.
- Ignore emails that ask you to provide identifying information (usernames, passwords, dates of birth, etc.).
- Do not access financial accounts by clicking links received in unexpected emails. Rather, use verified links from your bookmarks.

Specific to QR codes:

- Do not scan a randomly found QR code.
- Be suspicious if, after scanning a QR code, a password or login information is requested.
- Do not scan QR codes received in emails unless you know they are legitimate.
- Do not scan a QR code if it is printed on a label and applied atop another QR code. Ask a staff member to verify its legitimacy first. The business might simply have updated what was their original QR code.

For more information about computer security, other computer-related scams, and to review previous cybercrime alert notices and cyber-crime prevention flyers visit the Army CID MCU website at <https://www.cid.army.mil/mcu-advisories.html>. To report a crime to Army CID, visit www.cid.army.mil.

